

-Islamiyat-

Q1 - Comparison between Islam and Christianity.

Ans - Christianity and Islam are the two largest religions in the world and share a historical traditional connection, with

some major theological differences. Christianity believes Jesus to be the Messiah of the Hebrew scripture, the Son of

God, and God the Son, while Muslims consider the Trinity to be a division of God's Oneness and a grave sin (shirk).

Muslims believe Jesus (Isa) to be a messenger of God, not the son of God.

Muslims believe the Quran was formed when the prophet Muhammad received revelations from the angel Gabriel for

a 23 year period beginning in 609 AD. The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 authors, covering a period of approximately

1,600 years, while the Quran was revealed to one man over a period of 23 years.

Christians believe that Jesus is God. Muslims believe He was merely a prophet and miracle-worker. Islam would claim that

Jesus was born of a virgin, and that He was taken to Heaven. They do not believe that Jesus died on the cross.

Christians believe every human is born with original sin. Muslims believe when you are born, you have a 'clean slate.'

Islam claims that sin exists because of human weakness and forgetfulness.

According to Islam, Satan is responsible for sin,

and there is no curse over Adam or creation. The Bible says Satan tempted

Adam & Eve to sin and that God later cursed Satan,

Adam, and Eve (Genesis 3). One central truth of Christianity is that although we inherited Adam's sinful nature, we were given

a new nature in Jesus (Romans 5:12-21). Christians go to church to worship God & Muslims go to Mosque to worship God.

Q2. Islam its concept meaning and importance.

Ans- Concept:

Followers of Islam are called Muslims. Muslims are monotheistic and worship one, all-knowing God, who in Arabic is known as Allah.

Followers of Islam aim to live a life of complete submission to Allah. They believe that nothing can happen without Allah's

permission, but humans have free will to decide whatever they do. Concept of

Islam is basically that there is no God but Allah and

that Muhammad(saw) is a messenger of God. Islam teaches that God is merciful, all-powerful, and unique, [8] and has guided mankind

through prophets, revealed scriptures, and natural signs. God is described in Chapter 112 of the Quran as: "Say, He is God, the One

and Only; God, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten;

And there is none like unto Him. The Quran is the major

holy text of Islam. The Hadith is another important book. Followers worship

Allah by praying and reciting the Quran. They believe

there will be a day of judgment, and life after death.

Meaning and Importance:

The word "Islam" means "submission to the will of God." Literally Islam means

Peace, "Islam" is derived from the Arabic word "sal'm" which the religion demonstrates peace and tolerance. The message of Islam is, "Say, we believe in God and that which was revealed unto us, and that which was revealed unto Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and that which was revealed unto Moses and Jesus, and the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and unto Him we have surrendered" (The Qur'an, 3:84).

Islam can be traced to Adam, the first prophet of Islam. The Qur'an was however revealed in 610 AD to the Prophet Mohammad (peace be on him; pbuh). At the core of Islam is the focus of an individual's personal relationship with God, their Creator. It encourages a believer to have sustained awareness of God which is a key to lasting happiness and success in hereafter. Islam teaches that God is the source of peace. By focusing on this important relationship and following God's guidance, believers will be able to acquire inner peace and tranquillity. Seeking lasting happiness through other means, such as following one's desires or the accumulation of material possessions, will never fill the void we have. This need can only be filled with the awareness of God. Islam gives a person a clear perspective on the events that happen in their life, both good and bad, as they are, in fact, tests from God. It encourages a person to understand events in the context of the overall purpose of life, which is to acknowledge God and obey Him. Islam is a religion in which faith is based on clear proof. It encourages people to use their God given intelligence to think and ponder over their life and the universe. Although this life is a test, God has provided sufficient signs and guidance to people who are open-minded and sincere to be able to acknowledge the truth. Islam encourages a balance between hope in God's mercy and fear of His punishment - both of which are required to lead a positive and humble life. We are born sinless but have the free will to commit sins. God created us and knows we are imperfect and commit sins, but the key is how we react to committing those mistakes. "Do not despair of God's mercy; He will forgive you of all your sins." Quran 39:53. The submission to God enables one to fulfil the purpose of life by acknowledging the greatness of God and sincerely worshipping him alone. In doing so, one will acquire the countless benefits of Islam.

Q3. Introduction to fundamental beliefs and practice of Islam.

Ans. The fundamentals of Islam -- if you mean by that, the "five pillars of Islam," they are the shahada, which is an affirmation that there is no deity except Allah and that Muhammad is his prophet, his messenger. That constitutes the first pillar, or fundamental. The second is prayer, salat, and then the fasting, according to some, which is sawm, or the fast of Ramadan; and the payment of what I call a social tax, which is called zakat. Others call it charity; I call it a social tax. It is 2.5 percent of what one has had, what one has owned of certain kinds of wealth for a period of one year. The fifth is the pilgrimage, the hajj. The pilgrimage to the Kaaba -- not to Mecca per se -- but to the Kaaba, which is in Mecca. Those are the five pillars or the five fundamentals. Muslims practice these fundamentals in life. The prophet Muhammad is credited with building the first mosque in the courtyard of his house in Medina. Mosques today follow some of the same principles he established in 622 A.D. Men and women pray separately, and Muslims may visit a mosque five times a day for each of the prayer sessions. In accordance with Islamic law, Muslims donate a fixed portion of their income to community members in need this act is called Zakat. During the daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, all healthy adult Muslims are required to abstain from food and drink. Through this temporary deprivation, they renew their awareness of and gratitude for everything God has provided in their lives--including the Qur'an, which was first revealed during this month. During Ramadan they share the hunger and thirst of

the needy as a reminder of the religious duty to help those less fortunate. Every Muslim whose health and finances permit it must make at least one visit to the holy city of Mecca, in present-day Saudi Arabia. Since the time of the Prophet Muhammad, believers from all over the world have gathered around the Ka'ba in Mecca on the eighth and twelfth days of the final month of the Islamic calendar.

Q4. Concept of women freedom in islam.

Ans: Islam stresses the equality between men and women. During the sixth century, when The Qur'an was revealed, Islam liberated women in many ways, including giving them

the right to own property and to vote. Suffrage for women in Islamic states was won almost thirteen hundred years before it was in the United States. Nowhere does

the Qur'an state that one gender is superior to the other. The Qur'an makes it clear that sole basis for superiority of any person over another is piety and righteousness, not gender, color or nationality. As Quran says "O Mankind! We created you from a single pair of male and female and made you into nations and tribes,

that you may know each other. Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is one who is the most righteous of you. And Allah has the full knowledge and is well

acquainted (with all things)"(The Qur'an 49:13). Some of the Prophet's Hadith's are: "The best of you is he who is best to his wife". "Paradise is under the feet of the mothers".

There is no decree in Islam that forbids women from seeking employment whenever there is a necessity for it, especially in which society needs her .

Examples of these

professions are nursing, teaching, medicine and social and charitable work. Moreover, there are no restrictions on benefiting from women's talent in any field as demonstrated by

the Prophet's wife, Khathidja, who as a businesswoman, employed the Prophet earlier in his life and later proposed marriage to him. With this distinction in mind, there is no

room for a Muslim to imagine that women are inferior to men. Thus, in the Islamic tradition, a woman has an independent identity. She is a responsible being in her own right and

carries the burden of her moral and spiritual obligations. Women have as much right to education as men do. Almost fourteen centuries ago, Prophet Muhammad (saw) declared that the

pursuit of knowledge is incumbent on every Muslim, male and female. This declaration was very clear and was largely implemented by Muslims throughout history.