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# Divine Rejection and Its Damn Consequences

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## **Divine Rejection and Its Damn Consequences**

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My family is steeped in Lutheranism. My grandfather on my mother's side is a Lutheran pastor. On my father's side, half is very Lutheran and the other has spurned Lutheranism due to a well-meaning pastor refusing my sickly great-grandmother communion because of her denomination. I have looked at the incident that caused my family to split by talking with my grandmother and by researching the Lutheran faith practices of the time. Because I am interested in following my grandfather into the ministry, I want to know how to avoid causing families from turning away because of faith issues. I used several academic articles that speak to the matter as well as going to the source of contention – the Bible. Even though the practice of closed communion (only admitting members of your own congregation and the group of churches with whom it is affiliated) has good intentions, many believe the biblical basis on which it is founded does not fully support the practice, and the results do not always further the mission of the church. Sometimes it goes so far as turning a devout family into a torn group of people who do not know what they believe.

### *Information about the Author:*

Alexander Harris is currently following in his grandfather's steps to become a pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). The issue of closed communion has caused contention in his family's past and has been a key issue in his relationship with his fiancé who is currently a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). Over the past two years, he has tried to develop his own stance on this position so he can better serve wherever God calls him.

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