

Important Differences Between Islam and Christianity

- Means of **salvation** – blood sacrifice for sin, performed by all the prophets (*Leviticus 17:11* in Law of Moses)
- Purpose of **good deeds** – in Christianity they are done to please God in thanks for salvation. Every other religion, including Islam, requires good deeds for salvation.
- **Lifestyle** – the place of rules and freedoms
- **Progressive Revelation** to prophets

Both faiths agree that all prophets called for pure worship of One God.

But increasing light and future prophecies were given to Biblical prophets over time as “progressive revelation.”

Specific prophecies of the Messiah Jesus Christ were sent as proof, so that he would be recognized when he came.

The Gospel

“Gospel,” means “Good News!” It is the heart of the Christian faith. Briefly, it is:

God made and loves us!

But our sins separate us from him.

Sin earns death as punishment.

We cannot pay ourselves, because we are

imperfect. So our perfect Creator, as a Father took responsibility for our penalty.

*He entered human flesh as Jesus, and paid our punishment on the cross, as the final sacrifice, **the Lamb of God.***

If we accept this gift, our sins are covered. We are “saved” by faith – and gain heaven!

Muslims can understand this best through the ***Path of the Prophets*** booklet or video, because it explains this using people and events they know from the Quran and Bible. Both are available free online:

Booklet, 13 languages:

<https://www.christianfrommuslim.com/resources/>

English video version:

<https://www.christianfrommuslim.com/gospel-video-tract-for-muslims/>

The Teachings of Jesus

These are presented throughout the four **gospels**: *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*

The Most famous is the “Sermon on the Mount,” in **Matthew** chapters 5-7.

Mark is the shortest gospel.

Luke has the most parables – stories with deeper meaning.

John is the most symbolic, and contains the famous “*I am*” statements of Jesus: the Light of the world, Bread of life, the Good Shepherd, the True Vine, the Resurrection, the Gate, and the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus’ early teachings focus on living for the invisible kingdom of God.

He does not start predicting his betrayal, death and resurrection until near the end of his ministry. Don’t be confused by this. Consider both his early and late teachings.

Jesus’ final commands were to:

- Live in Love
- Spread his teachings and gospel around the world by talking about them, not violence.
(Note: neither Jesus nor Moses taught to spread faith by force)

Since Christians are commanded to spread Jesus’ teachings and gospel, they get into trouble in places where:

- Freedom of speech is restricted
- The Bible is outlawed
- There is a state religion which represses Christianity

The Bible

- **Old Testament**: 39 books written by prophets before Jesus.
- **New Testament**: 27 books written after Jesus. Muslims commonly call this the “Injeel,” although there is not an exact relationship between the two. Besides the 4 gospels mentioned above, it includes records of the early church, doctrine, and advice on living the Christian life.

- **Unchanged:** Isaiah 40:8 in the Old Testament says that “*The word of the Lord lasts forever.*”

Note: The Quran makes a similar claim about God’s words (Surah 6:115).

- **Early Bibles**, such as the *Codex Sinaiticus*, have been in existence since before the time of Mohammed, and have the same message. This is why Christians accept the Bible over the Quran.
- The Quran does not speak against the Bible, but refers its readers to it (Surah 10:94)

Paul

Paul was a Jew who persecuted and killed Christians. But after seeing a vision of Jesus, he became the most active missionary of the early church.

Critics try to trick us by saying that Paul invented Christianity. But the books of the Injeel he did not write have the same message as those he did – the gospel!

Christian History

The early church was severely persecuted by Rome. Rome burned Bibles and killed Christians. Nevertheless, an amazing 25,000 manuscripts survived! They confirm the teachings in the current Bible.

In the 4th century the church gained political power. But it kept the Roman system of government, simply dressed it in

Christian religious ritual. It did not fully follow teachings of Jesus and his disciples. It emphasized church authority, with very little reference to the Bible.

During the “Reformation,” around 1520 A.D., Christians started reading the Bible again. Slowly, reforms began to bring the official church and individual Christians closer to Jesus’ teachings. “Protestants” are those who protested the incorrect and/or corrupt teachings. They emphasized reading and education. America began soon after the Reformation. It is the first nation to begin with the Bible as its basis. This accounts for its freedoms, tolerance, education, and work ethic.

Denominations

As with all religions, including Islam, Christianity has many branches, called denominations. These share common creeds, but vary on: baptism methods, worship style, church authority, prayer to saints, and whether the communion, or eucharist, service is symbolic or literally the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Final Note: *This only outlines important concepts. For more, see the videos and study guides directed to Muslim thinking on www.ChristianfromMuslim.com. They bring deeper understanding to these, and other important Christian/Muslim topics.*



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Essentials of Christianity for Muslims

Muslims who are studying in the West, have moved here, or simply want good insight, should learn the basics of Christianity.

How is it similar and different from Islam? Is Christianity really like Islam describes it? Why are West & East so different? Is immorality acceptable in Christianity? How does the Bible say we get to heaven/paradise?

By learning about Christianity and the Bible from the Christian perspective, rather than the Muslim or academic perspective, you will find answers to these and other important questions.

Similar Beliefs of Islam and Christianity

- One Creator God
- Prophets
- Day of Judgement
- Holy Books
- Angels/demons