

What Do We Do When Someone's Heart Is Not Changing? (Waiting On Repentance)

Ten Points To Consider

1. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, do not worry about the situation, but focus on praying and thinking properly about the situation. (Philippians 4:6-8)
2. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, make sure you deal with your own sin accordingly, allowing that person's sin to be used as a tool to help you grow in Christlikeness and not used as a tool to expose hypocrisy in your character. (Matthew 7:1-5)
3. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, provide an illustration, story, or parable to the person in hopes that he/she may see himself/herself and be convicted to change as a result of hearing the illustration, story, or parable. Also confront the person directly about his/her sin. (2 Samuel 12:1-7, Luke 17:4, Galatians 6:1-2)
4. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, accept the reality that it is not your responsibility to change people. (1Corinthians 3:5-6)
5. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, accept the fact that God will bring a person to his/her senses as God Wills, not as you want and not as you work with the person. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
6. If the unrepentant person is unwilling to listen to your counsel or correction, do not try to force him/her to. (Matthew 7:6)
7. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, do not try to save the unrepentant person from the consequences of the sin, but allow the person to experience the pain of the sin in hopes that the reaping and sowing experience will have its' intended goal of bringing the person to his/her senses. (Luke 15:11-24)
8. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, don't be preoccupied with what you want from the person, or what you want to see happen with the person. The person's problem is not about you or a reflection of you. Therefore, don't make it about you. (Philippians 2: 3)
9. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, do what is right even as that person is not doing what is commanded of him/her and you be prepared to suffer for righteousness sake if necessary. (Romans 12:14-21, 1Peter 3:8-17)
10. While you are waiting on the repentance of someone, at the appropriate time, prepare to move into the process of church discipline. (Matthew 18:15-20)