

BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Islam and Christianity: Worldviews in Conflict

From last week:

“Are Muslims trying to take over the West?”

“We have 50 million Muslims in Europe. There are signs that Allah will grant Islam victory in Europe—without swords, without guns, without conquests . . . [they will] turn it into a Muslim continent within a few decades . . . Europe is in a predicament, and so is America. They should agree to become Islamic in the course of time, or else declare war on the Muslims.”

From a speech that aired on Al-Jazeera in April 2006 by Muammar Gaddafi

5 concerns:

1. Failure to _____
2. Principles or precedents of _____ (Islamic) law being implemented through the courts
3. So called “_____” and the slow loss of free speech
4. The current cultural “correctness” and mob-mentality regarding Islam
5. The over-arching goal of Muslim dominance (*Dar al-Islam*, or “_____”)

Worldviews in conflict:

“Do Muslims and Christians worship the same God?”

Why do people believe/say we worship the same God?

- 1) It says so in the Quran:

“our God and your God is One, and unto Him we surrender” (29: 46).

- 2) They* both fulfill the same _____.

- 3) Christians, Jews, and Muslims share some major theological _____.

- 4) Christians, Jews, and Muslims share some agreement on _____ teachings.

- 5) The _____ said so! (referencing Vatican II)

So, what is different?

1) In a word, _____

Quran, 5:17, "In blasphemy indeed are those that say that Allah is Christ the son of Mary. Say: "Who then hath the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ the son of Mary, his mother, and all every--one that is on the earth? For to Allah belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and all that is between. He createth what He pleaseth. For Allah hath power over all things."

Quran 5:75, "Christ the son of Mary was no more than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their (daily) food. See how Allah doth make His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth!"

John 14:6-10 (ESV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

He (Jesus) is, in fact, the only way by which men and women may come to the Father, there is no other way. If this seems offensively exclusive, let it be borne in mind that the one who makes this claim is the incarnate Word, the revealer of the Father. If God has no avenue of communication with mankind apart from his Word . . . mankind has no avenue of approach to God apart from that same Word, who became flesh and dwelt among us in order to supply such an avenue of approach.

F. F. Bruce, *The Gospel of John* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983) 298.

Quran 5:72, "They do blaspheme who say: "Allah is Christ the son of Mary." But said Christ: "O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever joins other gods with Allah, - Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help."

*The answer to this question depends upon a distinctly Christian and clearly biblical answer to yet another question: **Can anyone truly worship the Father while rejecting the Son?***

2) Also, the _____

Quran, 5:73 (Yusuf Ali), "They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah. If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy), verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them."

Tawhid = the defining doctrine of Islam. It declares absolute monotheism—the unity and uniqueness of God as creator and sustainer of the universe. (Oxford Islamic Studies)

Tawhid emphatically denies the Trinity, so much so that it is safe to say the doctrine of God in Islam is antithetical to the doctrine of God in Christianity. Not just different but opposed. This last difference is profound. The Trinity teaches that God is not a person, but three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. To assert that the God of Islam is the same person as the God of Christianity becomes almost nonsensical at this point, as the Christian God is tripersonal, two persons of whom Islam specifically denies in the Quran.

Nabeel Qureshi, *Answering Jihad: A Better Way Forward* (p. 113).

Muslims claim that Allah has no son. This represents a head-on collision between the God of the Bible and Allah. For, as the Bible makes clear, the one and only true God is most perfectly revealed as the Father of the Son, Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of John, Jesus repeatedly teaches that no one has truly known the Father, except by the Son. In one of the most clarifying verses in the New Testament, Jesus declared Himself to be “the way, and the truth, and the life,” adding, “No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

Because Muslims deny that God has a son, they explicitly reject any Trinitarian language. From the very starting point, Islam denies what Christianity takes as its central truth claim: the fact that Jesus Christ is the only begotten of the Father. If Allah has no son, then Allah is not the God who reveals Himself through the Son. How then can calling God “Allah” not lead to anything but confusion—and worse?

Islam teaches that the doctrine of the Trinity is blasphemous. But the Christian faith is essentially and irreducibly Trinitarian. The Bible reveals that the Father is God, that the Son is God, and that the Holy Spirit is God. Jesus is not merely a prophet, as acknowledged by Muslims, He is God in human flesh. This is precisely what Islam rejects.

The Trinitarian language is the language of the Bible, and it is essential to Christianity. Indeed, the Christian faith points to Christ and announces that we can only know the Father through the Son.

Dr. Al Mohler, *Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God?*, December 1, 2013

3) Distinctions in essential _____:

- God's perspicuity
- God as Father
- God as Redeemer
- God's Book
- God's Law
- God's meta-narrative

So, how should we respond?

With _____

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you ...*

Matthew 22:36-38 (ESV)

³⁶ *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"* ³⁷ *And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and **with all your mind.**"* ³⁸ *This is the great and first commandment.*

2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

Proverbs 23:23 (ESV)

²³ *Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.*

With _____

2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)

⁴ *For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*

Ephesians 6:17-20 (ESV)

¹⁷ *... and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,* ¹⁸ *praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,* ¹⁹ *and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,* ²⁰ *for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

With _____

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

¹² *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Romans 1:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.* 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.

With _____

John 16:7-11 (ESV)

*⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, **he will convict the world** concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

And ...

With faithful, courageous witness, and ...

Loving acts that create opportunities to demonstrate Christ

NEXT WEEK:

A Christian Worldview