

Violent Crime

Cause and Consequence

The root of all crime is sin. Many secular studies of criminal behavior place the blame on the criminal's upbringing and environment. These studies tend to be very subjective, emphasizing the criminal's point of view. When a criminal is asked "Why do you commit crime?" they will naturally blame their family, their schooling (or lack of it), their peers, the church or the government. However, the criminal's actions, and their refusal to take responsibility for their actions is a direct result of the sin of arrogance.

Because of his arrogance the criminal has rejected all delegated authority from God, beginning with his parents' authority during childhood and resulting in disorientation to all legitimate areas of authority in life such as school teachers, employers, commanding officers for those serving in the military, and law enforcement agencies. A more objective study of criminal behavior found that "over half the criminals (of the case-study group) come from stable families in which the parents have lived together, have raised the children, and have experienced the usual tensions in living... ..Many of the criminals, when children, rejected the people who attempted to show them affection and stabilize their homes." (*The Criminal Personality, Yokelson and Saminov, Vol I, p119-20*)

All criminality is the product of human volition, the result of the individual using his free will to choose to disregard authority and to violate the freedom, property and life of another individual. A criminal must therefore be held responsible for his own decisions and actions.

Being created in the image of God means that man has a soul by which he can think rationally. So, in man's soul there exists the following: self-consciousness, so man is able to declare 'I am,' moral reasoning power, i.e. 'I ought,' and self-determination (volition), i.e., 'I will.'

The criminal deviates from the proper use of these functions of the soul. The criminal's arrogance perverts self-consciousness into preoccupation with self and hypersensitivity; he perverts moral reasoning power by rejecting all responsibilities and obligations in life; he perverts self-determination by rejecting all bona fide authority and by violating the rights, privacy and property of others.

God's perfect love includes his perfect justice. Therefore God inspired Moses to write regarding the violent function of criminality, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man [by government] his blood will be shed." This command to execute those guilty of murder predates the Mosaic Law (Gen. 9:6) and is applicable to all dispensations, unlike adultery for example where the death penalty applied only during the Age of Israel (Lev. 20:10) and was rescinded by Christ during the age of the hypostatic union (John 8:3-11).

We must also note that Jesus reaffirmed the mandates of Moses when he told the wealthy young man "You shall not murder" (Matthew 19:18, Exodus 20:13). In the Gospel of Matthew, our Lord rebukes Peter for cutting off the ear of the servant of the high priest, "Return your sword to its scabbard, for all who draw the sword [unlawful violence] will die by the sword [capital punishment]" (Matt 26:52). This statement of rebuke by Jesus Christ affirms the use of capital punishment by those in authority, as does Paul's acknowledgment in his letter to the Romans:

“For he [the one in authority] is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing [capital punishment was lawful and practiced in the Roman Empire]. He is God’s servant [God had delegated certain authority and responsibility to legitimate governments], an agent of punishment to bring wrath on the evildoer [to punish those involved in crime].” (Romans 13:4)

Those who live by violence must die by violence i.e. rapists, murderers, kidnappers and evil invading armies etc. must be executed. This is a divine mandate. There are only three exceptions allowing the legitimate use of violence: law enforcement; the function of the military establishment in defense of a nation, and the individual’s right to defend his life and property. Killing in the line of duty and under authority of government is not murder, but is the exercise of justice to maintain freedom for innocent individuals in society.

At the Second Advent of Christ and during His Millennial reign on earth, humankind will witness the execution of God’s justice firsthand:

“And [at the 2nd Advent] out of his mouth comes a sharp broad sword in order that with it [the sword], he should strike down [to kill with great violence] the nations [the enemy armies of the evil nations attacking Israel]. Then [after the slaughter of the armies] He will rule them [those mortals living during his Millennial reign] with an iron scepter [crime will be punished quickly via perfect jurisprudence].” (Rev. 19:15a)

Additional information on the subject of murder can be found in The Book of James, A Commentary by Max Klein, pages 71-75, and Freedom through Military Victory by R.B.Thieme, Jr., pages 58-60. Biblical principles on how to raise establishment-oriented children may be found in Max’s booklet, Child Abuse.