

Turn No: 1: S1:

IMHO, both sides are correct. There are times when it is necessary, others when it is not. The problem resides on when, how, who and what. Like I said, certain factors are what determine the usage of the death penalty. Our justice system might be flawed to some degree, but for the most part it works well. Self-preservation is another story as are wars that are fought, because those are more complicated than killing someone because "they looked at you funny."

Turn No: 2: S2:

What group of fallible human beings do you see fit to make the ultimate judgment on the life of another fallible human being? What standards shall they use? Who gets to determine whether the standards they use are the correct standards? What happens when one disagrees with the standards used? If we were all Platonic guardians equipped with perfect judgment and perfect rationality, then I might agree. Since we are not, then I cannot support the Death Penalty.

Turn No: 3: S2:

Jury of Peers has worked quite well for a very long time I don't see why we need to change it. That is why there is always another decision to decide whether the death penalty applies or not. No one said we are perfect, but neither should be lenient towards people who commit horrible crimes.

Turn No: 4: S2:

Once again, the false dichotomy fallacy raises its ugly head. Why do you assume that, because I oppose the Death Penalty, that I favor "lenient" treatment of those convicted of heinous crimes? BTW, if there are 12 fallible human beings on a jury, has fallibility been multiplied by 12 or divided by 12?

Turn No: 5: S2:

Did I ever say I thought you wanted to be lenient on criminals? I said we shouldn't be lenient on them. I never said, "Chester wants to be lenient on criminals" did I? I don't know whether you understand how the justice system works, but anyways there would be far more fallibility if there were less people to decide. That is why 12 people are chosen to decide whether a person who commits a crime such as murder will face the death penalty or not. It is not just one person who is deciding this persons fate you know.

Turn No: 1: S1:

Well I have wished for years that upon the conviction of a violent criminal, and after all appeals have failed, that the convicted violent criminal be handed over to the victims next of kin, and the punishment and type of punishment be decided and carried out by the victims next of kin. In other words, if a man raped and killed my wife, once the man was tried and convicted, and after all of his appeals have failed, the state should hand him over to me to do with him as I see fit. Dont ask me what I would do if this happened, because you might not like my answer. I just think the family of victoms would get more closure, and more of a sense of justice if this were allowed. If the victim lives through the ordeal, then the victim decides the criminals fate.

Turn No: 2: S2:

And if the family of the victim, such as in ther Amish school shootings a few years ago, had decided that forgiveness was a higher value than revenge, then where would you be? You want to return to the days of the Germanic Weregeld .(You kill one of mine, then I'll kill one of yours.) Fortunately, the law has evolved since such primitive ideas ruled.

Turn No: 3: S2:

As I said, it should be up to the family to decide, and if they so choose to forgive him and do nothing, then I would live by that decision. And I am not talking about revenge, im talking about justice. I know some of you dont believe in God, but I do. In my bible God has a lot to say about killing another human being, and God addresses both accidental killings and murder. It says in my bible that if a man murders another human being, that he is to be delivered up to God immediately, this means the murderer forfeits his life. There is more but this is the only one I remember. I know some of you think you know more about how to do things than God does, so I fully expect a lot of ridicule over this post, and thats ok, we will see who is right in the end.

Turn No: 4: S2:

Absolutely no ridicule should be generated over your serious post. Even for believers such as yourself, I think that it is important to realize that we on earth are not qualified to render what you might call "God's justice." Christian Redemptionists notwithstanding, the USA is not, never has been, and, I hope never will be a theocracy. We live under the civil law, and the civil law tells us that crimes are prosecuted in the name of the state - The People of the State of "X" v. John Doe. This was done precisely to make the rendering of justice a concern of all the inhabitants of a state, municipality, or nation. In Biblical terms, this means that we must "Render unto Caesar (earthly trials, convictions, and punishments) that which is Caesar's and render unto God that which is Gods' (eternal punishment if one is a believer). That being said, I oppose capital punishment for, among other reasons, it allows fallible humans to make the choice of who shall live and who shall die.

Turn No: 5: S2:

You are absolutely right to a point, but we are not talking about the prosecution, but rather the punishment. If victims or families of the victim were allowed to prosecute, the prosecution would almost always be biased and unfair towards the accused. This is why I said the punishment should be decided by the victim or the victims family, and to my knowledge there is nothing in the bible that says that only the state can administer punishment. As far as rendering to ceaser what is ceasers, the bible is refering to possesions and taxes. But I have been known to be wrong before.

Turn No: 1: S1:

Crime stats: <http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/uscrime.htm>

Turn No: 2: S2:

A list of crime deterrents compiled just for you, they are- .357 magnum, .44 magnum, .500 magnum(My personal favorite), 9mm, .40 caliber, 12 guage, 20 guage, and 10 and 16 guages. These stop criminals "dead" in their tracks. If I use any of these, the criminal cant ever repeat his crime. But with your preferred " non lethal" means of self defense, a repeat is highly likely, as our judicial system believes in just giving a criminal a slap on the wrist.

Turn No: 3: S2:

Neither our Consitution nor the laws made under it give to any individual a right to private justice. I suspect you are writing what you do simply to see if others will descend to your level.

Turn No: 4: S2:

I only said they were crime deterents, and if I "were forced" to use them, the outcome would be permanent, unlike non lethal means. Being forced to use them would be self defense, choosing to use them after the fact is justice. I know, you disagree with my view of justice, we have already covered this.

Turn No: 5: S2:

Here in my state, an inmate was just released after 10 years in prison for a murder that even the prosecutor says he did not commit. As I asked you previously, what if the victim had been a member of your family and you had extracted private justice? What would your widow tell your daughter if the members of the released man's family had taken you out for murdering their child/husband/brother? Do you get that there was no crime that he could have repeated, because he didn't commit one in the first place? Do you get that we are not living in the days of the Hatfields and the McCoys? Do you get that, if he had been executed that it would have been a judicially sanctioned murder?

Turn No: 6: S2:

First of all, I would not take any action against anyone unless I either saw it for myself(the crime), or the rapist, or murderer were positively identified by more than one witness. As much as I love my child, people do lie, and just because a family member made an acusation does not always make it so. I would have to be absolutely certain that the man accused is the one who actually did it.

Turn No: 1: S1:

Something opponents of the death penalty don't seem to understand; not everybody sentenced to death has been falsely convicted. And until I see some stats of just how many people are wrongly convicted, I'm not changing my position that the death penalty is a good idea. Let's face simple facts here. The people who qualify for the death penalty are charged with committing some considerably heinous crime(s) that society has deemed unacceptable. That means they're not fit to remain free amongst society, and I don't see why they deserve to be taken care of for the rest of their lives by American tax payers. The death penalty is the only acceptable answer in this case.

Turn No: 2: S2:

One person falsely convicted and executed is sufficient cause to eliminate the DP. Being locked in an 8x12 for the rest of one's life hardly qualifies as being taken care of. Besides which, it cost less to incarcerate someone for life than it does to execute him/her.

Turn No: 3: S2:

So anything short of 100% perfection is absolutely unacceptable?

Turn No: 4: S2:

When it comes to the taking of innocent life in my name by the state... ABSOLUTELY!!!! I am surprised that anyone would have it any other way.

Turn No: 5: S2:

The police have been known to wind up killing innocent people over misinformation. Are you saying that we should do away with armed police officers for the same reason that one innocent life is too precious to lose?

Turn No: 6: S2:

Don't try to play silly word games, OK; I'll respect you more that way. The British Police have managed quite well without firearms for two centuries now. For us, since the gun nuts won't allow that here, I suggest that any cop who kills a person who is later shown to be innocent should be immediately dismissed from the force and that he/she be made personally liable for any civil judgment that is rendered. We have had enough Amadou Diallos, Sean Bells, and Frank Lovatos

Turn No: 1: S1:

Since some of you seem to oppose the death penalty for one reason or another, and since I support it, we stand at an impasse on this situation. Unless a violent criminal is specifically sentenced to live the remainder of his/her life in jail, then in a lot of cases, that criminal is going to be free one day, unless a criminal is so old upon sentencing that death is eminent while in prison. So I have a solution, how would you feel about a convicted rapist being castrated along with his prison sentence, then upon release he is not likely to repeat the crime. How would you feel about a convicted murderer having his hands removed along with his sentence, and upon his release he can no longer use deadly weapons such as guns or knives to murder again, although a knife is questionable due to modern prosthetics. And how would you feel about a child rapist having to be castrated, plus undergo very painful mental conditioning that will keep him from repeating his crime, plus his sentence in prison, plus the mental conditioning will continue for the duration of his life after release. And drug dealers who give or sell to children, how would you feel about making them do so much of their own poison, that it scrambles their brains, basically turning them into a vegetable, and no longer able to repeat their crime, and although society would have to care for them, would it be anymore costly than if they were in prison. Just some ideas.

Turn No: 2: S2:

All of this is about vengeance, with a side serving of sadism. We are supposed to be discussing the ultimate sanction of justice. As for painful mental conditioning... go watch Kubrick's "Clockwork Orange."

Turn No: 3: S2:

Ok, so what would you say we do to criminals, since you oppose everything so far. If a man rapes a child, I guess your idea would be to tell the rapist "oh its ok, people just dont understand you, so try a little harder to be good in the future" and then let him be on his way. Then would you look that child in the face and then tell him/her that its their fault this happened, because they dressed wrong or that they shouldnt have been there in the first place. Is this your idea of criminal justice, because thats the way it sounds to me. Im going to be honest, if a man raped my daughter, he would die, but he would pray to die before I got through with him and gave him the answer to his prayer, and if I got caught, the police wouldnt even know where to start filling out the report. The rapist would experience pain he could not have even imagined possible. So you can say what you want, call it what you want, but it wont change a thing as far as I am concerned.

Turn No: 4: S2:

Do you lapse into these bloodthirsty fantasies often? You appear to think about this kind of depravity a lot, it comes so readily to your posts. Your god claimed vengeance is his, not yours.

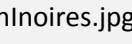
Turn No: 5: S2:

Well first off, Gods vengeance is eternal judgement, God is not saying that he is going to extract vengeance on a criminal while the criminal is sitting in jail, or walking free due to some technicality. And as far as thinking about this a lot, that is a false assumption on your part, but how does one not have feelings on this as I see it on the news almost daily. So what is one supposed to do if a criminal violently attacks a member of his family, just sit idly back and watch a soft judicial system set the criminal free after a short stay in prison, or get off on a technicality because the arresting officer didnt use proper punctuation in the report. How can you possibly view this as justice, you can not. You seem to advocate criminal rights while opposing rights for the victim. A child who is raped, should that child survive the attack, will suffer emotionally and mentally for the rest of their life, and in some cases, if the child is a female, she can not have children as a result of the attack. So then why shouldnt the criminal who caused this also be made to suffer greatly as well, and since our judicial system is not going to do this, then somebody else should. Your bleeding heart isnt going to stop a criminal from repeating his crime once he is released, but I will should he violently attack a member of my family.

Turn No: 1: S1:

That the innocent have been executed is no big deal. Innocent people die every day because of government neglect, malfeasance, corruption, etc. I'm also certain there are many innocent inmates who die, but aren't executed, while incarcerated. I feel better putting them down, however, because an execution is a fitting response to the crime of murder.

Turn No: 2: S2:

To say that it's no big deal doesn't sound right to me, because we cannot risk anyone's life. To know that other innocent people die for other reasons doesn't change the fact that a mistake is a mistake. Once the guy's dead, there's no way to correct the mistake. That's what's awful about death penalty; it's sometimes the right to kill innocent people, whether it happens often or not, and most of all, with the permission of the law itself. The amount of people dying for other reasons (like the ones you mentioned, rightfully so) cannot, by any means, change this. At least, they can have a chance to survive, may it be very little. If they're executed, there is no question about it, it's too late. I understand this, and that's what I meant when I mentioned the "bad thoughts". I understand the eye-for-an-eye mechanism. To you it seems a fitting response, because it equals the murder. That's where I consider it is non-sensical.  A famous strip among comics amateurs in France. Author: Franquin.

Turn No: 3: S2:

But we do. We send convicts to prison for LWOP, not absolutely sure of their guilt. I used to object to the death penalty for that reason, when I was younger. I got over it. The administration of criminal justice is a human enterprise, and therefore can't be made perfect. The only question is whether or not any risk of executing an innocent is acceptable. I accept that risk. The finality of the death penalty is why it's the right thing to do. After someone is executed, it's the end of the story. The chapter is closed. It makes sense to me because I feel it's a better deterrent, if any prospective murderer can be deterred, than mere imprisonment. Hang a murderer in the street, or guillotine him, in front of children, and those children learn what happens to murderers.

Turn No: 4: S2:

To me, it's giving the convicts a little chance to save their lives, no matter how hard the conditions. When dead, they cannot prove anything or get out. I'm not sure if age matters much, as I'm 32 and I still think the same. Well, I'll see in twenty years maybe. Would you accept this risk if the innocent victim was your child or your parent? Not only do I think otherwise, but reality always shows that violence begets violence, pain begets pain. I don't think it's only a pretty formula. That's what was meant in the "comic" strip I've joined to my last post, if you were able to see it. It seems that all the people in history who have been sentenced to death didn't constitute a strong deterrent enough. Nothing has changed, people still kill other people. Besides being horrific, this is teaching violence instead of reasoning. It has been clearly understood that such a thing must not be done to the children. Again, although I understand your view, I cannot agree.

Turn No: 5: S2:

That's why I like the death penalty. It shows society making up its mind about murder. You will harden as you get older. Or after you get mugged. Whichever comes first. Yes, of course. We all do. Nonviolence also begets violence. I am not opposed to violence. I simply want citizens to obey the law. I don't read French very well, but I got the gist of it. What goes around comes around. Oui. Vraiment. I got it. Left out of the cartoon is any mention of capital punishment's benefits to the commonweal. This is a tired and discredited argument. The purpose of punishment isn't to deter all crime. It's to deter at least one person from committing a crime. If you've deterred only one, the punishment for the crime is effective. Most people would commit murder if there was no law against it. If most people were incapable of murder, we would not need murder laws. That people do commit murder, notwithstanding the law, is all the more reason to punish them as harshly as possible. It's the ultimate crime begging for the ultimate punishment. Those with violent tendencies, including children, aren't open to reason. They do, however, respond to palpable threats to their own survival.

