

- 1. What is Crime?**
Any offence that is punishable by law
- 2. Who are the government?**
The government makes the laws which govern our behaviour.
- 3. What about the police?**
The police prevent and detect crime.
- 4. What does the criminal justice system do?**
The criminal justice system enforces these laws and punishes crime

Crime vs. Sin

- Some sins are not considered crimes in our society, e.g. adultery or working on a Sunday (these are both against Ten Commandments)
- Unlike crime, which can lead to punishment, sin can lead to personal suffering, offending God or excommunication (being cut off from the Church) or even exclusion from heaven

21st Century Britain

Over 30,000 crimes are committed each day, ranging from crimes against property and people to internet crime and fraud. Statistically, the most danger is by anti-social behaviour. Society has become concerned with extremism and sexual offences.

CAUSE OF CRIME

It is important that people are brought up with a good understanding of the concepts of good and bad and the difference between the two. Members of any society have a duty to follow its laws.

Parents and schools have a moral responsibility to teach the difference between right and wrong, so that young people will be respectful of others and, most importantly, not commit crime. All religions agree on the importance of law in society and the role it plays in maintaining order and protecting its citizens.

Cause of Crime:

1. Peer Pressure
2. Poor Mental Health
3. Drug/Alcohol Addiction
4. Unemployment
5. The Media; Violence on TV and on video games
6. Poor Education (including exclusions from school)
7. Poor Parenting (Abusive or violent/broken home)
8. Poverty (living in an area of poverty)

Aims of Punishment

- Protection (protecting someone from becoming a victim of crime)
- Deterrent: (Put people off doing the crime)
- Reparation: (Make amends for the crime)
- Retribution (Revenge)
- Vindication (Shows respect for the law)
- Reformation (To make the person change their ways)
- Ensure a Just or Fair Society



CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TO PUNISHMENT AND JUSTICE

Christianity teaches forgiveness, so they do not agree with retribution as a purpose of punishment.

Christians believe in justice, which means that forgiveness and punishment should go together.

Christians should try to follow the example of Jesus, who forgave those who betrayed him. He forgave Judas during the Last Supper and on the cross he asked, "Father, forgive them, they don't know that they are doing."

Christians tend to support punishment practices that lead to forgiveness, for example restorative justice programmes in prisons.

Jesus taught compassion and not revenge and because of this, many Christians have been actively involved in prison reform to ensure that people are treated humanely in prison.

They believe that it is important to recognise and address the causes of criminal behaviour, such as poverty, unemployment and poor social conditions as a means of restoring social justice and preventing crime.

Punishment should enable a person to reform - to change their ways and to be of value to the community.

"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24)

crime and punishment

- Fairness, fair trial and punishment that fits the crime
- Maintaining justice is a key feature of a moral society
- Justice cannot be achieved without some form of punishment. However the punishment must address the cause of the crime and reflect the severity of the crime, e.g. a murderer shouldn't be given a fine and person who stole some sweets shouldn't go to prison for life

Prisons in Britain:

- The prison system in Britain is at a breaking point. Numbers of inmates is too high.
- When released from prison, offenders often reoffend – rehabilitation is needed, not just a prison sentence.
- Some prisoners are given the opportunity to reflect and reform
- It is too difficult to get a job with a criminal record
- Prisoners can often learn even more about the life of crime in prison, educating each other on other

Restorative Justice

- A system of justice that enables criminals to make amends for their behaviour by meeting with their victim and apologising.
- Most people, regardless of faith, believe that humans should be given a second chance if they are genuinely sorry for what they have done, going by the principle to 'treat others as you would like to be treated.'

WHAT IS JUSTICE?



What is a chaplain?

- A Chaplain is a minister, such as a priest, pastor or community member of a religious tradition.
- They are attached to non-religious institutions such as hospitals, prisons, schools or universities.
- Their job is to provide pastoral care for patients, pupils or prisoners

What is the role of a chaplain?

- They provide counselling to inmates, supporting them through rehabilitation and seeing to their spiritual needs
- Prisoners need someone who is not a prison officer or warden for support due to their complex emotions regarding fear, loneliness, guilt or family concerns
- Chaplains also help prisoners to re-enter the community, working with parole officers and other volunteers
- Families of inmates also have access to prison chaplains
- Family members can be the victims of the inmates' crimes and require the care of the chaplain just as much as the inmate
- Chaplains do not have to be religious. 32% of prison chaplains are not religious

Why become a chaplain?

- There is something of God in everyone – no matter what they have done. It is a duty to support them
- Working as a chaplain is following in Jesus' footsteps – you are showing compassion, love and kindness
- People are more than the worst thing that have ever done in their lives
- Matters of the spirit can only be solved through a certain type of therapy. Chaplains are not there to judge.

CHRISTIAN CHAPLAINS



HUMANIST CHAPLAINS

- Humanists have been running a project with Humanist Pastoral Support Volunteers at Winchester Prison. This includes meeting inmates with 'nil' religion on admission, holding discussion groups and providing counselling, such as bereavement support, for inmates. This is especially important as often prisoners are unable to attend funerals of loved ones or benefit from the type of community support offered to those who have suffered the loss of family or friends
- You are there primarily for the inmates. Most offenders are also victims. That doesn't mean that we feel sorry for them; but we do offer them enough compassion

Prisons in Britain

- Prison is expensive, costing the equivalent of hosting an Olympic Games every year!
- There are many opinions about how prisoners should be treated. Some believe that prison should be a place of isolation and punishment, without many privileges, e.g. TV
- The impact of poor prison conditions can be seen in rising rates of assault, self-harm and suicide among inmates.
- Prisoners are entitled to humane treatment, showing respect for their human rights.
- Many prisoners continue to complain about over-crowding, poor treatment and lack of access to important services.
- "Prisoners riot over poor treatment and overcrowding."

Some people see prison as a place of rehabilitation and reform. They believe that the treatments that prisoners receive should enable them to address the root cause of their criminality and prepare them for life as a responsible citizen.

Services for prisoners in modern prison system:

- Drug rehabilitation
- Training for work
- Education
- Counselling
- Chaplains

TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS

