

Christianity from Islamic Perspective

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Way of Dialogue

The Koran orders the dialogue to be conducted in the following manner:

1. Kind dialogues only. Aggressive dialogues are not permitted in normal conditions.
2. Emphasize common things first before discussing differences
 - (Koran 29:46) "Do not argue with the people of the book except with a way that is best, except those who commit injustice among them, and say we believe in what was revealed to us and in what was revealed to you, and our God and your God is one, and we are submissive to him"

Koran 3:64

- ▶ Say: O People of the Book come to common beliefs between us and you: that we worship none but God; that we associate no partners with Him; that we erect not, from among ourselves, false deities to follow instead of God.

Koran 2:136

- ▶ Say ye: we believe in God, and the revelation Given to us, and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and that was given To Moses and Jesus, and that given To all prophets from their Lord: we make no difference Between one and another of them: And we are submissive to God.

Attitude of Islam Towards Non Muslims in General

Islam divides non Muslims in two main groups:

1. Those who are not fighting Muslims, Muslims are ordered to be kind and gracious with them. (Koran 60:8) "God doesn't forbid you from dealing kindly and justly with those who fight you not for your faith nor drive you out of your homes, for God loves those who are kind and just."
2. Those who fight Muslims, Muslims are forbidden from being friends with them (Koran 60:9) "God only forbids you from having relations with those who fight you for your faith, and drive you out of your homes, or support others in driving you out of your homes, For those who turn to them are indeed transgressors and wrong doers"

People of the Book: Special Category of Non Muslims

- ▶ Islam recognizes the people of the book as a special category
- ▶ Muslim men are allowed to marry from the people of the book
- ▶ Muslims are allowed to eat from the meat slaughtered by the people of the book
- ▶ (Koran 5:5) "Today all good food is made lawful to you, and the food of the people of the book is lawful to you and the chaste women from the people of the book are lawful for you to marry"

What is in Common

Similarities between the six pillars of faith and the Christian beliefs:

1. Believe in God as the supreme being who created the entire universe
2. Believe in the existence of the angels of God
3. Believe in the Prophets and messengers of God (from Adam to Isra)
4. Believe in the scriptures revealed to the Prophets
5. Believe in the day of judgment
6. Respect and submit to the decision made by God

What is in Common

Moral Values

1. The ten commandments; worship only one god, do not kill, ...etc. Islamic commandments are listed in the Koran (17:22-39)
2. Golden rule: wish for others what you wish for yourself, treat others the way you would like to be treated and do not do to others what you do not accept for yourself
3. Family value, no adultery (sexual relations before marriage) and no homosexuality

What is in Common

Other Common Beliefs

- ▶ Common enemies are Godlessness, spiritual emptiness and moral corruption
- ▶ Origin of humanity Adam and Eve who were created by God
- ▶ Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree and kicked out of heaven, it is not Eve's fault (Koran 20:121) They ate from the tree and their shame was exposed to them, then they began to cover themselves with the leaves of Heavens and thus Adam has disobeyed his Lord and deviated from the straight path"

Jesus and The Bible in the Koran

- ▶ Jesus was mentioned in the Koran 20 times, Mohamed was mentioned 4 times
- ▶ Story of Marry and the birth of Jesus is more detailed and emotional in the Koran (Koran 19:16-39)
- ▶ The Koran speaks about the Gospel not the Gospels (Koran 5:46&57:27) "Then we followed them up with our messengers and we sent after them Jesus the son of Mary. And bestowed on him the Gospel..."
- ▶ Muslims believe in the parts of the bible confirmed by the Holly Koran

Miracles of Jesus in the Koran

- ▶ Miracles of Jesus; born without a father (Koran 19:20) rise people from dead, making birds alive, healing sick and blind, telling people about the food they ate and the food they are storing in their homes (Koran 3:49&5:110) and talking when was a baby (Koran 3:46&5:110&19:29)
- ▶ The Koran emphasizes that these are miracles achieved by the Power of God not by the power of Jesus himself (Koran 3:46&5:110)

Koran 5:110

- ▶ Then God said: "O Jesus the son of Mary remember my favors to you and to your mother. Behold I strengthened you with the holy spirit, and you spoke to the people in childhood and in maturity. Behold I taught you the Book and Wisdom, the law and the Gospel. And behold you make clay in the figure of a bird and you breath into it, it becomes a bird by my power, and you healed those born blind, and the lepers, by My power. And behold you bring the dead alive by my power. And behold I did restrain the Children of Israel from violence to you when you showed them the Clear Signs. and the unbelievers among them said: This is nothing but evident magic"

The Koran Defending Mary

- ▶ The unbelievers among the children of Israel accused Mary that she committed adultery and gave birth to Jesus. The Koran defended Mary in (4:16) "And that they have rejected faith and that they have uttered against Mary a grave false charge"
- ▶ (Koran19:20) "She said: How shall I Have a son, seeing that no man has touched me and I am not unchaste?"
- ▶ (Koran 3:47) "She said: O my Lord how shall I have a son when no man has touched me? He said: Even so: God creates what He wants: when He has decreed a plan, He says 'Be' and it is"

Nature of Jesus in the Koran

- ▶ The Koran states the following about Jesus
 1. He is created by God like Adam. Adam had no father or mother, Jesus at least had a mother (Koran 3:59) "Jesus is like Adam, created from clay and God said to him, be and he was"
 2. He is a human being, he is not the son of God or God in human flesh. He ate food and went to the bathroom, which are very ungodly things to do (Koran 5:75) "Christ the son of Mary was no more than A Messenger like the many messengers that passed away before him. His mother was an honorable woman of truth. They both ate food"

The Koran Addresses the People of the Book Regarding Jesus

- ▶ (Koran 4:171) "O People of the Book do not go excessive in your beliefs and say nothing but the truth. The Messiah Jesus the son of Mary was no more than a Messenger of God, and His word, which He bestowed on Mary and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in God and His Messengers. say not trinity: stop: it will be better for you: for God is one God: glory be to Him: far Exalted is He above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth, and enough is him as a Disposer of affairs".
- ▶ (Koran 5:17&5:72&9:30)

Jesus Was not Killed or Crucified

- ▶ The event of crucifixion took place but the crucified person was not Jesus.
- ▶ (Koran 4:157-158) "And that they said, we have killed the Messiah Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of God; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no certain knowledge, but only assumptions to follow and they did not kill him, for certain. Rather, God raised him to himself and ever is God exalted in might.