

*Are Christians to assume the position of "judge" concerning particular sins of non-Christians and a determiner of who will be sent to hell based on particular sinful acts?*

Christians do not judge individuals outside the church (1 Co 5:12). One would not expect a worldly person to live godly. Earth dwellers living according to their father, Satan (Jn 8:44). The only message a Christian has for the unbeliever or make-believer is: Jesus loves you (Jn 3:16). Jesus is willing to save you (2 Pe 3:9). Repent (Eze 18:30-32; Ac 17:30). Believe (Mk 9:23).

For one naming the name of Christ; however, it is reasonable to expect him to act like a Christian (Mt 7:20).

Christ followers are salt and light in the world (Mt 5:13-16). There will come a time when believers are removed in the rapture (1 Thess. 4:16, 17) and the world will become darker (Mt 24:21). Until that time; however, Christians are the only individuals fit to judge societal matters rightly (Pr 31:9) with regard to life and good living (Eccl 10:2, Jn 10:10).

Laws come from God not man (1 Ti 1:8-10, Ac 5:29). The law is for the lawless (1 Ti 1:9). God's moral law is perpetual and ongoing (Mt 5:18). God never nailed: *Do not murder* or *Do not commit adultery* to the cross.

When a member of the church has gone astray<sup>1</sup>, elders implement discipline (Mt 18) with the idea of restoration in mind. Church enables<sup>2</sup> do no one any good.

God determines who goes to heaven and who goes to hell (Heb 9:27, 1 Pe 4:5). He will do what is right (Ge 18:25). The Christian, his ambassador on earth (2 Cor. 5:20), can give an individual a good indication as to where he will end up should he not repent (Mt 16:19). Believers warn others (Eze 33:1-11) to repent or they will live forever without Christ (Mt 13:36-43, 16:15). Repentance does not send one to heaven or hell—repentance leads one into a right relationship with Christ (Ac 2:37, 38).

It is good news that Christ died for mankind (Ro 5:8). Wicked men; however, don't see it that way—they prefer darkness to light because their deeds are evil (Jn 3:19).

Christians will judge the fallen angels. The apostle Paul wrote: "Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!" 1 Co 6:3, ESV. Best for Christians to start judging now. Faithful servants will be rewarded (Mt 25:21).

Pastor Bob Enyart said: "In our culture we have experienced the death of outrage. There is no outrage over sin. There is only outrage toward one who speaks out against sin unashamedly."

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<sup>1</sup> Christians are warned about a hardness of heart (Heb. 3:8-15, 4:7).

<sup>2</sup> Ps 26:4-5, 50:18b, Pr 3:27, Is 5:20, Lk 12:47, Ro 1:32, Ga 6:2-3, 1 Tim 5:22, Heb 13:4, 2 Jn 1:11