

What TBFers Need to Know about Islam

Islam's Present

Islam is the 2nd largest world religion with 1.6 billion followers (it is the 3rd largest religion in the US at 3.2 million; behind Christianity-252 million and Judaism-5.8 million).

Although many in the US tend to assume that all Muslims are Arabs and all Arabs are Muslims this is not true. Islam is MUCH larger than the Arab World/the Middle East.

Dr. Pat Cate (Sociologist graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary): 5% of Muslims are "Violent Fundamentalists." 5% of 1.6 billion = 80 million!?! (5% of 3.2 million = 160,000).

The Violent Fundamentalists are seen in groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS/ISIL

ISIS = The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

ISIL = The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (a region larger than Syria)

Violent Fundamentalist Muslims interpret the term Jihad to refer to physical attacks against "infidels" which includes not just Jews/Christians but anyone (including Muslims) who do not hold to their specific interpretation of Islam. To that end, ironically, VFMs have wounded and killed many more Muslims than any other group/sub-culture.

VFMs like Osama Bin Laden (Al-Qaeda) and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (ISIS/ISIL) are no more representative of the "average" Muslim than David Koresh is of the "average" Christian.

Islam's Past

The founder of Islam, Mohammed lived from 570-632 AD/CE, in 610 he claimed he began receiving messages from the Angel Gabriel. In 622 he moved from Mecca to Medina and established the first Islamic city state. In 630 he returned to Mecca and made it the center of Islam. After his death, his associates compiled the content of his revelations from God and the resulting book is called the Quran. By 700 AD, Muslim armies had established control over Israel/Jordan and a good bit of northern Africa.

The Sunni/Shia split began after Mohammed's death concerning disagreement about what person (a relative of Mohammed or the best qualified successor) should be the visible leader of the religion. It is structural not doctrinal but can be a life/death issue.

Islam's Precepts

Who God Is

"Allah" One God in One Person-Definitely Not the Trinity/in Any Kind of Triune Form

Who Christ Is

An Awesomely Great Human Prophet-Definitely Not the Son of God/Deity

Who Human Beings Are

Ignorant at Birth with a Need (and an Ability) to Submit to Allah/Islam

What Christ Did

He Was a Great Muslim Prophet Who Predicted the Coming of Mohammed

What Human Beings Must Do for Salvation

Earn a Blessed Afterlife Through Faithfulness to Islam-Centered on the Five Pillars

- 1: Confession of Faith: There is No God but Allah and Mohammed is His Prophet
- 2: Prayer Five Times/Day: Memorized/Recited Prayers While Facing Mecca
- 3: Giving to the Mosque for the Poor: On a Graduated Percentage based on Income
- 4: Fasting during the Daylight Hours of Ramadan
- 5: Making at Least One Pilgrimage to Mecca

What Christ Will Do

He Will Return Supernaturally to Impose Worldwide Islam (Because He is a Muslim)

What the Bible Is

A Distorted Religious Document, Perverted by Jews and Christians Who Deliberately Deleted All References to Mohammed to Establish Their False Religions

Take This To Heart

The idea that Jews, Christians and Muslims all worship the same God is not only factually incorrect, it is disrespectful to Muslims/their faith and blasphemous to the One who made Himself known to mankind by the God-Man Jesus Christ (John 1:9-12).

For more info see **God Is Not One** by Dr. Stephen Prothero.

Any attempt to combine Christianity and Islam ("Chrislam") is a theological impossibility since they have different concepts of God, of Christ, of human beings, of salvation and of heaven/hell. They are mutually exclusive-can't both be right at the same time (the Law of Non-Contradiction).

Muslims need to come to God through faith in Christ as the God-Man-Savior like all other religious unbelievers and 20,000/day are doing so!