

Member Records Division
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
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Salt Lake City, UT 84150-5310

330 South 100 East
Fillmore, UT 84631

June 20, 2017

My name is Russell Y Anderson, and I was born XXXXXXXXXX. I respectfully ask that you remove my name from Church records.

I have enjoyed many years as a member of the LDS church and I have served faithfully in many capacities. I enjoyed my association with the church, but I now realize that this organization has drifted from the required scriptural foundation. In D&C 1:20 it tells us, "But that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world;" That injunction for each person to know God has been replaced by the injunction, "follow the prophet, he will never lead us astray." This mantra is not supported by scripture and is easily shown to be false by the many doctrines that are now declared to be false even though they were accepted previously: Adam God; Blood Atonement; Polygamy; Blacks and the priesthood; Brigham Young (declares that slavery is a divine institution, and didn't allow the sacrament for 6 months); in 1884 a bishop received 8% of tithing they collected, a stake president got 2%; Women prohibited from praying in sacrament meeting from 1967 to 1978; Ordinances changed – sacrament, baptism, temple; Church Patriarch eliminated; and many more.

Additionally, focusing only on "follow the prophet" removes the more important directive of "taking the Holy Spirit for your guide", which is the way that we fill our lamps with oil. (See D&C 45:56-57)

I am not leaving the Church to avoid its discipline. I am free of any guilt that could jeopardize my Church membership, and I do not consider myself an apostate by any scriptural definition. I accept the scriptures which indicate that the church would drift from its foundation. (see 3 Nephi 16:10-15, D&C 101:39-40, D&C 45:28-30, D&C 112:23-26, D&C 85:7, 2 Nephi 28:14, Isaiah 24:5, D&C 1:12-23, Mormon 8:38) The Book of Mormon also warns us (the Gentiles) to be careful about unbelief. (2 Nephi 1:10, 2 Nephi 28, 2 Nephi 32:7, 3 Nephi 16:7-13, Moroni 10:19,24) "for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore, if these things have ceased wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain. (Moroni 7:37) If we don't overcome pride ("the only true church") we will be burned at His coming (JS-H 1:37).

Topics such as Holy Spirit of Promise, Second Comforter, Calling and Election Sure and Baptism of Fire are not generally discussed in the church or stressed in church curriculum. However, they are of eternal importance. Joseph Smith said, "Oh! I beseech you to go forward, go forward and make your calling and your election sure;" and "Never cease striving until you have seen God face to face."

By this action, I am told that the Church will consider my baptism canceled, my priesthood withdrawn, and my temple blessings suspended. I understand and accept this. I willingly accept that the Church will no longer consider me a priesthood holder. As to my temple blessings, the scriptures make clear that their effectiveness depends on them being ratified by the Holy Spirit of Promise. This ratification has not occurred yet, although I still hope for such ratification and I don't believe it requires a church membership. I will continue to seek to improve my relationship with the Savior.

God has directed me to take this action.

Thank you.
Russell Anderson