

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

Between Islam and Christianity

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE Between Islam and Christianity, Part I

INTRODUCTION

Paul Harvey said that the Muslim clergy condemn the same things about America that many Christian ministers condemn. There is a lot of truth in that statement but it leaves out some very important information. As we begin this series of sermons, let me remind you of two very important issues we Christians must balance:

- (1) We must be tolerant and loving toward people of other religions and
- (2) We must stand firm on the truth of the Gospel.

Islam and Christianity agree on many very important issues but disagree on several key issues that both religions believe to be absolutely essential. Let's begin with some general comments and then check out Islam by the three "tests" Christians should use for any religious group.

Islam and Christianity both teach that there is only one true God

Islam and Christianity both are worldwide religions -- there are about one and one-half billion

Christians in the world today and about one billion Muslims (Over 5 million in America)

Islam and Christianity both claim to be a religion of peace but both accuse the other of using war and military actions to spread their religious views

Islam and Christianity both teach there will be a future judgment with only one of two results -- heaven or hell

Islam and Christianity both are strong on the importance of the family

Islam and Christianity both condemn sex outside of marriage

Islam and Christianity both condemn abortion (with some exceptions)

Islam and Christianity both condemn homosexuality

Islam and Christianity both teach the sanctity of human life and, therefore, condemn murder

Islam and Christianity both believe that they have a God given responsibility to evangelize and convert every other person on earth to their one true religion. (Muslims want to convert Christians to Islam and Christians want to convert Muslims to Christianity.)

Islam and Christianity both have "extremists" and "fanatics" who go too far in promoting their religion and "hurt" the public image of their religion

I. ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY DISAGREE ABOUT WHO JESUS IS

1. Islam teaches that Jesus was a prophet who was born of a virgin, revealed God's message to man but was not crucified on the cross as an atonement for sins nor was He resurrected from the dead
 - (1) Muslims teach that God does not and cannot have a son or a partner
 - (2) Muslims teach that someone else died in Jesus place (some say it was Judas)
 - (3) They do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus
2. Christianity teaches that Jesus is the Son of God and that His death, burial and resurrection are essential doctrines of the Christian faith
 - (1) **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life*
 - (2) **I Corinthians 15:3-4** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

II. ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY DISAGREE ABOUT WHAT IS GOD'S FULL AND FINAL REVELATION TO MAN

1. Islam teaches that the Koran (Qur'an) is God's full and final revelation
 - (1) Muslims believe God revealed His will through many prophets including Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad but that they have all been corrupted by the Jews and the Christians except the the prophecies in the Koran
 - (2) Muslims believe that the Koran is God's full, final and perfect revelation and it

- overrules all the others (The contents of the Koran are said to be revelations made to Muhammad by the one true God, Allah through the angel, Gabriel.)
2. Christianity teaches that the Bible is God's full, final and perfect revelation to man
 - (1) **II Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*
 - (2) **II Peter 1:21** *For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

III. ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY DISAGREE ABOUT THE WAY OF SALVATION

1. Islam teaches that it is through good works
 - (1) Islam teaches that each person has two angels assigned to him or her -- one records your good deeds and other records your bad deeds
 - (2) At the judgment, if your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds (and God is merciful to you) you will go to heaven--otherwise you go to hell
2. Christianity teaches that eternal salvation is only available through Jesus and His atoning sacrifice for sins
 - (1) **John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*
 - (2) **Ephesians 2:8-9** *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
 - (3) **Galatians 2:16** *Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.*

CONCLUSION

Islam and Christianity are two worldwide religions who agree on several very important issues but disagree totally on three essential doctrines of Christianity.

They disagree about:

1. Who Jesus is and the nature of God
2. Which book is the inspired Word of God and His full and final revelation to man
3. How a person is eternally saved (goes to heaven instead of hell)

WHAT S THE DIFFERENCE Between Islam and Christianity, Part II

INTRODUCTION

There are over one billion Muslims in the world today. Islam is a powerful and growing religion. The word Islam means “submission to Allah ” and the word Muslim means “one who submits to Allah.” Muslims believe that Allah is the only true God and that the Koran (Qur `an) is the perfect holy book that teaches the correct way to believe and to live. Classical Islam divides the world into two areas

- (1) the world of peace, where Islam is practiced and the Koran is obeyed
- (2) the world of warfare and ignorance, dominated by non-Muslims.

The mission of Islam is to bring this second area to submission to Allah and obedience to the Koran using any means available. If non-Muslims do not accept Islam as their religion, they must submit to Islamic authority and rule. To become a Muslim one need only repeat the shahada (creed): “There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet.” Some are “converted” by evangelism. Some are “converted” by threat of death or bodily harm.

I. A BRIEF HISTORY OF ISLAM

1. Muhammad was born in the city of Mecca (in what is now the country of Saudi Arabia) in 570 AD. At age 25 he married a wealthy widow by the name of Khadija. About 15 years later, when he was 40, he began receiving revelations from Allah through the angel Gabriel and was told to recite them. His revelation was about the one true God, Allah and his commandments. These revelations continued over a period of more than 20 years. Muhammad begins reciting these revelations.
2. At first, he had very little success and in 622 AD he and his small group of followers fled from Mecca to the city of Medina because of persecution. This year marks the first year in the Islamic calendar. In Medina, through conversion and through power he became a leader of a growing number of people. He was a prophet, a political ruler, a judge, a prayer leader, a sermon giver and a warrior. By 629 he had returned to Mecca, captured it and made it the main city of Islam. By the time of his death in 632 AD he was the ruling force in that area of the world. In Islam, the religion, the politics and the culture are all tied together.
3. Although Muhammad `s followers split into two groups after his death (the Sunnis and the Shiites) the religion continued to grow. By 652 AD his revelations had been collected into a book called the Koran (Qur `an) and his followers consider it to be the very Word of God and far superior to all previous revelations.

II. THE FIVE DOCTRINES (BELIEFS) OF ISLAM

1. Allah is the only true God. He is all seeing, all knowing, and all-powerful
2. Angels - There are good angels and fallen angels. The chief angel is Gabriel who appeared to Muhammad and revealed God `s word to him.
3. Scripture - Muslims believe there are four God-inspired books: (1) The Five Books of Moses (2) The Psalms of David (3) The Gospels (4) The Koran (Qur `an) which is Allah `s final word to mankind, and it supersedes all other books. (They believe the Jews and the Christians have corrupted the other three.)
4. Prophets - especially Muhammad. The Koran lists 28 prophets of Allah including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus and Muhammad. Muhammad is the greatest of the prophets. All the prophets preached the same message: “turn from sin to obey and worship God alone before judgment comes.”
5. The Day of Judgment. Allah (God) will judge each person based on his or her works. If your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds (and God is merciful to you) you will go to Paradise. If your bad deeds outweigh your good deeds you will be punished in the fires of hell.

III. THE FIVE DUTIES (RITUALS) OF ISLAM

1. To Bear Testimony -- "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet." Muslims are to recite this in worship and as a testimony to others all during the day
2. Worship & Prayers -- Muslims are expected to pray five times per day facing Mecca. These prayers follow a definite form -- they recite a prescribed prayer. These prayers can be recited alone or with a group, but they are encouraged to gather together on Friday for worship. They can pray spontaneously at other times.
3. Almsgiving -- Two and one-half percent (2.5%) of their total assets each year (not income, assets). This money is given to the poor and to help promote Islam
4. Fasting during the month of Ramadan -- They fast during the daylight hours going without food, water or sex. Nights are times of great celebrations.
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca -- If a Muslim has the physical and financial resources to do so; he or she should make a trip to Mecca once during his or her lifetime. They should make this trip during the twelfth month of their calendar. (Their lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter each year than our solar calendar so that over a period of years the same month may fall in winter or in summer.) There are certain rituals they perform in Mecca as a part of their worship.

CONCLUSION

The Islam religion teaches that if a person will believe the five fundamental doctrines and perform the five acts (pillars) of their religion, they will go to heaven after the judgment. In comparison, while there are a number of things a Christian should believe and a number of things a Christian should do, his or her hope of heaven is based on God's grace through the atonement sacrifice of Jesus. Consider the following Scriptures:

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

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

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

I Peter 2:24 *And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

WHAT S THE DIFFERENCE Between Islam and Christianity, Part III

INTRODUCTION

Islam and Christianity agree on some very important issues, but disagree on three fundamental issues. They disagree about who Jesus is, what the Bible is and how a person is saved. Islam teaches that Jesus was only a prophet and not the Son of God, He did not die on the cross for our sins and that He was not resurrected from the dead. Christianity teaches that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the God; that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins and on the third day was resurrected from the dead. Islam teaches that the Bible has been corrupted by Jews and Christians and is no longer trustworthy. Christianity teaches that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that it is God's full, complete and accurate revelation to man. Islam teaches that good works can save one while Christianity teaches that salvation is by grace through faith and not by works. Today, let's continue with the differences between Islam and Christianity.

I. THE TRINITY

1. Muslims teach that Allah can have no son and no partner (Sura 19:34-35). They say that the doctrine of the Trinity leads to the worship of three gods
 - (1) Some Muslims even believe that the three "gods" that Christians worship are God the Father, Jesus and Mary
 - (2) Koran 4.171 "O followers of the Book! do not exceed the limits in your religion, and do not speak (lies) against Allah, but (speak) the truth; the Messiah, Isa son of Marium is only an apostle of Allah and His Word which He communicated to Marium and a spirit from Him; believe therefore in Allah and His apostles, and say not, Three. Desist, it is better for you; Allah is only one God; far be It from His glory that He should have a son, whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth is His, and Allah is sufficient for a Protector."
2. The Bible teaches that there is one God who manifests Himself in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - (1) The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Son of the Living God in **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*
 - (2) The Bible teaches that Jesus is God in **John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
 - (3) The idea of the Trinity is seen in the Great Commission **Matthew 28:19-20** *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

II. JIHAD ('HOLY WAR' AND/OR 'SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE')

1. One stereotype of Islam among those who are not Muslim is that Islam is a religion of hostility and war. Most non-Muslims believe that the Muslims want everyone to submit to Allah, but if not you must submit to those who do submit to Allah. The reason for this stereotype is the Islamic doctrine of jihad. Muslim writers say that non-Muslims misunderstand the doctrine and that Islam is really a religion of peace.
 - (1) Dictionary Definition: ji had also je had *noun* 1. A Muslim holy war or spiritual struggle against infidels. 2. A crusade or struggle [Arabic *jihad*.] (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* © 1996)
2. Muslims claim that there are four types of jihad (spiritual struggles)
 - (1) Jihad of the Heart -- the internal spiritual and moral struggle to please Allah
 - (2) Jihad of the Tongue -- to speak the truth of Islam
 - (3) Jihad of the Hand -- to be a good moral example for the community
 - (4) Jihad of the Sword -- Armed conflict with the enemies of Islam
 - (A) Does the jihad of the sword mean a military defense when they are attacked or does it mean military offense against "infidels" and "unbelievers" (those who do not believe in Allah and do not obey the

- Koran)?
- (B) There are several references in the Koran to support the offensive attacks against the enemies of Islam.
- Koran 5:51 O you who believe! do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people.
- Koran 9:29 Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Apostle have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth, out of those who have been given the Book, until they pay the tax in acknowledgment of superiority and they are in a state of subjection.
3. In the Old Testament God did on occasion use the Jews to aggressively punish sinful people (Deuteronomy 9:5; 20:15-17) and sometimes God used other nations to punish the Jews (Genesis 15:16; Leviticus 18:24-25)
- (1) But God never told the Jews to militarily conquer the world for him. In fact God gave them strict orders on how to treat non-Jews (Leviticus 19:17, 33 and Deuteronomy 27:19)
4. New Testament Christians are commanded to be non-violent and militarily non-aggressive. Study the following Scriptures
- (1) Jesus' kingdom is not of this world -- it is not a political kingdom. **John 18:36** *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.*
- (2) Christians are to love and pray for their enemies **Matthew 5:44** *But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*
- (3) Christians are to seek good for all people. **I Thessalonians 5:15** *See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.*

CONCLUSION

The foundational creed of Christianity is: "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." The Islam religion says that Jesus was only a prophet. The Christian religion teaches that the one true living God is a triune God who manifests Himself in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Islam says that God is a unity and could never have a son or a partner. Islam is a religion that, at least to some Muslims, authorizes the use of force to bring the entire world to submission to Allah. Christianity is a religion that teaches love, forgiveness and seeking good for your enemies.

WHAT S THE DIFFERENCE Between Islam and Christianity, Part IV

INTRODUCTION

Jesus and Muhammad are the founders of two of the world's largest religions. Over one half of the world's population follows one or the other of these two men. They both teach that there is only one God, that God has given us a book of instructions for life. They both believe there are prophets, that there are angels, and that there will be a judgment day with accountability and eternal rewards. Today, instead of studying the religion they started, or the strengths and weaknesses of their followers: let's go "to the top" and compare these two men themselves.

Jesus was born of a virgin in Bethlehem of Judea somewhere around 7-4 BC
Muhammad was born in Mecca on the Arabian peninsula about 570 AD

Jesus was a Jew
Muhammad was an Arab

Jesus began His ministry at age thirty and ministered for about 3 years
Muhammad began seeing "visions" at about age 40 that continued until his death at age 62

I. BOTH ARE MENTIONED IN THEIR RELIGION'S PRIMARY CREED

1. Islam creed: "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet."
 - (1) Of all the prophets, Muhammad is the most important
2. Christian creed: "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God."
 - (1) Jesus is the Messiah (Anointed One) promised in the Old Testament
 - (2) Jesus is the Son of God -- He is God the Son

II. BOTH MADE AMAZING CLAIMS

1. Muhammad claimed that the one true god (Allah) gave him revelations through the angel Gabriel over a period of 22 years
 - (1) These "revelations" became what is now the Koran (Qur'an)
 - (2) He claimed that these were the very words of God (Koran 85:21-22; 43:3-4)
2. Some of the claims made by Jesus
 - (1) (If you have seen me, you have seen God) **John 14:9** *Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*
 - (2) (There is no way to God except through Me) **John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*
 - (3) (Those who do not believe in Jesus are lost) **John 8:24** *Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*
 - (4) (In Exodus 3:14 God calls Himself "I Am." In this verse Jesus, by calling Himself "I Am" is claiming to be God) **John 8:58** *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

III. ONE HAD ELEVEN WIVES AND THE OTHER ONE NEVER MARRIED BUT TAUGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

1. Muhammad had eleven wives (some say 13, some say 16)
 - (1) His favorite wife was one he married when she was six years old and he first had sex with her when she was nine years old
 - (2) Koran 4:3 says a man can have up to four wives (Koran 33:50 gives "the Prophet" permission to have more than four)

- (3) Islam condemns sex outside of marriage
2. Jesus taught the Biblical concept of marriage: one man and one woman for life
 - (1) **Matthew 19:4-6, 9** *And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh ? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate....And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.*

IV. ONE WAS A MAN OF WAR AND ONE WAS A MAN OF PEACE

1. When tribes would not submit to Muhammed's religion and rule, he led his armies against them, killed them or forced them into submission
2. When individuals would not submit to Jesus, He tried to persuade them
 - (1) **John 10:10** *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*
 - (2) **Matthew 11:28-30** *Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*
 - (3) **Luke 13:34** *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!*

V. ONE IS DEAD AND ONE IS ALIVE

1. Muhammad died in 632 in the arms of his favorite wife, Aisha and his tomb is in the city of Medina
2. Jesus died, was buried and three days later was resurrected
 - (1) **I Corinthians 15:3-8** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.*
 - (2) **Matthew 28:5-6** *The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.*

CONCLUSION

Jesus and Muhammad are the leaders of the two largest religions in the world. They are both mentioned by name in the main creeds of their followers. They each taught that there is only one God and they both taught that their God has given a "book of instructions" for life. But there are several very important differences between them.

Muhammad claimed to be a prophet of God.
 Jesus claimed to be the Son of God.

Muhammad had eleven wives.
 Jesus never married but taught the biblical doctrine of one man and one woman for life.

Muhammad was a man of war.
 Jesus was a man of peace.

Muhammad is dead and buried.

Jesus was dead and buried but was resurrected and now is alive forever.

Which one should you follow? I Decided To Follow Jesus! I invite you to do so too.

WHAT S THE DIFFERENCE Between Islam and Christianity, Part V

Review/Summary

Their Book

Islam believes that the Koran (Qur 'an) is Allah 's only perfect revelation to humans. The Koran is a collection of revelations supposedly given to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel over a period of 22 years. He was commanded by Allah to recite these revelations. Muhammad 's recitations were assembled and put in a book soon after his death. A few years later, the third caliph, Uthman, had scholars compile an official Koran (Qur 'an), in written form, and had all the other variant copies burned.

Christianity believes that the 66 books of the Bible is God 's full, final and perfect revelation to humans. It is inspired by the Holy Spirit and given by many different methods through about 40 different men over a period of 1500 years.

(**Note:** The Koran (Qur 'an) points to the Bible as truth about 120 times. Years after Muhammad had died and the Koran (Qur 'an) published, Muslims scholars came up with the idea that the Bible was a corrupted book.)

The Apostle Peter wrote: "for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." **II Peter 1:21**

The Apostle Paul wrote: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

II Timothy 3:16-17

Their God

Islam believes in the absolute Oneness of Allah. It is a great sin to associate any partner, son or associate with Him. Muslims are very strong in their belief that there is only one God –Allah. He is the final judge. You cannot know Allah; you can only know His laws. They would never call Allah 'Father'" because that implies a sexual relationship to produce a child.

Christianity believes that there is one God who manifests Himself in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The Bible clearly teaches that the one true God is a Triune Being. We use the word Trinity to describe God, but the word Trinity is not in the Bible.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **Matthew 28:19** [name is singular and all three persons of the Godhead are listed]

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **John 1:1-2** [Jesus, the Word, is God]

Their Primary Leader

Islam 's primary leader is Muhammad, the prophet of Allah. Islam 's creed is: "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah"

Christianity 's primary leader is Jesus, the Son of God and the Savior of the world. The Christian creed is: "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." **Matthew 16:16**

Their Agenda

Islam divides the world into two groups –those who have submitted to Allah and those who have not, with whom they are at war with until Judgment Day. The agenda of Islam is conquest, by sword, if necessary.

Christianity divides the world into two groups –those who are saved and those who are lost. The agenda of Christianity is evangelism, using persuasion and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to bring people into a saving relationship with God through His Son, Jesus.

Here is what the Bible says:

Mark 16:15-16: "And He [Jesus] said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Their Primary Objective

Islam 's primary objective is to get everyone in the world to submit to Allah. (The word "Islam" literally means "submission to the will of Allah" and the word "Muslim" means "one who submits".)

Christianity 's primary objective is to gather a people for God (Acts 15:14) who will love God totally and love their neighbor as themselves.

When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment, He said: " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (**Matthew 22:38-40**)

(The word "love" is found 185 times in the NASB New Testament and only 83 times in the Koran)

The Coming Judgment

Islam believes that each person will be judged by their works. If their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds (and Allah is merciful), then they will go to heaven; if their bad deeds outweigh their good deeds they will go to an eternal hell.

From the **Koran**:

[23.101] So when the trumpet is blown, there shall be no ties of relationship between them on that day, nor shall they ask of each other.

[23.102] Then as for him whose good deeds are preponderant, these are the successful.

[23.103] And as for him whose good deeds are light, these are they who shall have lost their

souls, abiding in hell

[23.104] The fire shall scorch their faces, and they therein shall be in severe affliction.

Christians believe that a person is saved or lost based on whether they have placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. (Rewards will be based on works, but salvation is based on faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.)

From the **Bible**

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

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **Titus 3:5**

Their Simplicity

Islam is a very simple religion.

They have five beliefs: (1) God, (2) Angels, (3) Holy Books (the five books of Moses, the Psalms of David, the Gospels of Jesus and the Koran— the one that supersedes all the others), (4) Prophets (including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jonah, John the Baptist, Jesus and Muhammad), and (5) A Future Judgment.

They have five duties: (1) Recitation of the creed, (2) prayers, (3) giving alms, (4) fasting during the daylight hours during the month of Ramadan, and (5) a pilgrimage to Mecca. Some may add a sixth: Jihad (struggles, including military struggles against infidels –unbelievers in Allah).

Islam salvation depends on doing more good deeds than bad deeds. Christians have a hard time understanding this teaching. If a fireman saved five lives during a fire and then murders his father in law, does his good deeds out weigh his bad deeds? (He saved five lives and only took one life.)

Christianity is so simple a child can understand it

God created us and we are responsible to Him. We sinned against God and our sins separated us from Him. God loves us and Jesus, His Son, came to earth, died to take the punishment for our sins, was resurrected from the dead, ascended back to heaven and will one day return. In

order to be saved a person must receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior by faith in Jesus, repentance of their sins, a public confession of Jesus, and baptism into Jesus. Once they receive Jesus, they must remain faithful to Him until death. Salvation is by God's grace through our faith in Jesus, not by our works. Our eternal salvation depends on God's mercy, not on our merits. Christians do good deeds as a result of being saved not in order to be saved.

What is the Difference? Islam and Christianity

| | Christianity | Islam |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Founder | Jesus Christ | Muhammad |
| Birth Date (year) of Founder | About 4 BC | AD 570 |
| Birthday of Religion | About 33 AD | AD 622 |
| View of Jesus | The Son of God-- God the Son The Savior of the World Born of a virgin Died as an atonement for the sins of the world Resurrected from the dead | A Prophet of God Born of a virgin Did not die on the cross and was not resurrected |
| Scripture/Authority | The Bible (66 books written by 40 different men over a period of 1500 years completed by about 100 AD) | Koran (Qur 'an) (The collection of the revelations given through visions to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel. They were collected and put into the book by AD 652) |
| Creed | Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God | There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet |
| Creation | The Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) created the space-time universe out of nothing. God upholds all things by His power | Allah is the creator, designer, and sustainer of the universe |
| Mankind | Was created in the image of God but rebelled against | Mankind is basically good, not sinful by |

| | | |
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| | God and now all people are born with a sin nature and are in need of redemption | nature. Human beings can and should live in submission to the will of Allah |
| Sin | Sin is disobeying God. Man is morally responsible for their thoughts, words and deeds. All people have a naturally tendency toward sin and all sin. | Sin is rejecting right guidance. Mankind is basically good. Forgiveness is granted by repentance but no atonement is necessary for salvation |
| Salvation | Salvation can be obtained only by placing one's faith in the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ, who died to pay for the sins of all those who believe in Him | Salvation can be obtained by good works. If your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds (and Allah is merciful) you will be saved |
| View of Other Religions | There is salvation in no one other than Jesus Christ. Christianity is the only true religion. | Islam is the only true religion. All people need to surrender to Allah and obey him |
| Divisions Within the Religion | Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Over 300 Protestant Denominations | Sunnis, Shi-ites and a few others |
| Eternity | Heaven and Hell | Heaven and Hell |
| Estimated Number | 1 ½ Billion Worldwide | 1 Billion Worldwide |
| The Most Difficult "Teaching" for the other group to understand or accept | The Trinity That One God Can Manifest Himself In Three Persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) Muslims believe | Jihad Holy War or spiritual struggle against infidels. If a person dies while struggling |

| | | |
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| | that Christians worship three gods and some even think that the three gods are Father, Son and Mary | against a non-believer in Allah, then that person goes directly to heaven based on that one fact alone |
|--|---|--|

**What is the Difference?
Islam and Christianity
Chart Two – Jesus and Muhammad**

| | Jesus Christ | Muhammad |
|---|---|---|
| Religion They Started | Christianity | Islam |
| Year They Were Born | About 4 BC | 570 AD |
| Place of Birth | Bethlehem of Judea (Israel) | Mecca (Saudi Arabia) |
| Race | Jew | Arab |
| Length of Personal Ministry | From age 30 until death 3 – 3 ½ years later | Began seeing “visions” at age 40 that continued until his death at age 62 |
| Year Their Religion Began | About 33 AD | 622 AD |
| Creed of Their Religion | Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God | There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet |
| Estimate of Followers Today | 1 ½ Billion | 1 Billion |
| Some Claims They Made About themselves | He is the only way to God. Unless a person believed in Him, that person would die in his or her sins. If a person saw Jesus, He had seen God. He would die and be resurrected. | The one true God (Allah) gave him revelations through the angel Gabriel that were the very words of God. |
| Marriage/Family | Jesus never married but taught the importance of the family based on the principle of one man and one woman for life. Spiritually, the church is His bride | Muhammad had at least 11 wives (some say more). Muhammad married his favorite wife when she was six years old and first had sex with her when she was nine years old. (Other Muslims can have only four wives) |
| Sex | Restricted to marriage | Restricted to marriage |
| War/Peace | A man of peace | A man of war |
| Method to gain followers | Persuasion | Persuasion, if that does not work, violence |
| Sin | Never Sinned | Sinned and needed forgiveness |
| Death | Died as an atonement for others and was resurrected from the dead | Dead and buried |

* * * * *

Additional Notes of Interest

There is a lot of unity within the Islam religion.

They all believe that there is only one god and his name is Allah.

They all believe that the Koran (Qur 'an) is God 's perfect revelation and that it contains Allah 's perfect laws and that every other sacred book must be judged in light of it.

They all believe that there will be a judgment day & each person will either go to heaven or hell.

They all believe that Jesus was a prophet. They all believe that He was born of a virgin, but they do not believe that He died on the cross for our sins, nor that He was resurrected from the dead

They all believe that the Bible has been corrupted by Jews and Christians and cannot be trusted (It is only right in the areas in which it agrees with the Koran.)

But there are some divisions within the Islam religion.

Eighty-five percent of all Muslims are Sunni. The big issue for them concerns the successor to Muhammad. They believe that he must be a male from Muhammad 's tribe (Quraish).

The Shi-ite reformers is the other major group. They are usually thought of as more radical in their actions against non-Muslims.

The Nation of Islam (sometimes called "Black Muslims ") began in the United States in the 1930 's.

Elijah Poole, who changed his name to Elijah Muhammad, started this group. They believe that blacks were the first of creation, that whites were devils and that the black race was to gain its rightful leadership when God destroys the white race. Elijah preached that Christianity was the white man 's religion. He referred to God as Allah, to the Koran (Qur 'an) as the holy book and to himself as a prophet. Malcolm X and Louis Farrakhan are a part of this group.

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