

How Should I Treat Them?

He is a homosexual. She is a lesbian. He is a murderer. The list goes on and on. How should we treat them? Christ instructs us to love them, just as He loves us. Besides, we might not have immoral problems, but we fit in a category! None are righteous, no not one! (**Romans 3:10**) We are instructed to love them, but to hate the sin. (Go to the website and read the meditation "The measurement of sin.")

1 JOHN 2:9-11 NLT – (9) If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness. (10) Anyone who loves another brother or sister is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. (11) But anyone who hates another brother or sister is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

Though we are required to love our brothers and sisters, we should not engage into the negative activity taking place! We bring gently to their attention the sin at hand (**GALATIANS 6:1**), hopefully this will win them back through repentance. If not, we show love by **genuinely** praying on their behalf. The seed has already been dropped if they see the example by the way you live your life through effort of improvement with only the guidance of Christ. (Application of truth)

Love and kindness is the key, not the condoning of the incorrect behavior. Review how Christ handled the situation with the woman at the well. (**JOHN 4:1-26**) Christ knew this woman sins (cohabitation and being promiscuous) and He revealed this to her. Instead He was concerned about her soul and invited her to the kingdom family and she was willing to follow. As I said earlier, sometimes they will be rebellious like in the parable of the lost son. (**LUKE 15:11-32**)

Let's look at a scenario in today's society. Micheal Vick served a prison sentence for orchestrating a ring for dog fighting. He served a prison sentence and realized the severity of his wrongdoing. How do we handle it? We show him love and welcome him back to right standing. If you disagree, perhaps you are being judgmental. This is what God has to say about the judgmental type.

Matthew 7:1-6 NLT – (1) "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. (2) For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. (3) "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? (4) How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? (5) Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye. (6) "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

My brothers and sisters, hate the sin, love the sinner. This is the command of Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING
COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
Don't put others in their place, put yourself in their place.

