

## Do Muslims and Christians Worship the Same God?

Sunday Evening Bible Study, January 24, 2016

### Last week: Who is Jesus?

1. The Muslim God *denies* that Jesus is the uncreated Son of God, fully God and fully man, who died on the cross in the place of sinners, was buried, raised from the dead, and who appeared to many, who is coming again to judge the living and the dead, punishing those who do not receive and worship him as God.
2. The Christian God *affirms* that Jesus is the uncreated Son of God, fully God and fully man, who died on the cross in the place of sinners, was buried, raised from the dead, and who appeared to many, who is coming again to judge the living and the dead and punish those who do not receive and worship him as God.

### This week: How should news about our God be spread?

The God of Muslims	The God of Christians
<p>1. The Qur'an revived the Old Testament sanctions for theocratic holy war (<i>jihad</i>).</p> <p><i>When you meet those who disbelieve, strike at their necks; then, when you have overwhelmed them, tighten the bonds. Then free them graciously or hold them for ransom, till war lays down its burdens. 47:4</i></p>	<p>1. The New Testament nullified the Old Testament sanctions for theocratic holy war.</p> <p><i>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." Jn. 18:36; (See also Mt. 5:17)</i></p>
<p>2. Muhammed taught his followers to be willing to kill for their faith.</p> <p><i>O Prophet! Rouse the believers to fight. If there be twenty steadfast among you, they shall overcome two hundred...of those who disbelieve. 8:65</i></p> <p><i>Let them fight in the way of God—whether he is slain or victorious—We shall grant him a great reward. 4:74</i></p> <p><i>And deem not those slain in the way of God to be dead. Rather, they are alive with their Lord, provided for, exulting in what God has given them from His Bounty...3:169,170</i></p> <p><i>Truly the reverent are in a station secure, amid gardens and springs, wearing fine silk and rich brocade, facing one another. Thus it is. And We shall wed them to wide-eyed maidens. Therein they call for every fruit, secure. 44:51-56 (See Also: 52:20; 2:154; 78:34,35)</i></p>	<p>2. Jesus taught his followers to be willing to die for their faith.</p> <p><i>And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. Luke 9:23,24</i></p> <p><i>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Ro. 12:19</i></p> <p><i>For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. Mt. 22:30</i></p> <p><i>And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" Rev. 4:8</i></p>
<p>3. The earliest generations of Mohammed's followers <i>used</i> violence to force conversions to Islam.</p> <p><i>Slay the idolaters wheresoever you find them,</i></p>	<p>3. The earliest generations of Jesus's followers <i>avoided</i> violence and never forced conversions to Christianity.</p> <p><i>Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable,</i></p>

<p><i>capture them, besiege them, and lie in wait for them at every place in ambush. But if they repent, and perform the prayer and give the alms, let them go their way. 9:5</i></p> <p><i>...fight them until there is no strife and religion is wholly for God...And know that whatsoever you take as spoils, a fifth is for God and the messenger, and for kinsfolk, orphans, the indigent and the traveler, if you believe in God...8:38-41</i></p> <p><i>Fight those who believe not in God and in the Last Day, and who do not forbid what God and his Messenger have forbidden and who follow not the Religion of Truth among those who were given the book, till they pay the jizya. 9:29</i></p>	<p><i>so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:12</i></p> <p><i>And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas,..Acts 17:2-4</i></p>
<p>4. Obedient Muslims use violence to advance Islam.</p> <p><i>Let them fight in the way of God, those who would sell the life of this world for the Hereafter. And whosoever fights in the way of God—whether he is slain or victorious—We shall grant him a great reward. And what ails you that you fight not in the way of God?...Those who believe fight in the way of God and those who disbelieve fight in the way of false deities. Fight therefore against the allies of Satan. 4:74–76 (Also 2:244)</i></p>	<p>4. Disobedient Christians use violence to advance Christianity.</p> <p><i>Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Mt. 26:52</i></p> <p>[There are no Biblical examples of Christians using violence to advance Christianity. When this occurred in church history, God was offended, the church was disgraced, and the gospel was hindered.]</p>
<p>5. Mohammed interpreted his words with acts of violence.</p> <p><i>And fight in the way of God against those who fight against you, but do not transgress. Truly God loves not the transgressors. And slay them wheresoever you come upon them, ...if they fight you, then slay them. Such is the recompense of the disbelievers (infidels). 2:190–191</i></p>	<p>5. Jesus interpreted his words with acts of love.</p> <p><i>Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword (Mt. 10:34).</i></p> <p><i>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Mt. 5:44). See also Isa. 53:7; Mt. 11:5.</i></p>
<p>6. The God of Muslims instructs them to conquer the world through violence and coercion.</p> <p><i>Fighting has been prescribed for you, though it is hateful to you. But it may be that you hate a thing though it be good for you, and it may be that you love a thing though it be evil for you. 2:216</i></p>	<p>6. The God of Christians instructs them to conquer the world through love and logic.</p> <p><i>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 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; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame (1 Peter 3:14-16. (See also Mt. 5:16; Titus 2:7; 3:8; 3:14).</i></p>