

From: marshall@csugrad.cs.vt.edu (Kevin Marshall)
Subject: **Re:** Death Penalty (was **Re: Political Atheists?**)
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bil@okcforum.osrhe.edu (Bill Conner) writes:

>This is fascinating. **Atheists** argue for abortion, defend homosexuality
>as a means of population control, insist that the only values are
>biological and condemn war and capital punishment. According to
>**Benedikt**, if something is contradictory, it cannot exist, which in
>this case means **atheists** I suppose.
>I would like to understand how an atheist can object to war (an
>excellent means of controlling population growth), or to capital
>punishment, I'm sorry but the logic escapes me.

First, you seem to assume all **atheists** think alike. An atheist does not believe in the existence of a god. Our opinions on issues such as capital punishment and abortion, however, vary greatly.

If you were attacking the views of a particular atheist (**Benedikt**, I presume), then please present your argument as such and do not lump us all together.

As for the issues, let's start with abortion. Personally, I do not support abortion as a means of population control or contraception-after-the-fact. However, I support the right of any woman to have an abortion, regardless of what my personal views may be, because it would be arrogant of me to tell any individual what he/she may or may not do to his/her body, and the domain of legislators should not extend into the uterus. That's my opinion, and I am sure many **atheists** and theists would disagree with me.

I do not defend homosexuality as a means of population control, but I certainly defend it as an end to itself. I think most homosexuals would be angered to hear of anyone characterizing their personal relationship as nothing more than a conscious effort to keep population levels down.

As for **atheists** believing all values are biological, I have no idea what you're talking about.

Finally, there are the issues of war and capital punishment. An atheist can object to either one just as easily as a theist might. You seem to be hung up on some supposed conspiratorial link between **atheism** and

population control. Could this be the "atheist cause" you were referring to a few posts back?

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