

Candidate 8 evidence

Analyse religious responses to moral issues arising from custodial sentences. 10

A custodial sentence is a type of punishment given by a court where the offender is required to spend time in a prison or similar secure facility. These sentences can vary in length, ranging from a few days to life imprisonment, depending on the severity of the crime. Recidivism is a significant moral issue within the prison system, as many people who commit crimes often end up reoffending and returning to prison—approximately 25% of people in the UK end up back in prison. A Christian may look to the teachings of Jesus to address this moral issue. The Bible demonstrates Jesus' care for those in need, including prisoners: "...I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." An implication of this teaching highlights the importance of showing compassion and support to all offenders by encouraging a more humane and supportive approach to helping offenders reintegrate into society and remain out of prison. This teaching encourages a focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment, urging Christians to support restorative justice practices. By following Jesus' example of offering care and support to those in need, Christians are prompted to work toward a justice system that emphasises healing, forgiveness, and second chances, rather than solely focusing on retribution.