

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION  
SESSION 23: CULTS PART 12  
ISLAM

Islam is one of the world's fastest growing religions. But, is it a religion of peace, violence, or a little of both? [Muhammad](#) taught that there is one God, no [Trinity](#), Jesus was not crucified, and that good works are needed for salvation. The [Quran](#) is the Muslim's holy book and it contains a wide variety of topics. The [Hadith](#) are the deeds and sayings of Muhammad and are authoritative in the average Muslim's life. They contain volumes of material, some of which is hard to believe. All in all, Islam is an important religion begun by Muhammad, 1400 years ago. Some consider it a Christian heresy. Others a new, false religion. But, for Muslims, it is the revelation of their God.

Christians and Muslims disagree on the nature of God, salvation, prophets, the true Scriptures, etc. For the great majority of us on both sides, we will not change our views. You believe in Allah and Muhammad as his prophet. I am a Christian, saved by the grace of my Lord and Savior, Jesus. In obedience to Christ and according to the Bible, I seek to expose error and teach the truth . . . and, as a Christian, I teach that Christianity is true. Therefore, Islam cannot be right. I say this outright so that no Muslim will accuse me of being deceptive or having a hidden agenda. My goal is to convert Muslims to Christ through this teaching, so they may find salvation in Him.

However, please realize that I have no hatred for Muhammad, Muslims, or the Koran. I was not wronged by a Muslim, and I have not had any childhood trauma involving anything Islamic. Instead, as a Christian, I seek to bring glory to the Lord Jesus, and in so doing, I must teach that Islam is false because it contradicts the Bible. If you are a Muslim, I know you will disagree, and perhaps you will take it as an insult or some form of persecution. I hope you do not. But, I am simply being faithful to my Lord Jesus in defending His truth as revealed in the Bible. I realize that there are many good Muslims in the world who are peaceful, honest, compassionate, and who desire to serve God in truth. I do not fault any Muslim for this. Likewise, I hope you will not find fault with my honest intention to do the same according to the convictions of my heart since I seek to serve God. You may condemn me as an infidel and that is fine. But, my hope for salvation is not found in Islam and its balance of good works versus bad works. Instead, it is found in the work of Jesus who died on the cross and rose from the dead.

My only desire is that you find the forgiveness of Jesus and the love of God that abounds in my heart and the hearts of His redeemed people by the grace of Christ Jesus, my Savior.

## WHAT IS ISLAM?

Islam (1.2 billion adherents) is one of the major world religions that, along with Christianity (1.9 billion adherents) and Judaism (14 million adherents), teaches monotheism which is the doctrine that there is only one God in all existence. Like Christianity and Judaism, Islam traces its roots back to the patriarch Abraham ([Gen. 12](#)). The word "Islam" means "surrender" or "submission"<sup>1</sup> and it comes from the root word "salem" which means "surrender." A Muslim (or Moslem--which means one who surrenders to God) is an adherent of Islam, a religion with precise theological doctrines about God, judgment, heaven, hell, angels, prophets, salvation, etc. The Arabic word for god is "Allah" which has become a kind of name of God in Islam. Islam teaches that Allah is the one and only deity in all existence (Qur'an 5:73; 112:1-4). He is supreme, all-knowing (40:20), ever-present, different from all of creation (3:191), and in complete control of all things. According to Islam, Allah created the universe in six days (2:29; 25:61-62), and all that is in it continues to exist by his permission and will. Allah is non-[Trinitarian](#) (5:73), but he is absolute and eternal.

[The Koran](#) (or Qur'an, which means "the reading" in Arabic) is the sacred book of Islam and is broken up into 114 chapters called Suras which cover the subjects of ethics, history, law, and theology. It is highly revered by Muslims as the direct, literal word of God. The Qur'an (also spelled Quran and Koran) was delivered by the angel Gabriel (also known as the Holy Spirit) to [Muhammad](#) over a 23-year period after Muhammad's initial encounter with Gabriel in a cave when he was 40 years old. Muslims consider Muhammad (full name of Muhammad Ibn Abdullah) to be the final prophet of God to the world. Muhammad was born in A.D. 570 in Mecca and died in A.D. 632.

Second only to the Islamic belief in the unity/oneness of God is the supremacy of Muhammad as Allah's prophet. But Islam acknowledges that several prophets preceded Muhammad. The major ones are Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus. These prophets gave revelations from God which were written as scriptures; mainly, the Old and New Testaments. These predecessors to Muhammad are considered great prophets who spoke for God to specific people and whose message was meant for that time. Jesus, according to Islam, was simply one of many prophets. Therefore, Muslims deny the Christian doctrine of the deity of Jesus, the need for His atoning sacrifice (4:157-158), the [Trinity](#) (5:73), and much more. According to Islam, no sacrifice is needed to be forgiven, only faith in Allah, sincere repentance, and obedience to Islamic law (3:135; 7:8-9; 21:47; 49:14; 66:8-9). In fact, in Islam, the greatest of sins, called shirk, is to attribute "partners" to God. In other words, to say that God is a Trinity of persons is an unforgivable sin to a Muslim.

**In addition to the Qur'an is the Hadith.** It is another source of authority in Islam though it is second to the Qur'an. The Hadith is a collection of the sayings and deeds of Muhammad as recorded by his companions. They are oral traditions and are considered authoritative and instructive as commentaries and applications of Qur'anic principles and contain additional principles not found in the Qur'an. According to Islam, the Hadith are the inspired truths of God transmitted to us in the style and words of Muhammad. By contrast, the Quran is supposed to be the exact words of Allah which are supposed to be protected from corruption by him. In Islam, all Muslims are united by the common faith irrespective of class, location, race, or gender. Therefore, they have a special bond of unity and equality. The primary "truth" of Islam is found in the first [pillar](#) of Islam known as the shahada: "There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

Islamic theology also teaches that angels were created from light; that jinn are another race of beings, created from fire, who are invisible yet all around us; that there is an eternal judgment to Paradise for the good and hell for the bad; that Jesus was never crucified; and that drinking alcohol is forbidden as is gambling.

Within the first two centuries after its inception in Arabia, Islam spread very quickly, often aided by the sword (jihad),<sup>2</sup> into North Africa, up through Europe to Spain, and east to India. Presently, about 1 billion people are Muslim worldwide with adherents on every continent and nation. It is perhaps the world's fastest-growing religion and second in size only to Christianity. Like most ancient religions, there are sects. Islam is no different. The major sects in Islam are the Sunni and the Shiites. The Sunni are the largest group and comprise about 90% of all Muslims. The Shiites, though smaller in number, are significant in Islamic history and presently occupy the lands of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi-Arabia, Yemen, and Persian Gulf states. The most important place of worship for the Muslim is the Mosque which is always pointed towards Mecca which is the birthplace of Muhammad and is located in Saudi Arabia. All Muslims must face Mecca during their times of prayer because in Mecca there is the Ka'aba, a cube structure allegedly built by Abraham which contains a sacred stone. When a Muslim is in Mecca, he or she faces the Ka'aba.

Many Muslims hope for *shari'ah*, the complete rule of Islamic law in the world. To this end, Muslims are seeking more converts, attacking other religious systems both by the sword and by word, moving into every nation, and seeking political power wherever they can achieve it. Islam is a growing and aggressive religion that seeks to submit everyone on the planet to its rule.

## **HISTORY OF ISLAM**

Islam began in Mecca and is claimed to be the revelation of God (Allah) through the angel Gabriel to a man named Muhammad. Muhammad was born in approximately AD 570-571. He was born to the powerful tribe of the Quraish in Mekkah (Mecca). His father's name was Abdullah. His mother's name was Aminah.

Apparently, Abdullah was a merchant who made caravan trips. He died on a trading trip soon after his marriage to Aminah, leaving Muhammad fatherless at birth. Aminah, his mother, died when he was only six years old. Muhammad was taken in by his grandfather, only to have him die when Muhammad was eight years old. At this time, his uncle, Abu Talib, one of the leaders of the Quraish tribe took him in and raised him.

Muhammad was taught the family business and apparently quite successful. A wealthy widow named Khadijah arranged for Muhammad to oversee her trading business, and was so impressed with his skill and appearance that she proposed marriage to him. Muhammad was twenty-five and Khadijah was forty when they married. They had six children, two boys and four girls. Both of the sons died early in life. The daughters lived to see Muhammad become the founder of Islam.

Having married the wealthy Khadijah, Muhammad now became a gentleman of leisure and somewhat of a philosopher. He would retreat from society, take trips into the desert and mountains. He would spend his hours in meditation, greatly concerned about the condition of the civilization he saw around himself. He had a personal mission to find "truth." One of his frequent places of seclusion was a cave on Mount Nur. It was while in this cave, during the month of the Ramadan, a pagan festival, that he received his first (supposed) visitation from Gabriel and recited the verses found in Qur'an 96:1-5.

At first, Muhammad shared his new revelations with only his family and close friends. During the next three years the message of Muhammad quietly spread among the people of Mekkah, especially among the youth. Then Muhammad is believed to have received instructions from Allah to go public with his message and openly condemn the paganism and idolatry of Mekkah. This open condemnation of idolatry became an economic threat to the prosperity of Mekkah, and as a consequence, organized opposition to Muhammad and Islam began. At this point, Islam was politically weak, and many Muslims died for their faith.

Persecutions became so great that many Muslims fled to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) for refuge. When Mekkan delegates tried to extradite them, after hearing the Muslim's defense, the ruler refused their extradition on the basis that his faith was similar to theirs, and he could not allow them to be harmed.

Muhammad continued to proclaim his message, and his following slowly grew. At one point, in 621, a group of delegates from Madinah (Medina) responded to his call and made a covenant with Muhammad and declared themselves to be Muslims.

A year later, in 622, some seventy people from Madinah made a similar declaration and pledged to fight to protect Muhammad against any and all odds. This pledge or covenant from some who were leaders of Madinah was a turning point for Islam.

It provided Muslims with a secure base of operations and allowed them to expand from it. Muhammad commanded the Muslims in Mekkah to migrate to Madinah. After some struggle, Medina was declared to be wholly a Muslim community. For thirteen years, Muhammad had preached in Mekkah with minimal success. He had followed a quiet, non-political approach and merely preached. Now, however, his tactics changed. He established himself as religious, political, and military leader. Under his guidance, the community of believers became more important than family or tribe. Islam began to be spread through intimidation and force. Entire tribes and cities were "converted" under threat of war or by conquest. Success led to greater success. In the year 630, eight years after he had been forced to leave Mekkah, Muhammad returned with such an overwhelming force that the Mekkans made no resistance. Muhammad's forces destroyed all the idols of Mekkah, and declared the Kabah to be the place of worship for Allah.

With the subjugation of Mekkah, Islam became the power on the Arabian Peninsula tribe after tribe, city after city declared allegiance to Islam and its prophet. They were given no choice. Muhammad returned to Madinah and continued to rule his kingdom from there. Muhammad died in 632 at the age of sixty-three. In twenty-three years he established a religion and social order that is still dominant in the Arab world today.

With Muhammad's death, Islam continued to flourish under the leadership of Muhammad's companions. The first Caliph (successor to the prophet - Kalifah) was his father in law and long time friend, Abu Bakr. In his two years of leadership, Abu Bakr consolidated Islamic influence over the entire Arabian Peninsula.

The second caliph was Umar. He was in power from 634 to 644. Under Umar, Syria, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Persia were added to the growing list of Islamic subjects. Others followed, continually expanding the borders of Islam. Under the leadership of the Kalifahs, Islam spread into Europe, Africa, and Asia. The caliphate lasted centuries, shifting from one dynasty to another, but always claiming the religious right to lead. Eventually the caliphate evolved into the Ottoman Empire which lasted until the early 20th century.

Islam spread as a social system, a political system, and a religious system and it was spread by force of arms. That was its philosophy in the beginning, and it is still the philosophy of Islam today.

Today Islam is one of the world's dominant religions and claims as much as one fifth of the world's population. Islam claims to be a united religion with no divisions; however, one does not have to be an astute observer to realize that Islam is, in reality, fragmented into many different branches, some of which are militantly hostile to each other. There is no unity among Muslims as they would have us believe. Two prominent groups, the Shiites and Sunnites had their origins around 660 over who was the legitimate caliph. Other sects followed. With the end of the colonial system, Islamic states were given their autonomy again. With the wealth from petro-dollars, Islam as a religion is being successfully spread over the world. Islam is one of the greatest opponents in existence to the gospel of Christ today, and is one of the fastest growing religions in the world.

### **THE DOCTRINES OF ISLAM**

Islam teaches on a multitude of topics. It is monotheistic, denies the deity of Christ, denies the [Trinity](#), and denies salvation by grace alone. Salvation in Islam is their sincere repentance with the hope that Allah will forgive the Muslim. However, Islam teaches the only way to be sure to go to heaven is to die in holy war.

Note: All references are to the ***Quran (Koran)*** where applicable.

### **God**

1. There is only one God (5:73; 112:1-4).
2. God is called Allah by Muslims (5:73).
3. Allah sees all things (40:20) and is present everywhere (2:115; 7:7).
4. Allah is the sole creator and sustainer of the universe (3:191).
5. Allah is not a Trinity but is one (5:73).
6. Allah is all-knowing (2:268; 10:61) and all-powerful (6:61-62).
7. Allah created the heaven and earth (2:29; 6:1, 73; 25:61-62; 36:81; 46:33).

## **Salvation and Judgment**

1. Allah will judge all people on the day of judgment (3:30; 35:33-37; 99:6-8).
2. If your good deeds exceed your bad deeds and you believe in Allah and sincerely repent of sins, you may go to heaven (3:135; 7:8-9; 21:47; 49:14; 66:8-9).
3. There is an eternal hell for those who are not Muslims, not practicing Islam, and not of the true faith (3:77).
4. Hell is a place of unlimited capacity (50:30) eternal torment (2:39; 14:17; 25:65; 39:26), fire (9:63; 11:16; 25:11-12; 104:6-7), with boiling water (38:55-58; 55:43-44), where skin is burned and renewed (4:56), for unbelievers (3:13; 19:49) and Jinn (11:119), with faces covered with fire (14:49-50).
5. There is a tree in hell, named Tree of Zaqqum, from which bad fruit is given and the damned are forced to eat (37:62-67; 44:43-48; 56:52-55).
6. Heaven (Paradise), a Garden (79:41) of bliss and fruit (69:21-24), has rivers (3:198), with maidens pure and holy (4:57), and carpets and cushions (88:8-16).
7. There will be a physical resurrection of all people (19:93-95) on the day of judgment (3:77; 15:25; 16:38; 42:29).
8. Judgment is based on a person's sincere repentance (66:8-9) and righteous deeds (5:9; 24:26; 45:21-22; 64:7).

## **Other**

1. There is an afterlife (2:154; 75:12).
2. There are such things as angels, created by Allah, that are created from light. Angels are obedient slaves, incapable of refusing to do Allah's will. The angel Gabriel brought the revelation of the Koran to Muhammad (2:97).
3. The Holy Spirit is the angel Gabriel (2:97; 16:102).

4. There is no actual verse where the Holy Spirit is said to be Gabriel or is identified as Gabriel. These verses show that both the Holy Spirit and Gabriel brought down the revelation.
5. Jinn are unseen beings, created (51:56) from fire (15:27; 55:15) but are not angels. They have communities. There are good and bad Jinn.
6. The Devil, called Iblis, (2:34) is a bad [Jinn](#).
7. Jesus was a great prophet but not the son of God (9:30), is not divine (5:17, 75), was not crucified (4:157).
8. Muhammad is Allah's greatest and last prophet, and his message supersedes all other past prophets including Jesus.
9. The Koran is Allah's word. He literally spoke it to Gabriel, who gave it to Muhammad.
10. There are other holy writings, but they are superseded by the Koran.

Their other holy writings are:

- A. Torah--the First Five Books of Moses
  - B. Injeel--the message that Jesus gave, written down, but no longer exists. The writings have been altered by scholars. Whatever agrees with the Koran is true.
  - C. Zaboor--the Psalms
11. Pre-ordainment (Qadar) is the teaching that all things, good and bad, are preordained to occur.
  12. Fasting is to be observed during the month of Ramadan (2:185).
  13. Drinking alcohol is forbidden (2:219; 4:43; 5:93-94; 16:67)
  14. Gambling is forbidden (2:219; 5:90-94).
  15. Man is made from the dust of the earth (23:12).

16. There is no last-minute repentance (4:18).

## **THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM**

The Five Pillars of Islam are core beliefs that shape Muslim thought, deed, and society. A Muslim who fulfills the Five Pillars of Islam, remains in the faith of Islam, and sincerely repents of his sins will make it to Jannah (paradise). If he performs the Five Pillars but does not remain in the faith, he will not be saved.

### **A. THE SHAHADA**

1. The Shahada is the Islamic proclamation that "There is no true God except Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."
2. This is the confession that Allah is the one and only true God, that Allah alone is worthy of worship, and that Allah alone is the sovereign lord who does what he wills with whoever he wills. It means that all his rules and laws found in the Koran are to be followed. It means that the Christian doctrine of God as a Trinity is false--as are all other belief systems including pantheism.
3. Muhammad is the true and greatest prophet of Allah, and recognition of Muhammad as the Prophet of God is required. It was through Muhammad that Allah conveyed the last and final revelation.

### **B. PRAYER**

1. Prayer involves confession of sins, which begins with the purification of the body and ends with the purification of the soul. Prayer is performed five times a day. The first prayer is at dawn and the last at sunset.
2. The names of the prayers are Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha. The Maghrib prayer is the sunset prayer. Isha is the prayer that is said after sunset. There is also a prayer that is said right after Fajr known as Shurooq.

### **C. Fasting (Saum)**

1. The month of Ramadan is the month of fasting in Islam. It is an act of worship, where the faithful follower denies his own needs and seeks Allah. Usually, this fasting entails no drinking, eating, or sexual relations during the daylight hours for the entire month of Ramadan.

## D. ALMS-GIVING OR CHARITY (Zakat)

1. This is about charity given to the poor. It benefits the poor and helps the giver by moving him towards more holiness and submission to Allah. Alms giving is considered a form of worship to God.

## E. PILGRIMAGE (Hajj)

1. This is the pilgrimage to Mecca. All Muslims, if they are able, are to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. It involves financial sacrifice and is an act of worship. Muslims must make the pilgrimage the first half of the last month of the lunar year.

## Comparison grid between Christianity and Islamic doctrine

---

by [Matt Slick](#)  
12/12/08

(This is a general representation of Islamic beliefs).

Term	Christianity	Islam
<b>Afterlife</b>	Christians will be with the Lord in heaven ( <a href="#">Phil. 1:21-24</a> ), in our resurrected bodies ( <a href="#">1 Cor. 15:50-58</a> ). Non-Christians will be cast into hell forever ( <a href="#">Matt. 25:46</a> ).	There is an afterlife (75:12) experienced as either an ideal life of Paradise (29:64) for faithful Muslims or Hell for those who are not.
<b>Angels</b>	Created beings, non-human, some of which, fell into sin and became evil. They are very powerful. The unfallen angels carry out the will of God.	Created beings without free will that serve God. Angels were created from light.
<b>Atonement</b>	The sacrifice of Christ on the cross ( <a href="#">1 Pet. 2:24</a> ) whereby His blood becomes the sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God ( <a href="#">1 I John 2:2</a> ) from the sinner when the sinner receives ( <a href="#">John</a>	There is no atonement work in Islam other than a sincere confession of sin

	<a href="#">1:12</a> ), by faith ( <a href="#">Rom. 5:1</a> ), the work of Christ on the cross.	and repentance by the sinner.
<b>TERM</b>	<b>CHRISTIANITY</b>	<b>ISLAM</b>
<b>Bible</b>	The inspired and inerrant word of God in the original manuscripts ( <a href="#">2 Tim. 3:16</a> ).	Respected word of the prophets but the Bible has been corrupted through the centuries and is only correct in so far as it agrees with the Koran.
<b>Crucifixion</b>	The place where Jesus atoned for the sins of the world. It is only through this sacrifice that anyone can be saved from the wrath of God ( <a href="#">1 Pet. 2:24</a> ).	Jesus did not die on the cross. Instead, God allowed Judas to look like Jesus, and he was crucified instead.
<b>Devil</b>	A fallen Angel who opposes God in all ways. He also seeks to destroy humanity ( <a href="#">Isaiah 14:12-15</a> ; <a href="#">Ezek. 28:13-15</a> ).	Iblis, a fallen jinn. Jinn are not angels nor men but created beings with free will. Jinn were created from fire, (2:268; 114:1-6).
<b>God</b>	God is a trinity of persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The <a href="#">Trinity</a> is not three gods in one god, nor is it one person who took three forms. Trinitarianism is strictly monotheistic. There is no other God in existence.	God is known as Allah. Allah is one person, a strict unity. There is no other God in existence. He is the creator of the universe (3:191), sovereign over all (6:61-62).
<b>Heaven (Paradise)</b>	The place where God dwells. Heaven is the eventual home of the Christians who are saved by God's grace. It is heaven because it is	Paradise to Muslims, a place of unimaginable bliss (32:17), a garden with trees and food (13:35;15:45-48) where the desires of faithful

	where God is, and Christians will enjoy eternal fellowship with Him.	Muslims are met (3:133; 9:38; 13:35; 39:34; 43:71; 53:13-15).
<b>Hell</b>	A place of torment in fire out of the presence of God. There is no escape from Hell ( <a href="#">Matt. 25:46</a> ).	Hell is a place of eternal punishment and torment (14:17; 25:65; 39:26), in fire (104:6-7) for those who are not Muslims (3:131) as well as those who were and whose works and faith were not sufficient (14:17; 25:65; 104:6-7).
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	Third person of the Trinity. The <a href="#">Holy Spirit</a> is fully God in nature.	The arch-angel Gabriel who delivered the words of the Koran to Muhammad.
<b>Jesus</b>	Second person of the <a href="#">Trinity</a> . He is the word who became flesh ( <a href="#">John 1:1, 14</a> ). He is both God and man ( <a href="#">Col. 2:9</a> ).	A very great prophet, second only to Muhammad. Jesus is not the son of God (9:30) and certainly is not divine (5:17, 75), and he was not crucified (4:157).
<b>Judgment Day</b>	Occurs on the day of resurrection ( <a href="#">John 12:48</a> ) where God will judge all people. Christians go to heaven. All others to hell ( <a href="#">Matt. 25:46</a> ).	Occurs on the day of resurrection where God will judge all people. Muslims go to paradise (3:142, 183-185, 198). All others to hell (3:196-197). Judgment is based on a person's deeds (5:9; 42:26; 8:29).
<b>Koran</b>	The work of Muhammad. It is not inspired, nor is it scripture. There is no verification for its accurate transmission from the originals.	The final revelation of God to all of mankind given through the archangel Gabriel to Muhammad over a 23-year period. It is

		without error and guarded from error by Allah.
<b>ISLAM</b>	<b>CHRISTIANITY</b>	<b>ISLAM</b>
<b>Man</b>	Made in the image of God ( <a href="#">Gen. 1:26</a> ). This does not mean that God has a body, but that man is made like God in abilities (reason, faith, love, etc.).	Not made in the image of God (42:11). Man is made out of the dust of the earth (23:12) and Allah breathed life into man (32:9; 15:29).
<b>Muhammad</b>	A non-inspired man born in 570 in Mecca who started the Islamic religion.	The last and greatest of all prophets of Allah whose Qur'an is the greatest of all inspired books.
<b>Original Sin</b>	This is a term used to describe the effect of Adam's sin on his descendants ( <a href="#">Rom. 5:12-23</a> ). Specifically, it is our inheritance of a sinful nature from Adam. The sinful nature originated with Adam and is passed down from parent to child. We are by nature children of wrath ( <a href="#">Eph. 2:3</a> ).	There is no original sin. All people are sinless until they rebel against God. They do not have sinful natures.
<b>Resurrection</b>	Bodily resurrection of all people, non-Christians to damnation and Christians are resurrected to eternal life ( <a href="#">1 Cor. 15:50-58</a> ).	Bodily resurrection, some to heaven, some to hell (3:77; 15:25; 75:36-40; 22:6).
<b>Salvation</b>	A free gift of God ( <a href="#">Eph. 2:8-9</a> ) to the person who trusts in Christ and His sacrifice on the cross. He is our mediator ( <a href="#">1 Tim. 2:5</a> ). No works are sufficient in any way to merit salvation since our works are all unacceptable to God ( <a href="#">Isaiah 64:6</a> ).	Forgiveness of sins is obtained by Allah's grace without a mediator. The Muslim must believe Allah exists, believe in the fundamental doctrines of Islam, believe that Muhammad is his prophet, and follow the commands of Allah given in the Koran.

TERM	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM
<b>Son of God</b>	A term used to designate that Jesus is divine though he is not the literal son of God in a physical sense ( <a href="#">John 5:18</a> ).	A literal son of God. Therefore, Jesus cannot be the son of Allah.
<b>Trinity</b>	One God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	The Father, Jesus, and Mary
<b>Word, The</b>	"In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God . . . and the word became flesh and dwelt among us . . . " ( <a href="#">John 1:1, 14</a> ).	Allah's command of existence which resulted in Jesus being formed in the womb of Mary.

## WHO IS JESUS?

Muslims teach that Judas, not Jesus, was crucified on the cross, in a case of mistaken identity. Muslims teach that Judas Iscariot, the betrayer and thief, is the real saviour of Christians. Muslims teach that it was actually Judas who died on the cross and because Judas had a similar physical appearance to Jesus even his own mother didn't recognize him as She wept at the foot of the cross. For 600 years Christians had been preaching Christ crucified. Then Muhammad comes along, jumps off his camel and gets a direct revelation from God that the universal record of history and the 10,000 manuscripts of the Bible, are all wrong. The idea that Judas was crucified instead of Christ, is so outrageous, no educated person would consider it. Even atheists, modernists and Bible haters who reject the resurrection of Christ consider Muhammad's story of the cross nothing other than a [myth and contrary to the undisputed facts of history](#).

"[John Subhan](#) had been a Sufi Muslim preparing for the priesthood. In school, it was common to hear his instructors attack Christianity. But one day while Subhan was walking home from class, he noticed a scrap of paper tossed by the wind across his path. It turned out to be a page from Matthew's Gospel, describing the crucifixion and death of Christ. "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" He read the words over and over again.

Now this astonished Subhan. He had been taught that Jesus Christ had not really been crucified but that Christ's likeness had fallen on Judas. It was Judas who had hung on that cross, not Jesus. Christ had ascended to Heaven before the crucifixion." ([More to be Desired than Gold](#), True Stories Told by Christy Wilson, pp. 20-21, 1992)

**Is islam Christian Heresy?**

Islam is at best a perversion of Christian theology that eventually developed into its own religion. At worst, it is a completely new religion begun by [Muhammad](#). Whichever the case, it is obvious that he had contact with various heretical Christian groups through his travels, most probably the Arians, who denied the deity of Christ. I do not know the extent of those contacts that Muhammad had with various heretical Christian-based groups. But his repeated reference to biblical characters and concepts in the Quran requires that we believe he had contact with people who'd been influenced by the Bible. Notice, in the Quran there is nothing that deals with Hinduism or Buddhism. It's Christianity that influenced him and it seems that he took many ideas from Christianity and altered them.

**Let's take a look.**

<b>TERM</b>	<b>ISLAM</b>
<b>Atonement</b>	There is no atonement work in Islam other than a sincere confession of sin and repentance by the sinner. Muhammad specifically denied the crucifixion of Christ where the atonement took place.
<b>Bible</b>	In Islam, the Bible is the respected word of the prophets, but the Muslims cast doubt on its reliability. this is interesting since the Quran says in Surah 3:3 that the Quran confirms that came before it which would be the Old and New Testament. In (Surah 6:34; 6:115; 18:27) the Quran says that the words of Allah cannot be altered. This would mean that the Bible cannot be corrupted, yet Muslims teach it is.
<b>Crucifixion</b>	Jesus did not die on the cross. Instead, God allowed Judas to look like Jesus and he was crucified instead, (Surah 4:157).

<b>Jesus</b>	A very great prophet, second only to Muhammad. Jesus is not the son of God (Surah 9:30) and certainly is not divine (Surah 5:17, 75), and he was not crucified (Surah 4:157).
<b>Salvation</b>	Forgiveness of sins is obtained by Allah's grace without a mediator. The Muslim must believe Allah exists, believe in the fundamental doctrines of Islam, believe that Muhammad is his prophet, and follow the commands of Allah given in the Quran.
<b>Son of God</b>	A literal son of God. Therefore, Jesus cannot be the son of Allah. But this shows that Muhammad did not understand what Christianity really teaches about the sonship of Christ. It does not state in any way that Christ is the literal offspring of God the father. This is an error of understanding on the part of Muhammad.
<b>Trinity</b>	The Father, Jesus, and Mary (Sura 5:73-75, 116)

Obviously, Muhammad had a lot of influence from those who are familiar with biblical passages and concepts, particularly concerning Jesus. But apparently, he did not have a Bible with which he could have checked things out. Instead, he took many biblical concepts that he had heard in his travels and altered them to suit his own preferences.

Therefore, we can say that Islam is, to some extent, a perversion of Christian theology since it uses Christian terms and ideas but redefines them and creates a new religion with many biblical concepts.