

# Excommunication

RCNZ

## Excommunication

Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ, we have previously made known to you that \_\_\_\_\_ *name*, a member of this church, has been leading an immoral and ungodly life and/or has been holding and teaching false doctrine. By \_\_\_\_\_ *his/her* sin \_\_\_\_\_ *he/she* has given great offence to the church of Christ. According to the command of our Lord, we have carefully and repeatedly warned \_\_\_\_\_ *him/her* of \_\_\_\_\_ *his/her* sin and its consequences, both alone and in the presence of one or two witnesses.<sup>1</sup> We have urged \_\_\_\_\_ *him/her* to repent. But it is with deep sorrow of heart that we announce to you that so far we have observed no evidence of true repentance and reformation of life. On the contrary, \_\_\_\_\_ *he/she* has hardened \_\_\_\_\_ *his/her* heart and continues in stubbornness and disobedience.

We are now duty bound, by the command of our Lord, to proceed to \_\_\_\_\_ *his/her* excommunication. We do this in order that \_\_\_\_\_ *he/she* may be made ashamed of \_\_\_\_\_ *his/her* sin, that this erring member of the church may not endanger the whole body, and that the name of God may not be blasphemed among us through \_\_\_\_\_ *him/her*.

We, therefore, the elders of this church, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, declare that \_\_\_\_\_ *name* is excommunicated from the church of Christ. Jesus said, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven."<sup>2</sup> As long as \_\_\_\_\_ *name* continues without repentance, \_\_\_\_\_ *he/she* is excluded from the communion of the saints, from the use of the sacraments, and from all the spiritual blessings and benefits that God gives to his church. Further, we exhort you to treat \_\_\_\_\_ *him/her* as an unbeliever.<sup>3</sup> As a result, may \_\_\_\_\_ *he/she* be led to a deep sense of \_\_\_\_\_ *his/her* offence against God. Admonish and pray for \_\_\_\_\_ *him/her*, so that \_\_\_\_\_ *he/she* may be brought to repentance, and restored to the communion of the church.

Brothers and sisters, let us be humble, remembering that we also are surrounded by temptations. Observe how cunningly Satan leads men to destruction. He prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.<sup>4</sup> So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you do not fall.<sup>5</sup> Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.<sup>6</sup> Beloved Christians, let your fellowship be with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Be completely humble and gentle,<sup>7</sup> steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord.<sup>8</sup>

## Prayer

O righteous God, most merciful Father, we grieve over our sins before your most high majesty. For Christ's sake, be gracious to us and forgive our sins. Work a godly sorrow for sin in our hearts, so that we may fear the judgments which you send upon the proud and rebellious. Look upon us in your mercy and enable us to continue in true faith, and to walk before you in true holiness. Since you take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live, we pray that \_\_\_\_\_ *name* may be brought to repentance. May we soon have cause to rejoice over \_\_\_\_\_ *name*, that your name may be praised, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

### Version A

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is  
in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

### Version B

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will  
be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin  
against us.  
And lead us not into  
temptation,

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 18:15–16.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 18:18.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 18:17.

<sup>4</sup> 1 Peter 5:8.

<sup>5</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:12.

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 26:41.

<sup>7</sup> Ephesians 4:2.

<sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:58.