



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.