

# We Got Issues 4

## Questions about Islam

Recently a mom in our church was asked by her little daughter regarding her Muslim girlfriend...  
*"mommy my friend Amara doesn't worship Jesus, will she go to heaven?"*

Many well-meaning people are confused about Islam and compare it favorably with Christianity.

### Questions about Islam

#### 1) Don't Christians and Muslims worship the same God?

*"After all, 'elohim and 'allah are just two different forms of the same name. Aren't they?"*

- a) No they are not the same God.
- b) It is true that the names Allah and Elohim both come from the same Semitic root but it doesn't necessarily imply they mean the same thing.
- c) Islam rejects the Triune God of the Christian faith.

From the Quran speaking of Christian theology: *"They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah."* —Surat Al-Ma'idah 5:73

- d) They respect Jesus as a prophet of Allah but they reject his deity.
  - i) In the *Hadith* (Islam's second most sacred text), Muhammad says that Christians are guilty of putting Jesus "in a position not rightly his". From the Muslim perspective, this is *idolatry*.
    - (1) This idea is reflected in the following verse of the *Qur'an*, which contains a clear reference to the Christian teaching that Jesus Christ is God incarnate: "Say, 'O followers of the scripture [i.e., Jews and Christians], let us come to a logical agreement between us and you: that we shall not worship except ALLAH; that we never set up any idols besides Him, *nor set up any human beings as lords beside ALLAH*'" (Surah 3:64-emphasis added).
    - (2) Combine this with what the Prophet says in Surah 9:5 and you will begin to see how serious **Islam** is when it comes to the question of its differences with the Christian faith: "Once the Sacred Months are past, you may kill the idol worshipers when you encounter them, punish them, and resist every move they make."

NOTE: Islamic Terrorist use this verse to justify their Jihad against non-Muslims.

Jesus told his disciples, if you go into a city and they reject your message, “shake the dust off your feet” (Matthew 10:14). Can you imagine if Jesus had said if they will not receive you or listen to your message you may punish them and kill them?!

Jesus does not talk like that, instead he says I am sending out like sheep among wolves.

- ii) Muslims do not believe in the resurrection. In fact, they don't believe Jesus died on the cross. They believe Allah took him to heaven and that he will return one day to live out the rest of his life and correct the confusion about his teachings and restore order to the world.

1 Corinthians 15:13-14;17 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... **17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

## 2) **Don't Muslims and Christians believe basically the same things?**

*“As I understand it, Islam is a religion of peace and is just another path to God. Why can't we all just get along?”*

a) Isn't Islam a religion of peace?

- i) Christians should not accept the sweeping claim that Islam is a religion of peace. There's just too much contrary evidence.

In the Middle East Christians are being tortured and killed by the thousands in the name of Allah. Some reports say up to 30,000 Christians have been tortured and killed there. Look up the images of Christians being persecuted by Isis.

- (1) According to the New York Times 1200 people have been killed in the west by the radical Islamic group called ISIS in the last 2 years (these numbers are already outdated)

(2) The Danger is Real:

- (a) As of 2015 a census showed that there are 3,300,000 Muslims living in America.

In the United States, a 2011 survey found that 86% of Muslims say that such suicide bombs and violence against civilians are rarely or never justified. An additional 7% say suicide bombings are sometimes justified and 1% say they are often justified in these circumstances.

*(Muslims and Islam: Key findings in the U.S. and around the world, pewresearch.com)*

According to this poll 7% believe that killing innocent people with suicide bombs or random acts of violence is sometimes justified in the name of their god Allah. If you do the math you will find that 7% of 3,300,000 = 231,000. Therefore there are over 200,000 Muslims in America who are sometimes okay with suicide bombs and/or violence on innocent people.

- (b) Even though the danger is real, Christians should view them in light of our duty to preach the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

- b) Isn't Islam another path to God?

A recent email came into a Christian Q&A forum:

***Why should I accept Christianity as the "one true religion?" I'm put off by the intolerance of most Christians. I might become a believer myself if you people weren't so narrow-minded. Can't you see that there are many different pathways to spirituality - like Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Wicca - and that no path is better than another? How can you say that someone is a horrible person simply because they don't adhere to your creed? Why do you try to impose your beliefs on others through violence? Didn't Jesus teach you to love your neighbor as yourself?***

- i) The narrowness of the Christian message is foundation of the good news for all the world

1 Timothy 2 we are told to pray for all people because God wants all the peoples on the earth "to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (v. 4)

1 Timothy 2:5,6 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all..."

This is the Christian faith!

You can accept it as true or reject it as false. What you cannot do is throw it into the pot with Wicca and **Islam** and Buddhism and all the "pathways to spirituality" it just won't mix!

- ii) We Christians should make it our business to love *all* people. We try to refrain from judging others and get along with everyone to the best of our ability.

Nevertheless, we *cannot* compromise our commitment to the absolute truth of the message of salvation in Christ.

As one writer says, to back away from publishing this Good News would be like discovering a cure for cancer and then withholding it from those who need it most.

### 3) What about the violent passages in the Bible?

- a) First, violent Biblical passages are irrelevant to the question of whether Islam is violent.
- b) Second, the violent passages in the Bible certainly do not amount to a standing order to commit violence against the rest of the world.
- c) The Bible and the Quran should be understood through the life of their Prophets.
  - i) It is through the life of Muhammad that the Quran must be understood, as the Quran itself says just as the Bible should be understood through the life of Jesus Christ.

The Quran was written over a period of 22 years. The first part of Muhammad's writings were done when he was in Mecca. He faced a lot of opposition in Mecca so he went to Medina. There he built up some military strength and raised up a large number of followers.

When Muhammad was in a position of power, he was able to return and conquer Mecca and the surrounding area. This move changed Islam from a spiritual religion to a political revolution.

60% of the Quran talks about Jihad which makes sense because most of the Quran was written while he was in Medina raising up an army.

### 4) What about the Crusades?

- a) The Crusades began as a campaign to liberate Christians from the brutal control of the Muslim Turks
  - i) At the time of the First Crusade, the populations of Asia Minor, Syria, and Palestine, though ruled by Muslims, were still overwhelmingly populated with Christians. The "Crusading" campaigns of the Western Christian armies were justified at the time as a war liberating the Eastern Christians, whose population, lands, and culture had been devastated by centuries of jihad and subsequent domination by the Muslims.
  - ii) Conquering territory for God in the mode of jihad was an alien idea to Christianity and it should not be surprising that it eventually died out in the West and never gained any momentum in the East.
- b) While the West has for some time now lamented the Crusades as mistaken, there has never been any mention from any serious Islamic authority of regret for the centuries and centuries of jihad and brutality perpetrated against other societies.

Not Surprising: while religious violence contradicts the fundamentals of Christianity, religious violence is written into Islam's DNA.

## **We must train our kids to live Christ-like before our Muslim neighbors.**

Be People of Grace and Truth!

Reaching out to Muslim Neighbors (slide)

- 1) Accept the opportunity as a divine assignment.
- 2) Do not be controlled by fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

- 3) Love

Matthew 22:37-39 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38** This is the great and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

- a) Listen to them
- b) Do good to them Just being polite is not enough. It is never enough. Share some of your life with them. Invite them in and help them with their problems.
- c) Ask thought provoking questions but don't argue.
  - i) Do you have an assurance the God will accept you?
  - ii) What does the Quran teach you about forgiveness?
  - iii) May I show you what the Bible teaches?

- 4) Respect their customs

Don't offend them by:

- a) Appearing to familiar in casual relationship with the opposite sex.
- b) Refusing Hospitality.
- c) Making jokes about the sacred topics of fasting, or prayer.
- d) Offering them pork or alcohol.

- 5) Pray

- a) New York Muslims for Jesus Conference a Pakistani Pastor who is a former Muslim reported that there are 10 times more Muslims coming to Jesus in New York area since 9/11 than there were before.

b) A former Muslim pastor: Muslims do not often come to Jesus through intellectual discussions, they are more likely to come to salvation through friendship relationships.

6) Persevere in the relationship.

Will Muslims go to heaven?

When Thomas asked Jesus to show them the way to heaven, “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:5,6).

The only way to heaven according to our faith in Christ is through Jesus the savior of the world.

Present the heart of Jesus (GRACE) with the theology of Jesus (TRUTH) when teaching your children who goes to heaven and who does not.

- \* We are Jesus followers and we follow him in faith.
- \* Teach your children to avoid intellectual arguments and live for Christ!

Alan Vincent once said that God allows every philosophy to have its day in the sun so it can be exposed! Hinduism, Communism, has seen a massive shift

In the last days Islam will be exposed for what it is as Christ Jesus establishes Himself for a great end time Harvest.

Key Resource:

Islam 101- <https://www.jihadwatch.org/islam-101>

