**Health Care Reform and Equity: A Biblical Worldview**

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The article by Kevin Fiscella, Health Care Reform and Equity: Promise, Pitfalls, and Prescriptions (2011), presents a critical perspective through which to consider the possibility of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) fixing health care disparities. In this paper, two domains identified by Fiscella as critical access and primary care will be examined to assess the richness or emptiness related to their promises, pitfalls, and prescriptions to a biblical understanding of public and community health. The biblical point of view requires us to focus on the well-being of all those who belong to society and are most vulnerable.

In biblical terms health care is a question of justice and compassion. The Bible regularly appeals to the defense and support of the vulnerable, such as the sick and the poor (Isaiah 1:17, Matthew 25:31-46). Fiscella also points to the potential that the Affordable Care Act will afford further coverage, possibly reaching millions of uninsured people. This is in line with the biblical command that all persons in the society should be provided with basic needs, including health care. Despite this, Fiscella points to the possible trap where millions of uninsured people might remain, including full-scale undocumented immigrants. This difference brings to question a biblical aspect of it, where it would imply a lack in full acceptance of the challenge to treat all people as children of God no matter the legal status. The universal schemes of coverage, consequently, are very agreeable to the biblical mind, which understands the presence of dignity and worth within all human beings.

Longitudinal, caring relationships emphasized by primary care also have their implications on a biblical conceptualization of public health. The Bible extolls the power of community and collectively encouraging one another (Galatians 6:2, Hebrews 10:24-25). Fiscella cites the possibility of revamping primary care by reforming payments and benefiting through improved training and new models of care. Such promises can be seen as matching up to a biblical understanding of health care that values wholeness and patient-centered care. The trap, however, is that small increments in payments only might not be enough to change the maldistribution of primary care physicians. This creates doubts on equity in access to good care, especially among underserved groups (Kleppestø et al., 2021). The comprehensiveness of the prescriptions to respond to primary care and workforce needs reflects a biblical mandate to establish justice, that all peoples may benefit by the resources they require to flourish.

To sum up, the discussion of health care reform by Fiscella offers worthwhile knowledge on the possibilities of achieving a more equitable and fair health care system. Although the promises of increased access and renewed primary care are in line with a biblical worldview, the pitfalls serve as an indicator of the work still to be done. Policymakers can approach a health care system that is more biblical by embracing the prescriptions of universal coverage, comprehensive primary care strategies, and a dedication to addressing social determinants of health. It means a fundamental transformation within our health care system where the well-being of all people, in particular, those most vulnerable, will be prioritized and where the love and grace of God will be embodied.

**References**

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