

Lecture 2: *Capital Punishment: An Issue of Justice*

Review

Punishment in General

Capital Punishment Biblically Defined

Objections

Conclusions

Discussion 2: *Capital Punishment: An Issue of Justice*

Questions from the Lecture

1. What is the main purpose of punishment? Give an example of how this value might be established.
2. Some of the misconceptions of the reasons for punishment are: 1. for the rehabilitation of the offender; 2. to act as a deterrent; 3. to satisfy our need for revenge. Choose one of those three and give pros and cons for that position.
3. What was put forward as the correct view of punishment? Do you agree or disagree with this view?
4. One of the key Scripture passages in dealing with capital punishment is found in Genesis 9:6. Explain the significance of this statement based on its historical setting and the definition it provides.
5. Why are the examples of capital offenses from the Mosaic law so difficult to deal with (See one of Ex. 21, 22, Lev. 20, 24, Deut. 13, 17, 21, 22)?
6. Romans 13:1-7 is the key passage in the New Testament in terms the continuation of the concept of capital punishment. Why? To whom is the task of justice given?

Questions from the Reading

1. In chapter 6, Dr. Clark talks about three false foundations for the efforts to abolish capital punishment. What are they?
2. One of the objections to capital punishment is that there may be some innocent people who are executed in error. How does Dr. Clark deal with this issue. Is that satisfactory in your mind?
3. How does Dr. Clark respond to the question asked in chapter 7 as to whether capital punishment is ever right? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. What does Dr. Clark say about the Romans 13 passage and its relation to capital punishment?