

DEATH PENALTY

What does the Bible say?

Thou shalt not kill. (**Exodus 20:13**)

Say to them, “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live.” (**Ezekiel 33:11**)

You have heard that it was said, “Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.” But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also...You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (**Matthew 5:38-39, 43-44**)

Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. (**John 8:3-11**)

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (**John 10:10**)



What does the United Methodist Church say?

Our commitment to the inherent dignity and worth of every person and our historic stance as United Methodists compels us to oppose capital punishment and the imposition of the death penalty. We, therefore, call for the abolition of the death penalty and urge individuals and congregations to educate themselves about the historical stance of the United Methodist Church and its predecessors. (**Social Principles, Paragraph 163, Political Community, Section G**)



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

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What do the facts say?

- More than 70% of the world's countries have abolished capital punishment in law or practice. The U.S. is an outlier among its close allies in its continued use of the death penalty. (Death Penalty Information Center)
- In 2021, most known executions took place in China, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria – in that order. (Amnesty International)
- Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) say there is some risk that an innocent person will be put to death, while only 21% think there are adequate safeguards in place to prevent that from happening. (Pew Research Center)
- Public support for the death penalty is at its lowest level in a half-century, with opposition higher than any time since 1966, according to the 2020 annual Gallup poll on Americans' attitudes about capital punishment (Gallup Poll, Death Penalty Information Center)
- 41% of Death Row Prisoners are Black and 14% are Latinx. (NAACP Legal Defense Fund, "Death Row USA")



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- If you reside in the US, **tell** your state and federal legislators that the death penalty does not work in restoring victims or protecting society.
- **Join** Death Penalty Action, an organization that works to stop executions and abolish the death penalty through advocacy, education, and action
- **Become** a pen-pal with a person on death row through organizations such as Human Writes (www.humanwrites.org).



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The United Methodist Church