

# Islam

Understanding Muslims

# The Five Pillars

- ④ Confession of Faith – There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.
- ④ Ritual Prayer – Observed 5 times each day, and congregationally on Friday
- ④ Almsgiving – Giving 2.5% of the person's wealth
- ④ Fasting – Observed during the month of Ramadan
- ④ Pilgrimage – Travel to Mecca at least once during lifetime

The Five Pillars  
set the standard for Islam.  
Muslims determine the  
practice of Islam.

# What do Muslims believe?

- ⦿ Belief in God - *Allah* as the one God, Creator, the Sustainer, and the Sovereign Law Giver of the Universe.
- ⦿ Belief in His Books - The Holy *Quran*, the Torah, Psalms, and the *Injeel* (the New Testament).
- ⦿ Belief in His Prophets and Messengers - The Messengers of Allah, including among others, Adam (the first man), Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, and finally Mohamed, the last of the prophets.

# What do Muslims believe?

- ⦿ Belief in His Angels - *Allah's* angels, *jinn* who are his agents
- ⦿ Belief in the Day of Judgment - The Last Day, the Resurrection of the Dead, the day of judgment, when all people will be held accountable for their beliefs, to spend eternal life in paradise or hell.
- ⦿ Belief in God's Divine Decrees - Divine preordaining of everything that happens, whether good or bad, transpiring under the authority of *Allah*, according to his will.

# Mohammed

- ❁ The last messenger of God.
- ❁ The most revered prophet. (Don't say bad things about him.)
- ❁ Muslims do not worship Mohamed.
- ❁ Created the model community of submission in Medina (622 AD). Muslims, including women, look back to this as the starting point of their calendar and the high point of human history.
- ❁ Admitted he is only a man (Sura 18:110).
- ❁ Was not without sin (Sura 40:55, 48:1-2).

# The Quran

- ⦿ A direct copy of the original is in Heaven. Dictated to Mohamed by the angel Gabriel (610-632 AD).
- ⦿ God's perfect eternal and unchanging Word. Sent to inform man of God's law.
- ⦿ Supersedes previous scriptures.
- ⦿ Most beneficial when chanted with correct pronunciation whether understood or not.
- ⦿ Written verses used as charms in folk Islam.

# The Hadith

- ⦿ Authenticated sayings of Mohamed collected after his death.
- ⦿ Many cultural practices are found in the Hadith. “Where did you get that? It’s not in the Quran. Oh, it’s in the Hadith...”
- ⦿ Sunnah refers to habits and practices of Mohamed’s life.
- ⦿ Many Muslims cannot understand the Quran, so the Hadith is usually the greatest influence on the practice Islam.

# What makes Christianity different from Islam?

Worldview Comparison

# God

## Christian View

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- ⦿ Eternal, immutable, self-sufficient
- ⦿ Omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent
- ⦿ Immanent in this world
- ⦿ God is one, but reveals himself to us as three persons

## Islamic View

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- ⦿ Eternal, immutable, self-sufficient
- ⦿ Omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent
- ⦿ Utterly transcendent but sees all
- ⦿ God is absolutely one, without associates, without “persons”

# Creation

## Christian View

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- ⦿ God created all things in six days.
- ⦿ God created the earth entirely good, without evil.
- ⦿ God created Adam from dust and breathed life into him from His breath.
- ⦿ Death and suffering entered the earth because of man's sin.

## Islamic View

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- ⦿ God created all things in six days.
- ⦿ God created the earth as it is now.
- ⦿ God created Adam from a lump of clay and breathed life into him from His spirit.
- ⦿ God created the world with death and suffering. Death is God's will for man and His mercy to society.

# Man

## Christian View

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- ❁ God made man in His own spiritual image.
- ❁ Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit.
- ❁ Mankind fell from the original condition and since then man is born with a sinful nature.

## Islamic View

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- ❁ God gave man spiritual qualities, but God is entirely unlike man.
- ❁ Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit.
- ❁ Adam repented and was forgiven. There was no spiritual fall. Man continues to be born with a good nature.

# Sin

## Christian View

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- ⦿ All people sin. Sin disqualifies a person from entering heaven.
- ⦿ People sin because their fallen human nature inclines us toward sin.

## Islamic View

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- ⦿ There are different categories of sin. Only the worst ones may disqualify a person from entering paradise. Everyone commits lesser slips, mistakes, lapses and if they repent, they are forgiven.
- ⦿ People sin because they are weak and forgetful of God's laws. Ultimately, every good or evil action is predestined by God. Those whom He guides fulfill His requirements.

# Jesus - Similarities

- ⦿ The coming of Jesus was foretold by prophets.
- ⦿ Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and did many miracles.
- ⦿ Jesus was a prophet.
- ⦿ Jesus was without sin.
- ⦿ Jesus ascended to heaven.
- ⦿ Jesus is coming again.

# Jesus - Differences

## Christian View

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- ❁ Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) because he is the anointed Savior-King over God's Kingdom.
- ❁ Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.
- ❁ Jesus Christ is God and reveals what God is like.
- ❁ Jesus died on the cross as the only perfect sacrifice for sin.

## Islamic View

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- ❁ The title "Messiah" is of uncertain meaning.
- ❁ The Christians claim that God had sexual relations with a woman. This is blasphemy.
- ❁ Jesus was only a prophet and was not divine.
- ❁ Jesus did not die. Someone else died in his place. There is no sacrifice that can atone for sin. No one can help man at the judgment.

# Jesus - more differences

## Christian View

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- ⦿ God demonstrated His love for us through the sacrifice of Christ.
- ⦿ Jesus Christ rose from the dead.
- ⦿ The resurrection showed that Jesus conquered sin and death.
- ⦿ Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

## Islamic View

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- ⦿ God would not allow one of His prophets to be humiliated by crucifixion.
- ⦿ Jesus did not die or rise from the dead.
- ⦿ Jesus ascended without death and resurrection.
- ⦿ Jesus does not rule. Only God has power.

# Jesus - still more differences

## Christian View

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- ⦿ Praying in Jesus' name is appropriate since our relationship to God is based on His sacrifice.
- ⦿ Jesus will judge the living and the dead.
- ⦿ Jesus will establish his universal kingdom over heaven and earth and will rule forever.

## Islamic View

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- ⦿ One cannot make petitions to God in Jesus' name. This would be making him equal with God and would be *shirk*, the worst of sins.
- ⦿ Jesus will return and force everyone to become Muslims. God will be the judge.
- ⦿ Jesus will die and be buried.

# Salvation

## Christian View

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- ❁ Salvation is by God's grace through faith in Christ alone.
- ❁ Faith in Christ involves personal trust and commitment to Him, as well as repentance from what displeases Him.
- ❁ Good deeds please God but they do not earn grace, forgiveness, or eternal life. They do not cancel sins.

## Islamic View

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- ❁ If God wills, one can be saved by believing in God's Unity and following His guidance. (Faith + Works)
- ❁ Faith involves agreeing to the revealed doctrines, especially God's unity.
- ❁ If God wills, one's good deeds will outweigh his bad deeds and gain him paradise in the end.

# Heaven / Paradise

## Christian View

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- ⦿ God is present in Heaven. The greatest pleasure of Heaven is close fellowship with God.
- ⦿ Believers have been regenerated and progressively transformed on earth, and they are fully sanctified and glorified in Heaven.

## Islamic View

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- ⦿ God is not present. He is far away and cannot be known. The primary pleasures of Paradise are food and sex.
- ⦿ Those in Paradise are similar to how they were on earth. There is no moral transformation of their nature.

# Where do we go from here?

Sharing the Gospel with Muslims

# Establishing a new perspective

*“Muslims are not opposed to the Gospel.*

*They have just never heard.”*