FACTS ON ISLAM

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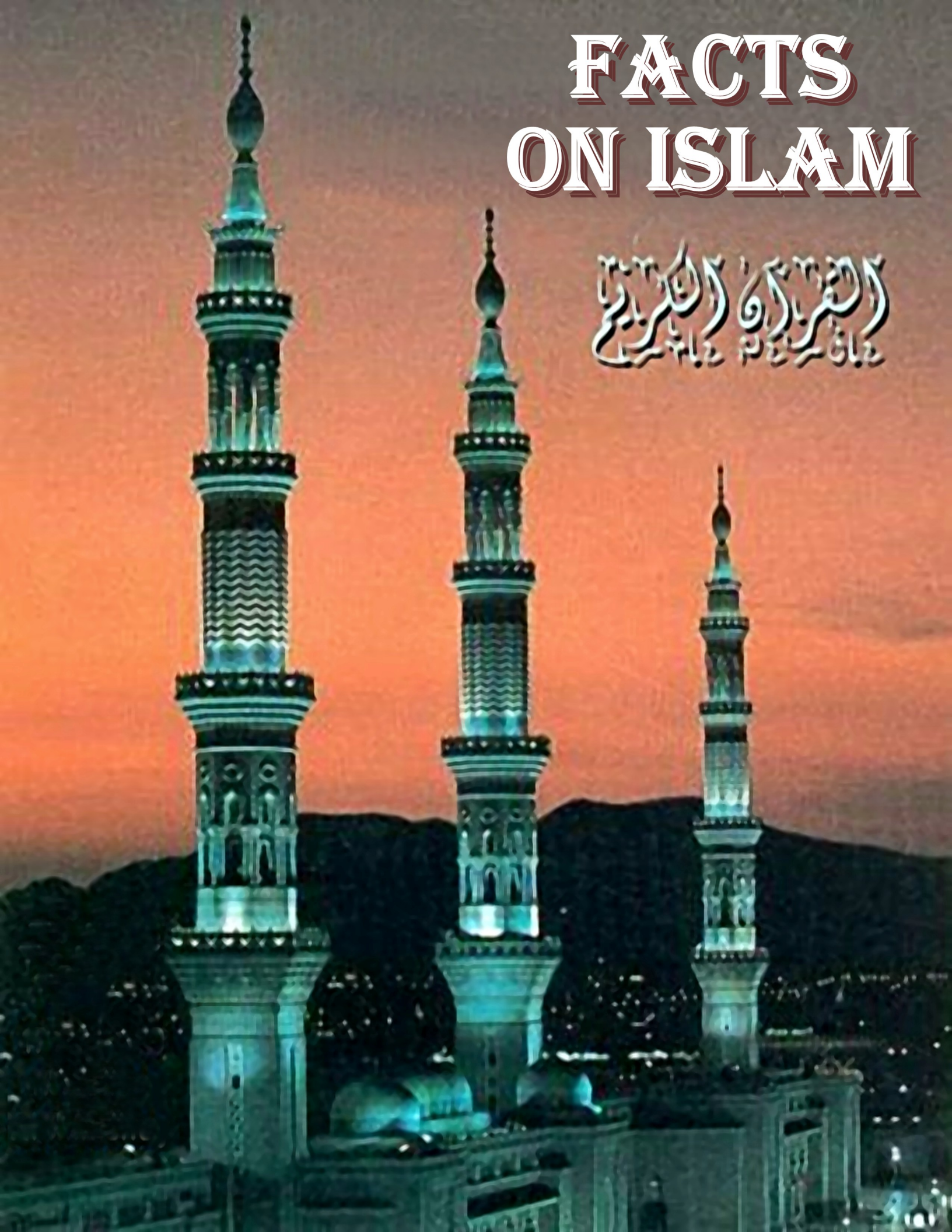

Facts On Islam

By Charlie H. Campbell

Today I want to share with you a little bit about Islam.

--Not only so we can be used more effectively in the lives of Muslims,

--but so that we can intelligently talk with people who are considering Islam, and show them some of the differences between Christianity and Islam.

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today. In the last 20 years the number of adherents to Islam has more than doubled! Listen to some of these staggering statistics:

In 1982, there were 450 million Muslims in the world, but today there are approximately 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide. That means that 1 out of every 5 people alive today is a Muslim!, Making it the world's second largest religion. There are more practicing Muslims in the U.S. than…Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses combined. In fact, there are more Muslims in the world than there are Catholics!! *[There are about a billion Catholics].*

At the rate Islam is growing in 7 or 8 years, 1 out of every 4 people alive will be a Muslim. Can you see, why it's important that we know something about this religion!!

STORY: *Last year I was flying to Peru, and man sat down next to me who I come to find out was considering Islam…boy was I glad that I had taken the time to learn some things about Islam!*

So today I want to give you an overview of

I. The ORIGIN of Islam
II. The Muslim's Five Main BELIEFS
III. The Muslim's Five Most Important PRACTICES
IV. The BOOK of Islam: The Qur'an
V. Tips on REACHING Muslims

Along the way, we'll contrast some of the teachings of Islam with the Bible. But first, let's start off with some basic Islam definitions: The word **"Islam"** is an Arabic word that simply means:

--"to submit"
--"to surrender"
--"to commit oneself."

Those who adhere to Islam, regardless of their nationality, are known as: "Muslims."

The word "Muslim" means: "the one who submits."

Let's talk about first…

I. The Origin of Islam

The religion of Islam, began with a man named Muhammad. Muhammad was born in 570 A.D. into a violent, pagan, and polytheistic culture in the city of Mecca, in modern day Saudi Arabia. One night, in 610 A.D., at the age of 40, while contemplating inside a cave on the outskirts of Mecca, Muhammad was supposedly visited by the angel Gabriel *(the same angel that appeared to Daniel and the Virgin Mary in the Bible)*. According to Muhammad, that night began a series of angelic visitations and revelations that soon after became the teachings of Muhammad and ultimately the text of the Qur'an, the sacred book of Islam.

By the end of the first decade of Muhammad's preaching, several hundred families were convinced that he was a prophet of God. Having converted to monotheism *(belief in one God, Allah)*, Muhammad and his followers were a minority and persecuted by those who would not convert. To stamp out this newly invented religion, a plan was devised to assassinate Muhammad. So in 622, Muhammad and his followers fled from Mecca. They went 250 miles north to the friendlier city of Medina.

Eight years later, after winning a series of military battles, in the year of 630, Muhammad and his army of 10,000 men went back to and conquered Mecca. Muhammad proceeded to the main sanctuary in Mecca, known as the Ka'bah, and ordered that all the idols be destroyed and that it be dedicated to Allah.

In 632 Muhammad died a sudden but natural death at the age of 63 in the city of Medina. Disagreements concerning who was to succeed of Muhammad as the new political and religious leader of Islam caused a division in Islam between two groups, the Sunnis and the Shi'ites. The Sunnis *(85 to 90 percent of all Muslims)* believe the successor to Muhammad was to be elected democratically from among Muhammad's closest followers. The Shi'ites *(10-13 percent of all Muslims)* thought Muhammad's successor should be related to Muhammad. The disagreement continues to this day. Perhaps you've heard about the tension that exists between the Sunni's and the Shi'ites in Iraq.

Other sects include the ultra-conservative, puritanical, and often terrorism friendly Wahhabi. Wahhabism began in the eighteenth century under the teachings of 'Abd al-Wahhab *(1703–1792)*, who stringently opposed all practices not sanctioned by the Qur'an. The movement known as The Nation of Islam was founded around 1930 by Wallace Dodd Fard in Detroit Michigan. It is now led by Louis Farrakhan and is considered heretical by orthodox Muslims.

Now, what happened over the course of the next 100 years after Muhammad's death still amazes historians to this day. Within that first century after Muhammad's death in 632 A.D. Muslim armies spread the Islamic Empire from...

--up and into Central Asia and into the confines of China.
--across North Africa,
--all the way to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in Southern France and Spain,

Were it not for God using a man by the name of Charles Martel, in 732 A.D. at the Battle of Tours *(in France)* we might all be speaking Arabic and kneeling toward Mecca five times a day! It was there in France *(732 A.D.)* that Martel; a ruler of the Franks *(a tribe of Germany)* defeated the advancing Muslim armies and ended their advance into Europe. Many historians believe that if it were not for that successful battle, all of Europe may have fallen to Islam.

How did Islam spread so quickly early on?
Was it through the preaching of the good news of Allah's salvation?

No. Islam was forced upon tens of millions by military conquest. This is an undeniable fact of history. And Islam maintains itself today in many countries today by threatening with death any Muslim who would convert to another religion. Muhammad said...

"*If somebody (a Muslim) discards his religion, kill him*."
-The Hadith, Volume 4, Book 52, Number 260
(Also, see Volume 9, Book 84, Number 64)

And not only do Muslims lose their lives for converting, but so often do those who seek to evangelize Muslims.

For months after the September 11th tragedy I heard numerous interviews with Muslim scholars on the news saying that Islam is a religion of peace, and they would quote verses from the Qur'an that seemed to say that violence and murder were not part of Islam. Well, that was pretty confusing I think for a lot of folks, because, Christian teachers like Franklin Graham, Dave Hunt, and others on the radio were quoting verses from the Qur'an that seemed to say the exact opposite.

So, what does the Qur'an teach? Does it advocate violence or peace?

The answer is this: It teaches both. The earlier teachings of Muhammad *[the Meccan Suras]* have a moderate tone of peace and tolerance toward other religions. But listen to what the Qur'an says...

Sura 2:190
"*Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you, but begin not hostilities. Lo! Allah loveth not aggressors*."

Sura 29:46
"*And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, [speaking of the Bible, a reference to Christians and Jews]*."

But in the later teachings of Muhammad, there was a shift, and the Qur'an advocates a more hostile attitude toward people of other faiths. For instance, listen to...

Sura 9:5
"*So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them*"

Sura 8:39
"*Make war on them until idolatry shall cease and God's religion shall reign supreme*"

And there are others. So it's kind of up to the Muslim to decide which verses he wants his own personal beliefs to be based upon. If a Muslim wants to live in peace with his neighbors and happily co-exist, with others, then he can find verses that support that. But if he hates people of other faiths *(including Jews and Christians)* and wants to spread Islam around the world at any cost, even with violence, then he can find verses in the Qur'an that support that kind of a belief.

Jesus teaches:

> *"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets"* **Matthew 7:12**
>
> *"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"* **Matthew 5:44**
>
> *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another"* **John 13:34**

The Bible teaches to be like Jesus. Jesus never killed anyone. Muhammad killed many people. The Bible further teaches:

> *"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good"* **Romans 12:18-21**

Most of the Muslims that you will meet in the United States hold to a peaceful form of Islam. In fact many of them are very kind people, who often make great neighbors and many of them left their Muslim controlled Governments that are heavy handed under what is called SHARIA LAW. We will discuss Sharia Law later on, herein. Sad to say, there are also many Muslims who are not Peaceful and are bent on violence and the taking of lives. So that's a little bit about the origin of Islam and how it spread. Let's talk secondly about Muslim beliefs.

II. The Muslim's 5 Main Beliefs

1. Belief in One God, Allah.
For Muslims there is only one God: "Allah." The word "Allah" is an Arabic word that literally means: "the God."

In many ways Allah sounds similar to the God of the Bible. For the Qur'an teaches that Allah is just, all-knowing, mighty, compassionate, merciful, sovereign, and even loving. So some have concluded that Muslims and Christians are worshipping the same God. However, this is not true.

There are some major differences between the god presented in the Qur'an and the God of the Bible. Unlike the God of the Bible, the Qur'an teaches that Allah is not triune in nature *(Father, Son & Holy Spirit)*. The Qur'an teaches that Allah has no Son. The Bible teaches that God has a Son and that the Son Himself is also God, hence the Trinity. In fact, to a Muslim, for anyone to say that God has a Son, or is a Trinity of persons is an unforgivable sin known as 'shirk' to Muslims. *(See: Sura 112:1-4 Sura 4:48, etc.)* Not only does the Qur'an teach that Allah has no Son, it states over and over again that Allah does not love sinners. Here are just a couple of examples:

Sura 2:276 says…
"Allah does not love any ungrateful sinner."
Sura 3:32 says…
"surely Allah does not love the unbelievers."
Sura 4:36 says…
"surely Allah does not love him who is proud."
Sura 6:141 says…
"surely He does not love the extravagant."

If you are a sinner, an unbeliever, proud, or extravagant, the Qur'an says that Allah does not love you. Oh, how different the God of the Bible is! The Bible says that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob loves the whole world, including sinners! Of course Jesus said in…

John 3:16 that…
"God so loved the world (that's everybody!!). The God who created this world, loves sinners, so much… that He gave His ONLY unique/pure Son, that whosoever believes in Him, would not perish but have everlasting life."

Romans 5:8 says,
"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

This is good news for those of us who realize we are sinners!

The Bible also teaches that believers are adopted into God's family *(in Ephesians 1:5)* and can personally address God as "Father," in Matthew 6:9, Romans 8:15. The God of the Bible offers mankind a personal relationship of great intimacy (John 17:3) (Philippians 3:10) (

That is not the case in Islam. In Islam there is no Fatherly concept of God. To most Muslims, Allah is seen more as a remote judge, who is not personally involved with mankind. Islam is not about fellowship with God, but service, submission and allegiance to God. The God of the Bible is also service, submission, allegiance and a FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE with God as our Loving Father. These are just some of the differences between the Qur'an's portrayal of God and the Bible's portrayal of God.

The second main belief for Muslims is what they call…

2. The Belief in Prophets

Muslims believe that Allah has sent 124,000 different prophets to mankind down through the ages. Even Biblical characters such as Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, and Jesus, make their list of prophets. *[see Sura 6:84-86]*

The last and most respected of all Allah's prophets, is Muhammad. Having come last, the Qur'an teaches that Muhammad's teachings supersede the others'. It is interesting that the Qur'an does speak of Jesus quite often. It speaks of:

--His birth to the virgin Mary *(Sura 3:46-48)*
--His holy life
--His wise teaching and love
--and His many miracles *(Sura 5:110)*

Yet the Qur'an seeks to strip Jesus of His true identity demoting Him to a mere human. Thirdly, Muslims have a...

3. Belief in Angels

Muslims believe angels function as guardians, recorders, and messengers for Allah. Muslims believe that each person has two angels, one on his right who records his good deeds and one on his left who records the bad deeds *(sura 50:17).* A fourth belief of Muslims is what they call their…

4. Belief in the Holy Books

Muslims believe that Allah has given 4 books to mankind:

1. The Law of Moses
2. The Psalms of David
3. The Gospel of Jesus
4. The Qur'an of Muhammad

In addition to the Qur'an, Muslims look to another collection of writings that record many of the sayings and deeds of Muhammad. That collection of writings is known as The Hadith. Although very important to Muslims, the Hadith are not considered as authoritative as the Qur'an. Supreme among all these books for the Muslims is the Qur'an. The reason Muslims believe that the Qur'an has superseded all previous revelation is because the Qur'an says these other books have been corrupted.

Of course, *we DISAGREE with them on this*. There is an overwhelming amount of evidence that proves the Bible has not been corrupted.

Evidence No. 1: THE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

Today there survives more than 24,000 partial and complete, ancient handwritten manuscript copies of the New Testament not to mention tens of thousands of Old Testament manuscripts. An extensive examination of these manuscripts by scholars and textual critics has verified that the Bible we have in our possession today is the same Bible that the early church possessed 2,000 years ago. You can view these manuscripts yourself in places like the British Museum, Cambridge University Library, The Smithsonian Institute, and Oxford University.

Evidence No. 2: THE WRITINGS OF THE CHURCH FATHERS

Another evidence that the Bible has not seen corruption are the writings of the Church Fathers *(men like Polycarp, Justin Martyr, and Tertullian, who were leaders in the early Christian church during the first and second century A.D.)*. In their writings, they quoted the New Testament alone 86,000 times! In fact, they referred to it so often and so thoroughly that textual critics can reconstruct the entire New Testament *(except eleven verses)* from their quotes. This has served as a second evidence that the Bible we have today is the same Bible the church had 2,000 years ago.

(A good book on this topic of the reliability and accuracy of the text of the whole Bible is: "FROM GOD TO US—How we got the Bible," by Norman Geisler & William Nix)

5. Belief in the Final Judgment

The Qur'an teaches that all human beings will be physically resurrected on what it calls "the Last Day." A person's life will be examined and they will be permitted to spend eternity in heaven *(Sura 4:57)* or hell *(sura 4:56; 14:48-51)*.

Review: So, there are 5 main beliefs, in Islam. They are...

1. Belief in One God, Allah.
2. The Belief in Prophets
3. Belief in Angels
4. Belief in the Holy Books
5. Belief in the Final Judgment

Let's consider thirdly…

III. The Muslim's 5 Most Important Practices

Beside the major beliefs or doctrines in Islam, there are also five foundational PRACTICES that every Muslim must observe. These are called "The Five Pillars of Islam."

The first practice or "pillar" is...

1. Confession

To become a Muslim one must confess aloud and publicly the following words:

"*There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.*"

This declaration of faith is called the "shahada" & is repeated constantly by faithful Muslims. The 2nd practice…

2. Prayer

Muslims are required to pray at 5 specific times a day, facing the city of Mecca.

[Those times are: daybreak, noon, mid-afternoon, after sunset, early evening.]

Each time of prayer has set sequences of standing, bowing, kneeling, and prostrating while reciting specific verses from the Qur'an or other prayer formulas. On Fridays the male community is required to be present at the mosque at noon to participate in prayer and to listen to a teaching from the Qur'an.

The word 'Mosque' literally means:

"a place for prostration before God."

Women are allowed to attend but are required, for modesty's sake, to stand in the back separated by a curtain or in a side room. The community leader, the imam, is considered a teacher and prayer leader.

The third practice or "pillar" of Islam is...

3. Giving

It is required that Muslims give one-fortieth (or 2.5%) of their finances to help the poor and for emergency situations.

The fourth practice of Islam is...

4. Fasting

Fasting is an annual, lifelong requirement for Muslims. In the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Muslims fast from sunrise until sundown *(Sura 2:183-185)*. Ramadan is the month that Muslims believe Muhammad first received the revelation of the Qur'an. During this time Muslims must abstain from

--food
--drink
--smoking
--and sexual relations

Those who are sick, elderly, or on a journey, as well as women who are pregnant or nursing, are permitted to break the fast and make up an equal number of days later in the year. If they are physically unable to do this, they must feed a needy person for every day missed.

The fifth practice is…

5. Pilgrimage

It is required within Islam that all who are physically and financially able go to Mecca at least once in their lifetime *(Sura 2:196)*. While in Mecca, Muslims are required to circle the Ka'bah seven times and run seven times between two hills, amongst other activities. And every year approximately 2 million people from all around the world do.

Review:
So the 5 main practices or *"Pillars of Islam"* are...

1. Confession
2. Prayer
3. Giving
4. Fasting
5. Pilgrimage

Let's consider fourthly, for a few minutes…

IV. The Book of Islam: The Qur'an

The Qur'an is slightly shorter than our New Testament. It is broken up into 114 chapters called "Suras." Muslims believe that Allah himself gave the Qur'an to the angel Gabriel. As the story goes, Gabriel then dictated it to the Prophet Muhammad, in intervals, over a period of twenty-three years from 610 to the time of Muhammad's death in 632.

Q. Is there a possibility that the Qur'an could be an authentic revelation from God?

Not a chance!

There are many reasons the Qur'an can be rejected as authentic, God-revealed Scripture. Allow me to quickly give you 5-Reasons *(This may be one of the most important sections of our study. If you are a note taker it will be good for you to know some of these facts, that you might be equipped to demonstrate to people that the Qur'an is not to be trusted.)*

7-Reasons to Reject the Qur'an.

1. The Qur'an Contradicts Authentic Scripture.

By authentic Scripture, of course I am referring to the Bible. Many teachings in the Qur'an directly contradict the Bible……a book that uniquely, among all other religious literature, provides hundreds of fulfilled prophecies as proof of it's divine inspiration.

How does the Qur'an contradict the Bible?

We already demonstrated how the god of Islam does not love sinners, that itself could qualify. Here is another example: The Qur'an teaches that salvation comes by works, not by God's grace.

Sura 23:102-3 says...

> *"Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy, they will attain salvation: But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls, in Hell will they abide."*

Sura 18:107

> *"As to those who believe and work righteous deeds, they have, for their entertainment, the Gardens of Paradise"*

Sura 18:110

> *"And whoever hopeth for the meeting with his Lord, let him do righteous work"*

What the Qur'an says here is contradictory to the Bible. The Bible of course teaches the exact opposite.

Romans 6:23 says…

> *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* NAS

Ephesians 2:8-9 says…

> *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* NKJV

Six hundred years before Muhammad was born, the Apostle Paul warned of those that would come on the scene and preach another gospel…

Galatians 1:8-9

> *"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."* NKJV

The Qur'an's teaching regarding salvation is just one of many teachings that contradict the teachings of the Bible. God gives this warning in…

Isaiah 8:20

> *"To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, [the Bible] it is because there is no light in them."* NKJV

So, number one, the Qur'an contradicts authentic Scripture.

2. The Qur'an Contradicts Known Facts of Science.

The Qur'an, like other ancient religious writings, has made some serious errors when it comes to science. Errors that prove that it can not be the product of an omniscient, divine mind: Let me give you one example: In Sura 18:86 the Qur'an speaks of Alexander the Great traveling west until he actually finds the place where the sun sets. It says he traveled, and I QUOTE:

Sura 18:86

> *"till, when he reached the setting-place of the sun, he found it setting in a muddy spring"*

Of course today with the help of modern satellites and telescopes we realize the sun does not go down into the earth, much less a muddy spring. *[See Geisler/Saleeb, Answering Islam, p. 200 for more on this]* David, who wrote in the Bible about 1,600 years before Muhammad was even born, said insightfully that rather than the sun setting in a muddy spring, it was actually '***on a circuit through space***' … (Ps. 19:6)

A 3rd reason the Qur'an should be rejected as being inspired of God is because...

3. The Qur'an Contradicts Known Facts of History.

One of the most well-attested facts of history is that Jesus of Nazareth was put to death on a cross. It is a fact of history so well confirmed by historical sources, even outside of the Bible, ...that even the most liberal of scholars—like those who are part of the Jesus Seminar—consider it an undisputable fact. And yet, the Qur'an makes a fatal error by saying that this event never occurred.

Sura 4:157 says...

> *"And for claiming that they killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of GOD. In fact, they [speaking of the JEWS] never killed him, they never crucified him - they were made to think that they did. All factions who are disputing in this matter are full of doubt concerning this issue. They possess no knowledge; they only conjecture. For certain, they never killed him."*

Q. What should we trust? The *NEW TESTAMENT* or the *QUR'AN*?

The New Testament is:

--a collection of documents written down within the first generation after the events,
--while the eyewitnesses were still alive,
--that has been validated by archeological discoveries and the writings of secular sources like the Jewish Talmud, the Roman historian Flavius Josephus, the disciples of the Apostles and others.

The QUR'AN is:

--a book written 600 yrs later by men who were hundreds of miles & centuries removed from the events.

I for one don't have a hard time answering that question. I'll trust the New Testament, over the Qur'an any day. The authors of the NT were there & they were willing to even lose their lives preaching the message of the cross.

A 4th reason the Qur'an should be rejected as being inspired of God is because...

4. The Qur'an Has Many Internal Inconsistencies.

Here are just a couple of examples...

-- The Qur'an teaches that Noah and all of his family survived the flood in one place *(Sura 21:76)*, but in another place it states that one of Noah's sons drowned *(Sura 11:42-43)*

-- The Qur'an states that Pharaoh drowned *(Sura 28:40 and others 17:103, 43:55)* but in another place it says that he survived *(Sura 10:90-92)*.

There are literally dozens of these kinds of internal inconsistencies in the Qur'an.

5. No Particularly Good Reasons to Accept Qur'an as Inspired Scripture

The most popular proof Muslims give for the inspiration of the Qur'an is the Qur'an's literary beauty and eloquence. Muslims believe it is unsurpassed. Muslims believe that it is so beautiful in what it says that it could have only come from God.

Sura 10:37 says…*"This Qur'an could not possibly be authored by [any] other than GOD."*

But, this is a highly questionable means of testing a document for divine inspiration. If beauty and eloquence is a means of proving divine inspiration & authority, well then what's to stop us from believing that Shakespeare's writings were inspired? They were very beautiful & eloquent, but we wouldn't believe that they are divinely authoritative. Finally, here is yet another particularly Good reason for rejecting the Koran. The Koran accuses God's Holy Character of being Deceptive.

One reason of many given herein is that Muhammad claims that God is a Deceiver and the best one ever.
Quran 8:30 says…*"GOD deceives and is the best Deceiver."*
Quran 3:54 says…*"And they deceived and GOD deceived and God is the best Deceiver."*

Yet the Bible says that God is a God of Truth, Light, Mercy and Loving-Kindness and does not lie.
Numbers 23:19 says…"God is not a man that He should lie"
1John 1:5 says…"God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all"
Exodus 34:6 says…"God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth"
Deuteronomy 32:4 says…"He is the Rock, all His ways are judgment; a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He"

6. Lack of Prophecy – No Miracles.

The Koran contains not one single Prophecy or foretelling of Future Events and no fulfillments of Prophecy. The Number #1 piece of evidence that the Bible is Divinely Inspired is the numerous Prophecies and the exact fulfillments thereof. One third of the Bible is Prophecy. Jesus birth, life, death, resurrection and etc. fulfilled over 300 Messianic Prophecies. Every Prophet of the Bible foretold major & minor events well in advance & just days/moments before.

Bible Prophets did Miracles and Jesus did Miracles that NO PROPHET ever did ***before*** or ***after*** Him. Prophets parted the waters, Jesus walked on them. Prophets prayed for Rain and Famine, Jesus calmed the Storms and fed 5,000 by multiplying a few Fish and loaves of Bread. Prophets raised people from the Dead, who only die again later, Jesus raised Himself from the Dead only to live forever more. The ***Koran does not record ANY MIRACLES whatsoever***, but LEGEND ONLY has it, that Muhammad rode a Donkey, in the middle of the Night, into Heaven and the only witnesses were Muhammad and the Donkey. There are other like Miracles attributed to Muhammad, by word of mouth, then written Hundreds of years after the death of Muhammad.

7. Bad Fruit from Islam

In Muslim countries that have Sharia Law, Women are oppressed. Women can't own Businesses; Work; or get an Education; Wear pants, make-up or perfume; Terrorism; Violence; Murder of Innocent Men, Women and Children; Illiteracy; Lack of Liberty; Oppression of other Religions within Muslim Countries; Living in Fear; Dictatorships; Cruel Torture of Beheadings & Stoning to Death their own Citizens, Jews, Christians and more!

1. It Contradicts Authentic Scripture
2. It Contradicts Known Facts of Science
3. It Contradicts Known Facts of History
4. It Has Many Internal Inconsistencies
5. No Particularly Good Reasons to Accept Qur'an as Inspired Scripture
6. Lack of Prophecy – No Miracles
7. Bad Fruit

QUA'RAN CONTRADICTIONS

The Qur'an's contradictions of the Bible are excused by claiming that the Bible was corrupted. But the Qur'an was sent to stand *"as a guardian"* over the Bible (5:48); therefore, if the Bible was corrupted, the Qur'an failed. The Muslim's Holy Book itself admits that much of its text is ambiguous (**3:7**); Muslims are even to ask *"the People of the Book [Bible]"* for enlightenment (**21:7**)!

The Qur'an also contradicts itself. Allah created everything *"in the twinkling of an eye"* (54:49,50), *"in two Days"* (**41:9**,**12**), *"in four Days"* (**41:10**), *"in six Days"* (**7:54**;**10:4**,**32:4**), *"a Day,"* equaling *"a thousand years"* (**70:4**); Jesus is not the Son of God (**4:171**), yet He is (**19:17-21**), etc.

V. Tips on Reaching Muslims

You may not have any Muslim friends or co-workers, but you can still be used by the Lord to reach them with the Gospel.HOW? By financially supporting and praying for a ministry that is doing work in Muslim countries. Four great ministries that I can wholeheartedly recommend that you pray for and consider supporting financially would be:

1. Gospel for Asia: gfa.org
2. Safe Harbor: safeharborinternational.org
3. Voice of the Martyrs: persecution.com
4. Jesus Film Project: jesusfilm.org

All of these groups are doing a tremendous work in Muslim nations.

If you do have a Muslim co-worker or friend, keep in mind some important DO's and DON'TS when it when it comes to reaching Muslims for Christ. Let's first talk about...

SOME DONT'S:

1. Don't use a marked Bible or Qur'an. Why?

To Muslims this is very disrespectful and irreverent. Muslims have great respect for the Qur'an. Muslims never hold their Qur'an below their waist. They never let it touch the ground. They will place it in the highest position on their bookshelf. So when you come along and open up your Bible with a bunch of neon pen marks and scribbles, this will be a shock and perhaps a distraction to them. So try and not stumble them in this. If you know that you will be talking to a Muslim ahead of time,
get a Bible ready that is unmarked.

2. Whenever possible, don't speak to Muslims in groups. Why?

Peer pressure in the Muslim communities to stay committed to Islam is enormous. For a Muslim to convert to another faith is a sin worthy of death in Islam, especially to Christianity. Why Christianity? Because it teaches that God has a Son, which is considered an unforgivable sin, to Muslims.

3. Don't bring up the Israel/Palestinian conflict *(or politics in general).*

That is a can of worms that is not necessary to talk about. The main issue you want to eventually get to is: Jesus Christ as Savior.

4. Don't bring up the Qur'an's teaching that supports violence.
The Qur'an does advocate violence, but this is just another peripheral issue that is unnecessary to bring up.

SOME DO'S

1. Lovingly Befriend the Muslim.
A prevailing mindset amongst Muslims is that Christians:

--hate the Muslims
--and love the Jews.

So seek to overcome their preconceived ideas about Christians. The best way that you can do that is to love and befriend them! And not just with the intention of evangelizing them. Genuinely befriend them. Jesus said *LOVE YOUR ENEMIED, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT DO SPEAK ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST YOU, FEED THEM & GIVE THEM DRINK WHEN THEY ARE HUNGRY & THIRSTY, DO NOT OVERCOME EVIL WITH EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD*. (Matthew 5:44) (Romans 12:20-21). In the Muslim community, the Christian has to earn the right to be heard. Muslims who have converted to Christianity say that confrontational one-time evangelism is largely an ineffective route to take.

2 Timothy 2:24-26
"*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*" NKJV

2. Be prepared to defend the trustworthiness of Scripture.
Muslims question the reliability and trustworthiness of the Bible, and you will need to know how to defend it.

3. Be candid about the sins of supposed Christians.
Many Muslims still remember the Crusades of a thousand years ago *[they began 1095 A.D.]* when people in the name of Christ did some terrible things to Muslims *(and others)*. Agree with the Muslim that these things were horrible, but also let him or her know that these actions contradicted the teachings of Christ.

Jesus said in…Matthew 5:44
"*But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*" NKJV

Jesus told Peter in Matthew 26:52
"*Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.*" NKJV

4. Respect their dietary restrictions.
If you have a Muslim friend or family over for dinner, remember that they are not permitted to eat:

--Shellfish
--Pork, or pork products *(i.e. bacon)*
--Lard
--Alcohol

Also remember not to invite them out to lunch during the month of Ramadan *(dates change every year).* Why? They are required to fast all day from sunrise to sunset.

5. Speak clearly of God's grace and His love.
Many Muslims live with a sense of fear regarding their salvation and the future. Muslims have no assurance of their salvation, so many of them have no real, inner peace like you and me experience. Many Muslims believe that the only way a person can be guaranteed a spot in paradise is through martyrdom. So emphasize the far-reaching, sin-cleansing forgiveness for any and all who put their faith in Christ and His gracious work on the cross. Explain to them that faith in Christ's work on the cross means liberation from works and the fear of the scales of justice. God's grace is an amazing doctrine exclusive to Christianity, and the very thing that has spoken so powerfully to ex-Muslims.

6. Give them a copy of the Bible.

Even just a copy of the Gospel of John would be good. Many Muslims will be glad to read it. They have heard about the Bible in their own Qur'an, but many of them have never really read it.

7. Pray for them.

Book Recommendations:
Three excellent books on the topic of Islam:

1. Unveiling Islam *by Ergun and Emir Caner (two former Muslims that have converted to Christianity)* It's concise, clear, interesting, and includes some of their personal stories. Very good.

2. Reasoning from the Scriptures with Muslims *by Ron Rhodes*
All of Ron's books in his reasoning from the Scriptures series are great. My favorite thing about them is that he doesn't just give you information, he tells you how to put it to use in actual conversations. He'll say over and over again in his books: "Ask them this question." That is helpful, especially for you that want to take this kind of information to the streets!

3. Answering Islam *by Norman Geisler & Abdul Saleeb*
Awesome reference tool. This book provides very good answers to the many questions, objections, and attacks that Muslim apologists have raised against Christianity.

ABOUT CHARLIE CAMPBELL
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BOOKING
If you would like to have Charlie Campbell speak at your church, conference, Christian school, or retreat please call 760-726-4224 or email him at CharlieCampbell@CalvaryChapel.com. References available.

For additional resources, audio messages, notes, DVDs, that will help you always be ready to defend the faith *(1 Pet. 3:15)* please check out our web-site at: www.AlwaysBeReady.com

Always Be Ready
Equipping You to Always Be Ready to Give a Defense of the Christian Faith

Jesus Christ v. Muhammed

MUHAMMED (570-632 AD)	JESUS CHRIST
Father died before his birth while mother died when he was six.	Born of a virgin to Joseph and Mary
Sixth and final prophet sent to defend monotheism (Surah 48:8-9).	God and Savior sent to forgive the sins of the world to anyone who will receive Him. (John 1:29; 3:16).
Married 10 women and had 2 other concubines. In fact, his youngest wife Aisha was six when they engaged and nine when consummated in marriage. (Surah 33:28)	Never knew a woman.
Doubted whether the revelation he received was divine or demonic. (Hadith 3.786 • 3.803 • 4.360)	He Himself was the divine revelation, knowing His purpose of being born was to die. (Luke 19:10)
Judged men and women according to their obedience to him and Allah. (Surah 9:5; 9:29; Persian Poet)	Judged men and women according to grace and His work on the Cross. (Thief on the Cross)
Won a following by military victory and/or forced conversion.	Won followers by miracles and unconditional love.
Viewed men as superior to women. (Surah 4:34)	Viewed men and women as equal. (Ephesians 5)
Died peacefully in the arms of his young wife Aisha.	Died cruelly at the hands of the Romans on a rugged cross.
Did not know his eternal destiny. (Hadith 5.266)	He is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, Himself Judge. (John 1:1-18)
Muhammed shed other people's blood.	Jesus shed His own blood on the Cross.

Islamic Works v. Christian Grace

ISLAM AND SALVATION BY WORKS	CHRIST AND SALVATION BY GRACE
Salvation based on scales. (Surah 17:13-14)	Salvation based on the Cross and grace. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
Salvation based on a lifetime confession of faith in Allah and his messenger Muhammed. (Surah 1:2-4)	Salvation based on a personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9-13)
God is impersonal; therefore, obedience to the five pillars is most important. (Surah 2:277)	God is personal and incarnate; therefore, relationship with our Heavenly Father is most important. (Isaiah 9:6; John 20:28)
Conditional love based on obedience to Allah. (Surah 60:1)	Unconditional love based on the blood of Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:8)
Heaven is pictured as men sitting on couches being served wine by perpetual virgins. (Surah 4:57)	Heaven is pictured as the worship of Jesus Christ as He rewards men and women for their works after salvation. (Revelation 21; 1 Corinthians 3)
Allah only saves those whom he wants. (Surah 14:4)	God saves all those who will receive Jesus Christ as Savior. (2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2; Luke 19:10)
Sins are overlooked if the good outweighs the bad.	All sins must be punished since they offend a holy God. Therefore, the cross is necessary.
Salvation is never guaranteed (outside of *jihad* and martyrdom). (Surah 3:157; Hadith 1.35)	Salvation is guaranteed based on Christ's finished work (Luke 23), the Spirit's sealing (Ephesians 1:13), and the Word of God (1 John 5:12-13).
Muhammed himself did not know his eternal destiny. Why follow a man who does not know God's plan for his eternal life? (Hadith 5.266)	Jesus Christ finished the work on the cross. Salvation is not based on man changing himself. Salvation is based on God transforming man from the inside out. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Alleged Divine Origin of Qur'an—Part 1

by Dr. Norman Geisler

Orthodox Islam and historic Christianity cannot both be true. Either religion claims that its scriptures alone are the inspired Word of God. They also contain mutually exclusive claims: God is three persons. God is only one person. The Bible says Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead three days later. The Qur'an says that he did not. Thus, it is necessary for the Christian apologist to challenge the divine authority claims of the Qur'an.

Origin of the Qur'an

The Islamic claim for the Qur'an is unparalleled by that in any other major religion. Is the Qur'an a miracle? Muhammad claimed it was—indeed it was the only miracle he offered as proof of his claims to be a prophet (sura 17:88). The evidence Muslims give for this claim includes the following points.

Argument from Unique Literary Style

Eloquence is highly questionable as a test for divine inspiration, yet a foundation stone of the Islamic position is that the Qur'an possesses a literary quality and style that could only have come directly from God. At best the Qur'an's literary qualifications prove that Muhammad was a gifted person. But amazing artistic and intellectual gifts are hardly supernatural. Mozart wrote his first symphony at the age of six and produced his entire music corpus before age 35 when he died. Muhammad did not begin to write until age 40. But what Muslim would say that Mozart's works are miraculous? If eloquence were the test, a case could be made for the divine authority of many literary classics, from Homers Iliad and Odyssey to Shakespeare.

Further, even some early Muslim scholars admitted that the Qur'an was not perfect in its literary form. The Iranian Shiite scholar Ali Dashti notes that *"among the Moslem scholars of the early period, before bigotry and hyperbole prevailed, were some such as Ebrahim on-Nassam who openly acknowledged that the arrangement and syntax of the Qoran are not miraculous and that works of equal or greater value could be produced by other God-fearing persons."* Although some condemned this view (based on their interpretation of sura 17:90), on-Nassam had many defenders, among them several leading exponents of the Motazelite school.[1] The Qur'an is not unrivaled, even among works in Arabic. Islamic scholar, C. G. Pfander, points out that *"it is by no means the universal opinion of unprejudiced Arabic scholars that the literary style of the Qur'an is superior to that of all other books in the Arabic language."* For example, "*some doubt whether in eloquence and poetry it surpasses the Mu'allaqat, or the Magamat or Hariri, though in Muslim lands few people are courageous enough to express such an opinion."*[2] Dashti, contends, however, that the Qur'an contains numerous grammatical irregularities. He notes that:

> The Qoran contains sentences which are incomplete and not fully intelligible without the air of commentaries; foreign words, unfamiliar Arabic words, and words used with other than the normal meaning; adjectives and verbs inflected without observance of the concord of gender and number; illogical and ungrammatically applied pronouns which sometimes have no reference; and predicates which in rhymed passages are often remote from the subjects.

He adds, "these and other such aberrations in the language have given scope to critics whodeny the Qoran's eloquence."[3] He lists numerous examples (Suras 74:1; 4:160; 20:66; 2:172, etc.), one of which is "In verse 9 of Sura 49 (ol-Hojorat), *'If two parties of believers have started to fight each other, make peace between them."* The verb for *"have started to fight"* is in the plural, whereas it ought to be in the dual like its subject, *"two parties."* Anis A. Shorrosh lists other literary flaws in the Qur'an. For example, in Sura 2:177 he points out that the word Sabireen in Arabic should have been Sabiroon because of its position in the sentence. Likewise,

Sabieen in Sura 5:69 is more correct Arabic than Sabioon. Also, Shorrosh notes that there is *"a gross error in Arabic"* in Sura 3:59.4 Dashti counts more than 100 aberrations from normal rules and structures of Arabic.[5] With such problems, the Qur'an may be eloquent, but it is neither perfect nor unparalleled.

As Pfander observed, *"even were it proved beyond the possibility of doubt that the Qur'an far surpassed all other books in eloquence, elegance, and poetry, that would no more prove its inspiration than a man's strength would demonstrate his wisdom or a woman's beauty her virtue."* [6] There is no logical connection between literary eloquence and divine authority. The sovereign God *(whom Muslims accept)* could chose to speak in plain everyday language, if he wished. At best one might attempt to argue that if God said it, he would say it most eloquently. Even so, it would be a logical fallacy to argue that simply because it is eloquent God must have said it. Humans can speak eloquently, and God can speak in common language.

Other religions have used the beautiful literary style of their work as a sign of its divine origin. Would Muslims accept the inspiration of these works? For example, the Persian founder of the Manichaeans, Mani, "***is said to have claimed that men should believe in him as the Paraclete*** *["Helper" Jesus promised in John 14]* because he produced a book called Art and it was full of beautiful pictures." Further, "***he said that the book had been given him by God, that no living man could paint pictures equal in beauty to those contained in it, and that therefore it had evidently come from God himself***." [7] Yet no Muslim will accept this claim. Why then should non-Muslims accept literary beauty as a valid test for the divine authority of the Qu'ran?

Argument from Muhammad's Illiteracy

In addition to its style, the human source and content of the Qur'an is proof of its divine origin. They insist that no book with its message could have come from an illiterate prophet, as was Muhammad.

It is questionable that Muhammad was actually illiterate. As one authority noted, the Arabic words 'al umni', translated "the unlettered" prophet in the Qur'an *(sura 7:157)*, "may be *[rendered]* 'heathen' rather than 'illiterate.'" Pfander prefers the translation, "***the Gentile Prophet***," agreeing that the term does not imply illiteracy. [8] The same word is rendered as *"gentiles"* in sura 62:2: which states: "*He it is Who hath sent among gentiles* (al umni)," and also is interpreted as "gentiles in: suras 2:73; 3:19, 69; 7:156.

The evidence suggests that Muhammad was not illiterate. For example, when the Treaty of Hudaibah was being signed, Muhammad took the pen from Ali, struck out the words in which Ali had designated him *"the apostle of God"* and wrote instead with his own hand the words, *"son of Abdu'llah."* And tradition tells us too that, when he was dying, Muhammad called for pen and ink, to write a command appointing his successor, but his strength failed him before writing materials were brought."[9]

W. Montgomery Watts informs us that *"many Meccans were able to read and write, and there is therefore a presumption that an efficient merchant, as Muhammad was, knew something of the arts."*[10] Even Muslim scholars refer to Muhammad as being *"perfect in intellect."*[11] If Muhammad lacked formal training in earlier years, there is no reason why such an intelligent person could not have caught up on his own later.

Third, even if it were granted that Muhammad was illiterate, it does not follow that the Qur'an was dictated to him by God. There are other possible explanations. Even if he was not formally trained, Muhammad was a bright person possessing great skills. His scribe could have made up for deficiencies by stylizing the work. This was a common practice. Homer was blind, and so he probably did not write his epics himself. Some critics argue that it is possible that Muhammad's first impression was right, ***that he received the information from an evil spirit***, who might have aided his ability.

Argument from the Preservation of the Qur'an

Does perfect preservation prove divine inspiration? Muslims imply that the Qur'an is identical to the original, and this sets the book above the Bible. Qur'an critics dispute this. First, there is often a serious over-claim as to the preservation of the Qur'an. While it is true that the present Qur'an is a nearly perfect copy of its seventh-century original, it is not true that this is exactly the way it came from Muhammad.

The Qur'an was originally given orally by Muhammad and memorized by devout followers, most of whom where killed shortly after Muhammad's death. According to early tradition, Muhammad's scribes wrote on pieces of paper, stones, palm-leaves, shoulder-blades, ribs, and bits of leather. Muslims believe that during the lifetime of Muhammad the Qur'an was written down. But, according to the testimony of Zayd, a contemporary and follower of Muhammad, he was requested by Abu Bakr to "*search out the [various chapters and verses of] the Qur'an and gather it together*." He responded, "*accordingly, I sought out the Qur'an: I gathered it together from leafless palm branches and thin white stones and men's breasts*….". In the 650s, during the reign of Uthman ibn Affan, the third Muslim Caliph, it was reported that several Muslim communities were using different versions of the Qur'an. Once again, Zayd was called in to prepare the official revised version. It is this version that has remained uniform and intact, not any original version that came directly from Muhammad.

In his book 'Materials for the History of the Text of the Qur'an', European archaeologist, Arthur Jeffry, revealed his *discovery of one of three known copies* of some early Islamic works called Masahif. These books related the state of the Qur'an text prior to its standardization under Uthman. *It reveals, contrary to Muslims' claim, that there were several differing texts prior to Uthman's revision*. In fact, as Dashti points out, some Qur'anic verses were changed due to the scribes' suggestions to Muhammad and others by the influence of Umar I, second caliph of the Muslim Empire, on Muhammad.

Jeffry concludes that Uthman's recension *"was a necessary stroke of policy to establish a standard text for the whole empire."* Since there were wide divergences between the Qur'ans of Medina, Mecca, Basra, Kufa, and Damascus, "Uthman's solution was to canonize the Medinan Codex and order all others to be destroyed." Therefore, he concludes, "*there can be little doubt that the text canonized by Uthman was only one among several types of text in existence at the time*."[13]

Not all Muslims today accept the same version of the Qur'an. The Sunnite Muslims accept the Sahih tradition of Masud as authoritative. Masud was one of the few people authorized by Muhammad to teach the Qur'an. Yet the Ibn Masud Codex of the Qur'an has a multitude of variations from the Uthmanic recension. In the second sura alone there are nearly 150 variations. It takes Jeffry some ninety-four pages to show the variations between the two. He also demonstrates that the variant readings are not just a matter of dialect, as many Muslims claim. Some variations involved a whole clause and others omitted complete sentences. Jeffry concludesthat the Uthman text that was canonized was only one out of many, and *"there is grave suspicion that Uthman may have seriously edited the text he canonized."*[14]

Islamic tradition reveals certain things not found in the present Qur'an. One tells us that Ayishah, one of Muhammad's wives, said: "*Among what was sent down of the Qur'an were ten well known (verses) about—Suckling, which prohibited: then they were annulled by five well known ones. Then the Apostle of God deceased, and they are what is recited of the Qur'an*."[15] Another example of something not found in today's Qur'an is what Umar said: "*Verily God sent Muhammad with the truth, and He sent down upon him the Book, accordingly the Verse of Stoning was part of what God Most High sent Down: the Apostle of God stoned, and we stoned after him, and in the Book of God stoning is the adulterer's due*."[16] This original revelation was apparently changed and one hundred stripes replaced stoning as the punishment for adultery (sura 24:2).

The so-called *"satanic verses"* illustrate another change in the original text. According to one version of these verses Muhammad had an early revelation in Mecca, which allowed intercession to certain idols, which said:

> Did you consider al-hat and al-Uzza?
> And al-Manat, the third, the other?
> Those are the swans exalted;
> Their intercession is expected;
> Their likes are not neglected.[17]

Sometime after this Muhammad received another revelation canceling the last three lines *(verses)* and substituting what we now find in sura 53 verses 21-23 which omit the part about interceding to these gods. According to Watt, both versions had been recited publicly. ***Muhammad's explanation was that Satan had deceived*** him and inserted the false verses without his knowing it!

W. St. Clair-Tisdall, who long worked among Muslims, pointed out that even in the present Qur'an there are some variations.

Among various readings may be mentioned:

(1) in Surah XXVIII, 48, some read "Sahirani" for "sihrani":
(2) in Surah XXXII, 6, after "ummahatuhum" one reading adds the words "wa hua abun lahum":
(3) in Surah XXXTV, 18, for "rabbana ba'id" some read "rabuna ba'ada":
(4) in Surah XXXVIII, 22, for "tis'un" another reading is "tis'atun":
(5) in Surah XIX, 35, for "tantaruna" some read "yamtaruna".[18]

Although Shi'ite Muslims are in the minority, they are the second largest Islamic sect in the world, with more than 100 million followers. ***They claim that Caliph Uthman intentionally eliminated many verses*** from the Qur'an which spoke of Ali.

L. Bevan Jones summed up the matter well in his book. The People of the Mosque, when he said: "***while it may be true that no other work has remained for twelve centuries with so pure a text, it is probably equally true that no other has suffered so drastic a purging***."[19]

Even were the Qur'an a perfect word-for-word copy of the original as given by Muhammad, it would not prove the original was inspired of God. All it would demonstrate is that today's Qur'an is a carbon copy of whatever Muhammad said. It would say or prove nothing about the truth of what he said. The ***Muslim claim that they have the true religion, because they have the only perfectly copied holy book, is as logically fallacious as someone preferring a perfectly printed counterfeit $1000 bill over a slightly imperfect genuine one***. The crucial question, which Muslim apologists beg by this argument, is <u>whether the original is God's Word, not whether they possess a perfect copy of it</u>. *(to be continued)*

Notes:

1 A Dashti, Twenty-Three Years: A Study of the Prophetic Career of Mohammad (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1985), p. 48.
2 C. G. Pfander, The Mizanu'l Haqq: The Balance of Truth (Austria: Light of Life, 1986), p. 264.
3 Dashti, pp. 48-49.
4 Anis Shorrosh, Islam Revealed: A Christian Arab's View of Islam (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1988), pp. 199-200.
5 Dashti, p. 50.
6 Pfander, p. 267.
7 Ibid., p. 264.
8 Ibid., p. 254.
9 Ibid., p. 255.
10 W. Montgomery Watt, Muhammad: Prophet and Statesman, reprint ed. (London: Oxford University Press, 1967), p. 40.
11 Joseph P. Gudel, To Every Muslim an Answer: Islamic Apologetics Compared and Contrasted with Christian Apologetics (Unpublished thesis at Simon Greenleaf School of Law, 1982), p. 72.
12 Pfander, pp. 258-259.
13 Arthur Jeffry, ed., Islam: Muhammad and His Religion (Indianapolis/New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1958), pp. 7-8.
14 Ibid., pp. ix-x.
15 Pfander, p. 256.
16 Ibid.
17 Watt, p. 60.
18 W. St. Clair-Tisdall, A Manual of the Leading Muhammedan Objections to Christianity (London: S.P.C.K., 1904), p.60.
19 L. B. Jones, The People of the Mosque (London: Student Christian Movement Press, 1932), p. 62.

Muslims, Please Read this First

by Matt Slick

Assalamu alaikum

Christians and Muslims disagree on the nature of God, salvation, prophets, the true Scriptures, etc. For the great majority of us on both sides, we will not change our views. You believe in Allah and Muhammad as his prophet. I am a Christian, saved by the grace of my Lord and Savior, Jesus. In obedience to Christ, and according to the Bible, I seek to expose error and teach the truth...and, as a Christian I teach that Christianity is true. Therefore, Islam cannot be right. I say this outright so that no Muslim will accuse me of being deceptive or having a hidden agenda. My goal is to convert Muslims to Christ so they may find salvation in him.

However, please realize that I have no hatred for Muhammad, Muslims, or the Koran. I was not wronged by a Muslim and I have not had any childhood trauma involving anything Islamic. Instead, as a Christian I seek to bring glory to the Lord Jesus and in so doing I must teach that Islam is false because it contradicts the Bible. If you are a Muslim, I know you will disagree and perhaps you will take it as an insult or some form of persecution. I hope you do not. But, I am simply being faithful to my Lord Jesus in defending his truth as revealed in the Bible.

I realize that there are many good Muslims in the world who are peaceful, honest, compassionate, and who desire to serve God in truth. I do not fault any Muslim for this. Likewise, I hope you will not find fault with my honest intention to do the same according to the convictions of my heart since I seek to serve God. You may condemn me as an infidel and that is fine. But, my hope for salvation is not found in Islam and its balance of good works verses bad works. Instead, it is found in the work of Jesus who died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Nevertheless, if I mistakenly misrepresent Islam on this site, I take full responsibility for it. It is not my desire to produce a false image of Islam and then attempt to destroy the false image. I only ask that you let me know in what area I have erred *(with documentation)* and I shall do my best to correct it, within reason. I say *"**within reason**"* because a difference of opinion on a matter does not warrant a correction. But, if I have some error in facts, definition, dates, or doctrines of Islam, I would appreciate being corrected.

I do not seek to attack and call Muslims names or use emotional and poorly reasoned arguments as "proofs" for my position -- as too many Christians have attempted in the past. Rather, I seek to know Islam truthfully, convey a factual and honest representation of it to readers, and, of course, to tackle its errors as it is compared to the Bible.

Therefore, these pages will be somewhat fluid in that they will be refined over time.

My only desire is that you find the forgiveness of Jesus and the love of God that abounds in my heart and the hearts of His redeemed people.

By the grace of Christ Jesus, my Savior

What are the Doctrines of Islam?

Note: All references are to the Quran (Koran) where applicable.

God

1. There is only one God (5:73; 112:1-4)
2. God is called Allah by Muslims (5:73)
3. Allah sees all things (40:20), is present everywhere (2:115; 7:7)
4. Allah is the sole creator and sustainer of the universe (3:191)
5. Allah is not a Trinity, but is one (5:73)
6. Allah is all-knowing (2:268; 10:61) and all-powerful (6:61-62)
7. Allah created the heaven and earth (2:29; 6:1, 73; 25:61-62; 36:81; 46:33)

Salvation and Judgment

1. Allah will judge all people on the day of judgment (3:30; 35:33-37; 99:6-8)
2. If your good deeds exceed your bad deeds, and you believe in Allah, and sincerely repent of sins, you may go to heaven (3:135; 7:8-9; 21:47; 49:14; 66:8-9)
3. There is an eternal hell for those who are not Muslims, not practicing Islam, and not of the truth faith (3:77)
4. Hell is a place of unlimited capacity (50:30) eternal torment (2:39; 14:17; 25:65; 39:26), fire (9:63; 11:16; 25:11-12; 104:6-7), with boiling water (38:55-58; 55:43-44), where skin is burned and renewed (4:56), for unbelievers (3:13; 19:49) and Jinn (11:119), with faces covered with fire (14:49-50)
5. There is a tree in hell, named Tree of Zaqqum, from which bad fruit is given and the damned are forced to eat (37:62-67; 44:43-48; 56:52-55)
6. Heaven (Paradise), a Garden (79:41) of bliss and fruit (69:21-24), has rivers (3:198), with maidens pure and holy (4:57), and carpets and cushions, (88:8-16)
7. There will be a physical resurrection of all people (19:93-95) on the day of judgment (3:77; 15:25; 16:38; 42:29)
8. Judgment is based on a person's sincere repentance (66:8-9) and righteous deeds (5:9; 24:26; 45:21-22; 64:7)

Other

1. There is an afterlife (2:154;75:12).
2. There are such things as angels, created by Allah, that are created from light. Angels are obedient slaves incapable of refusing to do Allahi's will. The angel Gabriel brought the revelation of the Koran to Muhammad (2:97).
3. The Holy Spirit is the angel Gabriel (2:97; 16:102).
    1. There is no actual verse where the Holy Spirit is said to be Gabriel or is identified as Gabriel. These verses show that both the Holy Spirit and Gabriel brought down the revelation.
4. Jinn are unseen beings, created (51:56) from fire (15:27; 55:15), but are not angels. They have communities. There are good and bad Jinn.
5. The Devil, called Iblis, (2:34) is a bad Jinn.
6. Jesus was a great prophet but not the son of God (9:30), is not divine (5:17, 75), was not crucified (4:157).
7. Muhammad is Allah's greatest and last prophet and his message supercedes all other past prophets including Jesus.
8. The Koran is Allah's word. He literally spoke it to Gabriel who gave it to Muhammad.
9. There are other holy writings but they are superceded by the Koran.
    1. The other works are
        1. Torah - the First Five books of Moses
        2. Injeel - the message that Jesus gave, written down, but no longer exists. The writings have been altered by scholars. Whatever agrees with the Koran is true.
        3. Zaboor - the Psalms1
10. Pre-ordainment (Qadar) is the teaching that all things, good and bad, are preordained to occur.
11. Fasting is to be observed during the month of Ramadan (2:185).
12. Drinking alcohol is forbidden (2:219; 4;43; 5:93-94; 16:67)
13. Gambling is forbidden (2:219; 5:90-94).
14. Man is made from the dust of the earth (23:12).
15. There is no last minute repentance (4:18).

The Five Pillars of Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam are core beliefs that shape Muslim thought, deed, and society. A Muslim who fulfills the Five Pillars of Islam, remains in the faith of Islam, and sincerely repents of his sins, will make it to Jannah (paradise). If he performs the Five Pillars but does not remain in the faith, he will not be saved.

1. **Shahada**
    1. The Shahada is the Islamic proclamation that "There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."
    2. This is the confession that Allah is the one and only true God, that Allah alone is worthy of worship, that Allah alone is the sovereign lord who does what he wills with whoever he wills. It means that all his rules and laws found in the Koran are to be followed. It means that the Christian doctrine of God as a Trinity is false as are all other belief systems including pantheism.
    3. Muhammad is the true and greatest prophet of Allah and recognition of Muhammad as the Prophet of God is required. It was through Muhammad that Allah conveyed the last and final revelation.
2. **Prayer** *(Salat)*
    1. Prayer involves confession of sins which begins with the purification of the body and ends with the purification of the soul. Prayer is performed five times a day. The first prayer is at dawn and the last at sunset.
    2. The names of the prayers are Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha. The Maghrib prayer is the sunset prayer. Isha is the prayer that is said after sunset. There is also a prayer that is said right after Fajr known as Shurooq.
3. **Fasting** *(Saum)*
    1. The month of Ramadan is the month of fasting in Islam. It is an act of worship where the faithful follower denies his own needs and seeks Allah. Usually, this fasting entails no drinking, eating, or sexual relations during the daylight hours for the entire month of Ramadan.
4. **Alms-Giving /Charity** *(Zakat)*
    1. Charity given to the poor. It benefits the poor and it helps the giver by moving him towards more holiness and submission to Allah. Alms-giving is considered a form of worship to God.
5. **Pilgrimage** *(Hajj)*
    1. This is the pilgrimage to Mecca. All Muslims, if they are able, are to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. It involves financial sacrifice and is an act of worship. Muslims must make the pilgrimage the first half of the last month of the lunar year

Does Islam Teach Salvation by Works?

Generally speaking, there are only two methods of salvation in all the religions of the world: grace and works. Christianity is a religion of salvation by grace alone: *"For by grace through faith you have been saved, not of works..."* (Eph. 2:8-9). All other systems rely totally or in part on the works of the believer to merit salvation. Mormons, for example, say that you are saved by grace through faith after all you can do. In Roman Catholicism, God's grace is infused into a believer that enables him to do good works by which he is judged for salvation. In Islam, forgiveness is based on a combination of Allah's grace and the Muslim's works. On the Day of Judgment, if a Muslim's good works outweigh his bad ones, and if Allah so wills it, he may be forgiven of all his sins and then enter into Paradise. Therefore, Islam is a religion of salvation by works because it combines man's works with Allah's grace. Consider the following verses from the Qur'an.

(All quotes from the Qur'an are from The Holy Qur'an, Mushaf Al-Madinah An-Nabawiyah, Revised and Edited by THE PRESIDENCY OF ISLAMIC RESEARCH, IFTA, Call and Guidance, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Complex, for the Printing of the Holy Qur-an.)

> *"**To those who believe and do deeds of righteousness hath Allah promised forgiveness and a great reward,**"* (Surah 5:9).

> *"**And He answers those who believe and do good deeds, and gives them more out of His grace; and the unbelievers, they shall have a severe punishment,**"* (42:26, online, trans. by M.H. Shakir).

> *"**O you who believe! If you are careful of** (your duty to) **Allah, He will grant you a distinction and do away with your evils and forgive you; and Allah is the Lord of mighty grace,**"* (8:29, online, trans. by M.H. Shakir).

Of course, the Muslims will tell us the Qur'an teaches that Allah is gracious to them and that they do not earn their forgiveness. I acknowledge this. The Qur'an says, *". . . Allah is the Lord of grace unbounded,"* (**8:29**), and also, *". . . But Allah will choose for his special mercy whom he will - for Allah is lord of grace abounding,"* (**2:105**). But, as you can see from the quotes 1, 2, and 3 above, Allah's forgiveness is tied to the Muslim's works. Therefore, I ask the question, how is it really grace if it is also by works? Isn't grace the unmerited favor from God? It would seem the Islamic system of salvation is more a reward than grace.

For further confirmation that Allah's grace is dependent upon the deeds of faithful Muslims, here are more quotes from the Qur'an:

> ***"O you who believe! be careful of*** (your duty to) ***Allah and speak the right word, He will put your deeds into a right state for you, and forgive you your faults; and whoever obeys Allah and His Apostle, he indeed achieves a mighty success,"*** (33:70-71, online, trans. by M.H. Shakir).

> *". . . **But if ye obey Allah and his messenger, he will not belittle aught of your deeds: for Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful,**"* (49:14).

> *"**If you obey GOD and His messenger, He will not put any of your works to waste. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful,**"* (49:14).

Notice how the Qur'an teaches forgiveness based upon Allah's grace and man's works. Can any Muslim be assured of his salvation before his God? No.1 Numerous Muslims have told me that they do not know if they will make it to heaven because they do not know if their good deeds outweigh their bad ones. Unlike Christianity where we have assurance of salvation (John 6:47; 1 John 5:13), there is no assurance in Islam because it rests in part on the obedience and good works of Muslims. Unlike Christianity where salvation is an unearned, free gift from God (Rom. 4:3; Eph. 2:8-9), the Muslim can at best only hope he has performed enough good works to outweigh his bad ones and that Allah so wills to forgive him.

Another requirement for forgiveness for the Muslim is sincerity when repenting of sins.
"O ye who believe! Turn unto Allah in sincere repentance! It may be that your Lord will remit from you your evil deeds and bring you into Gardens underneath which rivers flow, on the day when Allah will not abase the Prophet and those who believe with him. Their light will run before them and on their right hands; they will say: Our Lord! Perfect our light for us, and forgive us! Lo! Thou art Able to do all things," (66:8-9).

> *"God accepts the repentance of those who have sinned in ignorance and who realizing the ugliness of their deed swiftly turn toward Him in repentance,"* (3:16).

I am not saying that we should not be sincere when repenting of our sins. But, the problem with sincerity is that it can easily become a form of pride. After all, if a person says he is truly sincere enough to be forgiven of his sins, then isn't he appealing to something within himself, a finite sinner, as part of the basis of receiving forgiveness from a holy and infinite God? Is that not presumptive and prideful to do? Furthermore, the issue of sincerity is a subjective thing. How do you know you are being sincere enough? Is it because the Muslims simply believes he is? It seems to me that at best, the Muslim can only hope he is sincere enough. But how can he really know for sure? Instead, the Bible says that the heart is desperately wicked and deceitful and cannot be trusted (Jer. 17:9).

In Christianity, we appeal to the work of Christ on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24) completely and totally and in nothing in ourselves as a basis for forgiveness, because no good thing dwells within us (Rom. 7:18); that is, apart from Christ. We sincerely believe in Christ, but we never claim that forgiveness is in any way merited or gained because of our sincerity or our works. Rather, our forgiveness is based on faith and trust in God in what He has done for us in Christ. Salvation in Christianity is God-centered. In Islam, forgiveness of sins is man-centered in that it is dependent upon man's sincerity and man's works in combination with Allah's forgiveness.

Both Christianity and Islam teach that we must have faith in God. But in Christianity, this faith in God is enough to save us (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9). In Islam, faith in God is not enough. In Islam, the Muslim's works will be weighed on the Day of Judgment and it will then be decided who is saved and who is not -- based upon whether the person was a Muslim, whether or not they were sincere in repentance, and whether or not they performed enough good works to out weigh the bad ones.

Please consider the following verses from the Qur'an about how a Muslim's deeds are weighed in the balance on Judgment Day to see if he might be saved or not.

> *"Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy, they will be successful. But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls; in hell will they abide,"* (23:102-103).
>
> ***"And We set a just balance for the Day of Resurrection so that no soul is wronged in aught. Though it be of the weight of a grain of mustard seed, We bring it. And We suffice for reckoners,"*** (21:47).
>
> ***"They are those who deny the Signs of their Lord and the fact of their having to meet Him** (in the Hereafter): **vain will be their works, nor shall We, on the Day of Judgment, give them any weight,"*** (online Qur'an, 18:105).

Is the Islamic system of salvation really enough to save Muslims? They will say that it is. But, as a Christian, I cannot see how anyone in Islam can have security and honest expectation of obtaining Paradise. How can anyone who must be completely sincere in repentance and be required to perform more good works than bad, ever hope to make it to heaven?

The problem with being saved by God's grace and human works is that human works are never sufficient to please God. God is infinite and holy. How can we finite sinners ever hope to please God by our deeds?

Muslims need the gospel

Instead of relying in any way on our own works, the gospel of Jesus teaches us we do not have to do that. The gospel of Jesus is that He died for our sins and rose again from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-4). He fulfilled all the Law so we don't have to (Rom. 8:3-4). He took our place and received the punishment due our sins (2 Cor. 5:21). Because we are sinners and because we cannot please an infinitely Holy God on our own, because we can never fulfill the Law of God perfectly, and because God's eyes are too pure to look upon evil (Hab. 1:13), salvation must be by total grace (Eph. 2:8). Salvation must be the work of God, not of man (Gal. 2:21).

1 John 5:13 says, *"These things were written so you may know you have eternal life..."* Can the Muslim say he knows he has eternal life? He cannot. I know I do as a Christian precisely because it is not of my works. So, why would a Muslim want me to give up my assurance and free gift of salvation found in Jesus for the Islamic system of works that, at best, only provides the possibility of salvation if I have been sincere enough and if I have done enough good works?

Who has Performed the Greatest Act of Love? Yahweh or Allah

In Islam, what is the greatest act of love Allah has ever accomplished? I asked this question of several Muslims and I got similar answers: he forgave us of our sins; he gave us families and provisions; he showed us mercy; he gave us the Qur'an. The answers didn't vary much beyond these responses. I found them lacking.

Most Muslims believe that the Bible is not trustworthy, that it has been corrupted, that the Injeel (gospel) of Jesus has been lost, and the Qur'an restores God's truth to mankind. But, that is another subject to be debated.

In John 15:13 Jesus said, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay his life down for his friend." I have the Nestle Aland Greek New Testament with the textual apparatus included in it. The textual apparatus is the complete listing (per verse) of any textual variants that occur in any of the ancient New Testament manuscripts. Therefore, it is a very easy thing to go to John 15:13 and look at the textual evidence to see if there are any manuscripts at all, anywhere that have any variation on that verse. There are none. In other words, there is not a single manuscript of the more than 25,000 manuscripts of the NT that have a different translation on that verse. Every single one of them says the exact same thing. I will, therefore, conclude that it is an authentic and reliable saying of Jesus.

Again, Jesus said, *"**Greater love has no man than this, that he lay his life down for his friend**."* According to Jesus, the greatest act of love is to sacrifice one's life for another. This means that giving one's life for another is a greater act of love than providing food for him, giving him a family, being nice to him, or honest, or helpful, or whatever. Self-sacrifice, to the point of death, is the very greatest act of love.

Has Allah performed the greatest act of love? The answer is no. Allah has not sacrificed himself at all. Allah has not died for another. Allah has not loved us to the point of death. In Christianity, Jesus, who is God in flesh (John 1:1, 14), laid His life down for us. Jesus performed the greatest act of love.

If Islam is true...

If Islam is true and Allah is the true God, then Jesus, a creation (according to Islam) has performed a greater act of love than Allah (according to the Bible). A mere man has outdone Allah in love and sacrifice. But, of course, Islam denies that Jesus ever died. They then say that Jesus has not done the greatest act of love. Their denial does not change the fact that Jesus died on the cross as is amply attested to by the eyewitnesses who wrote the gospel. Besides, whether or not the Muslim believes Jesus died on the cross does not change the fact that Jesus told us what the greatest act of love was -- and Allah has not done it. Yet, according to Christianity He has. Since Muslims want Christians to adopt Islam, they are asking Christians to give up their Lord who has performed the greatest act of love on their behalf. Why would they want to do that?

If Christianity is true, then God has performed the greatest act of love. If Islam is true, then God hasn't. Which "god," then is more loving, the one who speaks of love, or the one who acts out love?

I have found no where in the Qur'an where it says that Allah is love. The Qur'an says that Allah loves people, but it never says that Allah **is** love. By contrast, the Bible clearly tells us that God **is** love. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him," (1 John 4:16).

Who Does God Love?

Does God love all? In Islam, the answer is no. In Christianity, the answer is yes. Consider the following verses from the Qur'an.

- *"**Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and messengers, to Gabriel and Michael,- Lo! Allah is an enemy to those who reject Faith**,"* (2:98, Trans. Yusuf Ali)

- *"**Say: Obey Allah and the Messenger; but if they turn back, then surely Allah does not love the unbelievers**,"* 3:32, Trans. Shakir).

Consider the following verses from the Bible

- *"**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life**,"* (John 3:16).

- *"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 [45] in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. [46] "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? [47] "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? [48] "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect,"* (Matt. 5:43-48).

We can easily see the huge difference between the God of Islam and the God of the Bible. In Islam, God does not love all people. In the Bible, God does love all people. In Islam, Allah did not die for the sins of those who were not his. In the Bible, God did do that. In Islam, Allah has not performed the greatest act of love. In the Bible, God did exactly that.

My question to the Muslims is, *"What makes you think that I want to give up my Lord who loves me so much that He would die for me, and did die for me, for a god who has not and cannot perform the greatest act of love?"*

Jihad: Holy Struggle or Holy War?

Among most Westerners, the term "Jihad" ("struggle" in Arabic) often brings up images of Muslim terrorists killing people who disagree with them. Jihad is an emotionally charged word that is heralded by the Western news media in descriptions of Middle East activities. People need not wait long to hear the term used during nightly news and see the affects of present day Islamic struggles in vivid pictures of destruction beamed to our televisions. But is this a fair assessment of the Muslim community as a whole?

Jihad has been interpreted by Muslims in different ways. The Muslim sect of the Kharijites has elevated Jihad to one of the Five Pillars of Islam -- making it Six Pillars. This kind of belief is seen in the extremist Muslim groups we call terrorists. They use the concept of Jihad as a justification for killing anyone who isn't a Muslim. However, most Muslims disagree with this extremist position of some Muslims and advocate peace. These Muslims view Jihad as a spiritual struggle against evil in a metaphorical sense.1

For the most part, there is the Greater and Lesser Jihad. The Greater Jihad is the internal spiritual struggle of the Muslim toward submission to Allah. The Lesser Jihad is Holy War against non-Muslims based on principle of belief. It is this latter that has caused the most concern among Westerners. Is that concern warranted? Many think so.

Islamic scholar Jamal Badawi, chairman of the Islamic Information Foundation in Halifax, insists that a jihad is 'permitted only in self-defense or against tyranny and oppression--not as a tool to promote Islam.' But, experts added, the ancient Islamic empires were built as much by force as by persuasion. Islam's founder, Mohammed, frequently used force, or the threat of it, to unify the nomadic tribes of the Arabian peninsula. The caliphs, who succeeded Mohammed as leaders of the Arab world, successfully took up arms against the Christian Byzantine Empire in Egypt and the Holy Land. By the end of the ninth century, Arabian armies had extended Islamic power from Spain to the borders of India.2

Anyone who has studied Islamic history must surely notice how frequently the Muslims were involved in battle after battle. Within 200 years after its inception, Islam had spread through a huge geographical area and many converts were made by the sword.

What does the Qur'an say about Jihad?

The Qur'an is the single most important authority in all of Islam. It is the scripture given from Allah through the angel Gabriel. Does the Qur'an teach Jihad? Absolutely yes. As you will see in the following quotes from the Qur'an, Holy War is definitely taught and encouraged.

1. *"Truly Allah loves those who fight in His Cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure,"* (**Surah 61:4**)
2. *"Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress limits...[191]And slay them wherever ye catch them. and turn them out from where they have turned you out; for persecution is worse than slaughter; But fight them not at the sacred Mosque unless they (first) fight you there; But if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who reject faith. [192] But if they cease, Allah is oft-forgiving, Most Merciful. [193]And fight them on until there is no more persecution. And the religion becomes Allah's. But if they cease, Let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression"* (The Qur'an, **Surah 2:190-193**)
3. *"O ye who believe! what is the matter with you, that, when ye are asked to go forth in the cause of Allah, ye cling heavily to the earth? Do ye prefer the life of this world to the Hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life, as compared with the Hereafter. Unless ye go forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and put others in your place; but Him ye would not harm in the least. For Allah hath power over all things,"* (**Surah 9:38-39**).
4. See also **Surah 4:74-76; 61:10-12**

What does the Hadith say about Jihad?

The Hadith are the recorded sayings and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad. It is second in authority only to the Qur'an and is often used to clarify things not specified in the Qur'an. What did Muhammad say about Jihad as recorded in the Hadith?

1. "The Prophet said, "The person who participates in (Holy battles) in Allah's cause and nothing compels him to do so except belief in Allah and His Apostles, will be recompensed by Allah either with a reward, or booty (if he survives) or will be admitted to Paradise (if he is killed in the battle as a martyr). Had I not found it difficult for my followers, then I would not remain behind any sariya going for Jihad and I would have loved to be martyred in Allah's cause and then made alive, and then martyred and then made alive, and then again martyred in His cause" (Volume 1, Book 2, Number 35, Narrated Abu Huraira).
2. "Allah's Apostle said, "A pious slave gets a double reward." Abu Huraira added: By Him in Whose Hands my soul is but for Jihad (i.e. holy battles), Hajj, and my duty to serve my mother, I would have loved to die as a slave" (Volume 3, Book 46, Number 724: Narrated Abu Huraira).
3. "Allah's Apostle said, "Allah guarantees (the person who carries out Jihad in His Cause and nothing compelled him to go out but Jihad in His Cause and the belief in His Word) that He will either admit him into Paradise (Martyrdom) or return him with reward or booty he has earned to his residence from where he went out" (Volume 9, Book 93, Number 555: Narrated Abu Huraira).

Obviously Muhammad taught that Holy War was an acceptable and good thing to do. To clarify, he even stated that if a Muslim were to die in battle, fighting for the cause of Allah, that he would be guaranteed to go to Paradise.

Why is this important?

Why is understanding the Islamic position of Jihad important? Simple. People act according to their beliefs. If a large group of people believes that war against "unbelievers" is a holy thing, that it is a thing sanctioned from God, then those who are not Muslims should be concerned. Of course, at this point, most Muslims might accuse me of being sensationalistic and pointing to only a few extremists and out-of-context verses to make Islam look bad. First, let me say that by far the majority of Muslims I have encountered here in the United States have been polite and peace loving. Second, in other parts of the world, Jihad is taken to extremes not simply by terrorists, but by Islamic led governments.

1. In Egypt, a Muslim country, Christians have been persecuted heavily for their faith and only recently are things beginning to change.3
2. "Roman Catholic Bishop John Joseph of Pakistan shot himself to death on May 6 to highlight the case of Ayub Massih, a Christian sentenced to death for supposedly making blasphemous remarks against the Prophet Muhammad and thus against Islam. In a letter sent to a local newspaper just before his death, the bishop stated that he hoped his suicide would galvanize his fellow bishops and others to work for the repeal of sections 295 B and Cot the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), which make any blasphemy against Islam a serious crime and blasphemy against Muhammad punishable by death."4
3. "Farag Foda, an Egyptian intellectual who expressed scorn for the Islamist program, was shot and murdered. And Naguib Mahfouz, the elderly and much-celebrated Nobel Prize laureate for literature, was seriously injured in Cairo when an assailant knifed him in the neck, presumably in revenge for an allegorical novel written decades earlier."5
4. "Hundreds of thousands of Muslims assembled in Jakarta and declared a holy war against Indonesian Christians shortly after dawn Friday to avenge the deaths of Muslims in religious clashes in the Maluku Islands (the Spice Islands). Assembled in central Jakarta, the Muslims shouted "Jihad (Holy War)! Jihad!" Most of those gathered wore white robes and white bandannas marked with quotes from the Koran about the "Holy War." It is time for us to do a jihad against Christians," said Husen al-Habsyi, a former political prisoner, who was jailed for masterminding an explosion in the Borobudur Buddhist Temple in the early 1980s.6
5. This Christmas season, Pastor Rod Parsley is taking a lead in an effort to help free the tens of thousands of Sudanese women and children held in captivity in the Sudan, many of which are Christians. This great effort will help stem the horrific tide of genocide and enslavement of Christians in the African nation. Bridge of Hope, the missions outreach of Breakthrough is located in Columbus, Ohio...The Government of Sudan, a fundamentalist regime that represents only 10% of the population in Sudan, has declared a holy war (jihad) against Christians and animists in their own country. Since 1985, this reign of terror is responsible for the murder of over 2 million Sudanese ... and over 4 million have been displaced. The Government of Sudan will not stop short of total annihilation of all Christians and all others that do not believe in this totalitarian regime...During Government sponsored raids in peaceful villages, men are killed; village elders are hacked

with machetes and left for dead; the village is burned and devastated; and women and children are captured as slaves. Slaves are subjected by their masters to systematic physical and psychological torture, including gang rape, beatings, death threats, genital mutilation and forcible conversion to Islam.7

Anyone can make any group look bad through selective quotes. Each religious group has elements of its history it wishes it could ignore. The Muslims could cite the Crusades or the Inquisition as examples of "Christian behavior." In response, the Crusades, right or wrong, were a retaliation against the Islamic Jihad that was sweeping through Europe. The Inquisition, on the other hand, is a perfect example of what happens when a religious group (the Roman Catholic Church) gets in power and tries to root out heretics and blasphemers. Islam is no different.

The Islamic run country of Pakistan (No. 9 above) has anti blasphemy laws where the punishment for speaking blasphemy against Muhammad and the Qur'an is death. Islamic run Sudan has already killed, and still is killing, millions of people, mainly Christians, in its own country in addition to making many of them slaves. (No. 12 above). It is these kinds of facts that cannot be ignored and should not be ignored. Muslim and Christian alike should be very concerned.

I do not know if other Muslim countries are condemning the actions of these Islamic nations that so easily violate human rights. I do not know if Muslims outside of those countries are even aware of the problems going on within their theologically diverse ranks of other nations. But, when a Holy Book like the Qur'an advocates Holy War, when the very sayings and deeds of their beloved Prophet Muhammad advocate Jihad, and when we see some Islamic nations killing non Muslims -- because they are not Muslims -- how can we not be worried about what they would do if they had control of the world....as is their goal.

Here in the States, Muslims enjoy freedom of religion and expression. Such freedoms for Christians are basically non existent in many Islamic nations. Is that right?

This article is also available in: Español

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3. 3. Saad, Michael, "A Christian Appeal to Islam. Treatment of Copts in Egypt," *The Christian Century*, Feb. 23, 2000.
4. 4. Toffolo, Cris E., "Christians in Pakistan Confront Charges of Blasphemy," *The Christian Century*, July 29, 1998.
5. 5. Daniel Pipes, The American Jewish Community, *"How Dare You Defame Islam,"* Nov, 1999.
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Questions for Muslims

Dear Muslim, I do not post these questions as a "proof" that Islam is false. I do not believe that is possible with a simple list of questions. Nevertheless, they are here to encourage discussion that the truth may be known.

1. The Qur'an says "To those who believe and do deeds of righteousness hath Allah promised forgiveness and a great reward" (Surah 5:9).
    1. Question: Are you doing enough good deeds to receive salvation on the Day of Judgment?
    2. Question: Are you doing all you can or are you relaxing in your dedication to Allah?
2. The Qur'an says, "O ye who believe! Turn unto Allah in sincere repentance! It **may** be that your Lord will remit from you your evil deeds and bring you into Gardens underneath which rivers flow, on the day when Allah will not abase the Prophet and those who believe with him. Their light will run before them and on their right hands; they will say: Our Lord! Perfect our light for us, and forgive us! Lo! Thou art Able to do all things," (66:8-9). Notice how it says **if** you are sincere you **may** receive forgiveness.

1. Question: How do you know you are sincere enough to be forgiven of Allah?
2. Question: Does it give you peace to know that even if you are very sincere then, at best, you **may** receive forgiveness?
3. Question: If you say that you know you are sincere enough in your repentance before Allah, how do you know you are not deceiving yourself?
4. Question: Is your heart really good enough to muster enough sincerity before a Holy and Righteous God?
5. Question: If you say yes, I honestly and humbly ask you, "Are you being prideful?"
6. Question: If you say you are not being prideful, then are you boasting in your sincerity?

3. In Christianity, Jesus is God in flesh who paid for our sins on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24). Because of that, we Christians are secure in Him and do not have to worry about doing enough good works to please God since we are saved by grace through faith in Him, (Eph. 2:8-9).
    1. Question: Why should we Christians give up our guarantee of salvation in Jesus for the requirements of your Qur'anic law when you yourselves don't even know if you have done enough good deeds to be saved on the Day of Judgment?
4. The Bible says that God is love (1 John 4:16) and that He loves all people (Matt. 5:43-48; John 3:16). The Qur'an never says that "God is love." In fact, the Qur'an says that Allah does not love unbelievers (2:98; 3:32).
    1. Question: If Allah does not love unbelievers, can you say that Allah is love, especially if the Qur'an does not say it?
    2. Question: If you say yes, that Allah is love, then why does he only love the Muslims and not all people?
    3. Question: If you say Allah is love, is he more loving than the God of the Bible who loves all people?
5. In the Bible, Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." In Christianity, the greatest act of love is performed by God Himself -- since Jesus is God in flesh (John 1:1, 14; Col. 2:9). Jesus is the one who fulfilled His own words on this. He laid His life down for us.
    1. Question: What is the greatest act of love performed by Allah?
    2. Question: If what Jesus said is true, then hasn't someone besides Allah performed the greatest act of love?
    3. Question: Why do you, as a Muslim, want me to give up such a great love performed by God Himself (from a Christian perspective) for your belief in Allah who only loves people if they are Muslims?
6. Islam teaches that the Holy Spirit is Gabriel. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit lives in the Christians.
    1. Question: If the angel Gabriel is the Holy Spirit, how can he dwell in us? (Note: According to the Nestle Aland Greek New Testament Textual Apparatus, there are **no** textual variations of any of the following biblical references. They are recorded and transmitted to us accurately.)
        1. "Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you," (2 Tim. 1:14, NASB).
        2. "Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16, NASB).
7. Lying is okay?
    1. Question: Was Muhammad wrong for advocating lying? Is Lying okay? "Muhammad bin Maslama got up saying, "O Allah's Apostle! Would you like that I kill him [Ka'b bin Al-Ashraf]?" The Prophet said, "Yes," Muhammad bin Maslama said, "Then allow me to say a (false) thing (i.e. to deceive Kab). "The Prophet said, "You may say it," (Hadith Vol. 5, Book 59, #369).
    2. Question: Who is more holy, Allah or Yahweh?
    3. In the above quote from the hadith, Muhammad advocated lying. The Christian God would never approve of lying. Does the god of Islam approve of lying? If not, then wasn't Muhammad wrong? If he was not wrong, then Allah approves of lying. Which God is more holy? The God of Christianity is far more holy.

How Holy is the God of Islam?

Some Muslim critics of Christianity attack the power of the Christian God by stating that he is too weak to forgive a person's sins without the shedding of blood. These critics often say that if the Christian God is so powerful, then why can't he declare a person to be forgiven without requiring a blood sacrifice? They sometimes view this as a weakness in the Christian concept of God. But this is not a weakness. It is a declaration of the holiness of the God of Christianity and the lack of holiness of the God of Islam.

In Christianity, God is far too holy to accept the sincerity and repentance of a person so as to forgive that person of his or her sins. But in Islam, a person's sincerity and repentance are sufficient to warrant forgiveness -- if Allah so grants it. Why the difference? The difference is due to the fact that God has revealed in the Bible that his Holiness is so complete and so perfect, and that our sinfulness is so pervasive, that even our sincerity and our repentance are touched by sin and are not acceptable to him. Because sin has touched all of what we are: our hearts, our minds, our intentions, our wills, our emotions, etc, our efforts just can't be good enough. For a Muslim to say that God can forgive a person because the person is sincere is to say that his own heart is good enough to earn a place with God. In other words, he is appealing to the sincerity of his own heart and these amounts to pride. It is pride because it is based on the person's self worth, self ability, and goodness of heart. Islam teaches that a person can be good enough to please God -- if he does enough good works and sincerely repents of his sin. By contrast, the view of Christianity is that because of God's infinite holiness and man's sinfulness, the gap between them cannot be bridged by our own efforts, our own sincerity, our own works, or even our own repentance. None of these are sufficient to please an infinitely holy and perfect God. But, they are enough for the God of Islam.

In Christianity God provides for us the very forgiveness that our sincerity and repentance cannot bring. If our salvation, if the forgiveness of our sins could come by anything that we do, then Jesus did not need to die on the cross (Gal. 2:21). But it was necessary that Jesus, who was God in flesh, second person of the Trinity, provide for us what we could not accomplish. Only in Christianity is the infinite love of God manifested so completely that he humbles himself and loves us so much that he took our place of punishment to ensure salvation. This is good news for the Christian. But, the Muslim has no such good news. He is stuck with the uncertain hope that maybe, just maybe, his own sincerity and repentance might be good enough to warrant forgiveness from his God.

Therefore, we conclude that the God of Islam is not holy because he accepts the sin-touched repentance and sin-touched sincerity of Muslims for the forgiveness of their sins.

By contrast, the God of Christianity is too holy for that. He requires holiness because he is holy (1 Pet. 1:16). But the God of Islam does not require holiness. Instead, the God of Islam accepts the Muslim's sin-stained works and sin-stained repentance.

Only in Christianity does God himself provides what sinful man cannot accomplish. In Christ, God cleanses us of our sins by HIS work (on the cross), not sinful man's sincerity or sinful man's repentance. The God of the Bible does it all because of his great holiness. The God of Islam does not because he is not holy.

Into which system do you wish to place your hopes, in Christianity where God provides and guarantees salvation or in Islam where Allah does not?

How just is the God of Islam?

If a person commits a sin such as murder, or theft, should that person be punished? The obvious answer is yes. But, why should he be punished?

There are two primary reasons we can offer why someone who commits a sin should be punished. First, he has broken the law of God and if God does not exercise punishment, then what is the purpose of the law?

To not exercise punishment for committing sin, is to permit the sin to exist without consequence. Second, he has harmed others and if he is not punished, others will be encouraged to do the same.

Therefore, we can conclude that it is proper to exercise judgment/punishment for the crimes committed by individuals.

If the same person who has committed a sin, such as murder or theft, says that he is sincerely sorry for what he has done and that he would never do it again, should society excuse him from punishment? Maybe, maybe not.

God is holy and righteous and if he didn't carry a punishment for sins, he would be allowing evil to exist without consequence. The result would be, essentially, to condone evil, and since God cannot do that, His justice requires that a proper punishment be incurred for each sin.

Likewise, if God did not punish someone because that person said he was sorry and would not do it again, then is God being just? After all, if he did not exercise the punishment for breaking his law, he is then permitting evil to exist without proclaiming its error or dealing with its consequence.

In Islam

In Islam, a Muslim who commits murder and thievery can ask Allah for forgiveness and receive that forgiveness without Allah exercising any punishment whatsoever. There are undoubtedly situations where Muslims have committed grievous sins, have not been caught, and have later sincerely repented before their God, have asked forgiveness, and (theoretically) been forgiven. We ask, where is Allah's exercise of judgment upon the sin that was committed?

According to Islam, Allah may forgive that person -- if he so chooses. But, doesn't that mean the righteous judgment of Allah is not satisfied? Doesn't it mean that the sin has essentially been ignored by forgiving it and that the Law of God, though broken, has resulted in no punishment? Is this just, not to exercise punishment for the sins committed? It is not. No, for we have already established that punishment is the proper and righteous response to sin. Declining to punish is to avoid satisfying the law of God.

Therefore, since we can rationally propose a situation where the God of Islam will forgive a Muslim without there being punishment according to law, we can conclude that the God of Islam is unjust. If Allah is unjust, then he is not the true God.

In Christianity

In Christianity, every sin is dealt with by God in one of two ways. Either God satisfies the law by exercising his punishment upon the sinner by sending him to eternal damnation, or, he places the sins of the person on Jesus Christ who suffers the punishment in place of the person. Either way, the justice of God is never ignored. It is proper that sin be dealt with by a punishment relative to the sin. To neglect to do so is to avoid being just.

Therefore, we see that the God of Christianity is just because no sin goes unpunished. After all, the Bible describes God as being holy and righteous. His standard of holiness is so great that all sin must be dealt with properly. The Law, which is a reflection of God's holy character and nature, is not to be violated without consequence. The consequence of all sin is death.

The only way for us to escape the righteous and holy judgment of God is to receive the sacrifice of Christ made on our behalf where he bore our sins in his body on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24). There is no other way... except, that is, to pay for your sins yourself in hell forever.

Objections

First: This means that the Christian is escaping judgment. This is true (Christianity and Islam teach this). But it is also true that the sin is being addressed in the person of Christ and the punishment of that sin is satisfied -- unlike Islam where the proper punishment due for breaking the law is not met. Furthermore, in Christianity, forgiveness of sins is assured by the sacrifice of Christ who bore our sins in his body on the cross, which is why we do not have to earn our forgiveness in any way.

> *"**and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed**,"* (1 Pet. 2:24).

Second: Is it just to transfer the punishment from one person to another? Yes, since the law is still satisfied in that breaking it is dealt with. In Christianity, the debt, the penalty incurred by sin, was transferred to Christ and the punishment of God fell upon the person of Christ on the cross.

> *"And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, [14]having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross,"* (Col. 2:13-14).

Therefore, all who trust in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins are trusting in the sacrifice of Christ, who fell under the wrath of God the Father and was punished in their place. In this way, sin is dealt with by an act of justice. Remember, a holy and righteous God cannot let sin go unpunished. We must ask then, why does the God of Islam not do what is just?