




What does your average American Christian need to understand about the recent ascent of violent Islamic groups around the world?




Islam is in Crisis and has been compromised. There are differing views on how to deal with the crisis:
(Three categories of Muslims)

1. Islam – the whole system of belief (Traditionalists/ Orthodox) - 70%
2. Islamism – Islamic Fundamentalism (Revivalist, Activist or Political) - 15%
3. Islamic terrorism – carried out in the name of Islam - 15%

Basic Islamic Convictions

- 1. Concept of UMMA** – Nation of Islam (solidarity/unity)
“when you hurt one all feel it”.
- 2. Pride in the past**, aware of the weaknesses today –
Back to the good old days.
- 3. Sharia** as singularly God’s law and must be followed.
Muslims are embarrassed because in many places in the world this is not practiced and Muslims live as minorities in pluralistic societies. (disenfranchised get radicalized!)



4.Precedent set by Mohammed – did not get buy-in from Jews and Christians and turned against them. Mohammed responded by killing those who opposed him.

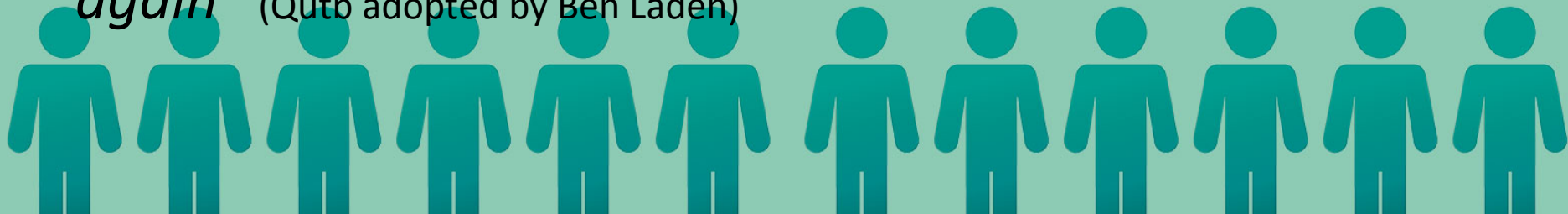
5.Abrogation – progressive revelation, what comes later trumps what came earlier. Over 160 references in the Qur'an inciting violence in the final 1/3 of the book.

Current Islamic Responses

- 1. Jihad** “struggle in the path of God” can be interpreted in two ways:
 1. Force others to follow Islam as the true religion – prevalent for most of history.
 2. Personal spiritual struggle – referenced more in recent times
- 2. “Izza”** an honor/obligation to defend the family & community (honor killings)


3. Confusion regarding Christians – Qur'an is all over the place regarding Christians.
4. Anger towards all who are ignorant, even other Muslims – Sayyid Qutb

“Jihad and the rifle alone: no negotiations, no conferences, and no dialogues...Jihad will remain an individual obligation until all other lands that were Muslim are returned to us so that Islam will reign again” (Qutb adopted by Ben Laden)





What are the barriers and challenges a Muslim faces when considering the Gospel of Christ?



Muslims Towards Christians

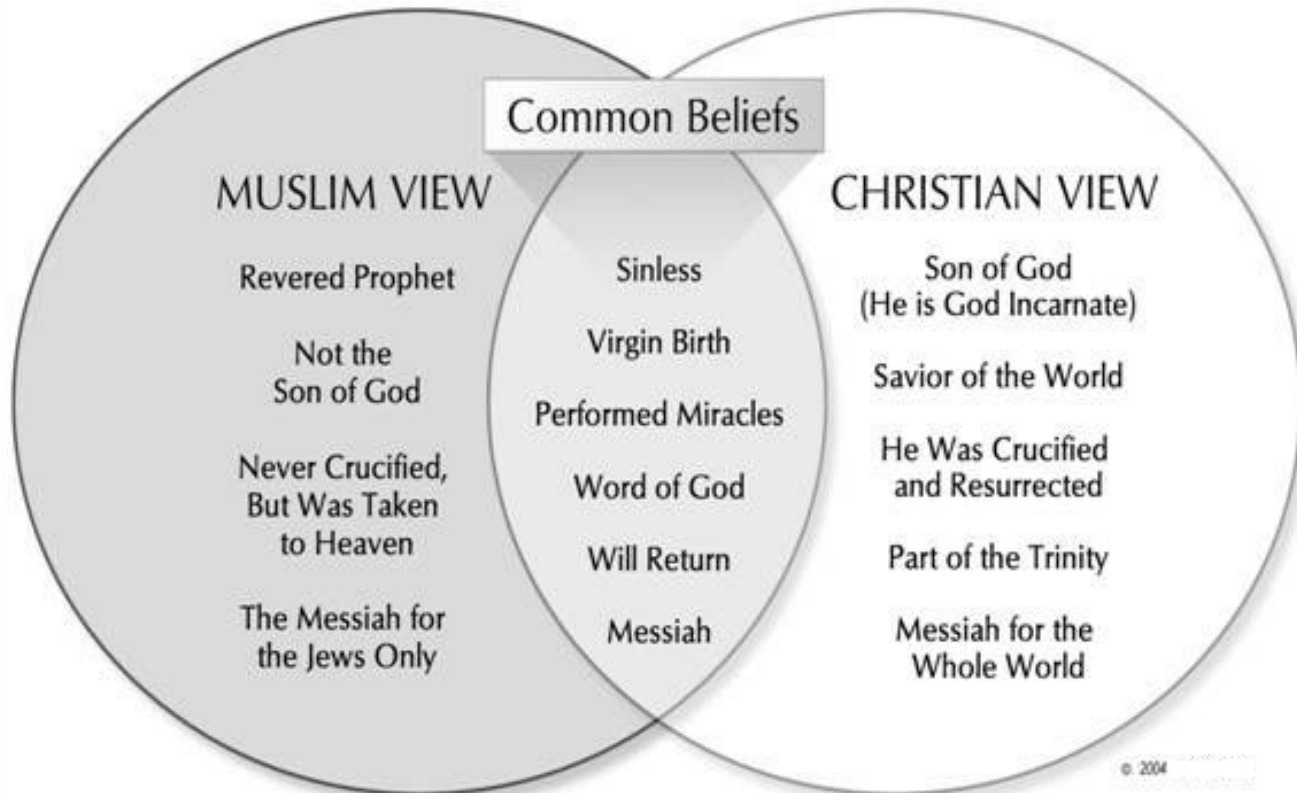
1. Jesus is not God
 2. You believe in three (3) Gods
 3. God can't have a son
 4. Your Bible is corrupt
 5. Jesus didn't die
- (Ethiopian Story)*

Christians towards Muslims

1. Muslims are our enemies
2. Mohamed is a false prophet
3. The Qur'an is a book from Satan
4. Islam is a religion of the devil
5. Allah is not God

Jesus

(Muslim and Christian Views)




How then should we view Muslims?

Luke 6:27-28 - *But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

Mt 9:36-38 - *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*



How can we engage the Muslims in our community in an appropriate, loving and honorable fashion?

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1. Pray for God's heart towards Muslims (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9)
 2. Learn about Islam and how to relate to Muslims – Bridges
 3. Take initiative in relationships with Muslims
 4. Don't bad-mouth their prophet or their book – boxer story

What do “I” do with this
phenomena of Islam that is
growing in the news and in my
neighborhood?

1. Reflect God's perspective to others.
2. Promote truth – two narratives are being peddled
 1. Islamic terrorism is not “true” Islam (False)
 2. All Muslims are terrorists (False)
3. Understand that most Muslims are confused as well.
4. Use Godly influence to bring about greater understanding in your world.
5. Learn how to interact with Muslims so that there is an opportunity to transfer what is in our hearts to theirs (clinic story)