

Is it a Christians job to try and change and convince other people and there way of living is wrong or should we just pray for them and the situation?

The Christian is told to open his mouth and judge rightly (Pr 31:9). Jesus said to “judge with righteous judgement” (Jn 7:24). Laws come from God not man (1 Ti 1:8-10, Ac 5:29). When one sees that God’s law not being honored in a land, he should take steps to warn others (Ps 33:12, Eze 33:1–9). Christians give out the word of God—what men do with it is their business (Ac 20:20).

When one claims to be a Christ-follower, it is reasonable to expect him to follow Christ. Anyone who names the name of Christ but who lives in sin should be judged. Jesus said, “By their fruits you will know them.” Mt 7:20.¹ An unrepentant church member must be put out.²

Sinners sin. The judgement of God remains on them (Mk 16:16). One would not expect an unregenerate man to live righteously.

The apostle Paul wrote:

I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with *anyone named a brother*, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.” 1 Co 5:9–13, NKJV, emphasis mine.

Church discipline is intended to restore a sinning brother (Mt 18:15–20). Luke wrote: If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him (Lk 17:3).

The make-believer and unbeliever should be told: 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). What he cannot do is parade around the church pretending to be a believer. After he admits that he is not a Christian, then he like any other is welcome to attend the church to hear the gospel for his salvation (Eph 1:13). Unbelievers are also loved by the church; but, the body of true believers share a special bond (Eph 5:25, 1 Jn 3:14).

It is always good to pray (1 Thess 5:17) for believers (1 Jn 3:14) and unbelievers alike (Lk 15:24, 32).

¹ The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Ga 5:22-23a, NKJV)...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (vv. 22-23a).

² The exercise of church discipline (Mt 18:15–20). The procedure (vv. 15–17): If your brother sins against you, go to him in private, and attempt to reconcile the matter (v. 15). If this fails, take someone with you (v. 16). If this fails, bring the matter before the church (v. 17a). If this fails, dismiss the unrepentant brother (v. 17b). The promise (vv. 18–20): The authority of heaven itself will support this kind of church decision. Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Mt 18:15–20). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

