



Series: Unmasking the Cults

## Spotlighting Islam

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<b>Founder</b>	Muhammad (570-632)
<b>Goal</b>	World-wide domination Now over 30 countries in the world are 87% Muslim Over 80 million Muslims in Russia The U.S. has 3.3 million Muslims
<b>Holy Sites</b>	<b>Mecca</b> , Saudi Arabia & <b>Medina</b> , Saudi Arabia
<b>Writings</b>	<i>The Qu'ran – revealed to Mohammad by the angel Gabriel over a period of 23 years</i> <i>The Sunnah – everything else besides the Qu'ran that came from God's messenger; it is decisions by the Mohammad that were confirmed by revelation from God.</i> <i>The Hadith – writings of Mohammad collected after his death;</i> <i>The Sira – the biography of Muhammad</i>
<b>Key Beliefs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Faith in Allah</li><li>- Angels</li><li>- The Holy Books (The Quran, The Sunnah)</li><li>- The Prophets (Allah sent 124,000 prophets to earth of whom Christ is one but Mohammad was the greatest)</li><li>- Predestination</li><li>- The Day of Judgment</li></ul>
<b>Doctrinal Beliefs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Regarding God, there is one God Allah who had no son. Christianity which believes in one God manifest in 3 persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is known as Shirk, and is blasphemy which condemns a person to eternal judgment.</li><li>- Salvation is obtained by good works, particularly keeping the 5 pillars. There is no forgiveness of sins or a Saviour. Eternity is based upon a scale of your good works vs. bad works and the mercy of Allah</li><li>- Jihad or martyrdom as a result of defending Islam and destroying anyone that is against it guarantees one eternal life.</li></ul>
<b>5 Pillars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reciting the creed of Allah</li><li>- Praying 5 times a day facing Mecca</li><li>- Fasting 28 days during Ramadan</li><li>- Giving (Alms)</li><li>- Making a Pilgrimage to Mecca</li></ul>
<b>Divisions</b>	- <b>Sunnis (85-90% of Muslims) vs. Shi'ites</b> – This division is primarily over the caliphates that succeeded Mohammad and which ones are revered and followed. Shiites consider the caliphates of Bakr, Umar, and Uthman illegitimate, whereas Sunnis revere all of them, calling them the <i>Companions of the Prophet</i> . Shiites do not respect Aisha, whereas Sunnis revere her.
<b>Muslim Terms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Caliph</b> – a successor of Mohammad, a leader of the Muslim community</li><li>- <b>Sharia Law</b> – a religious law that comes from the Qu'ran and the Sunnah</li></ul>



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**Reaching Muslims for Christ**

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The following material is adapted from the following sources:

- *Reasoning with Muslims from the Scriptures* by Ron Rhodes
- *Winning Muslims to Christ* by Mark Bachman

### **Understanding Muslims**

- A Muslim equates Americans with Christians, loose in morals (i.e. abortion, drugs, immorality on TV).
  - Acknowledge America's problems and sinful vices that America practices.
  - It is important to distinguish yourself as a Christian.
- Direct eye contact is not considered good etiquette by Muslims.
- Realize Islam is not just a religion, it is a way of life. When Islam takes over an individual or home, it takes over everything.
- Not all Muslims believe the same thing (this is due to the different sects - Shi'ites & Sunnis; the teaching of abrogation - the later revelations of Mohammad supercede the earlier revelations, and not all Muslims read the Quran).
- Muslims are very hospitality-oriented. We ought to do our best to reciprocate this when working with a Muslim.
- It is better to witness to them one-on-one as in a group they will be strong defenders of their Muslim faith.
- Muslims have a high respect for holy books. Don't set your Bible on the ground or put other books on top of it.

### **Warnings in working with a Muslim**

- Beware of stereotyping all Muslims.
  - Not all Muslims are radical Muslims.
  - Not all Arabs are Muslims. Not all Muslims are Arabs.
  - All Muslims are unreachable.
- Beware of stereotyping yourself.
  - I am not knowledgeable enough to witness to them.
- Beware of being a respecter of persons with the Gospel.
- Beware that conflict may develop.
  - When you witness to a Muslim, they have a tendency to argue.
  - When a Muslim receives Christ, he may be persecuted, excommunicated from his family, his work, etc.
- Be patient when witnessing to a Muslim.
- Don't lose your spirit in a discussion where they become argumentative.

### **Witnessing to a Muslim**

- *Pray fervently that God would remove the blindness of their eyes.* (2 Cor. 4:4, John 8:32)
- *Be clothed with meekness and humility.* (1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 3:12)
- *Avoid a critical approach and attitude when witnessing to a Muslim.*
- *Build a relationship with a Muslim.* Remember Muslims are people before they are Muslims.

"William M. Miller, well experienced in witnessing to Muslims, observes that many Muslims who have converted to Christianity say the thing that got their attention is the Christlike love of Christians...Do not consider a Muslim an enemy to be conquered but rather a person to be loved." (**Reasoning from the Scriptures with Muslims** by Ron Rhodes, p. 277).



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- *Define Your Terms*

Muslims often refer to God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, prayer, the angels, and other terms common to the Bible, but they attach entirely different meanings to these words. This means that when they use these terms, you may not understand what they mean by what they are saying."

- *Different approaches can be used when witnessing to a Muslim.*
  - Use Questions.

Remember, Jesus often asked questions to make a point (see Luke 9:20 below). Christ often used questions rather than inundating his listeners with information. The purpose was to draw answers out of them. A person can close his ears to facts he doesn't want to hear, but when a pointed question causes him to draw a conclusion or answer in his own mind, he cannot escape the conclusion because it's a conclusion that he reached himself.

**Luke 9:20**

He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.

- Do you ever fear death? Can I talk to you about how Christ has taken the sting out of death?
- Did you know the primary heaven is so delightful is because God is there? Psalms 16:11
  - Can I talk to you about how you can know for sure that you are going there?
- Are you sure you are going to paradise?
  - Can I tell you why I am sure I'm going to heaven, and why it's the most exciting thing in the world to me?
- Did you know that according to Jesus, our problem is not mere forgetfulness or feebleness, but that we are spiritually dead, separated from God because of our sin?
  - Would you like to know how to become spiritually alive?
- Doesn't Islam teach that a person goes to paradise if his good deeds outweigh his bad deeds on the scale of absolute justice?
  - Are you sure your good deeds outweigh all your bad deeds?
  - Would you be interested in hearing about a way you can be 100-percent good and be assured of heaven?
- Use Bible Parables & Stories. (Muslims love stories)
  - Use the stories in the Scripture that communicate the Gospel truth (i.e. the parable of the lost coin, the lost sheep, Lazarus and the rich man, the Pharisee and the tax collector, The woman with the issue of blood, etc.)
  - Use the OT story of Abraham and Isaac and the substitute ram – Gen. 22:1-2
- Use the Sermon on the Mount.
  - It deals with 3 of the 5 pillars of Islam (almsgiving, repetitious prayers, and fasting)
- Use the Scriptures. (John 5:39, 8:32; Romans 1:16)
- Use their holy writings to show contrast. (especially the Quran and the Surah)
  - i.e. The world wide flood – Genesis 6-7 point to Noah's family being with him in the ark. Surah 11 indicates that one of Noah's sons refused to go on the ark.
  - i.e. According to Surah 37:102-7, wasn't Abraham's son "ransomed" from death by an animal "sacrifice"?
    - Didn't the animal take the son's place?
    - Did you know that these two words, "ransom" and "sacrifice", are the exact words that describe what Jesus did for us at the cross?
    - Can I read you a few verses? (Read from Matthew 20:28; John 1:29, 36; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 7:27; 9:15,28.)



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- *Explain Doctrinal Differences.*
    - Explain to him the differences between the Quran and the Bible.
      - Doctrine of Inspiration – God breathed not angel breathed (2 Timothy 3:16)
      - 40 holy men vs. 1 immoral man (2 Peter 1:21)
      - Doctrine of Infallibility and Inerrancy (Titus 1:2; Psalms 12:6; Pro. 30:5)
      - The Doctrine of Preservation
    - Deal with the universality of sin, the original sin, and the seriousness of sin. (Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:12; Mark 7:20-23; Isaiah 59:2)
    - The Trinity (1 John 5:7; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:16; Hebrews 1:1-8)
      - God has a Son. His name is Jesus Christ.
    - Salvation by Grace not by works (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom 3:20; Titus 3:5; James 2:10)
    - A Know So rather than a Hope So Salvation (1 John 5:13; John 10:27-29)
    - A Loving God rather than an impersonal God (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:7-8)
    - Explain to him the 2 judgments rather than a one judgment without an absolute standard of judgment.
- Note:** Islam's view of the judgment is erroneous in 3 ways:  
The purpose of the judgment is to determine whether or not one is saved.  
There is only one general judgment.  
That Allah has no absolute standard of righteousness in judging, meaning he will arbitrarily decide to show mercy to some and cruelty to others.
- The Great White Throne Judgment – Rev. 20:11-15
  - The Bema Judgment – 1 Cor. 3:11-15
- Share with them what the Bible teaches about the person of Christ.
    - Mohammad was encouraged to seek forgiveness of sins (Surah, 16:61, 40:55, 42:5, 30; 47:19; 48:1-2) while Christ came to become sin for mankind, to grant forgiveness of sins. (2 Cor. 5:19-21, Colossians 1:14). Christ didn't need to seek forgiveness of sins because He was sinless. (Heb. 5:14-15)
    - Show them Christ is God's Son. (Matthew 3:17, 14:33; Mark 1:1; John 3:16)
    - Show them the importance of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (1 Cor. 15:1-6)
    - Show them Christ is the only way to Heaven and the only one to forgive sins. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Matt. 9:6; Col. 1:14)
    - Show them the virgin birth. (Luke 1:26-3; Matthew 1:18, 22-25)