

Death Penalty:

Essay No. 2

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The cruelest form of punishment that this world has to offer has to be the death penalty. When a prosecution team requests the death penalty, they let a man's life rest in the hands of a jury of his peers. If the jury unanimously finds this man guilty, he is then sentenced to death and sent to death row to await execution. However, killing this man is not going to bring the deceased back. In fact, taking this man's life out of spite is just as bad as any crime that this man may have committed. Deciding a man's fate to live or die is not a decision that we should be making. It should be left to a higher power.

Human beings feel like they are the supreme beings on this planet. Now, whether that is true or not, there is an even greater power than human beings. I'm talking about a higher, spiritual power in God. Though there are many theories that dispute just how the world was created; one that is not often disputed is that it was all a work of God. God lets us live our lives freely as we so choose, and then he decides where we go after death based upon the good or bad manner in which we lived our lives. If we have been good, then we are rewarded for our actions and given a place in heaven. But for those who have chosen to lead a different path, there is a warmer place to sweat off their frustrations and realize their wrong doings so that their souls can be corrected and rid of its unpleasantness. Killing someone for his or her actions on Earth is not the way to cleanse the problem. For that, God has messengers that he send to earth to guide his people with their lifestyle problems. The act of killing someone just adds one more bad deed to a person's biography, even if it is in a court of law.

A court of law is supposed to be used to find justice, but justice is not always found. In a murder case, where a jury is used to render a decision as to whether an accused person should die if he is found guilty, mistakes have been made. In fact, in the

last twenty-eight years alone, eighty-two people have had their guilty verdicts overturned. So, that is proof that the jury system isn't perfect because people make mistakes. But after someone is executed, there isn't a chance to go back if a mistake is made. So, therefore, since there is no foolproof way to determine if a person is guilty, then how can we commit one of the biggest sins and go against one of the Bible's Ten Commandments, which clearly states: "Thou shalt not kill?" As a result of a lack of morals in this country, innocent people die. However, our head of state, the notorious Bill Clinton feels differently. He believes that appeals are both "ridiculous" and "interminable" (<http://www.radiofreela.com/dp.html> 2). However, it is estimated that each year at least four people are wrongly convicted of a capital crime and even a more unbelievable fact that for every seven people executed, one of those people winds up being found innocent at a later time (<http://www.ncadp.org/fact-4.pdf> 1). Instead of growing to become a more peaceful and civilized society, we are resorting back to the age old belief of King Hammurabi's Sumerian civilization which advocated "An eye for an eye...a tooth for a tooth." I like to think we've grown a little bit in the last six thousand years, but the sad truth is that we haven't (<http://www.republic.k12.mo.us/highschool/teachers/tstephen/meso-2.htm> 1-2). On a side note, in killing the guilty, we are really punishing the innocent as well. The innocent are not committing a crime, a crime is being committed against them (The Hurricane Movie). But innocent or not, the death penalty is still an inhumane form of punishment.

But how can it be inhumane to kill somebody? Well, if you are asking that question, then you have to ask yourself this question. How would it feel to have up to two thousand volts run through your body, then having your body change color, swell,

catch fire, defecate, urinate, and even vomit blood? Have you gotten the picture yet (http://www.deathrowbook.com/noflash/nf_electric.htm 1)? It takes a sick and twisted person to argue that the death penalty is necessary is necessary to uphold order. Adolph Hitler, probably the most hated man who has ever lived killed innocent people by using gas chambers and throwing people into ovens. To think that people in my own country are being killed through a similar method of torture makes my stomach turn in knots.

The death penalty, without trying to rationalize its meaning, is an act of murder. Make no excuses for that action. It is a murder that is unjustified and undignified in a spiritual, moral, and humane sense of the word. People don't realize the forces that they are dealing with when the death penalty is enacted. People can only make an educated guess as to the guilt of an individual. They cannot know for sure, and that is why God, the end all and know all of what really happens in his earthly kingdom should be our sole judge, jury, and executioner. Let's bring back what we had in 1972, and once again repeal the death penalty (<http://www.radiofreela.com/dp.html> 1).