

FORM FOR THE EXCOMMUNICATION OF A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH



Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ,

We have on numerous occasions announced the grievous sin and offense of N. We did so that through Christian admonishment and prayer he/she may repent to God. He/she has been ensnared by the devil who holds him/her captive to his will. He/s stubbornly persists in rebellion against the Father, and it is with heartfelt sorrow that we have to say that to date no one has come forward to attest to his/her heartfelt confession of sins, genuine remorse and repentance. On the contrary, he/she is only increasing his/her guilt by the day with his/her unyielding and unrepentant heart. As we have already announced, there is but one remedy left to us if he/she refuses to repent, despite the patience the church has shown him/her. Upon command of God, he/she must be excommunicated from the church so that the whole body may not be put at risk by this corrupt and as yet irredeemable member and the name of God be blasphemed. Therefore, we, the church council, declare, in the Name and power of our Lord Jesus Christ that N is now excommunicated from the church of God. It is with sincere sorrow that we cut him/her off from fellowship with Christ, the holy sacraments, from all spiritual blessings of God, granted to the church in accordance with the promise of the King of the church. As Jesus Christ said: "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven..." (Matt. 16:19)

Beloved, we exhort you to not keep company with him/her so that he/she may be ashamed. Yet do not treat him/her as an enemy, but admonish him/her with love from time to time.

Beloved brothers and sisters, you have seen how this man/woman has through persistence in sin come to a fall. Let this sorrowful occasion be the impetus to worship the Lord with reverence and listen to the words of the apostle: "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Cor. 10:12). Therefore, persevere in fellowship with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and also with all believers. Do so to the end, in the hope of the glory of God. Be vigilant and fight off sin, the devil and his temptations; do not harden your heart; confess your sin; repent and live your life in keeping with the Gospel of Christ.

"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." (Heb. 12:1-2) – all to the glory of God the Lord.

Since it is God who works inside us to make us willing and able to fulfil His holy plan, let us call on His Name.

Almighty and righteous God and merciful Father,

We confess that we have grievously sinned against You and deserve the sorrow the excommunication of a member has stirred inside us. We pray for Your grace and compassion in Christ; that You may forgive us, Lord, not treating us as our sins and unrighteousness deserve. Work in us, by Your Spirit, an ever-increasing sorrow over sin and a holy reverence for You in fear of Your judgement of the unrepentant who stubbornly persist in their sin. Preserve us from the evils of the world and grant us the strength for repentance in Jesus Christ. We pray that You bless our admonition and example that by Your grace this excommunicated member and all who persist in unbelief may once again follow the right path. Grant us joy, instead of grief; gladness instead of sorrow that Your Name may be exulted in Jesus Christ, our Lord, through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, forevermore. Amen.