

# In the image of God - a Christian response to capital punishment

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## **Statement by Oregon Catholic Bishops on the Death Penalty, October 1984**

Naturally, as I came to deal increasingly with ethical issues, I found myself seriously questioning whether the death penalty was an effective deterrent. Though this will sound strange to our ears which have been trained by the concepts of law as king, the rule of law, and equality before the law, David was above the law. Other body fluids carry the same DNA coding and can be tested also.

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They are on death row often because they are poor, young, uneducated, or members of minorities.

## **What does the Bible say about the death penalty / capital punishment?**

Some liken it to state-sanctioned murder. First, we must question the premise. The Pharisees proved they knew this when they later brought Jesus to Pilate rather than killing Him themselves.

## **Is Capital Punishment Pro**

But in another sense, it does deter in that the executed murderer will not be around to murder someone else. If your loved one is murdered, I suppose you have some standing to argue for mercy for the murderer. Best to say: from conception to old age, all human life is to be respected, protected, and enabled to flourish.

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It will hold to standards that resist merely coming to terms with any given political situation, catering to the whims of the state and the majority, and so on. But the Noahic Covenant is still operative, and Romans 13 makes clear that the state still carries the swordan instrument of death. A life for

a life.

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This is a universally binding principle not confined merely to the Old Testament theocracy. To add context and nuance to the conversation, we turned to , Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology and Director of the at.

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