

Capital Punishment
And
The Insanity Plea

By Ronnie W Rogers

These Scriptures do not support the medicalizing of moral choices or using an insane act to prove insanity of the perpetrator. They are meant to demonstrate that the Biblical position does include degrees of punishment, which are, in part, related to knowledge.

Degrees of Punishment

- 1 Matthew 11:21-24, Sodom and Gomorrah
- 2 Luke 12:47-48, The slave who knew the Lord's will
- 3 Mark 12:38, Pharisees Judgment is greater
 - (1) Note that judgment is commensurate with knowledge

II Degrees of Sin and Commandments

- 1 Matthew 12:30, The unpardonable sin
- 2 Matthew 23:23, The Pharisees

III The requirement of knowledge

- 1 Romans 5:12-14

IV Age of accountability

- 1 Isaiah 7:15
- 2 John 9:41

V Distinguishing between murder and manslaughter

- 1 Numbers 35:11-15, 22-25; Exodus 21:13, Premeditated vs. manslaughter
 - (1) Premeditated warrants death penalty
 - (2) Manslaughter warrants isolation
- 2 Exodus 22:1-4
 - (1) Night burglar can kill
 - (2) Day burglar you bear some guilt—probably manslaughter

VI Conclusions:

- 1 These serve as the basis for requiring different degrees of punishment for taking an innocent human life.
 - (1) Sanity
 - (2) Distinguish between right and wrong
 - (3) Children being handled differently

(4) Premeditated, mistake, overreact, etc