811 - Why is Death the Prescribed Punishment for Apostasy in Islam?

the question

This question has been asked several times from non-Muslims and I want to find an answer: Why When the Muslim converts to another religion (Murtad) he/she should be killed?

Summary of answer

Death, as the prescribed punishment for apostasy, is based on religious texts. Apostasy is viewed as a severe crime due to its potential social and religious impact. Yet, Islam offers a chance for repentance before any penalty is applied.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Your question why death is the punishment for apostasy in Islam may be answered by the following points:

- This is the ruling of Allah and His Messenger, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever changes his religion, kill him." (Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Al-Fat-h, no. 3017)
- The one who has known the religion which Allah revealed, entered it and practised it, then rejected it, despised it and left it, is a person who does not deserve to live on the earth of Allah and eat from the provision of Allah.
- By leaving Islam, the apostate opens the way for everyone who wants to leave the faith, thus spreading apostasy and encouraging it .
- The apostate is not to be killed without warning. Even though his crime is so great, he is given a last chance, a respite of three days in which to repent. If he repents, he will be left alone ; if he does not repent, then he will be killed .

- If the punishment for murder and espionage (also known as high treason) is death, then what should be the punishment for the one who disbelieves in the Lord of mankind and despises and rejects His religion? Is espionage or shedding blood worse than leaving the religion of the Lord of mankind and rejecting it?
- None of those who bleat about personal freedom and freedom of belief would put up with a neighbour's child hitting their child or justify this as "personal freedom," so how can they justify leaving the true religion and rejecting the Shari`ah which Allah revealed to teach mankind about His unity and bring justice and fairness to all?

We ask Allah for safety and health. May Allah bless our Prophet Muhammad.