

Abstract

The diploma thesis deals with the ethical topic of guilt and its processing in persons serving a sentence. The paper elaborates with the topic of guilt on a practical and theoretical level. The theoretical framework deals with concepts related to guilt (morality, good, evil, conscience, sin), then presents the concept of guilt and the possibilities of its processing. Based on the description of the theory, the theoretical part formulates questions, which are used in the practical part. It describes three case studies of persons serving a sentence. The research is devoted to their individual perception of guilt and subsequently to ways of coping with it. Special attention is paid to Christianity and its influence on the perception of guilt, as two persons believe in God. Research shows that guilt is a fundamental issue for people in prison, whether it is in its negative or positive manifestations. The research confirms the fundamental theoretical starting point that there is a line from the negative effect of guilt to its positive contribution. As all three convicts confirm, guilt is the path to awareness, acceptance, and finally to the correction. Although there are many ways how to deal with guilt, the key is willingness to be opened to cope with guilt. Though there are a number of shortcomings in the Czech prison system and criminal law, which are related to the topic of correction and subsequent recidivism, it is necessary to emphasize that guilt is primarily matter of the individual. As all three convicts confirm that guilt coping is a personal decision that everyone must reach individually.