

# Eighteen Distinct Differences Between Islam and Christianity

Part One in a Three-Part Series

By Troy Dobbs, Senior Pastor of Grace Church, Eden Prairie MN



The Muslim view of Jesus and the Christian view of Jesus are radically different. I want to point out the distinctions, and the primary reason I want to do this is because most everyone tends to believe we are talking about the same Jesus. As you'll see, WE ARE NOT!

I encourage you to really study and digest these distinctions, and use them to share the Gospel with your Muslim friends and coworkers. Because the more you know, the more confidence you will have as you engage others with the Gospel.

## **1. Muslims believe Jesus is a created human being, and that He is not our eternal God.**

Did you catch that? The Muslim view of Jesus is that he is just a guy – a good guy, a religious guy, a prophet – but not divine, and certainly not pre-existent. The Bible, however, declares that “Jesus is the eternal Creator of everything.”

“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:16-17) In this passage, Paul was establishing that Jesus didn't just come into existence when he was born in Bethlehem – Jesus existed before time and space, and He entered into time and space. Therefore, the Bible asserts that Jesus (rather than being a created human being and not eternal) is THE pre-existent, uncreated, creator, and sustainer of everyone and everything.

## **2. Muslims believe that Jesus is not the Lamb of God who was slain.**

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’ ” (John 1:29) Christians believe Jesus is the Lamb of God. The “Lamb of God” metaphor in John 1:29 simply means that God's Son, Jesus, would be led to the slaughter (the cross) like a lamb, in order to pay the penalty for humanity's sin. Because sin always required a blood sacrifice (meaning something or someone had to die), God chose to provide the sacrifice Himself – subsequently the sins of the world were absorbed and removed when Jesus died as the perfect sacrifice.

## **3. Muslims believe Jesus will not return until Judgment Day.**

Christians believe Jesus appeared to Saul (later Paul) after His Ascension.

“As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ Saul asked. ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied.” (Acts 9:3-5)

#### **4. Muslims believe Jesus prophesied of, but did not send Muhammad or the Holy Spirit.**

Christians believe Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who came 50 days later, not 500 years later. Muhammad was not born until 570 A.D.

#### **5. Muslims believe Jesus is NOT involved in Salvation.**

Muslims believe salvation is only found in the Five Pillars of Islam which are: Faith or belief in the Oneness of God and the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad; establishment of the daily prayers; concern for and almsgiving to the needy; self-purification through fasting; and the pilgrimage to Mecca for those who are able. Islam focuses on men's works for salvation – Christianity focuses on Christ's work on the Cross for our salvation.

Christians believe salvation is only found in Jesus and not as a result of what a person does or does not do. The Bible teaches we are not saved by our WORKS but by His GRACE, and there is no place for grace in Islam.

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

#### **6. Muslims believe Jesus is an involuntary slave to Allah.**

Christians believe Jesus made Himself a voluntary servant.

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:6-8)

Jesus is alive and He is God...  
Muhammad is dead and he is *not* God...