



Divergent views within [Christianity](#) about capital punishment largely depend on how religious texts are interpreted and understood. Many proponents argue that God sanctions it by referencing Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind". This verse is often used to justify retribution and deterrence as valid reasons for supporting death penalty.

Conversely, opponents emphasize Jesus Christ's message of mercy and forgiveness embodied in His Sermon on Mount where He notably suggests not responding evil with evil but with good will towards those who harm us (Matthew 5:44). Thus while some believe that capital punishment serves divine justice according to scriptural law; others argue that Jesus' teachings promote compassion above retribution even when dealing with grave sins such as murder.

## Judaism's Stance on the Death Penalty

The Talmud, another fundamental Jewish text, further underscores Judaism's cautionary stance toward capital punishment. The rabbis of the Talmudic era considered a Sanhedrin (Jewish court) that executed one person every seventy years as "destructive," highlighting their preference for mercy over stringent retribution (Makkot 7a).

Therefore, while death penalty exists within Judaism's ancient legal system in theory; practically speaking, due to rigorous procedural requirements and profound reverence for human life underpinned by Genesis 1:27— "God created humankind in His own image" — Judaism effectively discourages its implementation.

## Islamic Views on Capital Punishment

Islam places stringent conditions on implementing capital punishment. Only when guilt is established beyond any reasonable doubt through credible evidence or confession can such extreme form of punishment be considered. Consequently, there are disagreements within Muslim communities about the application of death penalty given differing interpretations of these requirements among various schools of thought. These differences reflect an ongoing dialogue within Islam about balancing divine justice with human compassion and mercy.

## Buddhism and its Opposition to the Death Penalty

Buddhism teaches about karma — actions have consequences — suggesting that responding to an act of violence with further violence does not resolve but perpetuates suffering. Instead, compassion and understanding are emphasized as ways to address harm done while also fostering conditions conducive for personal growth and social healing. Therefore, within Buddhist perspective lies a deep opposition towards death penalty due to its inherent violence and disregard for potential transformative power within individuals.

# **Hinduism's Interpretation of Capital Punishment**

Ahimsa (non-violence) being one of the fundamental tenets of Hindu philosophy often takes precedence over these interpretations. This encourages forgiveness and compassion even towards those who have committed severe wrongdoings. Therefore, while some Hindus might justify capital punishment under certain circumstances using arguments based on Dharma and Karma; many lean towards opposing it due to Ahimsa's profound influence on Hindu ethics.

## **The Death Penalty in the eyes of Atheism**

Others may justify its use under certain circumstances like deterring heinous crimes or delivering justice. They might argue that ethical standards should be based on societal consensus rather than divine commandments. Therefore, if society deems that certain atrocious acts warrant such ultimate punishment then it could potentially be permissible from an atheist viewpoint – as long as legal proceedings are fair and transparent with absolute certainty of guilt established beyond doubt.