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### Are Muslims and Christians Compatible? (Part 1)

<u>Luke 6:28</u>: (NASB) Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.



Over the last few weeks the Middle East has been lit up again with violence and controversy. Those who are perpetrating the violence are members of the Muslim faith and these radical factions of Islam are targeting America, her principles and her people. So, what do we take from this? Does this bring our minds to conclude that Islam is a religion of violence, or is Islam bigger than that? How do we as Christians, or *do* we as Christians, seek compatibility with Muslims? Stay with us for this difficult but timely subject!

#### What is Islam about?

## 1))48 hours after protests began, CBS News, Cairo Egypt

 Protests have gone on in at least ten nations since the first disturbances at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. While the Muslim Brotherhood had called for more demonstrations later on today, we are already seeing crowds of young men on the street. They are clashing with the police. I can smell the tear gas from seven stories up. We have been watching this happen now for more than 48 hours.

#### (Muslim sources are used unless otherwise indicated.)

Briefly, what is Islam all about? Islam is an active realization of the existence of the One God and the willing submission to Him. It is meant to be conveyed and understood: It is not meant to be mystical, full of mystery and beyond the comprehension of the common and ordinary mind. What does Islam teach? Islam offers mankind a perfect code of laws; methodically teaching people to strive to practice moral culture, to be kind to all, not to waste, to be magnanimous and tolerant, and to live in peace with others in order to attain universal brotherhood. It teaches man to discover the Creator of the worlds and to analyze all things by practicing the teachings of the Qur'an and by following the advice and conduct of the Prophet. To believe in Islam is to achieve a happy life by standing firm on the earth under the heavens. Islam attaches equal importance to life in this world and in the next. It is not merely a religion, but a perfect code of life to be observed by man.

## (a Muslim-produced program)

Islam is to gain peace. You gain peace with Islam. That's what it's all about. So when I see someone who has gained peace, he has peace in his heart. He has peace in his mind and when he's dealing with people, even when hard times come, he is at peace. Even when good times come, he is at peace. He is not going ballistic or crazy or emotional, but he stays in this way and people say, "Why is this guy like this?" Because he has gained peace.

There is a disconnect of some kind based on what we see in the world today. Why?

The Five Pillars of Islam: (This is an abbreviated version - please see the fully quoted version in the CQ Rewind Full Edition Bonus Material.)

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: The Shahada is the Islamic proclamation that "There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."
- 2. Prayer (Salat): 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.
- 3. Fasting (Saum): 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.
- 4. Alms-giving or charity (Zakat): 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): This is the pilgrimage to Mecca. All Muslims, if they are able, are to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.

#### Who is responsible for the unrest going on right now?

Is Christianity responsible? Free Speech? Capitalism? Socialism? Israel? Muslims?



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...A day of rage against the United States in the Muslim world as fury mounts over an American
film that insults that prophet Mohammed. In Tunesia, at least three people are killed as police
open fire near the U.S. embassy. Smoke rises from the embassy in the capital city, Tunis, that
was the cradle of last year's Arab Spring.

#### Christians are told to stand firm for what we believe: 2 Timothy 1:7-9

(Source: <a href="http://muslimmatters.org/2012/09/16/39567/">http://muslimmatters.org/2012/09/16/39567/</a>) A Muslim response to the Mockery: Mockery is Tantamount to Ignorance: ...Allāh revealed to Moses that in order to solve the murder your people have to slaughter a cow. Of course, when Moses told his people of God's command, their first reaction was shock and disbelief (e.g. what's slaughtering a cow got to do with solving a murder?). The Qur'an says: "Remember when Moses said to his people, 'God commands you to sacrifice a cow,' they said, 'are you making fun of us?' He answered, 'God forbid that I should be so ignorant'" [2:67] ...what we usually miss from this verse is the fact that Moses equated mockery to ignorance. So a learned man (or woman) should never mock anyone or anything under any circumstance. So the next question becomes, how do we deal with ignorance or ignorant people?

# ))Jews and Christians as friends, thedeenshow.com

- You hear some people saying that Islam says, "Don't take Jews and Christians as friends." What does the Koran have to say about this?
- (Shaykh Yusuf Estes answers) First of all, there is a reference for this but it is incorrect to translate it that way. Koran is only in the Arabic language. It is preserved in the original so we don't have any doubt of what it says in Arabic, but when you try to translate it, there's where the problems come in, especially if someone has an agenda they're working on and they have their own feelings or emotions they're putting into it.

(Source: <a href="http://muslimmatters.org/2012/09/16/39567/">http://muslimmatters.org/2012/09/16/39567/</a>) Ignore the Ignorant: The Qur'an tells us to dismiss the people of ignorance and not to give a lot of attention to them. It asks us to not engage with them in any conversation, except perhaps to safeguard ourselves from greater harm. For example: "Be tolerant, command what's right, pay no attention to foolish people" [7:199] ...I think we can all agree that the message of the Qur'an is to ignore the ignorant. On the other hand, we see the Qur'an encouraging us to engage with the people of reason and to even debate them if they have a different point of view:...

## (1))Mohammed Moussoui on French cartoons, French 24TV

• There is profound indignation at the publication of these cartoons insulting to Islam and to the prophet. We firmly condemn this act of Islamophobia. We call on French Muslims to remain calm and to treat this new provocation with serenity and express their indignation legitimately through legal means. I insist of the fact that French Muslims rise above our anger and do not give in to provocation.

(Source: <a href="http://muslimmatters.org/2012/09/16/39567/">http://muslimmatters.org/2012/09/16/39567/</a>) Spare Me the Mockery: We can't leave this subject without contemplating a very interesting verse that speaks to the heart of the issue at hand. This verse addresses the Prophet Muhammad himself. It says: "We have spared you those who ridicule you" [15:95] In essence, the Qur'an is telling us that when it specifically comes to the issue of mocking the Prophet, which is exactly the issue that we are dealing with today, don't take matters in your own hands, rather, God will take care of those who mock the Prophet.

#### Romans 12:18-21

The Apostle Paul's advice to Timothy on how we are to live: 2 Timothy 1:5-8: We need to stand up for what we believe, but how do we do that? Whenever people are killing others in the name of religion, it is wrong. Judgment belongs to God. 2 Peter 3:10-11

## (1) Jews and Christians as friends, thedeenshow.com

• (Shaykh Yusuf Estes:) Allah is telling us in this case, do not take the Jews and Christians as your "allies" (improperly translated as "friends") in the context of a conflict... So if there is conflict, don't take the Jews and Christians as your allies, in particularly against each other.

(Source: Associated Press, September 20, 2012 IRAQ:) Prime minister Nouri al-Maliki condemned the U.S.-produced film and the French weekly's cartoons as offensive to Muslims



and called on Shiites and Sunnis to unite in defense of Islamic values. Speaking in the Shiite holy city of Najaf in southern Iraq, al-Maliki said "all Muslims should shoulder responsibility of defending Islam."... "Defending Islam is the responsibility of all Muslims, not a particular sect or an ethnic group," al-Maliki said.

(Source: A Muslim site no longer operating) Does Islam say it is the only religion recognized by God? Islam means "Total submission to the will of God." It is for the person's entire life, for all of mankind and for both this world and the next. It is a total way of life, covering all aspects of man's life. The Qur'an indicates that Islam is the only religion recognized by God after the advent of Prophet Muhammad. With the Qur'an, the One Religion of God becomes available as a complete guidance. Thus, it has been given a name - Islam - by God Himself. God says, "The Religion before God is Islam." (Qur'an 3:19) As such, God urges people to follow Islam: "This (Islam) is My Way. Leading straight; follow it: follow not other paths." (Qur'an 6:153)

Is the killing of innocent people part of the will of God according to Islam?

## (1) Sudan and dead bodies, anti-American fury sweeps Middle East, Reuters

In Sudan, anger at the west led to an attack on the German Embassy with police unable to stop demonstrators who stormed the building. Outside Washington, U.S. President Barack Obama attended a solemn ceremony as the bodies of Americans killed in Libya were returned home.

The Christian perspective - let your love for humanity override everything: <u>Luke 6:27-31</u>

What's different about Islam regarding the Old Testament Law?

# (1))Old Testament, New Testament, Last Testament, thedeenshow.com

As far as the people that we live with every day, here's what Allah says about that. He does not forbid you to deal with them with kindness and justice and so on - he is talking about Jews and Christians or any of the people, but these are the revealed religions before us. We consider what they call the Old Testament the Torah, which we consider to be a very legitmate book. Then we consider the Gospel when it was revealed to Jesus to be another legitimate book. So we are Muslims saying Old Testement, New Testament and Last Testament.

#### From a Muslim perspective... The Ten Commandments in the Quran

Islam (submission to the will of God) is the same and only religion ever given to the human race. It is the religion of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, Muhammad and all the other messengers mentioned or not mentioned in the scripture. The Ten Commandments as we see them here are not any more than the same message given to the prophet Muhammad.

#### The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)

Confirmation in the Quran

- 1. Thou shall not take any God except one God.
  - 1. There is no other god beside GOD, (47:19)
- 2. Thou shall make no image of God.
- 2. There is nothing that equals (like) Him. (42:11) My Lord, make this a peaceful land, and protect me and my children from worshiping idols. (14:35)
- 3. Thou shall not use God's name in vain.
- 3. Do not subject GOD's name to your casual swearing, that you may appear righteous, pious, or to attain credibility among the people. (2:224)
- 4. Thou shall honor thy mother and father.
- 4. ...and your parents shall be honored. As long as one or both of them live, you shall never say to them, "Uff" (the slightest gesture of annoyance), nor shall you shout at them; you shall treat them amicably. (17:23)
- 5. Thou shall not steal.
- 5. The thief, male or female, you shall mark their hands as a punishment for their crime, and to serve as an example from GOD. GOD is Almighty, Most Wise. (5:38 39)
- 6. Thou shall not lie or give false testimony.



6. ...incur GOD's condemnation upon him, if he was lying. (24:7) Do not withhold any testimony by concealing what you had witnessed. Anyone who withholds a testimony is sinful at heart. (2:283)

#### 7. Thou shall not kill.

7. ...anyone who murders any person who had not committed murder or horrendous crimes, it shall be as if he murdered all the people. (5:32)

## (I) Violence in Quran and Bible, the brutal truth about Islam, Robert Spencer, CBN

- Old Testament does have commands to clear out whole cities, etc...What it does not say is all believers should go and do likewise this is your pattern to follow in the Quran the pattern is unmistakable...
- 8. Thou shall not commit adultery.
  - 8. You shall not commit adultery; it is a gross sin, and an evil behavior. (17:32)
- 9. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife or possessions.
- 9. You shall regard the parents, the relatives, the orphans, the poor, the related neighbor, the unrelated neighbor, the close associate, the traveling alien, and your servants. (4:36)
- **10.** Thou shall keep the Sabbath holy. (The Sabbath was relinquished with the revelation of the Quran. We are told in the Quran that the Sabbath was only decreed for the Jews.)
- 10. O you who believe, when the Congregational Prayer (Salat Al-Jumu`ah) is announced on Friday, you shall hasten to the commemoration of GOD, and drop all business. (62:9)

#### What's different about Islam regarding: Jesus?

#### A moment to focus on the Bible: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Muslim Perspective: Muslims believe in the books of the previous prophets including the "Torah" which was sent to Moses, the "Zaboor" (Psalms) which were given to David, the "Injeel" (Gospel) which was given to Jesus, and the Qur'an which was given to Muhammad. However, Muslims are told that the previous scriptures were tampered with by mankind and the Bible should only be accepted in as far as it is confirmed by the Qur'an. It is to be treated with respect; however any statements which clearly oppose those of the Qur'an are to be rejected as the work of mankind.

#### Books Muslims believe in, meccacentric.com



To be Muslim, I have to believe in all books of Allah that he sent. To be a Muslim I have to believe in the Torah which was sent to the prophet Moses, peace be upon him. I have to believe in the Gospel sent to prophet Jesus, son of Mary, the Christ, the Messiah. I have to believe in the Qur'an given to the prophet Mohammed, peace be upon him. And I have to believe in the Psalms of David and the scriptures given to Abraham. Muslims believe the Archangel Gabriel carried them 100% correct to the messengers of God. We believe the Qur'an is the only book that has been kept safe in its original language, the Arabic language.

#### What about Jesus? John 3:16-18

Muslim Perspective: They disregard the core of what Jesus was about, including the crucifixion and the payment for man's sin. Jesus was a highly esteemed messenger of God but was not the Son of God.

## (2007) Radical Christians as dangerous as radical Muslims, Rosie O'Donnell, The View

• We were attacked - not by a nation - (on 9/11) and as a result of the attack and the killing of nearly 3,000 innocent people, we invaded two countries and killed innocent people there...radical Christianity is just as threatening as radical Islam in a country like America where we have a separation of church and state.

There are representations of Christianity that we reject.

#### Matthew 11:28-30 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Muslim Perspective: That he was sent by God as a messenger to the Jews in order to return them to the pure and true religion of Moses, and to relieve them of some of the regulations which had been placed upon them in ancient times. He taught them to have faith as well as works. Neither one can stand alone.



#### What about Jesus' crucifixion? Philippians 2:7-8

Muslim Perspective: Jesus was not forsaken to the Jews to be abused and killed; however, it was "made to appear so to them." God saved Jesus by raising him up unto Himself. Jesus was not crucified.

#### What's different about Islam regarding: The spreading of the "good news"?

Does Islam urge Muslims to spread Islamic teachings? God Tells us, "Truth has been made distinct from error..." (Qur'an 2:256) This is to say that whatever distortions that had occurred to the earlier Revelations have been corrected in Islam. There have been instances of people disliking Islam at various points of their lives for one reason or another, and after some reflection or personal encounter, accepting it. Some even accept Islam very much later in life. As such, Muslims are encouraged to spread Islam. The Prophet advised Muslims, "Impart the teachings of Islam to others, even if it is just one sentence."

When you violate the principles of righteousness, you end up setting a trap for yourself and eventually get stuck in a trap of your own making.

A Christian comparison: 2 Timothy 4:1-4

(1) Street names, What about the dark side of Islam? John Ankerberg Show

• ...In allegiance to the the teachings of the Qur'an, it's why there are 19 streets in Riyad named in honor after each one of the bombers. It's why high schools have received the names of these 19 bombers. It's why the number one name in the Arabic world for boys is "Osama."

This tells us there is support, even if a small minority, for radical Islam. We need to be prepared to be Christ-like in our dealings with these people.

Does freedom in Christ and its lessons have any bearing on Islam? John 8:32-38: Abraham's sons, Israel, sought to kill Jesus personally and Jesus recognized it. We would say, however, that Abraham's son in Ishmael has tried to kill the message. It completely disregards the core value of Jesus' sacrifice for every man, woman and children.

(1))Proper hate for the sake of Allah, thedeenshow.com

• Allah does not forbid us to be kind and gentle to the people. Some people believe Islam takes everyone as a non-friend who is not a Muslim and we despise them because they are infidels. If you are a Jew, a Christian or a Muslim, isn't it correct that you don't really hate the people, but instead we hate the evil that some people do? We do hate for the sake of Allah, but it's not to hate humans, it's to hate the evil that some humans do.

That is a basic Christian principle - hate the sin, not the sinner.

Acts 4:9-12: Jesus was rejected but became the chief cornerstone. There is no other name by which salvation can occur. The ransom price of Jesus was for every man, woman and child who ever lived - Muslims included.

So are Muslims and Christians compatible?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!