

**A Christian Abolitionist Reading List:**  
**articles and online resources**

**General resources:**

[The Marshall Project](#)

[The Appeal](#)

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.

[TransformHarm.org](#)—a collection of resources and curricula about prison abolition, restorative justice, transformative justice, and community accountability

**Christian theology and prison abolition:**

[A Christian Case for Prison Abolition](#) by Hannah Bowman

[Why Christians Should Be Abolitionists—Again](#) by Hannah Bowman

[Mass Incarceration is Religious \(and so is Abolition\)](#) Joshua Dubler and Vincent Lloyd

[Can Justice Demand Prison Abolition?](#) by Kathryn Getek Soltis

[From Slavery to Incarceration](#) by Katie Walker Grimes

[The Christian Virtue of Justice and the US Prison](#)—academic article by Kathryn Getek Soltis in the *Journal of Catholic Social Thought*

[Penitence, Plantation and the Penitentiary](#)—academic article by Nikia Evans Robert in *The Graduate Journal of Harvard Divinity School*

[If you need for undocumented immigrants to be punished then you don’t believe in Jesus’ cross](#)—a provocative atonement theology from Morgan Guyton

[Criminals With Him: A Karl Barth Sermon to the Basel Prisoners](#)—on Christian community formed among prisoners

**Abolitionist theory and policy:**

[Abolitionist Futures 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](#)—essays on abolition

[Instead of Prisons: A Handbook for Abolitionists](#)—a book, available online, with an introduction to abolitionist theory and practice

[What Abolitionists Do](#)—an introductory essay to prison abolitionist ideas

[What is Prison Abolition?](#)—an introduction in The Nation

[Prison Abolition is the Feminist Issue We Need to Talk About](#)—a feminist case for abolition

[How Can We Reconcile Prison Abolition with #MeToo?](#)

[Are We There Yet? The Promise, Perils, and Politics of Penal Reform](#)

[What to Do Instead of Calling the Police](#)—resources for alternatives to calling the police

**Prison conditions and mass incarceration:**

[Prison Policy Initiative: The Whole Pie 2018](#)—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](#)

Solitary confinement:

[Solitary Confinement Is Used to Break People—I Know Because I Endured It 43 Years in Solitary](#)—an interview with Albert Woodfox

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

[Prison Rape Is Not a Punchline](#)

[Prison Rips Babies From the Arms of Their Mothers: A View From Behind Bars](#)

[What's in a Prison Meal?](#)

[My Four Months as a Private Prison Guard](#)—Mother Jones investigation on private prisons

[Limiting Human Contact for Prisoners is Counterproductive and Un-Christian](#)

[Prisons that withhold menstrual pads humiliate women and violate basic rights](#)

Life sentences and sentencing issues:

[The Moral Problem of Life-Without-Parole Sentences](#)

[Why So Few Violent Offenders Are Let Out on Parole](#)

[To End Mass Incarceration We Need to End Long Sentences](#)

[The Lifelong Learning of Lifelong Inmates](#)

[Brenda died in prison, but we lifers and 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?](#)—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](#)—a personal reflection on forgiveness from a woman whose husband was murdered

[Restorative Justice is not Forgiveness](#)—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](#)—a description of a restorative justice program in practice

[Radical Compassion: Restorative Justice Programs Meet the Needs of Both Victims and Offenders](#)—an interview with a restorative justice practitioner about the process

[After Assault, Some Campuses Focus on Healing Over Punishment](#)—about the use of restorative justice processes in cases of sexual assault on college campuses

[A Different Path for Confronting Sexual Assault](#)—an article about what a restorative justice process can offer in cases of sexual assault and misconduct

[A New Approach to Violence Treatment](#)—an interview with Dr. James Gilligan on restorative responses to violence

[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](#)—a reflection on using principles of restorative justice to address conflicts within activist communities

[The Art of Restorative Questions](#)—an exhibition of art dealing with principles of restorative justice