

The doctoral thesis is engaged in the question of guilt, compassion - repentance, forgiveness, responsibility and meaningfulness of existence in the sentenced women's lives at the beginning and during their execution of punishment. Guilt is presented from Christian, philosophical- psychological point of view and also from the perspective of law. Guilt is usually prosecuted by punishment. The next chapter analyzes what kind of punishment is adequate to what guilt, which punishment is positive and which one is negative. The next chapter is devoted to a term of compassion-or repentance- as an inevitable part of the forgiving process. An author perceives forgiveness towards self and others as a necessary part of "the healing process", towards which the work of specialists in execution of punishment should be directed. Forgiveness is unthinkable without acceptance of own responsibility for one's decisions and deeds. Perception of own meaningfulness is connected with all mentioned topics. The last chapter in the theoretical part of the paper is devoted to the subject of meaning of life and loss of its meaning.

The practical part focuses on the group of women sentenced for a violent crime and on the group of women sentenced for property crime. Each group is further divided according to length of their imprisonment (entry department or usual execution of punishment). The paper finds out the difference between their perception of meaning of life, self-evaluation, scale of values, view on crime and perception of guilt. The cases of two sentenced women complete the paper. One of them was sentenced for property criminal activity and the other one for the violent criminal activity. The paper tries to refer to a need to work with the mentioned topics during execution of punishment of custodial sentences the way it (execution of punishment) would fulfill not only repressive role.