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# 1. 2015

## 1.1 September

### **About** (2015-09-28 16:23)

This is an example of a page. Unlike posts, which are displayed on your blog's front page in the order they're published, pages are better suited for more timeless content that you want to be easily accessible, like your About or Contact information. Click the Edit link to make changes to this page or add another page.

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## 1.2 November

### **Welcome!** (2015-11-06 21:52)

Thank you so much for visiting! I am so glad you are here... This blog is going to consist of the Who, What, When, Where and How's of excommunication in churches of multiple religions! Enjoy and please do not be a stranger! I love reading your comments and questions!

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### **CATHOLICISM AND EXCOMMUNICATION** (2015-11-09 22:11)

Being excommunicated from the Catholic Church is widely misunderstood by the majority of people in today's society. Excommunication does not necessarily mean you are banned from church and stripped of your title of being a Catholic. Instead, excommunication is a strong, remedial penalty given to a person with the hope that it'll help them to move to true repentance. That being said, in the Catholic church, excommunication is REVERSIBLE.

That being said, excommunication does have its penalties. Although one who is excommunicated is still considered a Catholic because of his or her initial baptism and should still attend Sunday mass, they are banned from participating from all sacraments. So one may ask what does someone have to do in order to be excommunicated? To be excommunicated, one must have committed a grave and serious offense that has caused he or she to be spiritually separated from the Church, pretended the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, violated the confessional seal, procuring of abortion, total rejection of the Christian faith, any form of Heresy, and form of Schism, a physical attack on the pope, and many other not so common things.

So how can this excommunication be removed? The local bishop has the authority to remove most excommunication, but many bishops delegate this power to all their parish priests. However, some excommunications, are so serious that only the pope or his delegate can remove the penalty.



This Plaque on the outside of an orphanage in Venice has the inscription that declares, citing November 12th, 1548 papal bull of Pope Paul III, that God inflicts "maledictions and excommunications"...

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## **ANABAPTIST TRADITION AND EXCOMMUNICATION (2015-11-10 01:05)**

Anabaptist tradition was a congregation that denied the validity of infant baptism and only baptized believers. When those believers were baptized and taken into the church, it was done as a simple of the cleaning of sin and also done in a public setting. Anabaptist's discipline with an unrepentant church member begins with a very small circle to figure out a resolution. If at the end of this no resolution is forthcoming then the circle expands to eventually include the entire church. If then this member persists without repentance, that person is excommunicated from the church and loses his or her membership. This exclusion from the church shows that this person has separated themselves from the church by way of unrepentant sin; however, the church continues to pray for the excluded member and seek to restore his or her fellowship.

An example of an Anabaptist tradition is the Amish sect. In this congregation they believed that the shunning of those under the ban should be practiced among all Anabaptist sects. Some Amish communities in the process of banning a member would only cease the shunning after one year. In the most severe case of shunning, other members were prohibited from all contact with the excommunicated member which included social, business, and marital ties.



Above is a picture of a modern day Amish family in their community.

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### **LUTHERANISM AND EXCOMMUNICATION (2015-11-11 22:36)**

The Lutheran religion has a technical process for excommunication; however, some congregations do not use it. Many Lutheran congregations abide by what Jesus said in the 18th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. This gospel laid out four things for the individual who is in jeopardy of being excommunicated. First, it requires the confrontation between the subject and the individual against whom he has sinned. If that fails, there is a confrontation between the subject, the individual sinned against, and several witnesses. Next, the pastor of the persons congregation is informed. Finally, there is a confrontation between the pastor and the subject. Beyond this process, there is little agreement among congregations. Individual congregations often set out rules for excommunicating members of their church. For example, some times a vote is taken at Sunday services.



Pictured above is serial killer Dennis Radar, who was excommunicated from the Lutheran Church

## **THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND EXCOMMUNICATION (2015-11-16 01:00)**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints, or LDS, uses excommunication as a means of punishment for those who commit serious sins, which are sins that significantly impair the name of the church or pose a threat to other people. The LDS also has another means of punishment for less grave sins that they call disfellowship. This process denies some privileges but does not include a loss of church membership. Although one may not participate in the sacraments or enter a church at this time, they are encouraged to attend most church functions, continue to tithe and give up offerings, and participate in church classes. The disfellowship of a member normally lasts a year and then the member is returned to good standing.

In the case of more grave sins, excommunication is used as a disciplinary action. These "grave sins" include but are not limited to murder, child abuse, incest, adultery, polygamy, homosexual conduct, apostasy, abortion, and criticizing church leaders. There is a "church court" where the council members meet with the member to discuss the situation at hand. These councils are to tell the member to focus more on repentance and less on the feeling of guilt.

When a member is excommunicated the subject is normally kept confidential and seldom made public unless the sin committed was apostasy, where as the members must be told so they are not misled.

Excommunicated members may be re-baptized after a waiting period and sincere repentance, as judged by a series of interviews with church leaders. It has been reported that the LDS Church leaders have sometimes used the threat of excommunication to silence and or punish certain church members who disagree with established policy and doctrine or those who study or discuss controversial topics.



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## **JEHOVAH WITNESSES AND EXCOMMUNICATION (2015-11-23 01:57)**

Similar to the LDS church, the Jehovah witnesses also practice a form of excommunication referred to as disfellowshipping. This is when a member is believed to have unrepentantly committed one or more of several documented grave sins. They base this principal on an interpretation of 1 Corinthians 5:11-13, that states "quit mixing in company with anyone called a brother that is a fornicator or greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man... remove the wicked man from your midst." They interpret this to mean that any



member who engages in serious sins should be expelled from the congregation and shunned.

When a member confesses a sin or is accused of a certain sin a judicial committee is formed with at least three elders. During this meeting the elders try to figure out the best course of action. One option is to have the member perform works to right their wrong, such as making apologies to offended individuals. If they are seen as guilty but repent then that person is not disfellowshipped but instead is reprovved and has restrictions to their membership of the congregation. However, if the person is found guilty but is unrepentant, he or she will be disfellowshipped.

When a member is disfellowshipped communication and relationships with extended family is restricted to a minimum. Within a household, family contact is allowed to continue, but may not include family bible study and religious discussions. Shunning and disassociation are used when a member is disfellowshipped.

Each year, the group of elders hold a meeting to decide if disfellowshipped individuals can be reinstated if the circumstances have changed.

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## **BUDDHISM AND EXCOMMUNICATION (2015-11-30 02:02)**

There is no direct form of excommunication in Buddhism.

However, in the monastic community of Theravaden, monks can be expelled from monasteries for heresy and/ or other heinous acts.

Monks have four vows, referred to as the four defeats, these are:

- 1) abstaining form sexual intercourse
- 2) stealing
- 3)murdering
- 4)refraining from lying about spiritual gains

If one of these is broken, the monk is automatically refereed to as a layman and can never become a monk in their current life again



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### 1.3 December

#### HINDUISM AND EXCOMMUNICATION (2015-12-01 02:12)

Hinduism has no concept of excommunication and therefore no Hindu may be ousted from the Hindu religion; however, a person may easily lose status for a wide variety of infringements of caste prohibitions. This loss of status may or may not be recoverable.

Although there is no true concept of excommunication, modern organized sects within Hinduism practice something very similar to excommunication by ousting a person of their own sect.

In early modern times in South Asia, excommunication from one's caste was practiced and often came about and was often with serious consequences, such as throwing he or she into the sphere of "untouchables". A Hindu was excommunicated when he or she went abroad because they were considered polluted; however, today Hindus are

excommunicated for refusing to work as scavengers in Tamil Nadu.



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## **ISLAM AND EXCOMMUNICATION (2015-12-02 02:19)**

Excommunication as it exists in the Christian faith does not exist in the same way in the Islamic faith. The closest thing that the Islam religion has is called takfir, which is a declaration that an individual or group is kafir, or a non-believer. However, this does not prevent an Islam from taking part in any Islamic rites or rituals. Also, a declaration of takfir is considered null and void normally if the person refutes it or if the Islamic community refuses to accept it.

The most famous cases where takfir has been practiced are the cases of Salman Rushdie, Nasr Abu Zayd, and Nawal El-Saadawi. Most of these cases ended in divorce, since Muslim women are not allowed to marry non-Muslim men.

Takfir remains highly contentious because there is no universally accepted authority in Islamic law.



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## **JUDAISM AND EXCOMMUNICATION (2015-12-02 02:25)**

In Judaism they don't use the term excommunication, instead they use the word Cherem, which is the total exclusion of a person from the Jewish community; however, cherem stopped existing after The Enlightenment.

Rabbinical conferences of movements can still expel members from time to time but sometimes choose the lesser penalty of censuring the offended rabbi.

Reasons for expulsion include sexual misconduct, failure to comply with ethics investigations, setting up conversion groups without the conference's approval, stealing money from the congregation, and getting arrested.

Judaism expulsion relies mainly on the congregation and their decision on whether or not to exclude a member from their community of worship.



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