

# Comparison between Islam and Christianity

## Islam

God

Only one god – called Allah

## Christianity

Only one God – a triune being called God or Yahweh

### ***A Different View of Holy Books***

Christians view the Old and New Testament as the Holy Word of God. Muslims view the Quran as the Holy Word of God.

The word Quran means ‘recitation’. Muslims claim that the Quran has been preserved in its exact, original form in Arabic because large groups would recite it to other large groups with no variation. Muslims recognize the Torah (law) of Moses, Psalms of David, and Gospels of Jesus as books from God; however, they believe these writings have been corrupted over time due to many different translations. Muslims claim that no manuscript of the Quran in Arabic has any variation.

Christians believe that the Bible of the Old and New Testament in Its original language (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic) is God’s Word without error. Our English Bibles today are still trustworthy and sacred because of textual criticism. To learn more about textual criticism,

### **A Different View of God**

Christians believe in the Trinity: 1 God in 3 persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit ([Matthew 28:19-20](#); [2 Corinthians 13:14](#); [John 10:30](#)).

The God of Islam is one God, in 1 Person, not a Trinity. Here are some passages from the Quran that explain how the God of Islam is not a Father...

### **A Different View of Sin**

Christians believe every human is born with original sin ([Psalm 51:5](#); [Ephesians 2:1](#)).

Muslims believe when you are born, you have a 'clean slate.' Islam claims that sin exists because of human weakness and forgetfulness ([Surah 4:28](#)).

## Q=2 Islam its concept meaning and importance

### The Meaning of Islam

Islam is derived from the Arabic root "Salema": peace, purity, submission and obedience. In the religious sense, Islam means submission to the will of God and obedience to His law.

Everything and every phenomenon in the world other than man is administered totally by God-made laws, ie. they are obedient to God and submissive to his laws, they are in the State of Islam. Man possesses the qualities of intelligence and choice, thus he is invited to submit to the good will of God and obey His law, ie, become a Muslim.

Submission to the good will of God, together with obedience to His beneficial Law, ie, becoming a Muslim, is the best safeguard for man's peace and harmony

#### Positive Outlook on Life

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. He created humans with intellect and free will to test them as to who will wilfully choose to follow His guidance

#### Pure and Clear Concept of God

Unlike other religions, Islam is not named after its founder or the community of its birth. Islam is an attributive title that signifies obedience to God, the Creator of the Universe. One of its main beauties is that it acknowledges the complete perfection, greatness and uniqueness of God with absolutely no compromises. This is reflected in Islam's pure teachings of the attributes of God.

### God is One and Unique:

- God has no partners, no equals and no rivals.
  - God has no father, mother, sons, daughters or wives.
  - God alone is worthy of all worship
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- **Forgiveness of Sins**
  - 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

- **Accountability and Ultimate Justice**
- Islam teaches that God is the Most Just and that each person will be held responsible for their own actions on the Day of Judgement. Each person is accountable, as they have freedom of choice and intelligence to discern between right and wrong.

## Q=3 Concept of women freedom in Islam

### Women and Islam

In Islam, men and women are moral equals in God's sight and are expected to fulfill the same duties of worship, prayer, faith, almsgiving, fasting, and pilgrimage to Mecca. Islam generally improved the status of women compared to earlier Arab cultures, prohibiting female infanticide and recognizing women's full personhood. Islamic law emphasizes the rather than to her family, and guaranteeing women's rights of inheritance and to own and manage property. Women were also granted the right to live in the matrimonial home and receive financial maintenance during marriage and a waiting contractual nature of marriage, requiring that a dowry be paid to the woman period following death and divorce.

Religious scholars largely agree that at the onset of Islam in the early 600s CE, the

Prophet Muhammad expanded women's rights to include inheritance, property and marriage rights. It was a revolutionary move at a moment when women held few, if any, rights.

Throughout the centuries, however, Sunni scholars have taken divergent views on how to interpret the Quran and the Prophet Muhammed's sayings, culminating in the establishment of four schools of legal thought.

The strictest of those is known as the Hanbali School and forms the basis of hard-line currents in Islamic thought, including Saudi's ultra-conservative Wahhabism and variants of Salafism. It is this current that has further isolated women in the eyes of the law in states where Islamic law is practiced or enshrined.

However, that hasn't stopped activists, civil society actors and even governments from trying to elevate the legal status of women with regards to Islamic jurisprudence

## **Q=4 Introduction to fundamental beliefs and practice of Islam**

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

## **Beliefs**

That's true, and they are: belief in Allah; belief in the prophets [of] scriptures; belief in the last day, that there's a judgment, there's a hereafter and an afterlife; belief in angels, et cetera. Some scholars say there are four, some say five, some say six. Those are pretty much agreed upon. ... I would say the beliefs are not really that much emphasized in Muslim societies, particularly Arabic Muslim societies; not that much. The main thing is the main set of principles is those that we just talked about - the five principles

The five principles of Islam, or the five pillars or the five fundamentals, belief practically ends with the first pillar of Islam. In other words, that affirmation that Allah is the only deity and that Muhammad is his messenger. After that, everything is action, is practice. The other four, i.e., praying, fasting, paying the zakat -- what I call a social tax -- and the hajj, involve action. Muslims are very action-oriented.

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