



Jeremy Runnells <runnells@gmail.com>

Getting back to you

Jeremy Runnells <runnells@gmail.com>

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To: Mark Ivins <[REDACTED]>

President Ivins,

Here are the facts:

1. I was approached by a CES Director and asked for my sincere questions and concerns about LDS foundational truth claims.
2. The CES Director read the "very-well" written document, stated that "these are issues which the Brethren (Apostles) are concerned about" and promised a response. He never responded as promised.
3. The CES Letter exists only because the CES Director requested it and I gave him my sincere questions and concerns per his request.
4. I have approached other Church leaders for official answers. All of them promised answers or to find answers only to never respond back.
5. I had two meetings with you (Stake President) in the fall of 2014. Last meeting ended with you stating that I'm a good man and that you would look for answers to try to help me.
6. I didn't hear from you for a year and a half and I only heard back from you when you called me on January 25th to tell me that you wanted me to come in to "talk about my membership in the church".
7. Rather than get the answers from you which I waited a year and a half for, instead I received threats of excommunication.
8. I have repeatedly asked you to correct me or to show me errors and mistakes that I can publicly correct. You have not done this.
9. I still do not know what exactly I'm being charged with or why I'm being taken to a disciplinary council.
10. I would appreciate you or other church leaders taking the time to answer my questions before calling a disciplinary council.
11. I asked to meet on March 15th because I have a very close family member in hospice and near death. I have also recently had ear surgery that I am still recovering from and am half deaf. I needed time to prepare for an ASL interpreter for our meeting.
12. We had a gentleman's agreement over the phone when you called to meet on March 15th and you have now backed from your word by holding a disciplinary council on Valentine's evening. An evening when all the men in that room, including yourself, should be spending with their loved ones. It just feels overly aggressive and mean-spirited.
13. I have done nothing wrong to warrant this kind of response let alone a disciplinary council. I am morally clean, honest with my fellow men and I have a clear conscience. To make it crystal clear on where I stand morally, I have taken the liberty to do what you have never done before deciding to hold a disciplinary court on me: conduct a Temple Recommend interview. See attached "Jeremy Runnells' Temple Recommend Interview" PDF to see my answers to each Temple Recommend question.

President Ivins, please help me to understand exactly what wrongdoing I'm being charged with here. What have I done wrong? Why haven't you given me mistakes and errors to correct, as required by the Church Handbook of Instructions and as I have pleaded with you to do for the last year and a half?

Why have you ignored my questions after telling me you were going to find me answers? Why are you treating me like a criminal when I am not one? Indeed, you told me in our last meeting that you thought I'm a good man.

All I wanted was the truth. I wanted my church's answers and defense to very troubling facts I learned about Joseph Smith and the church's origins and history. I started my questioning expecting the church would remain victorious on the other end as I had complete faith and hope that the church was true and had the answers. I'm