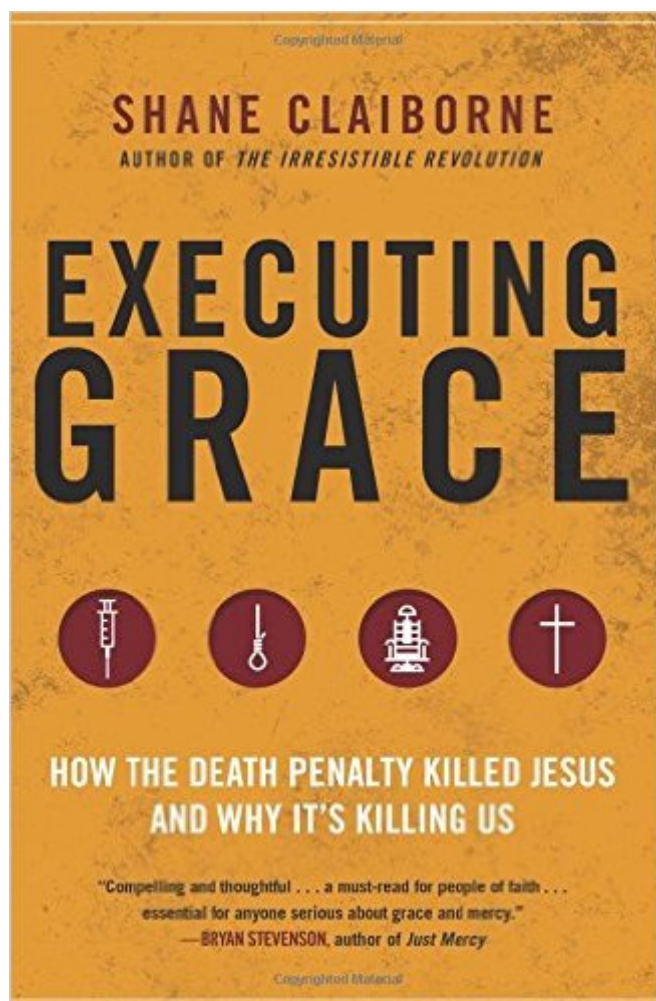


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# Executing Grace: How The Death Penalty Killed Jesus And Why It's Killing Us



## Synopsis

In this reasoned exploration of justice, retribution, and redemption, the champion of the new monastic movement, popular speaker, and author of the bestselling *The Irresistible Revolution* offers a powerful and persuasive appeal for the abolition of the death penalty. The Bible says an eye for an eye. But is the state's taking of a life true or even practical punishment for convicted prisoners? In this thought-provoking work, Shane Claiborne explores the issue of the death penalty and the contrast between punitive justice and restorative justice, questioning our notions of fairness, revenge, and absolution. Using an historical lens to frame his argument, Claiborne draws on testimonials and examples from Scripture to show how the death penalty is not the ideal of justice that many believe. Not only is a life lost, so too, is the possibility of mercy and grace. In *Executing Grace*, he reminds us of the divine power of forgiveness, and evokes the fundamental truth of the Gospel that no one, even a criminal, is beyond redemption.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A very important, well-written thought provoking and essential read for all who are seriously concerned about justice. A must-read for all people of faith. It should be in every church, school and personal library. I cannot recommend this book enough.

This is Shane Claiborne's best book. This book is framed by the real lives and deaths of victims of murder and execution. It's a book I have already recommended to people inside and outside of explicitly pacifist faith traditions, and I can imagine Bible Belt evangelical types resonating with. By

paying particular attention to the stories of forgiveness and redemption hiding behind stories of murder and execution (including that of our Savior), he persuasively shows the death penalty to be something that Christians simply cannot participate in. He writes with compassion about both the victims of violence and those who commit the violence (and then those who inflict the violence as punishment) which makes a whole lot of sense coming from a religion whose founder forgave as he was executed. The best parts of the book were the individual stories of people who had found healing from the crimes they had committed and crimes committed against them, showing that there is indeed a possibility for a kind of justice that doesn't require more killing.

With his characteristic storytelling â “both compelling and provocative â “ that was the hallmark of his bestselling book *THE IRRESISTIBLE REVOLUTION* over a decade ago, as well as the countless talks he has given since its release, Shane Claiborne offers us an insightful look at the death penalty, and why it should be abolished. Throughout the book, Claiborne urges us to be people of grace, just as God is a God of grace. He challenges us to consider our role in not obstructing God's forgiving and redeeming work, even in the hardest of criminals. Even if you don't agree with Claiborne's perspective, I challenge you to read this book and to hear him out. He may or may not get you to change your mind, but he certainly will cause you to think, and to reconsider why you hold the position you do. *EXECUTING GRACE* is a timely and winsome book that might just help to abolish the death penalty in our land forever.

This book is truly amazing. Bringing light the faces and names of an "issue". Wow! Every chapter at some point had me choking up. Powerful. The message is for everyone, but the content is heavy and (for lack of a better word) gruesome. The detailed deaths and horrors these people have faced really hit me hard and made it all the more real. Thank you Shane for such an amazing book!

A riveting read, both for those who are familiar with the death penalty in the US and for those who are unaware of it. Stories and personal encounters bring inspiration to what could be a sombre account, and give hope for a very different future. The photo below is of just one of the subjects mentioned in the book - Romell Broom, who survived a botched execution in 2009 and is still on Death Row after 31 years, claiming innocence of the crime of which he was accused. Romell's own story, *Survivor on Death Row*, is also on . Shane Claiborne engages with the rights of victims, the punishment of offenders, healing of victims' families, and examines some workable alternatives to 'revenge justice.' What would Jesus do? Read and be challenged to rethink the whole subject!

A well reasoned biblical, moral, and above all human reasons and mandate to abolish the death penalty. Well done!!!! Now let's get to work.

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