**A Christian Abolitionist Reading List:**

**articles and online resources**

[The Marshall Project](http://themarshallproject.org/)

[The Appeal](http://theappeal.org/)

These are two key sources of criminal-justice reporting, sharing a broad spectrum of topics from criminal justice policy to prison conditions to first-person accounts from incarcerated people. The Appeal also sponsors “The Daily Appeal,” a daily e-newsletter gathering criminal-justice news from around the nation.

**Christian theology and prison abolition:**

[A Christian Case for Prison Abolition](https://livingchurch.org/covenant/2018/09/20/a-christian-case-for-prison-abolition/)

[Why Christians Should Be Abolitionists—Again](https://www.episcopalcafe.com/why-christians-should-be-abolitionists-again/)

[Mass Incarceration is Religious (and so is Abolition)](https://abolitionjournal.org/mass-incarceration-is-religious-and-so-is-abolition/)

[If you need for undocumented immigrants to be punished then you don’t believe in Jesus’ cross](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/mercynotsacrifice/2014/11/20/if-you-need-for-undocumented-immigrants-to-be-punished-then-you-dont-believe-in-jesus-cross/)—a provocative atonement theology from Rev. Morgan Guyton

[Criminals With Him: A Karl Barth Sermon to the Basel Prisoners](https://postbarthian.com/2015/04/29/criminals-karl-barth-sermon-basel-prisoners/)—on Christian community formed among prisoners

**Abolitionist theory and policy:**

[Abolitionist Futures Reading List](https://abolitionistfutures.com/pre-conference-events/abolitionist-reading-discussion-group/reading-list/)—a syllabus of articles, books, and excerpts providing an introduction to abolitionist thought. This also includes a bibliography of other helpful resources providing reading lists on abolition.

[Critical Resistance: Abolition Now! Ten Years of Strategy and Struggle Against the Prison Industrial Complex](http://criticalresistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Critical-Resistance-Abolition-Now-Ten-Years-of-Strategy-and-Struggle-against-the-Prison-Industrial-Complex.pdf)—essays on abolition

[Instead of Prisons: A Handbook for Abolitionists](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/scans/instead_of_prisons/)—a book, available online, with an introduction to abolitionist theory and practice

[What Abolitionists Do](https://www.jacobinmag.com/2017/08/prison-abolition-reform-mass-incarceration)—an introductory essay to prison abolitionist ideas

[What is Prison Abolition?](https://www.thenation.com/article/what-is-prison-abolition/)—an introduction in The Nation

[Prison Abolition is the Feminist Issue We Need to Talk About](http://www.theradicalnotion.com/prisons-abolition/)—a feminist case for abolition

[Are We There Yet? The Promise, Perils, and Politics of Penal Reform](https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2016/jan/1/are-we-there-yet-promise-perils-and-politics-penal-reform/)

**Prison conditions and mass incarceration:**

[Prison Policy Initiative: The Whole Pie 2018](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2018.html)—report summarizing how many people are in US prisons and jails and for what reasons

[Mass Incarceration in America, Explained in 22 Maps and Charts](https://www.vox.com/2015/7/13/8913297/mass-incarceration-maps-charts)

Solitary confinement:

[Solitary Confinement Is Used to Break People—I Know Because I Endured It](https://truthout.org/articles/solitary-confinement-is-used-to-break-people-i-know-because-i-endured-it/)

[43 Years in Solitary](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/29/albert-woodfox-43-years-solitary-confinement-wish-i-was-back?CMP=share_btn_tw)—an interview with Albert Woodfox

Malnutrition, rape, family separation, and conditions of confinement:

[Prison Rape Is Not a Punchline](https://www.bitchmedia.org/article/prison-rape-not-punchline)

[Prison Rips Babies From the Arms of Their Mothers: A View From Behind Bars](https://truthout.org/articles/prison-rips-babies-from-the-arms-of-their-mothers-a-view-from-behind-bars/)

[What’s in a Prison Meal?](https://www.themarshallproject.org/2015/07/07/what-s-in-a-prison-meal)

[My Four Months as a Private Prison Guard](https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/06/cca-private-prisons-corrections-corporation-inmates-investigation-bauer/)—Mother Jones investigation on private prisons

[Limiting Human Contact for Prisoners is Counterproductive and Un-Christian](https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/02/07/limiting-human-contact-prisoners-counterproductive-and-un-christian)

[Prisons that withhold menstrual pads humiliate women and violate basic rights](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/12/prisons-menstrual-pads-humiliate-women-violate-rights?CMP=share_btn_tw)

Life sentences and sentencing issues:

[The Moral Problem of Life-Without-Parole Sentences](http://amp.timeinc.net/time/4998858/death-penalty-life-without-parole)

[Why So Few Violent Offenders Are Let Out on Parole](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/08/why-so-few-violent-offenders-are-let-out-on-parole/538305/)

[To End Mass Incarceration We Need to End Long Sentences](https://www.fastcompany.com/40440652/to-end-mass-incarceration-we-need-to-end-long-prison-sentences)

[The Lifelong Learning of Lifelong Inmates](https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/06/why-prison-education-is-about-more-than-lowering-recidivism/531873/?utm_source=atlfb)

[Brenda died in prison, but we lifers and long-termers will keep her legacy alive](https://jjie.org/2018/09/26/brenda-died-in-prison-but-we-lifers-long-termers-will-keep-her-legacy-alive/)—a moving essay about the role lifers play in stabilizing community within prisons

**Restorative justice:**

[Can Forgiveness Play a Role in Criminal Justice?](https://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/06/magazine/can-forgiveness-play-a-role-in-criminal-justice.html?_r=0)—a New York Times magazine story from 2013 describing the use of a restorative justice circle in a murder case involving two teenagers.

[The Moving Target of Forgiveness](https://medium.com/@dionnewilson/the-moving-target-of-forgiveness-1e47bff366c6)—a personal reflection on forgiveness from a woman whose husband was murdered

[Restorative Justice is not Forgiveness](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/ted-wachtel/restorative-justice-is-no_b_2567653.html)—a response critical of the use of “forgiveness” as the only model for restorative justice, as placing too much of a burden on survivors

[Victims and Offenders Come Together to Make Their Own Justice](https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2016/07/20/victims-and-offenders-come-together-to-make-their-own-justice?utm_source=NYC+restorative+practitioners+and+supporters&utm_campaign=71b7017b42-Pew_Trust_articles7_24_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3a702473fa-71b7017b42-61932581)—a description of a restorative justice program in practice

[Radical Compassion: Restorative Justice Programs Meet the Needs of Both Victims and Offenders](https://www.alternet.org/radical-compassion-restorative-justice-program-meets-needs-both-victims-and-perpetrators)—an interview with a restorative justice practitioner about the process

[After Assault, Some Campuses Focus on Healing Over Punishment](https://www.npr.org/2017/07/25/539334346/restorative-justice-an-alternative-to-the-process-campuses-use-for-sexual-assaul)—about the use of restorative justice processes in cases of sexual assault on college campuses

[A Different Path for Confronting Sexual Assault](https://www.vox.com/platform/amp/first-person/2018/10/10/17953016/what-is-restorative-justice-definition-questions-circle?__twitter_impression=true)—an article about what a restorative justice process can offer in cases of sexual assault and misconduct

[Judge Abby Abinanti Is Fighting for Her Tribe—and for a Better Justice System](https://www.thenation.com/article/judge-abby-abinanti-is-fighting-for-her-tribe-and-for-a-better-justice-system/)—an article about a Native American judge bringing traditional tribal principles to her court

[Abolition Culture: Moving Beyond Disposability in the Movement](https://medium.com/@janayakhan/abolition-culture-moving-beyond-disposability-in-the-movement-e303aa8310c0)—a reflection on using principles of restorative justice to address conflicts within activist communities

[The Art of Restorative Questions](http://culturalorganizing.org/the-art-of-restorative-questions/)—an exhibition of art dealing with principles of restorative justice