

## Notes for AFR show 01-30-2016



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## The Division Between Muslim And Christian Doctrine

Today I want to compare Christian and Islamic doctrine. They cannot both be true. You will see that it is impossible to reconcile the doctrine of both of them.

As we talk with churches and church leaders, and as we minister to Muslims, we find that there are still some who want to merge Christian doctrine and Islamic doctrine. They believe the lie that both come from the same God.

We have covered the efforts of some to build a composite religion which is called Chrislam. We have shown that the idea you can reconcile the two is completely false. We have also covered the Common Ground movement that teaches that the Bible and the Qur'an have common ground and that we can build a bridge between the two.

This is in light of the fact that we have so many Muslims coming to America. This has increased with the Refugee Resettlement Program. Many pastors are struggling with how to address this issue. The fact that we, as Christians, are to love our neighbor and even our enemy makes this difficult for many.

They want to be friends with Muslims so they can reach them for Christ. It is true that we have to have some kind of relationship with Muslims, if possible, because we cannot reach them if we don't. The Bible does not teach that we have to have a friendship with someone before we can give them the Gospel.

When we, as Christians, befriend Muslims we develop a heart for them, which is a good thing. However, it can cause us to be afraid to share the Gospel because we know that it will probably upset the Muslim. The Bible tells us that the Gospel is offensive and a stumbling block. We cannot build our plan for presenting the Gospel on the fear of offending, we have to present it based on the power it has to pierce the heart of the lost. We have to contrast what the Qur'an teaches with what the Bible teaches.

The Gospel is offensive because when we present it to others, Muslims or non-Muslims, we tell them that they are dirty, rotten, wretched sinners, that they are bound for Hell, and they deserve it. If this doesn't offend, I don't know what will.

We should not be offensive in the manner we present the Gospel, but we need to tell the truth. People need to be told that they have no righteousness of their own that would merit Heaven. The Bible says:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Romans 3:23)

No one can make it to Heaven on their own goodness because we all fall short of the glory of God. This is why we need a Saviour. Jesus came as our Saviour to pay our sin debt on the cross. He shed His blood to atone for our sin.

Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;  
(Romans 3:25)

He did this for the sins of the whole world.

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world.* (1 John 2:2)

I love the word "propitiation." Jesus is not the down payment, He is the payment in full, the sufficient sacrifice. Christ's blood is the full payment for our sins.

What do we need to do to make Christ's sacrifice applicable to us? We need to humble ourselves and call on God for mercy, seek His forgiveness, admitting that we deserve Hell and put our full trust in the shed blood of Christ for our salvation. We cannot earn Heaven, all we can do is plead to God for mercy. This is an offensive message.

When we deal with Muslims we will have to tell them some things about their religion that will be offensive to them. We will have to tell them that they have been lied to and deceived by a masterful deceiver. We will have to tell them that the whole religion of Islam is false, and Muhammad is a false prophet.

Shahram, being an ex-Muslim, knows what I am talking about. He went through a difficult time when the Gospel was presented to him. What he heard was offensive to him. He had to wrestle with it. He even told the person who gave the Gospel to him that it was offensive to him. Today he is glad that this person risked offending him because it is only through this person's efforts that he was saved from Hell.

They are already here, but Refugee Resettlement Program will cause the Muslim population to grow. We are doing all we can to educate people and stop this corrupted resettlement program, but the reality is that they will be coming.

It is difficult because Christians and churches are confused on the issue. One church dis-invited Shahram because one of the elders has relatives who are missionaries to Palestine. This elder is following Chrislam and believes there is common ground and that bridges can be built between Christianity and Islam because of this common ground. He uses all the buzz words that the Chrislam/Common Ground movements use.

Shahram asked the man how he defines evangelism. His response was troubling. He said we will build friendships, be good neighbors, have meals together, wash their car for them, etc. These are good things because they show our love for the Muslim, but what is his definition of evangelism? Evangelism is not washing someone's care for them. It requires presenting the Gospel in all of its fullness. The lost, Muslim or otherwise, must hear that they are lost sinners and what they are doing or trusting in will not keep them out of Hell.

When you see how we will contrast what Muslims believe about sin and salvation, their relationship with their god, Allah, you will understand why they are in such desperate need of the truth. Only the Gospel truth will save them. If we wait until we have gained their respect and the time is right it might be too late. The right time is when the Holy Spirit leads you to present the Gospel. As we build friendships with others, Muslims or non-Muslims, we need to share the Gospel with them.

Friendship evangelism is based upon feelings, and the more we lean on our feelings, the less we will want to offend with the Gospel. The longer we let our feelings guide us, the less likely we are to share the whole Gospel message with them.

It is true that to reach a Muslim with the Gospel you have to build a relationship with them. The problem with friendship evangelism is that they spend a lot of time investing in the friendship and become afraid to interject the Gospel for fear of harming that friendship. If you wait for the perfect moment the Devil will make sure that it never comes.

As we befriend Muslims we should be saying things about what we believe and why. We should say things like, "As a Christian I believe..." We should let them know that we do what we do because the Bible teaches it. You insert these things into your conversation and constantly give a reason for what you believe while you are building your friendship.

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We see in many circles, especially in missions, the promoting of the Common Ground Movement. We need to understand the the Qur'an and the Bible cannot be reconciled. The God of the Bible and Allah cannot be reconciled in any way.

Pastor Mark, a former Muslim, tells about a woman who often housed foreign students in her home. This is a great opportunity to present the Gospel to them. She had several Saudi students in her home for over a year and would never share the Gospel with them. She was too intimidated or afraid that she might offend them.

Pastor Mark told the woman to invite them over to his house for a meal and he would share his testimony with them. He shared his testimony as a former Muslim who was studying to be an imam. He had an incredible story of what happened to him in Mecca where the true God revealed to him that Allah was a false god. He then got into the Gospel.

The woman got really agitated and upset because the Saudis were also a little upset because of what they were hearing. Mark was contrasting the true God and Allah, and the Bible and the Qur'an. After the evening was over the woman rebuked Mark for upsetting these Muslims.

This story shows why friendship evangelism is so dangerous. When we put our stake in the friendship and loving them with a friendship love, when you get an opportunity to share the Gospel with an agape love, a love that loves them enough to tell them the truth even if it hurts, fear will keep you from doing it.

Let's look at a few things that Muslims believe and compare it with what the Bible teaches.

### **Islam's View of Man's Sinful Nature**

It is important to know what Muslims believe about sin because it is the opposite what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that the fallen nature and sin starts with man. It teaches that man rebelled against God. One is not a sinner because he sins, he sins because he is a sinner by nature. You don't teach a dog to bark, he does it naturally. I never had to sit my children down and teach them how to lie. Sin comes naturally to all of us.

The fall of man was a willful choice. This is important because mankind is culpable (responsible and guilty) for his sin, God is not. Man is culpable because he chose to rebel, God allowing it does not make Him culpable.

Christians will be surprised that Allah not only inspired sin in humankind, but that it was his will. The Qur'an teaches that their god, Allah, inspired sin in humankind -Surah 4:88; 7:16–18; 9:51; 14:4; 16:93; 35:8; 57:22; 74:31; 91:7–9

Christians ask why Allah would will this. The Bible teaches that a loving God never intended for man to sin. He created them to live in perfection with Him in the Garden and man chose to rebel. It is not this way in Islam. Muslims believe that humans are sinners because Allah willed it and made it happen.

Muslims will admit that they struggle with sin, but they believe that it is something that Allah purposefully put in their lives. They have no understanding similar to the Bible's teaching that humans, not God, caused sin through rebellion against God.

This should make it abundantly clear that Jehovah and Allah are not the same god. If you ask a Muslim if he sins he will answer yes. You need to go a step farther and ask if it was Allah's will that he sinned. To this he will answer yes. If a Christian is asked if it is God's will that he sin, the answer will be and emphatic NO!

## The Christian Response

The Bible teaches that God gave man a free will to chose. He does not will for man to sin. The Muslim believes that Allah created sin and wills for man to sin. This helps us understand the mindset of the Muslim and will help us when we talk to them about salvation.

This brings us back to the culpability. Who is to blame for sin? A Muslim does not see himself as being to blame for his sin. They believe that they have no will in this, it is Allah who willed it. This makes Allah culpable for his sin.

The biblical view says that, although God permitted man to sin by giving him the free will to obey or to disobey, He does not will that man sin. Since man chooses to sin, God is justified in sending that man to Hell.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Romans 5:12)

Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (Romans 5:18-19)

This shows the difference in the character of Allah and the Character of Jehovah God. Allah wants his followers to suffer in sin because he willed it. In Islam the only guarantee of salvation is through martyrdom. What kind of a god would will for man to sin, and then give no solution but martyrdom?

The God of the Bible did not will than mankind sin, and when sin entered into the world He loved mankind enough to send His Son to pay the price of sin. God's solution is not a maybe, it is a guarantee.

This allows us to show the contrast between the two. How can Allah love you if he wills for you to sin, and then does not give you a way out?

The God of the Bible loves mankind enough to rescue us from sin.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

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A major problem in sharing the Gospel with Muslims is not knowing what they believe. As we just saw, they believe that Allah is the inventor of sin, and that it is his will that they sin. This means they don't

see themselves as culpable for their sin. In other words, they don't see themselves as being guilty before their god.

We must make Muslims understand that they are culpable for their sin. They need to understand that they sin because of their sin nature and that they have broken God's law. As a result, God is justified in condemning them to Hell.

### **Islam's View of Salvation**

As I said earlier, Muslims have no guarantee of salvation except through martyrdom (Shaheed). This explains why so many are willing to die in jihad. Although it is generally believed, even this is questionable.

This was one of Shahram's issues when he was a Muslim. He would ask his parents how he could be sure of going to heaven and they never had a good answer. The best they could come up with is that Allah is fair. Shahram had been taught about the shaheed. He liked life and wanted to live. He didn't want to become a martyr.

The Qur'an's teachings regarding salvation are inconsistent. On the one hand, Qur'an teaches salvation could be attained based on purification by good deeds - Surah 7:6–9. Any possible salvation in Islam is by works. They must follow the teachings of Islam and the example of the Prophet Muhammad.

On the other hand the Qur'an teaches Allah has predetermined every person's destiny, and one's righteous acts may or may not affect Allah's decision - Surah 57:22. This means that Allah determines who will get into Paradise and one's good works may not affect this decision.

Muslims who don't want to die in jihad will make every effort to live by the teachings of Islam. They well do their prayers, give alms, make the hajj to Mecca, and so forth, including waging jihad in one of its forms, violent, cultural, personal, etc. and still be unsure. They are taught that Allah has already determined who he will allow into Paradise.

For a Muslim, if they didn't make it on the list, what do their works matter? This can be a very big problem for Muslims if they are willing to admit it.

According to Islam, both righteous and unrighteous will be led into hell by Allah before the righteous can enter heaven - Surah 19:67–72. This means that all of them will go to hell and then Allah will allow those he has chosen to come into Paradise. No Muslim can know his or her eternal destiny in this life.

The bottom line is that Muslims have no promise of eternity in Paradise, even if he is righteous in this life. As long as he is alive he will never know if he is going to Paradise or not.

If someone has to wait until he dies to know if he is going to Heaven, it is too late. After on dies there is nothing that he can do about it. This caused Shahram to have a tremendous amount of fear.

Even Muhammad himself was unsure of his salvation - Surah 31:34; 46:9. this is why they say "peace be upon him" when they say his name. How foolish is it to follow a faith where the Prophet that is so

highly revered didn't even know his destiny until he died. In Islam there is a doctrine similar to the Catholic doctrine of Purgatory, and they don't even know if their Prophet is there doing penance for his sins or not.

The Muslim is trying to earn his way into Paradise. He is trying to earn Allah's favor so they can get there.

### **The Christian Response**

The Bible is clear about how one is saved.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

There is no room for pride in the Bible's view of salvation. It is all by God's grace and it is received by faith without works on our part. Pride and self-righteousness separate us from God. A Christian does not think that he merits salvation. The only hope a Christian has of Heaven is humbling himself before a holy God and seeking His mercy.

What a contrast! The God of the Bible became a man in Jesus Christ and died on the cross to pay our sin debt. His shed blood alone can pay for our sin and guarantee us entrance into Heaven. The God of Islam causes men to sin and then says the only way they can be guaranteed to escape hell is if they die for him.

When sharing his faith with a Muslim, the Christian should contrast the uncertainty of the Muslim's salvation with the certainty of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)

This is one of the many places where the Bible give assurance to Christians of their salvation. Contrast the Muslim belief in righteousness through works with the Bible's teaching that no good work can make a person righteous; it is only through Christ's righteousness that a person can be saved.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:17-18)

Our righteousness does not come from us, it comes from Him. When we believe His righteousness is put in our account. Here is what the Bible says about Abraham's faith and ours:

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if

we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. (Romans 4:20-25)

We have this righteousness imputed to us on this side of death. We don't have to wait until death to find out our destiny. We have God's promise and need nothing else.

We shouldn't be telling Muslims that some of the things they believe are good. We shouldn't be telling them that the Qur'an is correct in many ways. We should not be trying to find common ground between the Bible and the Qur'an. How could there be anything common between what Islam teaches and what Christianity teaches?

Islam has a wicked god that wills sin and then sends people to Hell for sinning. He chooses who will go to Paradise and who won't and won't let them know their standing until they die.

We must draw a contrast, not find common ground. Contrast the Muslim belief that all will enter hell with the Bible's teaching that only Satan, the demons, and the unsaved will enter hell.

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; (2 Peter 2:4)

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. (Revelation 20:1)

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14-15)

Contrast the Islamic teaching that salvation through Allah is arbitrary and can only be known after death with the Christian hope that the truly repentant heart can be saved by grace through personal faith in Jesus Christ's finished work on the Cross.

How can we say that we love Muslims if we are not willing to give them the truth of the Gospel? If you are not willing to risk offending them by giving them the Gospel you cannot say you love them.

Even Muhammad, who was supposed to be the perfect man, had no guarantee of salvation. Don't you think the Muslim has the right, and even the desire, to know that he can have assurance of salvation?

Abu Bakr, one of the caliphs to follow Muhammad, said that even if he had one foot in Paradise he would not trust Allah because Allah is a deceiver.

We need to understand who Abu Bakr is if we want to understand why this statement is so important. He was the first convert to Islam. He later became the father-in-law of Muhammad when Muhammad married his daughter. He became the successor to Muhammad. Since he was there from the beginning his statement is detrimental to the teachings of Islam.

Here is the actual quote:

“By Allah I would not feel safe from the deception of Allah, even if I had one foot in Paradise.

We know that Allah is a deceiver because one of his 99 names is the “greatest or the chief deceiver.” The first convert to Islam, the successor of Muhammad, said that even if he had one foot in heaven he would not trust Allah to allow him to bring the other foot in. The Hadith says he said this while weeping. Think of the effect this has on Muslims when they learn this.

In Islam you have a maybe, hope so, salvation. In Christianity you have a know so, God has promised, salvation. What a contrast!

My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand. (John 10:29)

We have passed form death unto life. God has given us eternal life. Muslims have no guarantee.

### **The Christian Jesus vs the Islamic Jesus**

Everything in Christianity rises and falls on Jesus. To the Christian Jesus is God in the flesh. With out Him there is no Christianity.

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)

Jesus, God in the flesh, laid down His life for the atonement of our sin. He is the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God, to whom all of the sacrificial lambs of Israel pointed. Listen to how John the Baptist recognized Him:

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

The Christian view of Jesus is one of the most offensive things for Muslims. Muslims believe that salvation is through works. The Bible teaches that it is only through the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

If we are going to witness to Muslims we must broach the subject of Jesus Christ. Muslims believe that Jesus was only a prophet. They believe that he was sent as a prophet, that he was given revelation, and the Christians perverted this revelation. They believe that he is not God and that he is not the son of God. Islam teaches “Allah hath no son.” They also believe that Jesus was never crucified.

We have to contrast this with what the Bible teaches. We can tell Muslims that we know what they believe and what the Qur'an teaches. We must ask them to let us tell them what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that He was God in the flesh, that He is the Son of God, that He took on flesh so He could take the sin of man away, that He is the perfect atonement for our sin.

Muslims have a hard time with the idea of atonement so we have to visit their idea of sin and salvation so we can make the connection for them. They need to understand that Jesus came to give us a guarantee of salvation. Remember, they believe that all will have to go to Hell before receiving

salvation. The Bible teaches that the saved will never enter Hell, but will go straight to Heaven. This contrast is important because it will ultimately take them to the place of hope.

We need to show our Muslim friends that we love them enough to tell them that we know their religion gives them no hope of salvation, but in Christianity, through Jesus Christ, we have hope of eternal life.

The Qur'an also teaches that even those who do go to heaven will never be with Allah. The Muslim god, Allah, is unknowable and untouchable. He does not even coexist with his creation.

Our God saves us and takes us to Heaven so we can be with Him for all eternity. Why did He do this? It was to manifest His grace and kindness.

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:7)

His love for us is so great that He wants to fellowship with us for all eternity. This is the contrast between Christianity and Islam that we must present to Muslims.

I can assure you that even if they are cultural Muslims and not strict followers of Islam, this will rattle their cage. They will be offended and upset. We need to trust the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

We need to tell Muslims that their offense is not with us, it is with the message of God's Word. We are just the messengers telling them what God has to say. We are not better than they are. Some Muslims will live very pious lives. They will be proud of their piety because they believe they have the superior religion, but God saves the humble.

Remember how faith comes:

So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

For them to have saving faith God's Word must prick their hearts. The offense comes when their hearts are pricked. The offense is a sign that the Holy Spirit is working to bring them under conviction.

I hope these things will help you as you try to reach Muslims for Christ. I hope that they will give you the courage to tell them the truth.

