Unit 4 Debate

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Capital punishment is a barbaric idea. The decision to kill someone just because they made a mistake and to take their life is a problem. Just because they may deserve it does not mean that we should do it. We might be able to save this person’s soul and turn them to God and that would be a better outcome than sending another person to eternal damnation. Also, we can see what Jesus’ opinion on capital punishment was in John 8:4-7 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So, when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. In this passage we see that Jesus is telling the people that even though the law says that she should be stoned to death that we should not because it is not our place to judge another and condemn them to a fate without a chance at redemption. Therefore, I believe that the divine command theory is a good approach for handling the capital punishment argument, yes in the Old Testament it was said to have people put to death for having done things that went against the law but there had to be witnesses at least two claiming that the person had done the crime like murder. There was also capital punishment for adultery and other wrong doings but as we seen in the New Testament Jesus who is God in the flesh told those who had caught the woman committing adultery that he who is without sin should cast the first stone. Leaving the judgement up to God as to stone her or not and God did not. So, he would not want us to kill others for this purpose because it is not our place to do so. I get that for some crimes people believe that the person who committed it should be put to death. I understand that feelings play a strong role in decision on how people believe the state should handle some criminals. You talk to almost any person on what should be done with people who sexually abuse minors, and most are going to tell you that they should be put to death for the tremendous amount of psychological terror and physical abuse they put the child through and that they should not be given a second chance at life. But that is not for us to decide and that is why I believe that Jesus told the people who brought the woman before him to be stoned told them to let him who is without sin cast the first stone.