

SECTION C.

CRIME IN SOCIETY

What is a crime?

A crime refers to any anti social behavioral act that violates / breaks the law and damages the rights of other people.

A crime refers to any offence committed against the laws in a given society.

The common examples of crimes in modern society include theft, rape, human sacrifice, land grabbing, murder among others

CAUSES OF CRIMES / FACTORS

Account for the rampant crimes in Uganda today?

- Poverty
- Political instabilities
- Commercialization of justice i.e in courts of law.
- Moral degeneration
- Unseriousness of law enforcement
- Poor role models especially

Rampant unemployment which drives some people especially the youths into wrong ways of obtaining survival because they lack jobs to do e.g. theft, prostitution, corruption in order to survive.

Irresponsible parent hood where many children are neglected by their parents and they end up on the streets, they do commit crimes on the streets in order to survive because they do not have any one to cater for them.

The influence of rural urbanization in such for employment and better life. Failure to attain these may force some people into crimes because they lack what to do in urban centres e.g. pick pocketing, prostitution.

Abuse of drugs which loss their normal senses and gaining artificial confidence to commit crimes under influence of drugs e.g. cocaine, marijuana, weeds and alcohol.

Corruption in the courts of law where the rich give bribes to win the case. Corruption also exists among the law implementers like the Police. This at a time has led to more crime cases like murder e.g on the 17th March 2017, Andrew Kaweesi Philipps (AIGP) was shoot, died in Kulambiro by unknown people on his way to work. In 2015 the former DPC of Muyende Muhammad Kulambiro was shot died in Bulega on his way back by unknown people.

Violation of the law can be attributing to negative group pressure. May young people endive in drug abuse and after words are influenced their friends to commit crimes in the society which is against the law. Many use it that they want to fit in the group leading to murder and theft.

Decline lack of religious beliefs is responsible for violation of law in society, this makes people to become heartless and determined to do any thing irrespective

of weather e.g people who cheat, embezzle, involve in sex scandals are irreligious.

The wide spread social and economic problems such as retrenchment (laying off) of civil servants, poverty and unemployment. This result into many people using wrong ways in order to earn a living and they end up tend up breaking the law. They take part in stealing, gambling and corruption.

Laziness is responsible for the violation of the law because of laziness many people resort to unlawful means of attaining the basic needs of live like food, clothes through stealing, corruption, murder, instead of working to earn a living.

The influence of pornographically materials in printing and electronic media such as blue movies, news papers, magazines that have proved way for related crime e.g. rape, homosexuality, prostitution. These many include gage rape, defilement and homosexuality which is unlawful.

The increasing economic group between the rich and the poor in contribution to the violation f the laws in society today. Some people are too poor to afford the basic needs of lives and such people are left with no option apart from stealing from the rich in order their ends meet serve. The militarization of politics and leadership dictatorship has also contributed to violation of the law in society in some cases, soldiers have been sighted in the courts of law threatening judges to take unfair judgments e.g. the black mambas who ridded the courts in 2006 during Dr. Besigye's trial which was unlawful. Christians should obey the law.

WAYS OF SOLVING CRIMES (CHRISTIAN SOUN TO CRIME)

Reformatory / rehabilitation centers should be established in society where crimes are to be taken to help them change.

This will help to reduce on crimes in society e.g. Kampilingisa teenage con remand centre.

Criminals should be encouraged to repent their sins and seek for forgiveness from those they have offended and God. This will help them get forgiveness in order to create peace and harmony.

Christians should open up income generating opportunity projects to off employment opportunities to the youths to enable them earn honestly and avoid committing crimes. e.g the Roman Catholic Church in Uganda established Centenary Rural Development Bank to provide employment to enable people earn a living.

The Church should strongly condemn all forms of crime acts like abortion, murder, prostitution. Some criminals should to ex-communicate such that they may reform and become better people.

Christians should pray to God to help them respect and appreciate their neighbors the laws of their society/ country. This will help them to bring crimes to an end in the society.

There is not to put our faith in action by practicing kindness, mercy, and charity. This can be done by sharing little with the poor in order to promote peace and love in a society.

The Church should strongly condemn all forms of criminal acts like abortion, murder and prostitution. Some criminals should be ex-communicated such that they may reform and become better people.

The Church should practice virtues of forgiveness to help the completion parties to solve their problem peacefully.

The Archbishop of South Africa Desmond Tutu organized reconciliation and oppressed and the racist Africans to solve their problems peacefully and end the apartheid regime in 1994.

Parents should fulfill their responsibilities towards their children responsibly (parents) by providing them with basic needs of life like clothes, shelter among others. This will stop them from being tempted into criminal acts i.e stealing, prostitution.

Christians should be encouraged to endure amidst challenges. They should know that the love of material things is the bring of evil. Christians are encouraged to be contented with what they have.

Christians should work hard and get involved in working activities because the saying goes that "An idle mind is a devil's workshop". This will help to solve the problem of poverty and unemployment.

The Church should teach the importance of the law to allow the people so that they stop creating crimes due to ignorance. This will help to reduce crimes in society. The Church should preach good morals to people. This is because most of the crimes are committed because of immorality as a result of degeneration i.e rape, defilement.

Christians should report law breakers to the responsible breakers like Police, this will help in arresting them and putting them reformatory centers and to have them change to better.

Even in the reformatory centers, criminals should be taught the importance of work. They should those centers with skill of work and a positive attitude towards work

N.B. If the question is about the church (b). A 100% stick to Church
Your answer should be positive.

CHRISTIAN ADVICE TO CRIMINALS

QN. As a Christian what advice do you give to a criminal?

-Criminals should be advised to seek for heavenly pleasures as advocated for St. Paul this is because heavenly pleasures are everlasting compared to earthly pleasures.

-Christians should donate bibles to criminals such that they read and understand the word of God and become goodness.

Criminals should fast and pray for themselves to God in order to seek the wisdom of God to help the release what is wrong and what is right.

-Criminals should emulate the example of the two thieves that were crucified on the cross with Jesus. One of thieves prayed and requested for forgiveness and he was forgiven.

-Criminal should repent and seek for forgiveness from God and change to good people . In Genesis 25. Samuel King David committed a double sin of adultery and murder but seek for forgiveness from God and was forgiven.

-Christians should pray to God so that they can see his light, repent and avoid crimes e.g. Hosea prayed for his rebels wife Gomorrah.

-Criminals should abide by the law by the state and the ones of authority. They are called upon to obey the commandments of God in order to help them change from crime.

-Criminals should seek for guidance and counseling services from Church leaders and elders to help them realize their mistakes and reform to better.

Jesus s presented counseling the adulterous woman not commit sin again.

-Criminals should be given reformative punishments to enable them change and should appreciate the punishment for their good.

-Christians should tell criminals that judgment comes from God and failure to repent and reform from sins, punishments awaits them. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were punished by God using sulphur and fire.

PUNISHMENT

IS the act of inflicting pain. Someone to suffer for breaking the law or doing something wrong.

Or

It also refers to a negative reward given to an offender (criminal) by the authority or failure to respect the rights of others.

PURPOSE/ IMPORTANCE/ NECESSITY/ VALUES OF PUNISHMENT.

Punishment of for deterrent purposes, it is some to make the offender realize his or her mistakes so as not repeat it. It instills fear in the offenders and other potential (those planning to commit crime.

Punishment is given for retribution purposes. The offender is meant to face

the some pain and inconvenience like he / she caused to the offended. This in the same way gives consolation.

Punishment is meant for reformation rehabilitation to the criminal offender. This is aimed at correcting the criminal such that he / she changes to a better person (law abiding citizen) In 2018, are known.

Uganda female artist Jackie Chandiru reformed / began to rehabilitation program against drug abuse.

Punishment is also another form of warning to other people. This is done through administering to the one who breaks the law so that others learn from him or her. Among the Bakiga of Western Uganda a girl who was found pregnant before marriage was thrown to river Kisizi to die and serve as a warning to others.

Punishment promote / enhance proper upbringing of children in a home and in schools. This is done to help the young people to become better persons in society.

Punishment becomes a disciplinary tool by parents and teachers.

Punishments may also enable the offender to acquire some practical skills for survival. These skills will later help an individual in future after serving the punishment i.e prisoners are taught carpentry, brick laying and farming.

Punishment helps to promote fairness because of the retributive aspect in them. This is done to protect under take privileged e.g women, girls, children, disabled, orphanages among others.

Punishments help to instill a sense of discipline and morality in a society.

When people get to know about the punishment they behave responsibly in the Old Testament (o.t) God punished his people for going astray.

Adam and Eve for disobedience, Sodom and Gomorrah for sexuality.

It helps the society to get rid of criminals who are a threat to a society and their influence over others. Punishments like imprisonment help criminals to be taken to a place of isolation in order to be isolated from the rest of members of a society.

Punishments help to instill respect for the authority and those in leadership positions. Because of punishment members of the society are forced to respect rules and regulations set by those in authority i.e President, Speaker of Parliament, Judges and Police men.

Punishments empower and give the state necessary authority to administer law and order. This helps people to create peace and harmony that promotes development in society.

Punishments help to protect the offenders / criminals from mob justices. There by saving their lives. The man rights of the offender are observed by detaining him in the police cells for not more than 48 hours before being present to courts of law.

It promotes the weak and vulnerable from the rich ad powerful members of society, because people fear being punished when they break the law, they end up respecting the rights of others.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE ADMINISTERING PUNISHMENTS.

The health status of the individuals should be considered before administering punishments. One should have a stable health because some punishments result into death which is against the sin.

Age factors should be considered. This is because some punishments are too heavy and they can result into health issues in Uganda those under 18 yrs of age are taken to remand homes ore rehabilitation centres in order to change e.g Kampilingisa in Mpigi District and Naguru.

The nature and gravity of the crime committed should be considered. Minor offences for simple punishments while major offenders call for heavy punishments.

Gender or sex

Women are given lesser punishments compared to men, this is because they are naturally considered to be weaker than men.

The mental status of the criminal/ accused. Some people commit crimes where they are guilty of their sense (Incen) such people are given less punishment compared to that one who are mentally ok.

Circumstances under which the person commits the crime. And individual may commit a crime itself defiance, he or she is considered less guilty compared to the one who deliberately kills.

Position of the law in relation to the crime committed should also be considered. The motive behind the punishment should be considered. The punishment should help at helping the individual reform.

The level of responsibility of the person involved in a crime. A breast feeding mother may be given a lesser punishment.

The record of a person involved in the crime should be considered. First time offenders can be given less punishments than habitual. One's attitude, response or reaction after committing the crime after being caught.

TYPES OF PUNISHMENTS

Imprisonment / incarceration

Revision questions

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of imprisonment as a form of punishment
2. To what extent does imprisonment help in changing rehabilitation criminals

This question is two-sided

Requires a stand point

3. Discuss the effects of imprisonment of criminals today
4. Discuss the effects of imprisonments on the criminal

Positives

The prisoner can be helped to reform and become a better citizen after suffering from the prison. An individual may decide not to involve in criminal acts against because he / she learnt a lesson.

The prisoner is likely to make friends with the inmates who can be of help to him / her after the prison life. This will help the prisoner to live a good life after prison.

Imprisonment gives chance on the criminal to reflect on God and religion there by developing a new relationship with God by strengthening their faith. E.g John Katuramu the former prime minister of Toro Kingdom got saved while serving his term.

The prisoner can get some privileges while in the prison. He / she can be exempted from hard labour because of his / her good conduct or even a reduction of the sentence.

Imprisonment helps the criminal to acquire some skills for survival after the prison life. This may help an individual to become self-reliant after living prison life for example, at Luzira upper prison inmates are equipped with practical skills like carpentry, tailoring to help them create jobs for themselves.

The prisoners' life is protected from mob justice from the general public. He / She is saved from the relatives and friends of the person offended may wish to revenge against the criminal.

The criminal will learn to respect and obey the law and those in authority after the experience in prison. This will help the criminal become a better citizen.

Imprisonment helps to create peace and law and order in the community. This is because the criminal offender is withdrawn from the community to a place of solitary confinement leaving other people in peace.

Imprisonment gives an opportunity to the family and relatives of the offender / criminal to peacefully negotiate and solve their problem amicably. This is because while the offender is in prison the two families cool down slowly. (reconciliation)

Imprisonment creates employment opportunities to individuals in society. Many are employed in prisons as teachers, doctor's e.t.c, which improves on their standards of living.

Imprisonment helps the government to earn revenue. This is because prisoners are hired on daily basis to provide labour for the country hence a source of revenue.

NEGATIVE

Prisoners can adopt or learn some bad behaviors (vices) while in prison e.g homosexuality in case of single cells.

Some criminals can get desperate while serving their sentence i.e those on life imprisonment and this may force them to commit suicide.

Prisoners are subjected to poor treatment such as working, poorly forced sex, sleeping on the floor, especially in developing countries like Uganda.

Sometimes the imprisoned persons tend to acquire skills of committing crimes i.e hard core criminal.

Imprisonment is a sign of revenge and hence contradicts the Christian ideal / teaching of forgiving those who do wrong to us.

Imprisonment increases Government expenditures to take care of the prisoners' e.g in terms of providing medical care, feeding, clothing among other expenses. It can lead to marriage and family break ups because of the long separation. Married people can be disowned by their spouses who may decide to go with someone else e.g when Nelson Mandela was arrested in Robben Island, his wife Winnie Mandella got another man because she was not able to wait for over 27 years.

Imprisonment makes some people to harden become resistant to punishment and may even resort to commit more crime and he is released from prison. Some people are unfairly imprisoned when they are not guilty or the sentence given may not be equivalent to the crime committed.

The human rights of prisoners are usually abused through poor feeding, physical torture e.g. being beaten up e.g at the former Nalufenya prison along Jinja Road. The former convicts may try to revenge on those who caused their imprisonment. This may encourage a cycle of crimes in a community.

Imprisonment leads to loss of dignity and respect in the community; they are usually stigmatized when they return to the community after surviving their prison service.

It leads to loss of carrier. People tend to lose their jobs and incomes since the public fears to hire or deal with due to their past history. This is a disadvantage to them and their beneficiaries / dependants. Contraction of diseases to unhygienic conditions such include

THE USE OF CHRISTIANITY AND IMPRISONMENT

Imprisonment usually hurts the criminal in many ways e.g. torture yet Christians teaching calls for fear treatment of one another for example during the arrest of Jesus when Peter offered the soldiers' car and he replaced it back.

It brings the attitude of revenge which is contrary to Jesus' teaching on love for one another including one's enemies

Imprisonment undermines the Christian principle of forgiveness e.g. Jesus encouraged his disciples to forgive 77 times multiply by 77 times. The late Pope John Paul forgave Abdul who shot at him. Jesus forgave the adulterous woman who was going to be shot dead.

Christians object to imprisonment due to the fact that God is the only one with the right to judge. All men are sinners and hence none has the right to judge one another.

Imprisonment especially in Africa is surely done such that it tremorises the criminal which defeats the aim of punishment which is intended to help the criminals to change. However the Church advocates for genuine reform at the offender while in prison.

Christians believe that prisoners should be treated with love and compassion just like the prodigal son.

Christians urge that offenders should be educated an extra Christian ethnics while in prison to help him repent and change into a better citizen

Christian advice to the prison management.

CHRISTIAN ADVICE TO THE PRISON MANAGEMENT

As a Christian what advice can you give to the prison management to avoid the negative effect of prison management.

The prison management should expose prisoners to a lot of Christian's teachings....

They should be taught the Christian value of forgiveness, loving God, your neighbours and enemies this will help to reform them change from bad to better.

Management should forgive prisoners especially those who have proved to be reforming. They should be set free to get as an example to the rest so as to behave well.

The management should have respect human dignity while in prison. The prison staff should stay away from treating prisoners like beasts, over working them and harassing them sexually.

The management should allow prisoners to be visited by their spouses at least once a while to help them exercise their conjugal right.

Management should feed the prisoners well so that they remain healthy as they serve their term in prison. This can enable them leave a healthy life and be able to serve their country after coming out of prison.

Should ensure prisoners have the prisoners have access to the legal advice such that those who may want to appeal for a fair judgement get a chance.

The management should improve on the living conditions on the prison cells. They should have adequate light and should accommodate a reasonable number of prisoners / inmates to avoid overcrowding.

Management should group the prisoners accordingly to the nature of crime committed. Hard core criminals should not be mixed with light offence criminals this is to avoid the hard core criminals from influencing them.

Prisoners should have adequate medical treatment whenever they fall sick. The medication given should be supervised ensure that it yields results.

Prisoners should be given training while in prison so that they acquire practical skills for survival e.g. computer training, construction, carpentry, brick laying. This will help prisoners earn a living after serving their term.

The prison management should as well take care of the spiritual needs of prisoners. Religious leaders should be allowed to pray with and for the prisoners in order to help them change for better.

The prison management should train prison wardens in order to empower them with skills of handling prisoners professionally. They should be trained to avoid over punishing criminal and instead be compassionate with them.

The management should encourage the prisoners to pray for themselves to their families and those they offended. This will ensure forgiveness from the public and God.

Prisoners should be given chance to access education while in prison. This will help improve their reading, writing and knowledge acquisition i.e in business management this will help them change their attitude towards life and also become useful to the entire community.

QN. 'Capital punishment / death sentence is unnecessary'

- a) Assess the validity of this allegation?
- b) Examine the Christian view on capital punishment

TYPES / FORMS OF PUNISHMENT TODAY.

Corporal Punishment

This refers to the process of inflicting pain upon the individual / suspect, criminal for breaking the law and this is in form of hard labour, denying one food, canning or flogging.

Capital punishment

Refers to withdraw of some one's right to life. It also refers to punishing some body by put to him / her to death. This can be done using the firing squad, electrification, hanging, use of injection. This is usually carried out on capital e.g murder, treason (brutal country)

Remand

This is a form of punishment in which an individual; who has not been formally charged of any criminal case is prisoned for sometimes to give way for investment.

Imprisonment

Is a form of punishment where the convicted person is withdraw from society and sent to a place of solitary confinement for a specified

House arrest

This type of punishment is usually given to political leaders. Prisoners in order to deny them freedom and interaction of people in the country. In 2018 Kyadondo East Hon Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu was arrested in his home in Kasangati - Kyadondo.

Confinement with in a particular boundary

This type of punishment Involves arresting an individual within a particular boundary e.g. Rwenzururu King Charles W. Mumbere who was arrested by the government and blocked from travelling beyond Kampala and Wakiso.

Excommunicaton

Warnings i.e this can be verbal or action.

Mobjustice

Compensation

Fine payment.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

What is capital punishment?

Capital punishment refers to putting their criminal to death by public authority as a result of verdict by competitive court of law for crime committed.

ADVANTAGES OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Capital punishment creates peace and order in society because dangerous people are eliminated. This is done by executing the criminals that have been a threat to peace in society.

Capital punishment helps to instill fear among the citizens and therefore maintains respect to the state authority and the law death by public execution, firing squad reduces in society.

Capital punishment shows the strength of the executive (parliament) judiciary in enforcing the law and protecting the rights of people in society.

The offended and the relatives of the offended get a feeling of compensation or satisfaction feel good when he dies. Capital punishment has an advantage of retribution.

It strengthens the power of the state to fight crimes in order to protect the community from hard co-criminals like terrorists and murderers. This helps the judiciary to implement the laws in a fair manner.

Capital punishment impacts religious morality and commitment among citizens. The use of Sharia was in the Islamic states like Nigeria in Southern Arabia helps to revival religious. This relating sexually may choose to abstain because of fear to be punished.

Capital punishment is economically cheap and it is easier to keeping a person on prison which is very expensive for the government in terms of feeding and accommodation.

Capital punishment is done for retribution (balance of payment). It helps to balance the pain between the offender and offended so that the criminal fee. In the same pain that was inflicted on the offended.

Capital punishment saves the criminal from long time suffering in terms of torture, shame, deprivatisation of normal family life therefore it helps the criminal to rest in peace.

Capital punishment is got at those criminals who are immune to all other forms of punishment and they cannot give up on crime inspite of being punished over and over again.

Capital punishment serves as a ditarte when individuals see people being put to death. Those with the similar intension of doing something they get frightened ad give up committing the crime.

The time capital punishment is administered is a clear evidence that crime is hated in society.

Abandon denunciation of bad behavior.

CHRISTIAN OPPOSITION TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Christian stand

Christianity is against capital punishment. Christianity does not support this term of punishment and it is wrong because of the following:-

When a person is put to death there is no love showed to him (hated). This undermines Christian teaching of loving one another as you love yourself .

Creates hatred and conflicts between the offender and offended yet God intended man to live in harmony with one another. In the New Testament Jesus instituted the greatest command which says love your neighbour the way you love yourself. (Mark 11:33)

Capital punishment is condemned by Christians because it encourages violence in the society. This undermines the Christian principle of being peace makers for they shall be called children of God in Mathew.,

Capital punishment is wrong because it denies the criminal a chance to reform and God's forgiveness and reconciliation. Jesus himself is showed Jesus forgave those who executed them.

Capital punishment is librituative in nature and it aims at bringing a sprit of revenge which is wrong according the Christians. Jesus advocated for forgiveness of those who do wrong to us. (Mathew 6:1)

Capital punishment causes a lot of suffering to others especially to the dependants of the criminal. This may result into suffering yet people are supposed to live in peace and have all basic need with life.

Man is created in God's image and likeness. Killing a person means we have failed in our duty to preserve this image instead destroyed.

Capital punishment is a crime against one's right to live. It is only God with power and responsibility of taking away man's life and is the only judge. The bible says that we should not judge others and leave judgment to God.

Christ came to perfect the law and Moses abolishes revenge i.e an eye for an eye and for a tooth to a tooth instead advocated for love and forgiveness.

Capital punishment is wrong because sometimes people may be sentenced to death innocently. After some time evidence is provided that the individual was innocent yet to Christians a criminal is to receive a just punishment.

However capital punishment laws lack of respect for human life. It symbolizes lack of respect for the dignity of God yet we were created in the Image of God. The death penalty is not infected immediately so the criminal if tortured with reality of death for a long period of time. It comes with physiological torture to the criminal yet people are meant to live in peace and harmony.

DEMERITS

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

This refers to the process of inflicting pain upon the individual (suspect, criminal) for breaking the law and this is in form of hard labour, denying one food.

ADVANTAGE / AGUREMENTS OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS

It is convenient form of punishment. It is readily available and takes a short time after which the offender can continue with his / her duties and keep associating with others.

It instills the spirit of hard work among young people in schools. It is believed that canning lazy and careless students can excuse them to get weakened and to work hard.

Corporal punishment is called for because it is cheap to administer once the suspect is covenanted. The sentence may be carried out without imposing a financial burden i.e the tax payers as it is with imprisonment. This form of punishment is goof because it ensures that there is order and attention in all time in homes and schools. That is why primary schools in Uganda Mathematics teachers carry sticks to score pupils.

This type off punishment is effective in reforming wrong doers. The pain inflicted on an individual may cause him to regret the offence he committed and get transferred into a better person.

Corporal punishment helps to control misconduct among young people, rounding up suspects, charging them and flagging them in public is a clear evidence that the ones in authority are determined to maintain the law and order e.g. in China if someone is found packing a car in a wrong place in Benjing is sentenced to public canning by the police.

It serves the purpose f retribution in schools especially students involved in bulling new comers by canning them. They can be paid by receiving a canning and helps to eliminate the practices of bulling.

Capital punishment helps to restore social / order even if there is chaos e.g in case of violent demonstrations in the city. The military police is deployed with sticks to despise people and restore social order in the shortest time.

It helps the people to respect the law and people in authority i.e elders and leaders use corporal punishments as a tool to ensure that there subjects obey the law. In schools it is a tool used to ensure that the school obeys the rules and regulations.

Capital punishment is intended to inflict pain upon a person whose behavior is socially unacceptable and spank his members of the family and dependant. It helps to minimize the repeat and crimes because criminals for crime reparation. Members of the UPDF. Are prohibited from leaving their barracks without permission but some fail to comply and they fail, they bitten seriously and kept in a dark room.

Arguments against corporal punishment.

It leads to death. Although capital punishment aims at influencing as much pain as the harm caused by the criminal at times. It is exercise and results into death.

It leads to loss of respect

Corporal punishment is cruel and does not reflect respect it is dignity and him life yet main is said to have been created in God's image and likeness.

It leads to immorality

Capital punishment hardens the criminal and makes him more rude in his normal life way with life instead of reforming him.

It leads to children running away homes and schools

Especially where is used to harass them come children have run to streets in towns because of being overcained by their step mothers. This makes them suffer.

In schools, corporal punishment make some students to dodge lessons. Some fear to ask questions where they do not understand because a teacher is so abusive which retards their performance in class.

One must end being imprisoned especially when he over cane the criminal in un restricted manner. This leads to injury this leads to suffering of the dependants if the imprisoned is the bread winner.

It causes Psychological torture

Capital punishment is bad because it imp[arts a goof measure and mental torture to the victim which sometimes is impossible to cure e.g while exhuming the bodies of the victims of Kibwetere's Kanungu inferno, police detectives made prisoners from western Uganda dig up these bodies in bare hands as a result of this psychological torture, some of them got mentally disturbed.

It leads to deformity

Capital punishment injures a person if its excessive. It results into physical deformities which leaves some people unable to walk because of their spinal cords have been destroyed .

Capital punishment is bad because it causes hatred between the student and the teacher yet Jesus called upon his followers to love one another as they love themselves.

Innocent people are punished

Those who are suspected to be criminals are punished yet punishing and innocent person for the crime he has not committed is bad e.g Pilate saw no crime Jesus had committed to deserve death. He washed his hands in public and said he was not responsible for his death.

It causes chaos

Capital punishment rather than restoring social order it often brings chaos and social disharmony whenever used like students over shout some cry to the lesson becomes disorganized

IMPRISONMENT

Arguments in favour of imprisonment

It prevents mob justice. Its good because it helps to stop mob justice when the criminals are lacked behind the loans for a while since they are not beaten.

Deterrence When a person is locked up, it's a clear warning to those with similar intentions to take care of whatever they say for fear of being imprisoned.

It is retributive Cannot be seen to prevail where by the law. However imprisonment makes this possible for they feel the same pain e.g Joseph Ekem, former Artoney general of Uganda was given money to re-stock cattle in Teso which he did not do and he was locked up in prison for justice to be seen.

Reformation

Imprisonment helps criminals to reform after realizing their mistakes and they become law abiding citizens e.g Mulindwa Birimumaaso was given money by the state for mass mobilization in western Uganda (NRM) he misused it for his personal gains and was locked up but was pardoned by the president after reformation.

It creates social order

Imprisonment helps to restore social order because it brings a sign of relief to those inconvenienced by those horrible and the criminal e.g imprisonment of Arinaitwe Richard who killed three (3) people and attempted to kill a high court judge helped to bring order in social and people got peace.

It benefits society

Imprisonment is good because it enables society to benefit from the criminal as a result of his works e.g prisoners in Luzira are taught how to make furniture which is then sold on open market. It helps the prison department.

It helps in development of skills

Criminals are usually given life skills in prison so that when they come out, they are useful members of society e.g Hajji Nasser Ntege Sebagala while in prison in Boston, he was taught computer studies and English which he didn't quite know and how he can speak some English.

It is selective

Imprisonment is good because it isolates the criminals and makes him pay for his sins but spares the members of his family with mob justice or paying for his sins.

When in prison, criminals are subjected to manual labour in people's farms. This helps to generate incomes for the prison department which they use to finance and their expenditures.

Arguments against imprisonment

Sex abuse

Imprisonment encourages many forms of sexual abuse like masturbation and homosexuality because the inmates are denied conjugal rights and confined according to sex.

It burdens criminals

Many criminals instead of reforming they come out of prison more determined and hardened because they interact with many hardened and dangerous criminals.

The prisoners may fail to adjust to normal society life after the sentence because of their long stay in prison. They lose track to jobs or employment. This leads to frustrations and trauma.

Oppression

Imprisonment is used as a tool of suppression of political opponents whatever they say anything bad against government, they are locked up e.g general sanai abacha feeling politically insecure as president of Nigeria decided to look for all the people. He feared like Obasanjo even when they had done anything wrong.

It causes diseases

Prisoners are denied access to descent health care. They have poor sanitation and are congested. This makes them to fall sick e.g Captain Kanusenene was arrested on charges of reraboration which hard core criminals were denied bad even if he had told court that he had AIDS and would soon die he was denied a good health care.

It is in human

It impacts negatively on people's moods making some of them loose all human feelings hence they end up being des[arête yet they were created in God's image and should be peaceful.

It destructs marriage

Imprisonment leads to disintegration of marriage and breaks people' families since they separate for long and they end up starving sexually and lack basic needs of life e.g the marriage of the late President Mandella of South Africa to the late Winnie Mandella broke up because he was imprisoned for 27 yrs while fighting against apartheid and his wife is believed to have committed adultery with their family lawyer which ended in divorce.

Dependants suffer, imprisonment leaves behind a lot of dependants in a desperate state without basic needs because the bread winner is locked up e.g. in Rwanda there is a high level of suffering in many.

It is costly

Imprisonment is expensive on part of government and tax payers because they have to maintain high number o criminals in terms of feeding and medical care.

No love is shown

Christians do not believe in imprisonment because no love is show to fellow men yet Jesus in the greatest commandment, he instructed his followers to show unselfish love to their neighbors

MOB JUSTICE

This is a situation where by a suspect is punished by a disorganized group of persons in response to what one has committed. This punishment is given before the suspect i.e proved guilty by the courts of law.

CAUSES OF MOB JUSTICE

Corruption

People carry out mob justice because there is corruption in courts of law and justice is delayed so people take the law in their hands.

Weak laws

Mob justice is caused because the sentences passed upon the criminal are incompatible to the crime committed e.g according to the Ugandan laws, a man guilty of committing adultery with a married woman is not fined. This annoys the husband who resorts to mob justice.

People have turned to mob justice because there are too many cases of suspects arrested by Police escaping and running away which is not possible with mob justice because the suspect is death with immediately on spot.

It saves time

People advocate for mob justice because there is no wastage of time in solving disputes in courts of law. It sometime is caught stealing he is dealt with immediately by caining him.

It leads to reformation

Mob justice gives a lesson to the suspect that he will never forget which often makes him reform and give up on crime e.g in Somalia anybody suspected of being a homosexual is often punished upon by the people and beaten thoroughly well which forces him to reform.

Deterrence

It leads in deference. Mob justice is a strong deferent having witnessed a person being spaced in public through beatings, makes those with similar intention to think twice.

Its retributive

Carrying out mob justice is a way of establishing that justice done to the offended its fair that those who take away public peace also suffer same form of inconvenience through beating.

It helps to instill social order

Mob justice helps to restore social order which may have vanished when crime is committed once the suspect is dealt with relief appears again.

Permissiveness

There is no respect for the law and everybody does as they please so they punish the suspect instead of taking him to police and court of trial

Decline in religious values

Many people do not read the bible and have no word of God in them hence violent human life yet life is precious and a gift from God.

Failure of the Government

Mob justice is called for because of failure by the police to take actions whenever crime is reported. This makes the people to administer their own punishment.

WHY MOB JUSTICE IS NOT A FORM OF JUSTICE

CHRISTIAN OPPOSITION ON MOB JUSTICE

Christianity does not support the mob justice to be a form of justice and as such it is bad because of the following reasons:-.

1. God alone is the judge and did not assign us duty of judging others and condemning them
2. It denies a fair trial to the suspect. Mob justice is bad because the suspect is denied a fair trial in courts of law and pronounced guilty even before defence has been heard. A person should be given a fair hearing.
3. It shows lack of respect for human life, i.e. dignity of human life. The victim is tortured terribly as if he has no value yet, we are created in God's image and likeness.
4. It is cruel, brutal and in-human. Jesus himself condemned it when he saved the woman caught in adultery from being stoned to death.
5. It is illegal. Christians condemn mob justice because it is an illegal form of punishment. Those who carry it out, face the risk of being arrested and imprisoned which makes the dependants to suffer yet, they have to provide for them.
6. It takes away God's role. Christians condemn it because it puts man in the place of God. It is only God who gives life and it should be Him alone to take it away.
7. There is no sign of love and kindness to one another yet, love is the foundation of Christian teaching. St Paul in 1st Cor, stresses that love is the most important spiritual gift.

8. Acc to xtians there's need for forgiveness for one another. i.e if a criminal commits a crime, he should be forgiven just as Christ died on the cross and forgave all sinners.
9. It causes innocent people to suffer. Mob justice is sometimes administered to people who have not committed any crime but, who are thought to have committed crime. Eg Jesus was beaten and crucified yet, he was innocent.
10. It is a form of murder which is a sin before God. God condemns it in one the commandments which says "Do not kill."
11. It undermines the work of the police and civil authority, as people take the law in their own hands yet, we are meant to respect the law of the state.
12. It leads to riots. Mob justice is condemned because it always sparks off social tension and sometimes riots among people whose negative effects may be far reaching yet, Christians are meant to be peace makers and to live in peace.

CHRISTIAN TEACHING ON PUNISHMENT.

1. Christianity is largely against punishment because of the following; We are all sinners. Punishments are largely uncalled for since, we have all fallen short of God's glory. Jesus challenged the mob saying; if any one is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.
2. Criminals should be encouraged to repent instead of punishing them. this is demonstrated in the story of Hosea and his unfaithful wife Gomer. Hosea reconciled with her, she came back to her senses and repented.
3. Punishment should aim at reforming the wrong doers. many times, God punished the Israelites with a purpose of reformation.eg He allowed them to be defeated in battle and go to exile where they experienced much suffering & those who returned to Jerusalem repented after realizing the danger of living in a foreign land.
4. Punishment belongs to God as He is the final judge. He will reward the righteous with the gift of eternal life and the unrighteous with fire.so we should not judge others so that we are not judged.
5. Sometimes, the judges who punish criminals take wrong decisions and punish innocent people. Like Naboth met his death yet, he was innocent. Ahab grabbed his vineyard and put him to death.
6. We should reconcile with our enemies instead of punishing them. Jesus said, we should give food and drink to our enemies.
7. Punishment breeds hatred and revenge btn the offender and the offended yet, Christians are meant to live in peace and harmony with one another.

8. Christians should have love towards each other, which is the greatest commandment acc to Jesus and the greatest spiritual gift acc to Paul. therefore, punishment is not called for.

9. Christians should pray for those who commit crime to see the light of God instead of punishing them. Jesus should carry one another's burdens.

10. Acc to the mosaic law, the punishment give to the criminal should be in line with the gravity of the crime committed. i.e an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Hence, when punishing wrongdoers, justice should prevail.

Christians should aim at forgiveness. Jesus advised his disciples to forgive 7*77 times a day. Which means we should forgive as many times as possible whenever wronged.

However, on the other hand, punishment is good to a smaller extent bse of the following;

Its important in shaping the behavior of young people. In proverbs, Solomon advises elders to spark their children as a way to shape their behavior.

Punishment is a sign of love as it helps one to become a better person. If you don't punish your son, you don't love him, if you love him, you will correct him. prov 13;24.

Disciplining a child is a Godly thing to do. It saves parents from being ashamed by their children as they grow.

In anger Jesus punished those who were misusing the temple by whipping them. In the same way, Christians may allow punishment as assign of cleansing or bringing about renewal of oneself.

It's the duty of people in authority to punish criminals. i.e rulers are meant to punish wrong doers and reward those who do right.

Those who disobey God will be punished on judgment day and go to hell. Each person will stand before God and give an account of how he lived on earth. So Christians may also pass judgment on habitual criminals and punish them.

POLITICS

CHRISTIAN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

Politics refers to the science and art of managing society. It means taking in the welfare and running of the community.

The church and the state closely need each other. Christians have the right to participate in the politics of their country basing on the following reasons.

Christians are said to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. They must therefore shine in the darkness of politics e.g Christ said “instead it should be put on a lamp stand for everyone to see”

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Therefore church leaders have the wisdom and put it into proper use for the service of the other e.g king Solomon because of the fear of God, had the wisdom and used it rightly to develop his nation by constructing the magnificent temple and a beautiful palace.

Christian have a duty to contribute towards the social, political and religious being of the state. This can be possible where Christians participate in politics.

Even Jesus said “give seazor what belong to him and God what belongs to him”

Christian have a dual citizenship. He should concern himself with issues in the world where he presently lives and also about the kingdom of God to come in the next world.

Jesus himself participated in politics. Christians should participate in politics to follow Jesus’ example. He participated in making laws for the nation of Israel eg the cardinal commanded “love your God with all your heart mind and soul” and love your neighbor like way you love yourself.

Christians have to participate in politics because God commanded them to take care of the creation. God said “be fruitful, multiply and fill the world and subdue it” therefore it is clear that Christians must participate in politics as a way of managing the world since it’s called by God.

Christian participation in politics is a calling from God just like how God can call a person to participate in other activities e.g God appeared to Moses in the burning bush incident and gave him a mission of delivering the Israelites from enslavement and oppression by the Egyptians.

Christians have a duty of to ensure that the commandments of God are respected e.g “you shall not kill” therefore joining politics gives chance to Christian to ensure that the commandments are maintained and protected.

It is the work of the Christians to advise political leaders and to rebuke them in case they go wrong. This can help them to reform e.g when King David committed adultery with Bethsheba and arranged for Uniah’s

death, he was the gravity of sin. He therefore repented and was forgiven by God.

Opposing injustice is a Christian responsibility – Christians should emulate the prophets of the old testament who always opposed the social and political injustices of their time like corruption eg prophet Isaiah decampaigned the practice of denying a fair hearing to the poor people in the courts of law because of rich paid bribes to the judges.

Church leaders can be of use because they are able to save their country from spiritual destruction and moral decay by preaching the values of equality and tolerance. Eg Archbishop Desmond Tutu of S.A preached about love and reconciliation amidst the thorns of apartheid and racism.

Politics is God given Christians are called upon to participate in politics because all civil power and authority comes from God and nothing exists without his will.

Politics is recognized by Jesus. Christians ought to participate in politics because Jesus recognized it and did not condemn it. He taught “give to seazor what belongs to him and God what belongs to God”

Jesus whom Christians follow was concerned about the peace and freedom of the God’s people. He identified with the suffering people like the hungry, sick, associated with women and broke the social barriers among the people. Christian should therefore engage in politics to deal with discrimination and promote peace and harmony in society.

On the other hand, to a smaller extent, church leaders should not participate in the politics of their country b,se of the ff:

If politics brings about divisions, it should be opposed by a Christian since Christ requires them to promote unity.

Politics creates risks of one loosing life which is a precious gift from God and to be protected. Hence, Christians should resist bad politics where people have intensions of killing their opponents.

If politics involves making empty promises, James advises believers to be faithful and they should say No whenever it’s a No or a Yes whenever it’s a Yes.

If it leads to disloyalty. This is b,cse a Christian may fail to balance btn God and political duties since these take a lot of his time and even fail to go to church. Jesus said “you cannot serve two masters at a go.

If politics makes Christians fail to offer sincere prayers to God and to pray for their political opponents, yet the bible urges Christians to pray for their enemies.

If politics involve telling lies we is against God's commandments since God told Moses not to accuse anybody falsely. Lies bring about enmity amongst people yet Christians are meant to love one another

Naalya SSS