

Religion, Crime and Punishment Keywords.

Crime:	an offence which is punishable by law, for example stealing, murder.
Punishment:	something legally done to somebody as a result of being found guilty of breaking the law.
Evil:	the opposite of good; a force or the personification of a negative power that is seen in many traditions as destructive and against God.
Poverty:	being without money, food or other basic needs of life (being poor).
Mental illness:	a medical condition that affects a person's feelings, emotions or moods, and perhaps their ability to relate to others.
Addiction:	physical or mental dependency on a substance or activity which is very difficult to overcome.
Greed:	wanting to possess wealth, goods or items of value which are not needed.
Hate crimes:	crimes, often including violence, that are usually targeted at a person because of their race, religion, sexuality, disability or gender.
Retribution:	an aim of punishment – to get your own back; “an eye for an eye”.
Deterrence:	an aim of punishment – to put people off committing crimes.
Reformation:	an aim of punishment – to change someone's behaviour for the better.
Free will:	the ability of people to make decisions for themselves without constraint.
Prison:	a secure building where offenders are kept for a period of time set by a judge.
Corporal punishment:	punishment of an offender by causing them physical pain – now illegal in the UK.
Community service:	a way of punishing offenders by making them do unpaid work in the community.
Forgiveness:	showing mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.
Death penalty:	capital punishment; a form of punishment in which a prisoner is put to death for crimes committed.

Sanctity of life: all life is holy as it is created and loved by God; Christians believe human life should not be misused or abused.

Religion, crime and punishment – Core Knowledge

1. List some of the reasons people commit crimes.
2. What is a hate crime?
3. State 3 aims of punishment.
4. What is corporal punishment?
5. What is capital punishment?
6. What is justice?
7. Give three reasons for punishing criminals.
8. State a bible quote that tells Christians that they should forgive others.

Answers:

1. Poverty, opposition to an unjust law, hate, greed, addiction, mental illness, upbringing
2. Crimes (often violence) targeted at a person because of their race, religion, sexuality, disability or gender.
3. Retribution – society getting their collective own back, deterrence – preventing the crime from taking place in the first instance, reformation – to change someone's behaviour for the better.
4. Punishment of an offender by causing them pain – now illegal in the UK.
5. A form of punishment where the offender is put to death for their crimes.
6. Everyone being treated fairly.
7. Revenge, to uphold the law, to improve someone, to protect society, to deter people from becoming criminals.
8. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." – The Lord's Prayer
"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'
– Matthew 18:21-22
"Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." – Jesus speaking as he is being crucified in Luke 22:34.

Religion, Crime and Punishment Bible references:

Paul said: "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil". (1 Timothy 6:10)

Jesus said: "Love your neighbour as you love yourself." (Mark 12:31)

Jesus said: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For ... I was in prison and you came to visit me." (Matthew 25: 34-36)

Paul wrote: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

"If there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise." (Exodus 21:23-25)

*Jesus said: "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
(Matthew 5:44)*

Paul wrote: "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'" (Romans 12:19-21)

Paul wrote: "We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." (Romans 5:3-4)

"One of [the disciples] struck the servant of the High Priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered 'No more of this!' And he touched the man's ear and healed him." (Luke 22:50-51)

"He who spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them." (Proverbs 13:24)

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us." (The Lord's prayer)

" 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" (Matthew 18:21-22)

Jesus said: "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:24)

"Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed." (Genesis 9:6)

"I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn away from their ways and live." (Ezekiel 33:11)