

# What About Islam?

Ephesians 2:4-9 & 1 John 4:1-3

## Preface

On September 11, 2001 the United States was awoken to a whole new world. On that day, nineteen militant Islamist terrorist hijacked four commercial airline jets, each carrying over 24,000 gallons of jet fuel. They successfully crashed two of them into the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. The fourth jet crashed into a rural field in Pennsylvania thanks to the brave resistance of passengers.

In reaction to the smoke and burning heat from jet fuel, an estimated 200 people jumped to their deaths from the burning towers landing on the streets and roof tops of adjacent buildings hundreds of feet below. In all, approximately 3000 innocent people were killed at the hands of suicide terrorists eager to murder for their cause.

Rest assured that the reasonably peaceful world we once knew, no longer exists. It will not exist in my lifetime and probably will not exist in the lifetime of our children. This is a sad and sobering thought.

Ushered in with this new era of war, fear and constant security concerns was a whole new list of terms. We may have heard words such as Islam, Mohammed, Allah, Jihad, Taliban and Al Quida in the past, but few of us had ever given them more than a moment of thought.

Today, in an effort to bring some sense of calm and assurance, these new terms have taken all sorts of meanings and definitions. Much of what we hear about the religion of Islam and the beliefs of Muslims is simply not true, as just a little research will reveal.

Even our own President who has bravely defended our nation, has been quoted saying things like,

“Islam is a peace-loving religion,” and “We all worship the same God.”

Perhaps some of you have said or heard others say, “All religions are basically the same, just different paths to God.

Today, I want to share with you that there are many stark differences between Christianity and Islam. I want you to see that we have very little in common with the Islamic religion and that it scarcely compares with the relationship we have with a living Savior.

## Scripture – Read

*<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.*  
*Ephesians 2:4-9 NIV*

## Explanation

This is one of those sermons that I would just as soon not have to preach. The Lord has laid it upon my heart and I will be faithful though it is not fun to preach. Likewise, it was not enjoyable to research and prepare.

Today I will read much of my sermon because I do not wish to leave anything out. I do not wish to add to the sermon or deviate from the text in any way. Likewise, there will be no funny or humorous illustrations.

This sermon will not be easy for you either. But, it is the cold hard truth that you must hear. May our God use it to strengthen us.

On occasion, I will step down from the pulpit when I quote text from the Koran and other Islamic writings because I am not comfortable quoting such words from the pulpit. It is not that the pulpit is sacred but I have too much respect for this place and its purpose.

When I do quote text from the Koran, I will not give actual chapter and verse references though I do have them. I will

provide them to anyone who requests them. I have personally looked-up each to insure accuracy.

## Introduction

To understand the Islamic religion, we must begin with an understanding of the founder. Mohammed was born around 570 AD in the city of Mecca in what is now called Saudi Arabia. His parents died when he was young and he was raised by a grandparent and later by an uncle.

When Mohammed was 25, he married his 40 year old wealthy employer. This gave him the luxury of spending his time contemplating religion and power. Mecca was a center of idol worship and the worship of at least 350 so-called gods. The greatest of these gods was the moon god who was worshiped in much the same way Muslims worship Allah today.

Mohammed was very disheartened by the unity and commitment he saw in the Jews because of their worship of a single God. He resented their claim that Jehovah was the one true God. He desired to see his own people submit to a single God and avoid the chaos and immorality that existed. At 40, he claimed to have an experience with Gabriel in which he was declared the ultimate and final prophet of Allah.

As a result of this “experience” the Koran was dictated by Mohammed to his servants since he could not read or write. Mohammed began to enforce his new religion upon everyone. Jews who rejected Islam were slaughtered or sold as slaves. What followed was the spread of the Islamic religion by the sword.

Today, Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. It is the second largest religion in the world second only to Christianity. Islam claims over 1 billion followers. There is an estimate 11,000 new converts in the US each year, with over 90% of them being African Americans.

Islam was founded by a man with the firm belief that those who did not adopt his religion must be killed. He was quoted as saying, “Invite first (that is, call them first to embrace Islam), if they refuse, then war.”

Osama Bin Laden, the nineteen hijackers and other terrorists are not Islamic extremists. They are good Muslims who follow and live out the words of the Koran as ordered by Mohammed.

## Content

Some people say all religions point to the same God. They reason that religions have different teachings and names for God but they lead to the same God. They think that as long as you believe in God, it doesn't really matter what religion you follow. This simply is not true.

God's Word says even the demons acknowledge there is a God. If the God of Christianity is the god of Islam then we have some big problems.

The truth is that these religions are very different and contradict each other at every crucial point. What this means is that we are left with two options: either neither of them are true or only one of them is true and the other is false.

Bill Hybels said, “You need to know that the law of non-contradiction says that positions that are different from one another cannot be equally true. You've got to figure out what you believe and where you are going to drive a stake in the ground and say, “On the evidence, on the research that I've done, this is what I believe. **This is what I will stake my life and my eternity on.**”

As you can see, understanding the differences is vital. Determining where you stand and standing firm is critical. Let's look at just three differences between Islam and Christianity.

### 1. View of Mankind

As **Christians**, God's word tells us that man was created by God and in His likeness. It also tells us that man has sinned and that if it were not for the ever-reaching arms of our loving God, we would be destined to punishment for our sin.

God's word tells us that life is sacred, initiated and blessed by God. Throughout God's word, we are exhorted to “love one another” and love our brother as ourselves.”

We are encouraged, even commanded to share with others the good news of God's love and salvation.

Never, never does God's word even hint that we are to judge and punish those who reject His message. Just the opposite is true, we are to pray for them, love them and even show kindness to them in hopes that they will see His love in us.

**Islam** on the other hand is a religion that teaches from its founder and its supreme writing, the Koran, to kill those who do not adopt Islam.

Islam teaches that Allah is completely indifferent towards man. In the Koran, there is never a mention of the love of Allah. There is no indication that Allah has a love or even positive inclination towards mankind.

People are just puppets on strings as Allah controls everything. People can't really know Allah, they can only live with his actions and hope to please him.

What does exist in the Koran is hatred for all Christians, Jews and anyone else who does not accept Islam. Mohammed himself said, "I have been ordered by Allah to fight with people till they testify there is no god but Allah and Mohammed is his messenger."

This is the underlying theme of Islam. This "convert or die" approach is expounded upon all men throughout the Koran. Here are a few examples of the 109 verses from the Koran on war and killing:

"O believers, fight the unbelievers who are near to you, and let them find in you a harshness; and know that Allah is with the God fearing" Sura al Tawba 9:123

Who are the unbelievers? Anyone who is not Muslim.

"Fight against those who believe not in the last day and do not forbid what Allah and his messengers have forbidden - such men as practice not the religion of truth, being those who have been given the Bible - until they pay jeeziah (taxes for non-Muslims) out of the hand and have been belittled." Sura al Tawba 9:29

"Fight and slay the pagans whenever ye find them." Sura 9:5

Mohammed stated, "The last hour would not come till the Muslims fight against the Jews, and the Muslims will kill them

until the Jews hide themselves behind the stones and trees, and the stones and trees would speak up saying: "O Muslim! O slave of Allah! There is a Jew hiding behind me; come and kill him." These were the words of Mohammed, the founder of Islam.

The truth is that the fundamentalists get their commandments from the highest authority of their religion, their prophet and his writings, the Koran.

Islam views man in a futile way. Only the man who is Muslim and who kills for the Muslim beliefs is highly regarded.

In a Muslim society, if a Muslim kills a non-Muslim, it is not murder. Only if a non-Muslim kills a Muslim is it considered murder.

Clearly there is a huge difference in the way Christianity and Islam view mankind.

## 2. View of God

As **Christians**, we worship an eternally self-existent God who spoke the world into being. We are not trying to appease an angry God. We are learning to fall in love with a loving God who is the Creator, Redeemer and Holy Father.

Christianity is not about laws and religious practices. It is about a loving God who influences our lives. It is about a God who protects us and guides us to find his purposes for our lives.

God prepares good things for us. He gives us peace, hope and assurance of His grace in our lives.

**Muslims** on the other hand live their lives trying to appease Allah. Allah has created nothing and frankly doesn't exist except in the minds of the grossly misguided.

In the Koran, there is no mention of the love of Allah for anything. There are just rules, laws and instructions of violence upon all who do not submit.

In the day of Mohammed, the moon god was worshiped at the Kabah temple in Mecca. They worshiped him by praying towards Mecca several times a day, making a pilgrimage to Mecca, running around the temple and touching the black stone in the wall.

These were the pagan rites practiced by the Arabs long before Mohammed was born. Mohammed simply adopted these for his “seven pillars of Islam” and they are practiced today by Muslims.

James 2:9 says, “You believe that there is a God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble.”

Acknowledging the existence of a god is not the same as trusting the God of salvation.

There is a vast difference in the view of God by Christianity and Islam. We worship a loving God while Muslims worship a polished version of the pagan moon God.

### 3. View of Salvation

It is nothing to believe in Jesus. It is everything to know Jesus. What is most important is what you believe about Jesus and who you believe He is.

**Islam** claims that Jews and Christians have distorted who Jesus was and what he did. Muslims deny his death and resurrection and only acknowledge Him as a prophet.

They deny that He was the son of God. In fact, they consider it blaspheming to call him the son of God or to refer to God as father.

The Koran states that Mohammed is the ultimate and final prophet of god. Islam categorically denies that Jesus is the way of salvation. They believe that only Allah will decide who goes to heaven and it will be based on works.

Islam has no savior. Allah will decide how well believers followed the seven pillars of Islam. Even following the rituals does not guarantee a Muslim that they will go to heaven.

There is only one way for assurance of salvation and heaven in Islam. When all else fails, there is Jihad (holy war). A Muslim can die killing the non-believers, particularly Jews and Christians and they believe they will be whisked away to heaven where several maidens will be waiting.

Therein is the real problem we face today in our society. The so-called extremists are copying the behavior of Mohammed, the founder of Islam.

It is not good enough that Christians leave the Muslims alone to worship as they will. They will not stand for such. They must kill all who do not “submit” (which is the actual meaning of the word Islam).

As **Christians**, we know Jesus Christ to be the son of God. We know Him to be a loving and perfect savior who died at the cross for the sins of everyone who will receive His gift of salvation.

We know Him to be the savior who said, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

In John 14:6-7 Jesus says about himself, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Acts 4:12 reads, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

By the pure grace of God, Jesus Christ is the Living Savior for all who believe.

Understand that Islam and Christianity have no similarities concerning salvation.

### Conclusion

The differences in Christianity and Islam are as stark as day and night.

**Islam** was founded by a man who never performed a single miracle. He lived a life of terror spreading his religion with the sword, killing anyone who did not submit. He fabricated a religion out of pagan rituals for the moon god.

Jerry Vines, a past President of the Southern Baptist Convention once put it this way, “Islam was founded by Mohammed, a demon-possessed pedophile who had 12 wives, and the last one was a 9 year old girl”.

This is the great prophet of Islam? This is the man who the Muslims follow?

**Christianity** on the other hand is spread by love and choice. It is inspired by a loving Savior who healed the sick and spoke

his message of God's grace. He reached out to all who would receive and even showed compassion to those who did not.

Why have I shared these things today?

1. We must be informed about the truth of Islam.
2. We must have our eyes open and aware of the lies and harm intended for Christians by Muslims.
3. We must pray for all of mankind including Muslims that their eyes will be opened to the truth.
4. We must understand the need to share the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world, even to Muslims.
5. We need to recognize that Christianity is not just another religion. Christianity is the truth and it is alive. It is not laws and rituals. It is an experience with a living Savior.

Illus: One pastor stated it best when he was addressing an Islamic cleric in the US who had just admitted that all Muslims have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of the Islamic faith. The pastor's response was, "Let me ask you a question. Would you rather have your Allah who tells you to kill me in order to go to Heaven or my Jesus who tells me to love you because I am going to Heaven and He wants you to be with me?"

*<sup>1</sup>Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 1 John 4:1-3 NIV*

**The Truth shall prevail!**