
cons capital punishment Capital punishment and atheism

Posted by al willis - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis

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Posted by Kevin Dempsey Peterson - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis Atheism is a set of beliefs about the nature of the universe, and has nothing to do with morality. Logic, which many would regard as the basis for atheism, doesn't help at all for morality. Logic deals with this is, therefore that is, not this happened, therefore that should (morally) happen. I personally don't know how I feel about capital punishment, however, I see all criminal punishment in terms of its effect on the future (detriment to crime, cost to society), more than as a fair punishment, probably because I am a determinist. I'd be willing to guess that most atheists aren't determinists, though, so you'll have to ask everyone.

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Posted by John Lockwood - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis That's like asking if four out of five auto mechanics choose trident sugarless gum for their carbeurators who chew gum. Regards, John Lockwood j...@wwg.com javap...@best.com <http://www.best.com/~javaprog>

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Posted by petesmith - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis Personally I have no problems with the DP for murder and some other crimes so long as there is no possibility of the person being innocent. ie Bundy, Hamilton (the gunman in Dunblane), Fred and Rose West etc I don't see Life imprisonment as any more humane. However this is NOT an athiest/thiest issue as I am sure there are many Athiests have different opinions on this just as many thiests have as well.

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Posted by goldbach - 2010/01/08 13:28

awil...@ix.netcom.com (al willis) writes: Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis I don't think capital punishment should be used in any circumstantial evidence case. If there can be no doubt that a person has murdered another person, then maybe it is ok for those who can stomach such a thing. Atheists have all kinds of beliefs on this. It has nothing to do with being an atheist. As for logic, that will depend upon one's premises and whether they are true or not. Larry

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Posted by randall g - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say

should be done with the murderer? Al Willis My guess is (with no evidence) that many atheists are NOT in favour of capital punishment, perhaps somewhat more in number than those who are. What does logic say about dealing with murderers? That depends on the premises. If the premise is to prevent the individual from ever harming another, then logic says he should either be locked up until it is proved that he is harmless, or simply killed. Either way the end is achieved logically. If there is a premise that every individual has a right to life regardless of his crimes, then capital punishment is illogical. If there is a premise that no innocent person shall be executed ever, then only those whose crime is proved beyond any doubt would be eligible for execution. Some might argue that there is ALWAYS an infinitesimal chance of executing an innocent, which would render capital punishment illogical. So in the end I think logic doesn't really help much here, too much depends on many premises which are more opinion than anything else. My personal opinion is that those who commit ghastly crimes might as well be killed, I'm not going to weep for them. They've forfeited any human rights they may have had, and I don't care to pay for their remaining life. Also, as an atheist, I think that death really is a severe punishment, and like the locally popular god, I'm not above a little vengeance. randall g mailto:randa...@telemark.net http://www.telemark.net/~randallg When You let me fall, grew my own wings, now I'm as tall as the sky When You let me drown, grew gills and fins, now I'm as deep as the sea When You let me die, my spirit's free, there's nothing challenging me

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Posted by Charles Fiterman - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis First this issue has nothing to do with atheism, you are taking a poll. I am responding to it as an individual who happens to be an atheist. I favor capital punishment Illinois style. This means tying up the courts spending lots of law enforcement money and only executing one person in twenty years. That person was the mass murderer John Wayne Gacy who spent 14 years on death row and would have eaten himself to death faster on the outside. I oppose capital punishment Texas style where you actually kill people. Thanks to victimless crime laws we have the highest percentage of people in prison in the world. Even Communist China isn't close. So anything that ties up the system and wastes its money is good. Jeffrey Dahmer did the same kinds of things as Gacy and was put in the general prison population rather than get a death sentence. Life expectancy in the general prison population is shorter than on death row, even in Texas. Dahmer lived seven months. There is a slight connection between these opinions and atheism. I see that people live longer on death row than in the general prison population. As an atheist I live totally in the real world. In the real world capital punishment doesn't kill people it keeps them alive and at great expense. So I consider the pros and cons of keeping killers alive at great expense. Non atheists will either say we are getting an eye for an eye with capital punishment or we are taking life with capital punishment.

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Posted by Kenneth Arromdee - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Depends on your premises.

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Posted by John Holcroft - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis It may also be interesting to find the answers broken down into regions. Would the UK result (where there is no death penalty) be the same as the US result? Personally I'm very much against capital punishment. It all seems to be based on revenge which though entirely natural I believe has no place in a civilised society. A teacher of mine from the catholic school I attended once said that the basis of the differences between Judaism and Christianity lay in the 'eye for an eye' statement. That is, Christians do not agree with the sentiment. John Holcroft

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Posted by Sebastian Nyberg - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? I dunno. What do redheads think of coffee? Key words: generalisation clue get Base

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Posted by randy - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis It may also be interesting to find the answers broken down into regions. Would the UK result (where there is no death penalty) be the same as the US result? I do not think capital punishment has a place in society. they recently enacted a death penalty here in new york, i voted against it. murder, state sanctioned or not, is murder. the death of one innocent person... randy

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Posted by Mike A. McAngus - 2010/01/08 13:28

Atheists do believe in right and wrong. Do MOST atheists favor capital punishment for murder? What does logic say should be done with the murderer? Al Willis I don't know about MOST atheist , but I am opposed to capital punishment because it is the rare case that we can know with 100% certainty that someone is guilty of the crime for which s/he has been convicted. On the flip side, I am also opposed to the insanity plea. I believe anyone who would kill another person who is not an immediate threat, that killer is not entirely sane.

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