

C. Islam

Muslims often emphasize the similarities between Islam and Christianity. They speak of a shared heritage and similar roots and traditions. But is that really true? Consider the comparisons below on nine major theological positions.

On the Godhead

Islam Teaches

Islam rejects the concept of the Trinity. The Koran misrepresents the teaching of Christianity regarding the Godhead, claiming Christians believe in “three Gods” - Father, Mother, and Son.

Muhammad was not divine, but was the last of the prophets - the very one predicted in Moses’ day.

Christianity Teaches

The Christian Scriptures teach that the Godhead consists of three persons in one: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus claimed to be God. He accepted worship, forgave sins, lived a sinless life, possessed all the attributes of God, and raised Himself from the dead.

On the Deity of Jesus Christ

Islam Teaches

Islam considers Jesus as a prophet just like Moses, Abraham, and Noah. Islam rejects the divinity of Jesus.

God has no sons: Jesus Christ was a created being.

Christianity Teaches

The Bible clearly teaches the deity of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ possessed all the attributes of God: omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, and immutability. Jesus Christ was pre-existent to creation.

On Salvation

Islam Teaches

Islam rejects the doctrine of original sin.

Christianity Teaches

The Bible teaches original sin; that is, that all are born into a condition of sin.

Salvation comes only through Allah. Only those who obey Allah and Mohammed his prophet can enter into Heaven.

Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.

Islam denies the crucifixion of Jesus, claiming Jesus never died.

Jesus was crucified, died and rose again.

Salvation is earned by good works. The only way to heaven is to die in a jihad ("holy war").

Salvation comes only by faith; through grace, not of works.

Everything depends on divine providence (fate).

Man has free will.

On Eternal Judgment

Islam Teaches

Those who kill or are killed by unbelievers will return to the garden of Paradise (Koran 9:111), where they will enjoy many lustful pleasures - sex with virgins, pleasant food and drink, etc.

Those who invoke a god other than Allah, not only should meet punishment in this world, but the Penalty on the Day of Judgment will be doubled to them, and they will dwell therein in ignominy. (Koran 25:68)

Christianity Teaches

Those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and submitted their lives to his Lordship will enjoy eternal bliss in heaven, where there will be no pain or sorrow, no disease or death.

Those who reject Jesus Christ will suffer eternal torments in hell. Jesus is the only way to heaven and to escape hell.

On the Word of God

Islam Teaches

One of the five tenets to which Muslims must adhere is a belief in the four inspired books - the Torah (5 books of Moses), Zabur (the psalms), Injil (the gospel), and the Koran. The Christian Scriptures are incomplete without the Koran.

The Koran claims divine authorship and inspiration, contains no human words and is without contradiction.

Christianity Teaches

Only the Old and New Testament are Scripture. Adding to God's Word has serious consequences. (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18)

The Bible is without error. The New Testament undeniably declares the inspiration of the Old Testament (the contents of which the Koran denies).

On Murder, Violence, War & Oppression

Islam Teaches

Islam both allows and forbids murder and violence, depending on who is the recipient of the act.

Acceptable to break treaties and obligations with non-Muslims, and to make war if you are strong enough.

Christianity Teaches

Murder is forbidden. Oppression of the innocent is condemned throughout Scripture.

Treachery and lying are forbidden (Matthew 5:33-37). Better to suffer wrong than not to keep one's word.

On the Treatment of Women

Islam Teaches

Men have authority over women. (Koran 2:228)

Women who disobey should be beaten.

Christianity Teaches

Spiritually, there is neither male nor female in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). But in the home, there is a divinely established order.

Violence is prohibited.

On Morals

Islam Teaches

Muhammad had 11 wives and allowed marriage of up to four wives.

The Koran states that fornication and adultery are sin; but also allows sexual intercourse with one's slave maids and "captive" women - even if those women are married.

Christianity Teaches

God created man to be monogamous. Polygamy is the consequence of sin.

Sex outside of marriage is forbidden.

On Prayer, Fasting & Worship

Islam Teaches

Muslims must recite prayers five times daily while facing Mecca. Prayer must be performed at prescribed hours and in a definite pattern of word and posture.

Fasting is required for one month per year. This fast is complete abstinence, during daylight hours, from all food, drink, tobacco and sexual intercourse.

Christianity Teaches

Christianity presents prayer, fasting and worship as arising totally without compulsion or obligation, but wholly from the heart.

Fasting is to be done in a manner of humility and secrecy.