

Justice,

The argument for and against capital punishment

Old Testament legalism vs. NT grace

God as the one who punishes, not man

The religious right as endorsers of capital punishment

- From a position of self-righteousness, as if having a right to retribution, not from the position of a grace-forgiven sinner

- The expressed need for retribution, regardless of what rhetoric it is cloaked in

- Why do the fundamentalist pundits claim the promise of forgiveness by virtue of the death of Jesus, yet endorse the termination of an unforgiven life, hopefully removing the chance of salvation?

- Claiming to be the spokesmen for God, they take on the position of God, assuming a position of divinity for themselves.

Christians who have suffered at the hands of wicked men:

- Rights under the government or social system

- Requirement as believers

- Ezekiel's dilemma; to show no suffering on the death of his wife

Historical believers who have suffered at the hands ignorant legalism

- Savanarola

- Watchman Nee

- Jesus

What is accomplished by execution?

- Retribution

- Justice

- Satisfaction

What could be accomplished by studying criminal minds?

- Understanding criminality

- Gaining knowledge of roots of pathological behavior

- defining fairness as a separate principle from justice

What was Jesus' approach?

- During his earthly time people were summarily executed for ordinary crimes

- execution was used as a way of removing any problem seen by the elite

- Justice during his era was class specific