

Initial facts concerning Islam

- Islam means “s u b m i s s i o n” to the will of God
- “Muslim” is a person who s u b m i t s or is a s u b m i t t e d one.
- The founder of Islam is M u h a m m a d, who is considered by Muslims to be the last and greatest p r o p h e t of God
- The Qur’an is the s a c r e d book of Islam and believed to be the p e r f e c t, *unadulterated* word of God for a Muslim.

The *Comparison* of Beliefs of Islam and Christianity

Who is G o d?

- *Islam*: He is a s i n g u l a r u n i t y
- *Christianity*: He is a c o m p o u n d u n i t y
(Gen 1:1-3; Matt 3:16-17; 28:19; John 14:26; 16:7-10)

Who is J e s u s?

- *Islam*: Jesus is a p r o p h e t of God, not G o d nor the S o n of God
- *Christianity*: Jesus is G o d in the flesh who came to r e d e e m humanity
(John 1:1-3, 14; 20:28; Titus 2:13; Luke 19:10)

What is humanity’s p r o b l e m?

- *Islam*: Man is n o t born a s i n n e r but has only r e j e c t e d right guidance and can repent and d o g o o d.
- *Christianity*: Man is born in s i n, is sinful by n a t u r e and is in need of r e c o n c i l i a t i o n with God.
(Ps 51:5; Eph 2:1-4; 2 Cor 5:18-21)

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What is the solution?

- *Islam*: By submitting to the will of Allah and having your good works outweigh your bad works.
- *Christianity*: Submitting to God by repenting of sin and receiving His *grace* and *forgiveness* by faith (Eph 2:8-9)

How is salvation attained?

- *Islam*: By self-effort, by one's good works (see back)
- *Christianity*: By faith in the finished work of *redemption* by Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (1 Cor 1:29-31; Rom 3:21-24; Col 1:14)

What is the result?

- *Islam*: At death, those whose good works outweigh their bad will enter paradise, those whose do not, enter eternal hell.
- *Christianity*: At death, all people will enter heaven or hell based on faith exercised in the finished work of Jesus, not in their own merits (John 3:36; 1 John 5:11-13)

Making the connection...

What is one thing I learned about Islam that I didn't know or understand before today?

What struck me as the most significant difference(s) in Islamic belief compared to Christianity?

Do I feel better equipped to share what I believe with someone who is a Muslim after understanding more about their belief? Why or why not?

The Five Pillars of Islam

1. Confession of Faith (Shahada)
2. Prayer (Salat)
3. Giving of Alms (Zakat)
4. Fasting During Ramadan (Sawm)
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)

Islam and Christianity

	Islam	Christianity
God	There is only one God named Allah – a singular unity.	One God – one in essence, three in person: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Humanity	All have sinned but humans are not born with a sinful nature – no original sin	Sinful by nature – original sin is a reality
Jesus	Not divine, nor the Son of God, but recognized as a prophet of God whose message has been corrupted	God's perfect Son, holy, fully God and fully human, died for sinful humanity and was raised from the dead.
Savation	Correct belief, faith, good works as prescribed in the practice of the Five Pillars	Forgiveness of sin obtained by God's grace
The Means	Through the self-effort of good works	Through faith in the finished redemptive work of Jesus Christ
The Result	Depending on the quality of one's personal works, either eternal paradise or eternal hell	Depending on one's faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, either eternal heaven or eternal hell