

# **BASIC PRIMER ON ISLAM**

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## **Introduction**

- Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world today.
- In the last 20 years the number of adherents to Islam has more than doubled!

Listen to some of these staggering statistics:

- In 1982, there were 450 million Muslims in the world, but today there are approximately 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide. That means that 1 out of every 5 people alive today is a Muslim! Making it the world's second largest religion.
- There are more practicing Muslims in the U.S. than...Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses combined.
- In fact, there are more Muslims in the world than there are Catholics!! [There are about a billion Catholics].
- At the rate Islam is growing in 7 or 8 years, 1 out of every 4 people alive will be a Muslim.

Can you see, why it's important that we know something about this religion!!

## **AN OVERVIEW OF ISLAM**

- I. THE ORIGIN OF ISLAM**
- II. THE MUSLIM'S FIVE MAIN BELIEFS**
- III. THE MUSLIM'S FIVE MOST IMPORTANT PRACTICES**
- IV. THE BOOK OF ISLAM: THE QUR'AN**
- V. TIPS ON REACHING MUSLIMS**

Along the way, we'll contrast some of the teachings of Islam with the Bible.

Let's start off with some basic definitions:

The word "Islam" is an Arabic word that simply means:

- "to submit"
- "to surrender"
- "to commit oneself."

Those who adhere to Islam, regardless of their nationality, are known as:

"Muslims."

The word "Muslim" means:

"the one who submits."

Let's talk about first...

## **I. THE ORIGIN OF ISLAM**

The religion of Islam, began with a man named Muhammad.

Muhammad was born in 570 A.D. into a violent, pagan, and polytheistic culture in the city of Mecca, in modern day Saudi Arabia.

One night, in 610 A.D., at the age of 40, while contemplating inside a cave on the outskirts of Mecca, Muhammad was supposedly visited by the angel Gabriel (the same angel that appeared to Daniel and the Virgin Mary in the Bible).

According to Muhammad, that night began a series of angelic visitations and revelations that soon after became the teachings of Muhammad and ultimately the text of the Qur'an, the sacred book of Islam.

By the end of the first decade of Muhammad's preaching, several hundred families were convinced that he was a prophet of God.

Having converted to monotheism (belief in one God, Allah), Muhammad and his followers were a minority and persecuted by those who would not convert.

To stamp out this newly invented religion, a plan was devised to assassinate Muhammad.

So in 622, Muhammad and his followers fled from Mecca.

They went 250 miles north to the friendlier city of Medina.

Eight years later, after winning a series of military battles, in the year of 630, Muhammad and his army of 10,000 men went back to and conquered Mecca.

Muhammad proceeded to the main sanctuary in Mecca, known as the Ka'bah, and ordered that all the idols be destroyed and that it be dedicated to Allah.

In 632 Muhammad died a sudden but natural death at the age of 63 in the city of Medina.

Disagreements concerning who was to succeed of Muhammad as the new political and religious leader of Islam caused a division in Islam between two groups, the Sunnis and the Shi'ites.

The Sunnis (85 to 90 percent of all Muslims) believe the successor to Muhammad was to be elected democratically from among Muhammad's closest followers.

The Shi'ites (10-13 percent of all Muslims) thought Muhammad's successor should be related to Muhammad.

The disagreement continues to this day. Perhaps you've heard about the tension that exists between the Sunni's and the Shi'ites in Iraq.

Other sects include the ultra-conservative, puritanical, and often terrorism friendly Wahhabi. Wahhabism began in the eighteenth century under the teachings of 'Abd al-Wahhab (1703–1792), who stringently opposed all practices not sanctioned by the Qur'an.

The movement known as The Nation of Islam was founded around 1930 by Wallace Dodd Fard in Detroit Michigan. It is now led by Louis Farrakhan and is considered heretical by orthodox Muslims.

Now, what happened over the course of the next 100 years after Muhammad's death still amazes historians to this day.

Within that first century after Muhammad's death in 632 A.D. Muslim armies spread the Islamic Empire from...

- up and into Central Asia and into the confines of China.
- across North Africa,
- all the way to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in Southern France and Spain,

Were it not for God using a man by the name of Charles Martel, in 732 A.D. at the Battle of Tours (in France) we might all be speaking Arabic and kneeling toward Mecca five times a day!

It was there in France (732 A.D.) that Martel, a ruler of the Franks (a tribe of Germany) defeated the advancing Muslim armies and ended their advance into Europe.

Many historians believe that if it were not for that successful battle, all of Europe may have fallen to Islam.

How did Islam spread so quickly early on? Was it through the preaching of the good news of Allah's salvation?

No.

Islam was forced upon tens of millions by military conquest.

This is an undeniable fact of history.

And Islam maintains itself today in many countries today by threatening with death any Muslim who would convert to another religion.

Muhammad said...

"If somebody (a Muslim) discards his religion, kill him."

-The Hadith, Volume 4, Book 52, Number 260

(Also, see Volume 9, Book 84, Number 64)

And not only do Muslims lose their lives for converting, but so often do those who seek to evangelize Muslims.

For months after the September 11th tragedy I heard numerous interviews with Muslim scholars on the news saying that Islam is a religion of peace, and they would quote verses from the Qur'an that seemed to say that violence and murder, were not part of Islam.

Well, that was pretty confusing I think for a lot of folks, because, Christian teachers like Franklin Graham, Dave Hunt, and others on the radio were quoting verses from the Qur'an that seemed to say the exact opposite.

So, what does the Qur'an teach?

Does it advocate violence or peace?

The answer is this: It teaches both.

The earlier teachings of Muhammad [the Meccan Suras] have a moderate tone of peace and tolerance toward other religions.

Listen to what the Qur'an says...

Sura 2:190

"Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight against you, but begin not hostilities. Lo! Allah loveth not aggressors."

Sura 29:46

"And dispute ye not with the People of the Book, [speaking of the Bible, a reference to Christians and Jews]."

But in the later teachings of Muhammad, there was a shift, and the Qur'an advocates a more hostile attitude toward people of other faiths.

For instance, listen to...

Sura 9:5

“So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them”

Sura 8:39

“Make war on them until idolatry shall cease and God’s religion shall reign supreme”

And there are others.

So it’s kind of up to the Muslim to decide which verses he wants his own personal beliefs to be based upon.

If a Muslim wants to live in peace with his neighbors and happily co-exist, with others, then he can find verses that support that.

But if he hates people of other faiths (including Jews and Christians) and wants to spread Islam around the world at any cost, even with violence, then he can find verses in the Qur’an that support that kind of a belief.

Most of the Muslims that you will meet in the United States hold to a peaceful form of Islam.

In fact many of them are very kind people, who often make great neighbors.

So that’s a little bit about the origin of Islam and how it spread.

Let’s talk secondly about Muslim beliefs.

## **II. THE MUSLIM’S 5 MAIN BELIEFS**

There are 5 main beliefs that all Muslims hold to.

The first one is...

### 1. Belief in One God, Allah.

For Muslims there is only one God: "Allah."

The word "Allah" is an Arabic word that literally means:

"the God."

In many ways Allah sounds similar to the God of the Bible.

The Qur'an teaches that Allah is just, all-knowing, mighty, compassionate, merciful, sovereign, and even loving.

So some have concluded that Muslims and Christians are worshipping the same God.

- This is not true. Despite Pastor Rick Warren saying "Islam worships the same Christian God"

There are some major differences between the god presented in the Qur'an and the God of the Bible.

Unlike the God of the Bible, the Qur'an teaches that Allah is not triune in nature (Father, Son & Holy Spirit).

The Qur'an teaches that Allah has no Son.

And in fact, to say that God has a Son, or is a Trinity of persons is an unforgivable sin known as shirk to Muslims. (See: Sura 112:1-4 Sura 4:48, etc.)

Not only does the Qur'an teach that Allah has no Son, it states over and over again that Allah does not love sinners.

Here are just a couple of examples:

Sura 2:276 says...

"Allah does not love any ungrateful sinner."

Sura 3:32 says...

"surely Allah does not love the unbelievers."

Sura 4:36 says...

"surely Allah does not love him who is proud."

Sura 6:141 says...

"surely He does not love the extravagant."

If you are a sinner, an unbeliever, proud, or extravagant, the Qur'an says that Allah does not love you.

Oh, how different the God of the Bible is!

The Bible says that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob loves the whole world, including sinners!

Of course Jesus said in...

John 3:16 that...

"God so loved the world [that's everybody!! The God of the world loves sinners, so much...] that He gave His one and only unique Son, that whosoever believes in Him, would not perish but have everlasting life."

Romans 5:8 says,

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

This is good news for those of us who realize we are sinners!

The Bible also teaches that believers are adopted into God's family (in Ephesians 1:5) and can personally address God as "Father," in Matthew 6:9, Romans 8:15.

The God of the Bible offers mankind a personal relationship of great intimacy.

That is not the case in Islam. In Islam there is no fatherly concept of God. To most Muslims, Allah is seen more as a remote judge, who is not personally involved with mankind.

Islam is not about fellowship with God, but service, submission and allegiance to God.

These are just some of the differences between the Qur'an's portrayal of God and the Bible's.

The second main belief for Muslims is what they call...

## 2. The Belief in Prophets

Muslims believe that Allah has sent 124,000 different prophets to mankind down through the ages

Even Biblical characters such as Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, and Jesus, make their list of prophets. [see sura 6:84-86]

The last and most respected of all Allah's prophets, is Muhammad.

Having come last, the Qur'an teaches that Muhammad's teachings supersede the others'.

It is interesting that the Qur'an does speak of Jesus quite often.

It speaks of:

- His birth to the virgin Mary (sura 3:46-48)
- His holy life
- His wise teaching and love
- and His many miracles (sura 5:110)

Yet the Qur'an seeks to strip Jesus of His true identity by demoting Him to a mere human.

Thirdly, Muslims have a...

### 3. Belief in Angels

Muslims believe angels function as guardians, recorders, and messengers for Allah.

Muslims believe that each person has two angels, one on his right who records his good deeds and one on his left who records the bad deeds (sura 50:17).

A fourth belief of Muslims is what they call their...

### 4. Belief in the Holy Books

Muslims believe that Allah has given 4 books to mankind:

1. The Law of Moses
2. The Psalms of David
3. "The Gospel of Jesus"
4. The Qur'an of Muhammad

In addition to the Qur'an, Muslims look to another collection of writings that record many of the sayings and deeds of Muhammad.

That collection of writings is known as The Hadith.

Although very important to Muslims, the Hadith are not considered as authoritative as the Qur'an.

Supreme among all these books for the Muslims is the Qur'an.

The reason Muslims believe that the Qur'an has superseded all previous revelation is because the Qur'an says these other books have been corrupted.

Of course, we DISAGREE with them on this.

There is an overwhelming amount of evidence that proves the Bible has not been corrupted.

### Evidence No. 1: THE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

Today there survives more than 24,000 partial and complete, ancient handwritten manuscript copies of the New Testament not to mention tens of thousands of Old Testament manuscripts.

An examination of these manuscripts by scholars and textual critics has verified that the Bible we have in our possession today is the same Bible that the early church possessed 2,000 years ago.

You can view these manuscripts yourself in places like the British Museum, Cambridge University Library, The Smithsonian Institute, and Oxford University.

### Evidence No. 2: THE WRITINGS OF THE CHURCH FATHERS

Another evidence that the Bible has not seen corruption are the writings of the Church Fathers (men like Polycarp, Justin Martyr, and Tertullian, who were leaders in the early Christian church during the first and second century A.D.).

In their writings, they quoted the New Testament alone 86,000 times! In fact, they referred to it so often and so thoroughly that textual critics can reconstruct the entire New Testament (except eleven verses) from their quotes.

This has served as a second evidence that the Bible we have today is the same Bible the church had 2,000 years ago.

(A good book on this topic of the reliability of the text of the Bible is: "FROM GOD TO US—How we got the Bible," by Norman Geisler & William Nix)

## 5. Belief in the Final Judgment

The Qur'an teaches that all human beings will be physically resurrected on what it calls "the Last Day."

A person's life will be examined and they will be permitted to spend eternity in heaven (sura 4:57) or hell (sura 4:56; 14:48-51).

Review:

So, there are 5 main beliefs, in Islam. They are...

1. Belief in One God, Allah.
2. The Belief in Prophets
3. Belief in Angels
4. Belief in the Holy Books
5. Belief in the Final Judgment

Let's consider thirdly...

### **III. THE MUSLIM'S 5 MOST IMPORTANT PRACTICES**

Beside the major beliefs or doctrines in Islam, there are also five foundational PRACTICES that every Muslim must observe.

These are called "The Five Pillars of Islam."

The first practice, or "pillar" is...

#### 1. Confession

To become a Muslim one must confess aloud and publicly the following words:

"There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet."

This declaration of faith is called the "shahada" and is repeated constantly by faithful Muslims.

The second practice...

#### 2. Prayer

Muslims are required to pray at 5 specific times a day, facing the city of Mecca.

[Those times are: daybreak, noon, mid-afternoon, after sunset, early evening.]

Each time of prayer has set sequences of standing, bowing, kneeling, and prostrating while reciting specific verses from the Qur'an or other prayer formulas.

On Fridays the male community is required to be present at the mosque at noon to participate in prayer and to listen to a teaching from the Qur'an.

The word mosque literally means:

“a place for prostration before God.”

Women are allowed to attend but are required, for modesty's sake, to stand in the back separated by a curtain or in a side room. The community leader, the imam, is considered a teacher and prayer leader.

The third practice, or “pillar” of Islam is...

### 3. Giving

It is required that Muslims give one-fortieth (or 2.5%) of their finances to help the poor and for emergency situations.

The fourth practice of Islam is...

### 4. Fasting

Fasting is an annual, lifelong requirement for Muslims.

In the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Muslims fast from sunrise until sundown (sura 2:183-185).

Ramadan is the month that Muslims believe Muhammad first received the revelation of the Qur'an.

During this time Muslims must abstain from

- Food
- Drink
- Smoking
- and sexual relations

Those who are sick, elderly, or on a journey, as well as women who are pregnant or nursing, are permitted to break the fast and make up an equal number of days later in the year.

If they are physically unable to do this, they must feed a needy person for every day missed.

The fifth practice is...

## 5. Pilgrimage

It is required within Islam that all who are physically and financially able go to Mecca at least once in their lifetime (sura 2:196).

While in Mecca, Muslims are required to circle the Ka'bah seven times and run seven times between two hills, amongst other activities.

And every year approximately 2 million people from all around the world do.

Review:

So the 5 main practices or "Pillars of Islam" are...

1. Confession
2. Prayer
3. Giving
4. Fasting
5. Pilgrimage

Let's consider fourthly, for a few minutes...

#### **IV. THE BOOK OF ISLAM: THE QUR'AN**

The Qur'an is slightly shorter than our New Testament.

It is broken up into 114 chapters called "Suras."

Muslims believe that Allah himself gave the Qur'an to the angel Gabriel.

As the story goes, Gabriel then dictated it to the Prophet Muhammad, in intervals, over a period of twenty-three years from 610 to the time of Muhammad's death in 632.

Question? Is there a possibility that the Qur'an could be an authentic revelation from God?

Answer: Not a chance.

There are many reasons the Qur'an can be rejected as authentic, God-revealed Scripture.

Allow me to quickly give you 5.

(This may be one of the most important sections of our study. If you are a note taker it will be good for you to know some of these facts, that you might be equipped to demonstrate to people that the Qur'an is not to be trusted.)

#### **5 Reasons to Reject the Qur'an.**

1. The Qur'an Contradicts Authentic Scripture.  
By authentic Scripture, of course I am referring to the Bible.

Many teachings in the Qur'an directly contradict the Bible...

...a book that uniquely, among all other religious literature, provides hundreds of fulfilled prophecies as proof of its divine inspiration.

How does the Qur'an contradict the Bible?

We already demonstrated how the god of Islam does not love sinners, that itself could qualify.

Here is another example:

The Qur'an teaches that salvation comes by works, not by God's grace.

Sura 23:102-3 says...

"Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy, they will attain salvation: But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls, in Hell will they abide."

Sura 18:107

"As to those who believe and work righteous deeds, they have, for their entertainment, the Gardens of Paradise"

Sura 18:110

"And whoever hopeth for the meeting with his Lord, let him do righteous work"

What the Qur'an says here is contradictory to the Bible.

The Bible of course teaches the exact opposite.

Romans 6:23 says...

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." NAS

Ephesians 2:8-9 says...

8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast." NKJV

Six hundred years before Muhammad was born, the Apostle Paul warned of those that would come on the scene and preach another gospel...

Galatians 1:8-9

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” NKJV

The Qur’an’s teaching regarding salvation is just one of many teachings that contradicts the teaching of the Bible.

God gives this warning in...

Isaiah 8:20

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, [the Bible] it is because there is no light in them.” NKJV

So, number one, the Qur’an contradicts authentic Scripture.

## 2. The Qur’an Contradicts Known Facts of Science.

The Qur’an, like other ancient religious writings, has made some serious errors when it comes to science.

Errors that prove that it can not be the product of an omniscient, divine mind:

Let me give you one example:

In Sura 18:86 the Qur’an speaks of Alexander the Great traveling west until he actually finds the place where the sun sets.

It says he traveled QUOTE:

Sura 18:86

“till, when he reached the setting-place of the sun, he found it setting in a muddy spring”

Of course today with the help of modern satellites and telescopes we realize the sun does not go down into the earth, much less a muddy spring. [See Geisler/Saleeb, Answering Islam, p. 200 for more on this]

David, who wrote in the Bible about 1,600 years before Muhammad was even born, said insightfully that rather than the sun setting in a muddy spring, it was actually on a circuit through space (Ps. 19:6)

A 3rd reason the Qur'an should be rejected as being inspired of God is because...

### 3. The Qur'an Contradicts Known Facts of History.

One of the most well-attested facts of history is that Jesus of Nazareth was put to death on a cross.

It is a fact of history so well confirmed by historical sources, even outside of the Bible,

...that even the most liberal of scholars—like those who are part of the Jesus Seminar—consider it an undisputable fact.

And yet, the Qur'an makes a fatal error by saying that this event never occurred.

(Jot down the reference)

Sura 4:157 says...

“And for claiming that they killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of GOD. In fact, they [speaking of the JEWS] never killed him, they never crucified him - they were made to think that they did. All factions who are disputing in this matter are full of doubt concerning this issue. They possess no knowledge; they only conjecture. For certain, they never killed him.”

Question: What should we trust...

## **THE NEW TESTAMENT OR THE QUR'AN?**

The New Testament is:

--a collection of documents written down within the first generation after the events,

--while the eyewitnesses were still alive,

--that has been validated by archeological discoveries and the writings of secular sources like the Jewish Talmud, the Roman historian Flavius Josephus and others.

#### THE QUR'AN:

--is a book written 600 years later by men who were hundreds of miles and centuries removed from the events.

I for one don't have a hard time answering that question.

I'll trust the New Testament, over the Qur'an any day.

The authors of the New Testament were there and they were willing to even lose their lives preaching the message of the cross.

A 4th reason the Qur'an should be rejected as being inspired of God is because...

#### 4. The Qur'an Has Many Internal Inconsistencies.

Here are just a couple of examples...

--The Qur'an teaches that Noah and all of his family survived the flood in one place (Sura 21:76), but in another place it states that one of Noah's sons drowned (Sura 11:42-43)

--The Qur'an states that Pharaoh drowned (Sura 28:40 and others 17:103, 43:55) but in another place it says say that he survived ( Sura 10:90-92).

There are literally dozens of these kinds of internal inconsistencies in the Qur'an.

#### 5. There are No Particularly Good Reasons to Accept the Qur'an as Inspired Scripture.

The most popular proof Muslims give for the inspiration of the Qur'an is the Qur'an's literary beauty and eloquence. Muslims believe it is unsurpassed.

Muslims believe that it is so beautiful in what it says that it could have only come from God.

Sura 10:37 says...

“This Qur’an could not possibly be authored by [any] other than GOD.”

But, this is a highly questionable means of testing a document for divine inspiration.

If beauty and eloquence is a means of proving divine inspiration and authority, well then what’s to stop us from believing that Shakespeare’s writings were inspired?

They were very beautiful and eloquent, but we wouldn’t believe that they are divinely authoritative.

For these reasons and others, it is wise to conclude that the Qur’an is not the word of God.

1. It Contradicts Authentic Scripture.
2. It Contradicts Known Facts of Science.
3. It Contradicts Known Facts of History.
4. It Has Many Internal Inconsistencies.
5. There are No Particularly Good Reasons to Accept the Qur’an as Inspired Scripture.

## **V. TIPS ON REACHING MUSLIMS**

You may not have any Muslim friends or co-workers, but you can still be used by the Lord to reach them with the Gospel.

HOW? By financially supporting and praying for a ministry that is doing work in Muslim countries.

Four great ministries that I can wholeheartedly recommend that you pray for and consider supporting financially would be:

1. Gospel for Asia: [gfa.org](http://gfa.org)

2. Safe Harbor: [safeharborinternational.org](http://safeharborinternational.org)
3. Voice of the Martyrs: [persecution.com](http://persecution.com)
4. Jesus Film Project: [jesusfilm.org](http://jesusfilm.org)

All of these groups are doing a tremendous work in Muslim nations.

If you do have a Muslim co-worker or friend, keep in mind some important DO's and DON'TS when it comes to reaching Muslims for Christ. Let's first talk about...

### **SOME DONT'S:**

1. Don't use a marked Bible or Qur'an. Why?

To Muslims this is very disrespectful and irreverent.

Muslims have great respect for the Qur'an.

Muslims never hold their Qur'an below their waist.

They never let it touch the ground.

They will place it in the highest position on their bookshelf.

So when you come along and open up your Bible with a bunch of neon pen marks and scribbles, this will be a shock and perhaps a distraction to them.

So try and not stumble them in this.

If you know that you will be talking to a Muslim ahead of time, get a Bible ready that is unmarked.

2. Whenever possible, don't speak to Muslims in groups. Why?

Peer pressure in the Muslim communities to stay committed to Islam is enormous.

For a Muslim to convert to another faith is a sin worthy of death in Islam, especially to Christianity.

Why Christianity?

Because it teaches that God has a Son, an unforgivable sin to Muslims.

3. Don't bring up the Israel/Palestinian conflict (or politics in general).

That is a can of worms that is not necessary to talk about.

The main issue you want to eventually get to is: Jesus Christ as Savior.

4. Don't bring up the Qur'an's teaching that supports violence.

The Qur'an does advocate violence, but this is just another peripheral issue that is unnecessary to bring up.

### **SOME DO'S:**

Let's talk about some of the do's...

1. Lovingly Befriend the Muslim.

A prevailing mindset amongst Muslims is that Christians:

- hate the Muslims
- and love the Jews.

So seek to overcome their preconceived ideas about Christians.

The best way that you can do that is to love and befriend them!

And not just with the intention of evangelizing them.

Genuinely befriend them.

In the Muslim community, the Christian has to earn the right to be heard.

Muslims who have converted to Christianity say that confrontational one-time evangelism is largely an ineffective route to take.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 says:

24 “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” NKJV

2. Be prepared to defend the trustworthiness of Scripture.

Muslims question the reliability and trustworthiness of the Bible, and you will need to know how to defend it.

3. Be candid about the sins of supposed Christians.

Many Muslims still remember the Crusades of a thousand years ago [they began 1095 A.D.] when people in the name of Christ did some terrible things to Muslims (and others).

Agree with the Muslim that these things were horrible, but also let him or her know that these actions contradicted the teachings of Christ.

Jesus said in...

Matthew 5:44 says:

44 “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,” NKJV

Jesus told Peter:

Matthew 26:52

“Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.” NKJV

#### 4. Respect their dietary restrictions.

If you have a Muslim friend or family over for dinner remember that they are not permitted to eat:

- Shellfish
- Pork, or pork products (i.e. bacon)
- Lard
- Alcohol

Also remember not to invite them out to lunch during the month of Ramadan (dates change every year).

Why?

They are required to fast all day from sunrise to sunset.

#### 5. Speak clearly of God's grace and His love.

Many Muslims live with a sense of fear regarding their salvation and the future. Muslims have no assurance of their salvation, so many of them have no real, inner peace like you and me experience.

Many Muslims believe that the only way a person can be guaranteed a spot in paradise is through martyrdom.

So emphasize the far-reaching, sin-cleansing forgiveness for any and all who put their faith in Christ and His gracious work on the cross.

Explain to them that faith in Christ's work on the cross means liberation from works and the fear of the scales of justice.

God's grace is an amazing doctrine exclusive to Christianity, and the very thing that has spoken so powerfully to ex-Muslims.

#### 6. Give them a copy of the Bible and pray for them.

Even just a copy of the Gospel of John would be good.

Many Muslims will be glad to read it. They have heard about the Bible in their own Qur'an, but many of them have never really read it.

**Book Recommendations:**

Four excellent books on the topic of Islam:

1. Unveiling Islam by Ergun and Emir Caner (two former Muslims that have converted to Christianity)

It's concise, clear, interesting, and includes some of their personal stories. Very good.

2. The Secrets of the Koran: Revealing Insights into Islam's Holy Bible by Don Richardson (Author)

*Don Richardson is one of the most read authors on Christian missions alive today. Peace Child, a book about his missions work with the Sawi people in Irian Jaya, sold about half a million copies in 27 languages. Richardson argues that Islam is very unlike the Sawi culture. One can't bring Muslims to Christianity by using Muslim concepts, he argues.*

3. Understanding Islam and Christianity: Beliefs That Separate Us and How to Talk About Them by Josh McDowell (Author), Jim Walker (Author)

For years, international apologist Josh McDowell has been alert to the challenge of Islam—and how Muslims' objections to Christianity can raise deep doubts in believers' minds. His recent on-the-ground research with Muslims in the Middle East has crystallized into this practical resource focusing on Jesus and the gospel. Aided by Islam expert Jim Walker, McDowell lays out the evidence on the crucial issues

4. Answering Islam by Norman Geisler & Abdul Saleeb.

Awesome reference tool. This book provides very good answers to the many questions, objections, and attacks that Muslim apologists have raised against Christianity.

## References:

- The Secrets of the Koran: Revealing Insights into Islam's Holy Bible by Don Richardson (Author)
- Understanding Islam and Christianity: Beliefs That Separate Us and How to Talk About Them by Josh McDowell (Author), Jim Walker (Author)
- The Islam Debate by Josh McDowell (Author), John Gilchrist (Author)
- Reasoning from the Scriptures with Muslims by Ron Rhodes
- Unveiling Islam by Ergun and Emir Caner (two former Muslims that have converted to Christianity)
- Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross by Norman L. Geisler and Abdul Saleeb
- The Dark Side of Islam by R. C. Sproul (Author), Abdul Saleeb (Author)
- Light in the Shadow of Jihad: The Struggle for Truth by Ravi Zacharias
- What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Qur'an by James R. White
- Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity by Nabeel Qureshi (Author), Lee Strobel (Foreword)
- Islam: An Illustrated History by Greville Stewart Parker Freeman-Grenville (Author), Stuart Christopher Munro-Hay (Author)
- An Illustrated History of Islam by Michael\_Jordan (Author)
- Winning the War Against Radical Islam by Robert A. Morey (Author)
- Islamic Invasion by Robert A. Morey (Author)
- Islam Unveiled: The True Desert Storm by Robert A. Morey (Author)
- Christianity vs. Islam: A Muslim and a Christian Debate: 6 Crucial Questions by James R. White, Shabir Ally
- 20 Reasons Christians Fail to Effectively Reach Muslims: With helpful recommendations to become effective by Matthew Stone\_PhD (Author)