

Christian Just Capital Punishment Theory: Capital punishment is the Way of Jesus—so...



Which one is Jesus?

Friends,

The power that big-money corporations possess to present untruth as truth and have it swallowed hook, line and sinker by tens of millions of people is towering. There is practically no untruth, no absurdity, that cannot be made believable and palatable as a "truth", if big time corporate power and money choose to promote the deception.

An example of this is the near universal erroneous belief that the institutional Catholic Church, one of the mega-wealthy trans-national institutions of the world, is opposed to capital punishment. It is not! Its moral approval of capital punishment has not changed since the Constantinian alteration in the Church beginning in the Fourth Century, and the substitution of its own philosophical moral teachings for the revelatory moral teachings of Jesus. In other words since the Fourth Century the institutional Church has propagated that a Christian can follow Jesus by killing people who are held captive by the state and who have previously engaged in behavior that some human beings deemed worthy of capital punishment. Such was the institutional Catholic Church's presentation of the "truth" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it was manufactured in the Fourth Century and as it remains to this day. No Catholic today, or for the last 1700 years, could be or can be denied Holy Communion for chopping a legally condemned person's head off or for ordering it or for voting for it.

Since the Fourth Century, Church leaders—popes, patriarch. bishops—have been full time government oriented politicians and CEOs and part time pastors, rather than being full time pastors leading Jesus' flock as Jesus taught it should be led and to where Jesus taught it should be led. In the case of capital punishment this has meant that instead of proclaiming directly and unambiguously, that because of Jesus' rejection of violence, capital punishment is for a Catholic or Christian contrary to the will of God as revealed by Jesus, the institutional Church has offered tactical and strategical band-aids to nation-states as its way of responding to the curse of capital punishment in the human situation, e.g. agreements not to hang people on Sundays, agreements not to decapitate people by guillotine on Holy Days of Obligation, agreements not to conduct an *auto-da-fe* during the forty days after Easter, agreements to draw and quarter men but to burn women at the stake in order not to cause impure sexual thoughts in the executioners and the audience, and a bevy of other band-aid solutions to the evil of capital punishment. All of which band-aid strategies and tactics were and are easily removed whenever those with power deem it is no longer in their interests to adhere to them, while the individual Catholic and Christian is systematically and universally led to believe that when a state by whatever mechanism it has for ordering the destruction of a person, in fact orders it, he or she is morally permitted to kill the person and still be a faithful follower of Jesus and still be doing his or her Christian duty.

Tactics and strategies for mitigating the horrors of capital punishment or for reducing the need for capital punishment are not the rejection and moral condemnation of capital punishment in principle, or as an activity inimical to following the Jesus of the Gospels. The recently departed conservative Catholic U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Antonin Scalia—who probably condemned more human beings to death than any U.S. Supreme Court Justice in history—always threw back in the face of the U.S. Catholic Bishops and the

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Pope and the Catholic laity who said that the Church was against capital punishment because it was inhumane and/or because it was no longer practically necessary, this retort. He made it clear that their tactics and strategies were *their* prudential judgments with which he disagreed, and with which he was morally empowered to disagree. They were not matters of Catholic principle or moral dogma. And, such has been the institutional Church's position on capital punishment since the Fourth Century.



The jury votes 'thumbs down.' This is all that is needed to morally permit a Christian to kill a prisoner of the state. 'Thumbs down' permits the Catholic to morally override the Word of God Incarnate's explicit teaching of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies in the Gospels, according to the overwhelming majority of popes, patriarchs, bishops and theologians of the institutional Catholic Church and most other Christian Churches over the last 1700 years. What a graceless, crass, unmitigated, arrant spiritual absurdity! And to think, they have employed the resources of the Church to brainwash and indoctrinate century after century of the Baptized into this spiritual rot.

So instead of acting like the legitimate successors of Peter and the Apostles and teaching the Baptized "*to obey all that I have commanded you*" (Mt 28:19), they, for the most part for the last 1700 years, have acted like Caiaphas, the High Priest of the Temple at the time of Jesus' murder, the liturgical high profile public prayer leader and wheeling and dealing institutional politician and entrepreneur. They thereby brought into the institutional Church another grotesque disfiguring of the teachings and of the Spirit of Jesus. Christian Just Capital Punishment Theory owes nothing to anything Jesus ever said or did in the Gospels and owes everything to popes, patriarchs and bishops contorting or by-passing Jesus' transparent teachings on violence for institutional and personal political and financial advantage. When the Catholic or Christian is called upon to support or participate in capital punishment his or her response should not be "Let's do it in a more humane manner." His or her response should be "On this one I am not following the pope's, patriarch's and bishop's teachings; I am following the infallible teaching of their BOSS."

-Emmanuel Charles McCarthy