

QUESTION: How do you let a so-called Christian know that they are doing wrong?

ANSWER: First of all, they may not actually BE a Christian. Remember, just because you meet someone at church doesn't necessarily mean they are truly born again. We are not to judge another person by outward appearance, but **we MAY judge by their works or "fruit"** - we are allowed to be "fruit inspectors." James 2:14-26 tells us that if a person CLAIMS to have faith in Christ, and yet **shows no EVIDENCE of Christ working in his life**, he probably is not saved. Secondly, some Christians are still living in the flesh (carnal Christians), and they haven't really surrendered their lives to Christ. These need your prayers, your good example without condemning them, and solid teaching and preaching from the word of God (just a sermon on Sunday morning ain't gonna get it). The Bible gives us some examples of believers, members of the local body of Christ, who were sinning and in that carnal state, and tells us of the consequences.

It is also possible that a person may just be a "Baby Christian" and not KNOW what they are doing is wrong, although that is rare. What is our responsibility once we are born again? What does a new Christian need to do **AFTER they have been MADE a new creation in Christ?** They need to grow and mature in Christ. You are responsible for your GROWTH - God does not want you to STAY a spiritual BABY forever! He wants you **to GROW and MATURE in Christ**, but it doesn't happen automatically. YOU must **FEED your re-born SPIRIT** with spiritual food, the **WORD of GOD**, in order to GROW. The SOUL and SPIRIT are closely linked together, so you must also renew your MIND, which is part of your SOUL. You will truly see **spiritual GROWTH** and you will be TRANSFORMED into the likeness of Jesus Christ, as you renew your mind with the word of God.

- **II Peter 3:18** "But **GROW** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."
- **Ephesians 4:23-24** "And be **RENEWED in the SPIRIT of your MIND**; and that you put on the NEW MAN, which was CREATED according to God, in righteousness and true holiness."
- **Romans 12:1-2** "And do not be conformed to this world, but **be TRANSFORMED by the RENEWING of your MIND** that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
- **I Corinthians 5:9-12** "I wrote to you in my epistle (letter) not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean 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 (fellowship) with **anyone NAMED a brother (calling themselves a Christian)**, who is a fornicator, 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 (non-believers)? Do you not JUDGE those who are inside (in the church)?"

In summary, all you can do for someone who claims to be a Christian but is not walking the walk, is to PRAY for them, ENCOURAGE them to come to Bible studies in order to GROW in Christ, and BE AN EXAMPLE to them of righteousness. You can also **WARN them of the consequences** of continued disobedience, but be aware that they may react harshly to your warnings. Pray and ask God to give you the WISDOM and the RIGHT WORDS to say in dealing with such a person.

- **James 5:19-20** "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone TURNS HIM BACK, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."