

How to Confront a Person in Sin

1. Recognize the sin.

Is it something the Bible says is sin, or is it something you think is sin? Before you talk to someone in sin, you need to look at scripture and see how and if the Bible says he or she is in sin.

2. Approach the person in sin.

Being bold and coming to the person is the hardest step. If you have recognized the sin and know that their actions/words disagree with what the Bible says, it is your duty to help this person understand how they are in sin and how they need Christ.

3. Speak with loving and gentle words to correct your friend.

Ephesians 4:15 says, "speak the truth in love." Use your words carefully so that you do not condemn the person, but instead speak in a way to help him/her recognize and understand his/her sin. You are talking to your friend out of love and because you want him/her to understand how he/she needs Christ to be free from sin.

4. Provide a Biblical reference to show your friend how to change his/her ways.

By finding a verse that illustrates how your friend is in sin, you are giving evidence that the Bible says he/she is in sin. Use the verse to explain how your friend should be acting or talking.

5. Remind him/her of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Make sure to remind your friend that Jesus has already paid the sacrifice for his/her sin, and God knows we will never be perfect like Jesus. God just wants us to recognize where we are in sin, see our need for Jesus, repent and ask for forgiveness, and allow Him to change us so that we can bring glory to Him. Jesus is the example of how we are to live our life.

"Dear brother and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself."

Galatians 6:1

"You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Situations Guide

Situation #1

Emily is playing kickball with all of her friends at recess. When it's her team's turn to kick, she is the first person to home base. A boy on her team, Chris, says that he really wants to kick first, so Emily is unselfish by letting him go ahead of her in line. The next time their team has a turn to kick, Chris gets to the home base first, and so he is first to kick. Another boy on their team, Alex, asks if he can kick first this time, but Chris says no because he got there first, so he gets to kick first.

Characters: Emily (confronter) // Chris (hypocrite) // Alex

Situation #2

Joshua and his best friend Tyler accidentally broke a lamp in Tyler's house while playing with a ball. Tyler doesn't know what to do, and asks Joshua if he should lie by saying the dog did it. Joshua says that would be a wrong choice, and so Tyler tells his mom the truth. The next week, they are playing at Joshua's house, and decide to ride their bikes in the driveway. Joshua is riding by his dad's car and accidentally scratches the car door with his bike handle. He doesn't tell Tyler what happened, or his dad, hoping his dad won't see the scratch because he's afraid of getting in trouble.

Characters: Joshua (hypocrite) // Tyler (confronter)

Situation #3

John's little brother, Tommy, was playing with some trucks when John came home. John asks to play with one of the trucks, but Tommy said no. John tells him that he is not loving others when he doesn't share, so he needs to learn how to share. Tommy then gives him a truck to play with. Later that day, John is outside playing with his new remote control car, and Tommy comes out asking to have a turn. John gives him the remote, but then takes it right back, saying that he is afraid Tommy will break it.

Characters: John (hypocrite) // Tommy (confronter)

Situation #4

There is a kid named Jake in Sarah's class who is always picked on by everyone else. Most of the kids call him a nerd. Sarah tells her mom about it, and her mom tells her that she should become friends with Jake. Sarah invites him over to play at her house, and they have a really fun time. The next day, Jake comes to sit with Sarah at lunch, but she tells him no, because she's afraid of what everyone else in her class will think of her if they see her sitting next to him at lunch.

Characters: Sarah (hypocrite) // Jake (confronter)