

Eighteen Distinct Differences Between Islam and Christianity

Part Two in a Three-Part Series

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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.

7. Muslims believe Jesus was never crucified – and therefore was never resurrected.

One of the saddest features of Islam is that it rejects the cross, declaring it inappropriate that a major prophet of God should come to such an inglorious end. In addition, the Qur'an sees no need for the sin-bearing death of a Savior. As a matter of fact, in at least five instances, it declares categorically that "no soul shall bear another's burden."

Some Muslim theologians teach that God cast a spell over the enemies of Jesus in order to rescue Him, and that either Judas, or Simon of Cyrene was substituted for Jesus on the cross at the last moment. Tragically, Hindus also accept the historicity of the cross, but reject its saving significance.

Christians believe that the cross and resurrection are the pivotal events for the redemption of humanity. The Bible asserts that it is only through the cross and resurrection of Jesus that people are saved from their sins. The Apostle Paul and the Gospel writers reiterated the significance of the crucifixion and resurrection. And Paul said without the resurrection, our faith, our hope, our preaching, and our lives are in vain.

"When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:1-2)

Jesus himself declared, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25)

8. Muslims believe that Jesus is not God in the flesh, or the Son of God.

Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God – the Word made flesh, who dwelt among us.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

9. Muslims believe Jesus cannot be worshiped.

And, based on their analysis of Jesus, why would He be worthy of worship? Christians believe it is commanded that Jesus be worshiped.

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)

10. Muslims believe that Jesus is not fit to be an intercessor.

Christians believe Jesus is the ONLY mediator between God and Man.

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...” (1 Timothy 2:5)

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:1-2)

11. Muslims believe that Jesus is simply another prophet.

Christians believe Jesus is God in the flesh.

“I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30)

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.” (John 14:11)

“Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ” (John 20:28)

12. Muslims believe that Jesus returns in yellow garments.

The Bible says He will return arrayed in white.

“As I looked, ‘thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.’ ” (Daniel 7:9)

“His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.” (Revelation 1:14-15)

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