

MARK J. EPSTEIN
WINDCREST, TEXAS 78239-2702

Dear Don,

July 31, 2006

Thank you for the time you spent speaking with me by phone. I sincerely appreciated listening to your perspective of the situation between BCA and my wife and I.

After much prayer and study, we still find ourselves in the same quandary that inspired the first three notes to your client this year— we do not fully understand or comprehend what BCA alleges our offenses to be.

In the disciplinary action letter of January 23, 2005, we are both accused of:

1. Unconfessed sin
2. Lack of repentance
3. Bitterness
4. Lack of love
5. Jurisdictional abandonment and/or usurpation
6. Using children as weapons against each other

As individuals, I am accused of:

1. Unforgiveness and lovelessness*
2. Not being under authority
3. Threats of divorce*
4. Anger*
5. Lack of family leadership*

Jennifer is accused of:

1. Rebellion against her husband and local church
2. Gossip spreading
3. Mean-spirited treatment of others
4. Refusing to acknowledge sins
5. Claiming a near sinlessness

Therefore, I am writing to ask for your assistance in clarifying BCA's position. The following (as well as certain definitions) is what we need to know in order to begin to understand the totality of the sin BCA says we have committed, in order to confess said sin and repent:

What are these biblically defined unconfessed sins that we, as individuals and as a couple, committed?

What verses define the behavior as sin (keeping in mind that sin defined outside the Torah must have at least two instances of saying the same thing and, as with even the Torah, must be in "context")? For example, chapter 7 of Romans is sandwiched between chapters 6 and 8, and cannot be interpreted outside the context of this portion of Paul's letter, since chapters 6 through 8 constitute one "thought."

When and where, specifically, did the sins occur? In other words, rather than listing a general "unconfessed sin," what were the specifics of each sin – confessed and unconfessed? (**NOTE:** 4 of 5 of my personal sins are marked with an asterisk (*). I am fully aware of these sins, I have publicly admitted my guilt, and have repented to God, my wife, and my family.)

Who was or were the witness or witnesses to each specific instance of sin?

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What did the witness or witnesses do, for each specific sin, to confront Jennifer or me in the spirit of Matthew 18? Since you mentioned “witnesses” (plural) outside the church leadership during our phone conversation, then these witnesses must have confronted us at some point.

What counseling (by whom, when, where, etc.) was provided for each sin?

What are the who, where, and when of each specific refusal to repent from each instance of a specified act of unrepentant sin?

Which specific sins (with the aforementioned details) rise to the level of an excommunicable offense?

What are BCA’s definitions of “biblical repentance, restitution, and restoration to the body,” as stated in BCA’s February 06, 2005, email that informed us of our excommunication (see attached)?

Furthermore, we need to know the same specifics concerning the excommunication *sans* rhetoric and hyperbole (e.g., “slanders horrible and numerous”), as well as the same specifics concerning any other allegations of sin since excommunication (witnesses, dates, etc.).

Lastly, please understand we are not quibbling. We take this excommunication very seriously, we want this issue resolved, and we wish to be reconciled to our brothers and sisters. However, since our right relationship with God is priority number one, then we need to know the specifics of our pre-discipline sinful behavior outlined in the January 2005 document, the specifics of our post-discipline sinful behavior that led to excommunication, and any other specific sinful behavior since that time for which God’s representatives are holding us accountable (except as already noted in 4 of 5 of my sins), in order to be reconciled to God and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Again, Don, all we are looking for is a concise, dispassionate, and specific document that outlines specific biblical sins, definitions BCA is using, and a complete list of expectations in order to be restored to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at BCA. We would certainly appreciate receiving this as soon as possible and, since I know the documentation should already exist in some form, I do not think a suspense of August 15, 2006 is an unreasonable request.

In His Love,

Mark J. Epstein