

## **Rebuttals to the falsehood entitled ‘Gospel and Church’ proclaimed by the Breakaways**

This is written in response to the deviant beliefs perpetrated by the breakaways from the True Jesus Church (TJC). The main purpose of these rebuttals is to help the believers of the True Jesus Church to be rooted in the beliefs of the church according to the Bible and to expose the fallacies of the beliefs of the breakaways:

The breakaways have come up with a series of strange teachings to promote what they believe in. Very clearly, they have crossed the parameters of the truth that they learnt before in the goodness of the Holy Spirit. They have deserted their faith, in pursuit of falsehood.

### **PART FOUR OF TEN**

The following are what they have stated and believed in:

The Breakaways’ proposition four: True Jesus Church should not have an excommunication system

1. Jesus, Peter and Paul had never ex-communicated anyone.
2. For the Son of Man came not to condemn but to seek and to save the lost.
3. God built up the True Jesus Church in 1917 through Apostle Paul Wei and instructed him clearly: ‘There must be no ex-communication’. The Holy Spirit spoke to Paul Wei: ‘It is wrong to stop one from getting baptised for six months for the demerits he did. This practice is greatly against the principle of the Lord. Excommunication further contradicts the mercy of the Lord for He did not expel Judah, whom He knew would betray Him. Woe to anyone who condemns others.’
4. Paul rebuked some members in Corinth for being boastful. In the book of Corinthians, Paul went on to reprimand them for boasting their misconceived words and false teachings. In this regard, Paul has set us a good example. Today, it is needful for us to speak out against excommunication, which is not of the truth. This false teaching originated from the tradition of man has misled many unto the way of errors. We shall help them come to their senses and lead them back to the knowledge of the truth.

#### **Verses they quoted**

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

(2 Timothy 1:13-14 NIV)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10 NIV)

“If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.” (John 12:47 NIV)

#### **Our responses based on the Bible:**

##### **Ultior Motives of the Breakaways**

1. This is to brand the church as being unbiblical, unethical and sacrilegious. This in a way is to rally those who have chosen to forsake the faith of God in the True Jesus Church to come together (as the 1st beast) to fight against the church in hot vengeance.

2. This is to give the impression that they are the victims of an ecclesiastical malevolence. By putting their own excommunication in the public domain, they think they could be justified by attacking the church's stance on excommunication as being unbiblical.

3. By studying the historical records of the church with regards to excommunication and misstating it, it is now apparent that the breakaways do not respect historical facts, taking things out of context and twisting them in a bid to deny the authority of the church to exercise excommunication. Their mind-set is utterly evil - to defame the church and they have branded her not practising the truth.

## **Biblical Principles and Historical Facts**

### **Dealing with heretics**

Obstinacy, indifference and flagrancy sum up the totality of a stubborn false prophet. His ultimate goal is to destroy the precious teaching of the Holy Spirit. This is a trend which is common to all the false prophets who troubled the church in the past and in the Bible. For example, if the teaching on the Holy Spirit is blurred, the lifeline of the church shall be cut off. No wonder, the recent fallen away use so many twisted examples to separate the connection between receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. They claim the tongues-speakers lack courage and these false prophets always get embroiled in fight, division and excommunication. The false prophet has painted a lop-sided picture and at most times fabricated lies about the current state of the church, to cover his venomous sting – that one is given the Spirit at the point of baptism. The entire church needs to realise that the chasm in the church is caused by his deviant teachings.

What more could the church have done to restore the false prophet and his associates? The only option left when the heart is hardened beyond reform to all knowledge and submission is excommunication. This is needful not out of hatred or vengeance. Paul said he did not yield submission to the false brethren for an hour (Gal. 2:4-5). This is to ensure that the church of God has nothing to do with them. Further, this is to draw a line between the apostate and his associates and the church; his deviant teachings and the teachings of the church; and his works and the divine works of the church. Such a distinction surfaces and reveals what spirit is behind the one who causes division in the church – he is one who does not have the Holy Spirit (Jude 19).

## **Examples of Excommunication in the Bible**

1. Any persistent false prophet according to Deuteronomy must not be spared (13:9). The command is clear he must be put to death. The community has to make a stand to remove the intransigent misdemeanour (Deut 13:9).

2. Jesus teaches about how the church should deal with a renegade. If a brother sins, he must be told of his sins. If he refuses to hearken to the advice, one or two more are to warn him. Again if he turns a deaf ear to the warning, the church must take up the task to warn. According to Jesus, the person is considered a heathen, if he refuses to follow the warning from the church (Mt. 18:15-17).

‘The person is considered a heathen’ means unambiguously he has no part in the church community – excommunication is applied. Jesus goes on to say the church is given the authority to bind the impenitent. What the church binds on earth will be bound in heaven (Mt. 18:18a). Clearly, this is acceptable in heaven as well.

3. ‘Preaching another gospel’ muddies up the right way of salvation. It amounts to saying the work of Christ on the cross was needless. Paul said to the churches in Galatia that those who preached another Gospel other than what the apostles taught, must be accursed (Gal. 1:8, 9). The original word for ‘accuse’ is ‘anathema’. It practically means to be cut off. The cutting off here is to be severed from Christ. This is excommunication.

Paul, in fact, did not just mete out this judgment once. He had done it before (Gal. 1:9), signalling the seriousness of preaching falsehood. The false prophet is guilty of making the blood of Jesus common (Heb. 10:29-30). He has tasted the goodness of God and yet has wilfully gone against what he has been brought up with. This is not just a case of going against man. But rather, it is a case against the very work of salvation, which Jesus has achieved on the cross. It is against God himself. This is intransigence at its worst state. Thus the church has to exercise her authority from God to excommunicate. Paul repeatedly said that those who troubled the church with falsehood were accursed (Gal. 5:10, 12). They were to bear their own judgment.

4. One other case is Paul’s dealing with two faith-wreckers (1 Tim. 1:19-20). They had rejected the faith (belief) they once treasured. They caused others to stumble as well. They were called blasphemers. The concept of ‘blasphemy’ at times is used together with those of contradiction and opposition (Acts 13:45). The apostolic account brings out the full extent of the work of the blasphemers (cf. 2 Pet. 2:2). They practically ridiculed, belittled and mocked at the apostolic faith.



## **Examples of Excommunication in the Bible (continued)**

According to Paul such perpetrators judge themselves to be unworthy of everlasting life (Acts 13:46). In another account, more severely, such behaviour made the blasphemers' own blood to be upon their own heads (Acts 18:6). Effectively, this is a pronouncement of death. Remember! Both the apostolic accounts are concerned with non-believers of Jesus. How much more severe it is for a preacher or a worker to blaspheme his own beliefs?

The faith-wreckers were handed to Satan. This in effect is to exercise excommunication on them, to stop them from further blaspheming against the church and the word. 'Being of Satan' indisputably signifies their severance from the body of Christ. This is necessary, so that heretic messages would not be spread like cancer (cf. 2 Tim 2:17-18).

### **Did God instruct Paul Wei to put away excommunication?**

Firstly, Paul Wei has not mentioned to either the members or truth-seekers that we cannot exercise the authority to excommunicate. The eleven corrective regulations which Paul Wei received did not include the prohibition to excommunicate. Neither did he mention it in his book "The true testimony of the Holy Spirit", not even in the section dealing with apologetics.

In March 1917, Paul Wei received the Holy Spirit and subsequently received baptism with his head bowed before embarking on his ministry to preach the word of God. He passed away in October 1919. In the interim, the church made rapid progress. Paul Wei did not mention to the members that we could not excommunicate during this time. Secondly, when Paul Wei rebuked the various Christian denominations, he did not mention about excommunication.

In April 1917, Paul Wei and Cong San Zhang were keeping the Sabbath when he was instructed by the Holy Spirit to write to the various Christian denominations pointing out their errors including: "not keeping the word of the Lord, not keeping the commandments". He then sharply rebuked them: "how then can you be saved! You don't keep the true Sabbath of the Lord and if anyone does, you excommunicate them, forcing others not to keep the Sabbath. Woe will befall you." This has nothing to do with denying excommunication but it merely serves to point out the errors of the different denominations, in fact it is not directed at our own church.

In summary, the revelations received by Paul Wei to the other churches do not include the prohibition to excommunicate. Rather, he was pointing out the errors of their ways. In addition, he did not rebuke them for excommunicating their members, but was rather reprimanding them for not keeping the words of the bible and also preventing others from doing so.



## In a Nutshell

The church takes excommunication very seriously. The church will always do what she can to help restore a heretic. But we need to realise that the present bunch of false prophets and their stubborn associates are no longer in the truth. Judging from the teaching of Paul, no truth shall ever come out from them. They will only grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Tim. 3:12). No matter how hard the church has done to restore them, their reaction is always retaliatory and proves in some cases to be more damaging than anything else.

However, when the church has exhausted all means to restore them in the face of their constant reprisal, then she has to exercise her spiritual authority to excommunicate. Excommunication draws a line between the beliefs of the church and heresies. It brings to light that the church does not have two sets of mutually contradictory beliefs. This is to maintain the simplicity of faith of the church (cf. 2 Cor. 11:2).