

8. WHAT ABOUT UNBELIEVERS?

1. "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:18).
 - a. When dealing with unbelievers, results may be less than satisfactory.
 - b. The only one who can be expected to act properly in such a relationship is the believer.

2. With those qualifications, you can — using the same methods outlined so far — and in reliance upon the Word and Spirit of God, be a "peacemaker" — even with unbelievers.

Matt. 5:9, 25–26, 38–42

Rom. 12:17–21

3. Can the unbeliever repent ((cf. 2 Cor. 7:10)?

4. Yet God may use a confrontation over sin to lead one to genuine repentance. We should be alert to the opportunities and possibilities.

5. Even with a non-believer, we must "forgive in our hearts."

6. May you use the civil courts to seek redress (cf. 1 Cor. 6:1–11)?

7. What if you are the one that sins against a non-believer?

8. Conclusion:

You do not have as many resources in dealing with an unbeliever as you do in a relationship with a Christian, so you must not expect the same results. One thing you can always do is to please God in your relationship to the unbeliever by making sure that there is nothing left undone on your side of the relationship. If there is no peace, you must be certain that that is entirely because of the unwillingness of the unbeliever to have it, never because of some fault of yours.