

## WHAT ARE MORTAL SINS?

**BIBLE REFERENCES:** (a) **1 John 5:16—17**  
(b) **1 Corinthians 5:11-13**  
(c) **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

Based on the findings of the Bible Research Committee, mortal sins are defined as follows:

- I. Sexual Immorality
  - A. Having sexual intercourse with more than one partner of the opposite sex. (When fornication has been committed, the member, perforce, must marry the consent party. Having sexual intercourse with more than one partner is forbidden.)
  - B. Marrying or having sexual intercourse with an adulterer.
  - C. Having sexual intercourse with someone other than one's own spouse.
  - D. Marrying again for reason other than the spouse committing adultery.
  - E. Committing homosexuality.
- II. Worship of idols.
- III. Premeditated killing.
- IV. Repeated criminal behavior without remorse and affecting the reputation of the Church.
- V. Dishonoring one's father and mother, bringing shame to the family, and disregarding warnings.
- VI. Accepting baptism in another church besides having been baptized in the True Jesus Church.
- VII. Instigating schism among the members and committing apostasy.

**Excommunication Procedures to Bylaws of the General Assembly  
of the True Jesus Church in the U.S.A.**

**CHAPTER TWO, ARTICLE 16 OF THE LOCAL CHURCH BYLAWS  
(Amended at the 31st National Church Conference)**

**Excommunication**

A member may be excommunicated from the Church when found guilty of mortal sins.

I. Definition of mortal sin

"Mortal Sin" meriting excommunication includes any of the following states or acts:

- a. Participation in adulterous sexual intercourse
- b. Fornication between unmarried parties
- c. Remarriage where the prior marriage was not terminated due to adultery
- d. Homosexuality
- e. Worship of idols or false gods
- f. Premeditated homicide
- g. Chronic and unrepentant criminal behavior
- h. Dishonor of one's father and mother without repentance and which results in the defamation of the church
- i. Accepting baptism in another church after baptism in the True Jesus Church
- j. Promoting division in the church or advocating a false doctrine which is different from the basic beliefs as stated in Chapter 1, Article 7 of this Bylaws.

II. Excommunication Procedure

- A. The following procedures are general guidelines for excommunication based on mortal sin of a member who is suspected of being guilty of mortal sin(s).
- B. A member who becomes aware that another member may be guilty of mortal sin (hereinafter "inquiring member") shall first personally and privately discuss the matter with the member who is suspected of being guilty of mortal sin(s) (hereinafter "suspected member").
- C. If, after the aforementioned discussion and/or investigation of relevant evidence, it appears that the suspected member is indeed guilty of a mortal sin, has not repented of the mortal sin, or has not turn away from a state of continuing mortal sin, the inquiring member shall approach a Member of the local Church Council, and inform the Church Council Member of the relevant facts concerning the suspected member's alleged guilt of committing mortal sin(s). The inquiring member and the Church Council Member shall attempt to counsel the suspected member in accordance with the sound teachings of the Bible. If the inquiring member is a Member of the Church Council, inquiring member shall consult with another Member of the Church Council, and they shall both seek to biblically counsel the suspected member.

- D. If the Church Council Member confirms, to his or her satisfaction, that sufficient evidence exists and the suspected member is guilty of mortal sin(s), the investigating Church Council Member shall cause the Church Council to convene and hold a special session as soon as practical to review and investigate the matter. During said special session, the facts concerning the alleged guilt of the suspected member for mortal sin shall be discussed and the suspected member shall be permitted to state his or her version of any facts or defenses to the allegations of guilt. The Church Council shall have full and complete discretion over the procedures governing the conduct of the special session, including the admission or exclusion of any evidence or the weight given to any testimony.
- E. If the Church Council determines that the suspected member is indeed guilty of mortal sin or is in a state of continuing mortal sin, the offending member may be excommunicated at the Council's sole discretion. If excommunicated, the member's name shall be deleted from the church roll. Church members should be instructed by the Church Council that future relations with the suspected member found guilty of mortal sin(s) (hereinafter the "offender") shall be governed in accordance with the teachings of the Bible, which may include exclusion from continuing fellowship with the church at the discretion of the Church Council. Information released to the general church membership, concerning the mortal sin(s) of any offender, shall be limited to the name of the excommunicated offender and the fact that the offender has been excommunicated for cause after an investigation of the guilt of the offender. Under no circumstances shall the Church Council or any informed church member divulge the specific facts concerning the events leading up to the offender's excommunication to the general membership of the church or any third party. Unauthorized release of such information shall be cause for appropriate discipline.
- F. The Church Council shall have the discretion to administer appropriate alternate discipline, in lieu of excommunication, if it is deemed appropriate. If such alternate discipline is imposed, or if no disciplinary action is taken, the proceedings shall remain strictly confidential, and no information shall be divulged to the church membership as a whole.
- G. All tangible evidence, including recordings, notes, and written records, relating to the conduct of the excommunication proceeding shall be immediately destroyed upon excommunication of any offender. This will include any written announcement of the excommunication posted for the general membership of the church. No written announcement of excommunication shall be circulated to the general membership of the church except by posting a notice in a prominent location at the church meeting house of the excommunicated offender. Any such posted written announcement shall not contain any more information than announced to the general church membership and shall be removed after seven days.
- H. The Church Council shall be solely responsible for the interpretation of these bylaws with respect to the conduct of any excommunication proceedings, and all decisions of the Church Council shall be final.