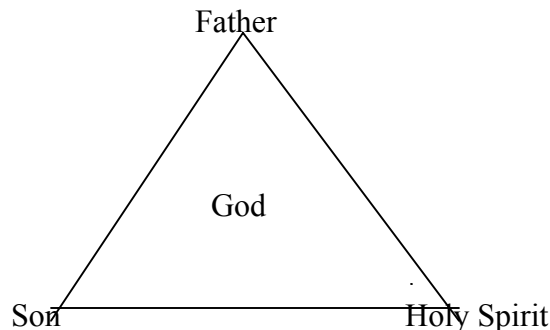


Department: Controversial Issues
Section: Exposing Falsehoods
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Are both of these religions true religions? Or is only one of them a religion of truth and the other one a lie? We purpose to take a brief look at the teachings of both to show that Christianity is a religion of truth and Islam is not.

Both religions teach the existence of one God; that is, there are not many gods but one supreme God who rules over the universe. He is the only One. However, it is not true that the God of Christianity and the god of Islam are one and the same.

The views that are held in the makeup of the Godhead prove that the God of Christianity and the god of Islam are not the same, that one of these is God and the other an imposter. Christianity teaches that God is one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each has the same qualities and the same makeup or essence. An illustration that is used to explain the Trinity is that of a triangle. A triangle is a polygon, a closed figure, with three sides and three angles or corners. This can picture for us the makeup of the Trinity.



Observe that the triangle is one figure with three corners. God is One God (one triangle) and manifests Himself in three persons (three corners). Here are some Scriptures which support this:

God is One God:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is One Lord [Jehovah].”¹
(Deuteronomy 6:4)

“I am the Lord [Jehovah], and there is none else, there is no God beside Me.” (Isaiah 45:5).

¹ “One Lord” -- The Hebrew reads “One Jehovah.” From Robert Young’s *Literal Translation of the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Guardian Press, 1976) 124.

“And there is no God else beside Me, a just God and a Savior, there is none beside Me.” (Isaiah 45:21)

He created and He owns all things:

“And Abram said to the king of Salem, I have lifted up my hand unto the Lord, the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth.” (Genesis 14:22)

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

“Thus saith God, the Lord, He Who created the heavens, and stretched them out; He who spread forth the earth, and that which comes out of it; He who gives breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk in it.” (Isaiah 42:5)

“If I were hungry, I would not tell thee; for the world is Mine, and the fullness thereof.” (Psalm 50:12)

There are three Persons in the Godhead:

“And The Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of **us**, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life” (Genesis 3:22).

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17).

“God is Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24)

“But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I myself said unto you.” (John 14:26)

“I and My Father are one [in essence].” (John 10:30)

“In the beginning was the Word [Jesus—the Son of God] and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things were made by Him; and without from Him, was not anything made that was made.”² (John 1:1,3)

² “and without Him was not anything made that was made.” This can be translated direct from the Greek as, “apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” This means the Word, Who is

“Go, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
(Matthew 28:19-20).

“No man has seen God at any time; the only Begotten Son, Who is³ in the bosom of the Father, he has declared Him.”
(John 1:18)

“The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty has given me life.” (Job 33:4)

These Scriptures when placed together declare that God is one God in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. “... ‘distinguishable, but indivisible.’ In every attribute of Deity: Co-equal and co-eternal. In personality and work: Always united in perfect harmony and fellowship.”⁴

It is essential to understand that there are three Persons in the Godhead. That God came to earth and “clothed” Himself in a human flesh and blood body is central to the salvation of man. There was no hope that any other than the Son of God could deliver man from the bondage of evil. Fallen man was destined to perish—unless God did something to alter man’s situation. The place and honor that is given to Jesus in both religions show their enormous differences. The crushing blow to the religion of Islam centers in the denial of Islam that: “Allah has no Son.” Here are five references for this from the Quran:

“They surely disbelieve who say: Lo! Allah is the Messiah, son of Mary. The Messiah (himself) said: O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Lo! whoso ascribeth partners unto Allah, for him Allah hath forbidden Paradise. His abode is the Fire. For evildoers there will be no helpers.”
“They surely disbelieve who say: Lo! Allah is the third of three; when there is no God save the one God. If they desist not from so saying a painful doom will fall on those of them who disbelieve.” (Surah 5:72-73)

“The Messiah, son of Mary, was no other than a messenger... See how we make the revelations clear for them.” (Surah 5:75)

“And the Jews say: Ezra is the son of Allah, and the Christians

Jesus, created all things. Scripture already given declares that in the beginning God created all things; therefore, Jesus is God—but He is God the Son (or the Son of God).

³ “Who is in the bosom of the Father.” In the Greek the word translated “is,” is a present participle and may be translated “being, or existing.” Thus this phrase may also be translated, “Who being or existing in the bosom of the Father.”

⁴ From the coming book, *Your Eternal Destiny*, by R. L. Schall

say: The Messiah is the son of Allah. That is their saying with their mouths. They imitate the saying of those who disbelieved of old. Allah (Himself) fighteth against them. How perverse are they!” (Surah 9:30)

“Say (O Muhammad); The Beneficent One hath no son.”
(Surah 43:81)

“O People of the Scripture! Do not exaggerate in your religion nor utter aught concerning Allah save the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of Allah, and his word which he conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers, and say not “Three” —Cease ! (it is) better for you!—Allah is only One God. Far is it removed from His transcendent majesty that He should have a son.” (Surah 4:171)

When comparing the Scriptures from the Christian Bible and the Quran it can be easily seen that there is an unbridgeable difference in the main area that separates these two religions. From these Scriptures alone it can only be concluded that the references to God on the part of Christianity and to Allah on the part of Islam do not both refer to the One and Only True God. The Islamic religion even denies that Jesus was crucified.

“And because of their saying: We slew the Messiah Jesus son of Mary, Allah’s messenger—They slew him not nor crucified, but it appeared so unto them; and lo! those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not for certain. But Allah took him up unto Himself.”
(Surah 4:157-8)

Several dozen Scriptures in the Christian Bible speak of the crucifixion of Jesus for the sins of man on a cross at Calvary. Here is a principal account of His crucifixion.

Pilate said unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he Him, therefore, unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went forth to the place called that of the Skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha, **Where they crucified Him**, and two others with Him, on either side one, and Jesus in the middle... Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; also His coat. Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said, therefore, among themselves, Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be; that the

Scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted My raiment among them and for My vesture they did cast lots. These things, therefore, the soldiers did. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene...After this Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst...When Jesus, therefore, had received the vinegar, **He said, It is finished; and He bowed His head, and gave up the spirit...**Then came the soldiers and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with him. But **when they came to Jesus, and saw that He was dead already**, they broke not His legs; **But one of the soldiers, with a spear, pierced His side, and immediately came there out blood and water.** And he that saw it bore witness, and his witness is true; and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the Scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of Him shall not be broken. And again, another Scripture saith, They shall look on Him whom they pierced ...**Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes** with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and **in the garden a new sepulcher**, in which was never man yet laid. **There laid they Jesus**, therefore, because of the Jew's preparation day was near at hand.” (John 19:15b-18,23-25,28,30,32-37,40-42)

The entire gospel of the Christian Church is centered in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God for the sins of the people. Not only is it absolutely essential that Jesus died for the sinner, but His resurrection was necessary to prove that the Father accepted the blood sacrifice of His Son as a propitiation for man's sins. The great apostle Paul made this clear:

“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain [for] you [then] remain in your sins.” (1 Corinthians 15:16)

After Jesus had come forth from the grave he appeared to many over a period of 50 days before His departure to be with His Father. Was this the same Jesus that was crucified on Golgotha? Here what transpired when Jesus appeared to Thomas. Following an appearance by Jesus to His disciples, Thomas being absent, the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” Here is Thomas' reply:

“Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.” (John 20:25)

Eight days later, when the disciples were inside a building with the doors locked. This time Thomas was with them. Suddenly, Jesus stood in their midst and commanded peace unto them. Hear what the Lord said to Thomas and Thomas' reply:

“Then said he (Jesus) to Thomas, Reach here thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach here they hand, and thrust it into My side; and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered, and said unto Him, My Lord and my God. Jesus said unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou has believed; blessed are they that have not seen (Me as you have), and yet have believed.” (John 20:27-29)

As we have said, there are many Scriptures that relate to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. This is the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:15)

“John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before His throne, And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first begotten of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. Unto Him Who loves us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” (Revelation 1:4-5)

Judge for yourself. Is Jesus the Son of God? Was He crucified? Did He rise from the dead? If your answer is in the affirmative, then Islam is a false religion and the Allah of Islam is a false god. A friend of ours has said: “You can not put your butt on two chairs at the same time.” One of these major religions is a lie of the enemy of man. We know that it is Islam that is one of the greatest deceptions and tools of the enemy to keep hundreds of millions of souls from finding out there need of the only Savior of man and that He is the Lord Jesus Christ, the very Son of God.

Now consider what the Christian Bible reveals that the Father said regarding this Jesus of Nazareth. There is the testimony out of heaven to John the Baptist at the baptism of Jesus in regard to His identity:

“And, lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

And there is another witness given of Jesus, after he had told the disciples of His coming death and resurrection, at the time of His transfiguration when “His face did shine as the sun and His raiment was as white as the light.” Moses and Elijah appeared with him and talked to Him, and Peter, James and John witnessed to this incident. When Peter

suggested three tabernacles be made for them, as he was still speaking, a cloud overshadowed them and a voice spoke from out of it and said:

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him.” (Matthew 17:5).

In many places in the Christian Bible Jesus is called and he calls himself the Son of God. In the book of Colossians His true identity is also recognized.

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; For by Him were all things created, that are in the heavens and that are in the earth, the invisible and the visible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers—all things were created by him, and for him; and He is before all things and by Him all things consist.”⁵ (Colossians 1:15-17).

In the book of John, Jesus said of Himself: “Before Abraham was I am.” (John 8:58). The Jews knew exactly what Jesus meant by this. They knew that if He existed before Abraham did, than He was claiming to be God. What was their response.? They took up stones to stone Him. They considered this blasphemy. He claimed to be God, and here he was a man in a flesh and bones and blood body. In another place Jesus claimed that He was one with the Father.(John 10:30), and the Jews were very angry and again took up stones to stone Him. Throughout the New Testament, Jesus is recognized by the writers and others as the Son of God and gave Him honor.

The only honor that is given to Jesus by the Quran is that Jesus is considered to be one of the many prophets that Allah sent to give messages to the people. The Compact Guide To World Religions states that: “According to the Quran, God has sent a prophet to every nation to preach the message of there being only one God. In all, 124,000 prophets have been sent, according to tradition. Most are unknown...but include biblical characters such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus.”⁶

According to Hammudah Abdalati, author of *Islam in Focus*:

“All the prophets of God [Allah] were men of good character and high honor...Their honesty and truthfulness, their intelligence and integrity are beyond doubt...A Muslim accepts all the prophets previous to Muhammad without discrimination.”⁷

Of Muhammad, Caesar Farrah wrote:

“Muhammad considered himself a prophet in the true biblical

⁵ “consist” -- are held together or are sustained.

⁶ *The Compact Guide To World Religions*, Dean C. Halverson gen. ed. (Minneapolis, Bethany House Publishers, 1996) 106.

⁷ Norman Geisler & Abdul Saleeb, *Answering Islam* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993) 52

line... Muhammad believed he was called to deliver the message of God to his own people and also to set straight distortions in the Scriptures grafted on the message of God by Jews and Christians.”⁸

The Quran declares Muhammad to be “the seal of the prophets.”

“Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets; and Allah is aware of all things.” (Surah 33:40)

To be referenced as the “Seal of the Prophets” gives to Muhammad the rank as the greatest of the prophets and the final one.

“According to orthodox Islam, prophethood is the height of God’s activity in the world, and since with Muhammad God closed the office of prophethood this was the greatest honor that God could bestow on a human being. For Muslims, therefore, Muhammad is the last and the greatest of all prophets.”⁹

Traditionally, Islam teachers hold that Muhammad lived an admirable life. According to Geisler & Saleeb, two of the chief proofs of the position he holds as the greatest of the prophets is this:

“That his life and character prove him to have been the last and the greatest of the prophets [and] that the rapid spread of Islam shows that God Most High sent it [Islam] as his final revelation to men.”¹⁰

We summarize what has been presented thus far:

- The God of Christianity and Allah of Islam are not the same nor equal. One is God, and the other is an imposter.
- Christianity holds that there is one God in three Persons (of the Godhead).
- Islam rejects the Trinity, that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He was crucified.
- In order for Islam to hold that Muhammad is the greatest of the prophets this is necessarily declaring that he is greater than Jesus.

.....to be continued

⁸ Caesar E. Farrah, *Islam* (Hauppauge: Barrons Educational Series, Inc., 2000) 70.

⁹ Geisler & Saleeb, *Answering Islam* 84.

¹⁰ Geisler & Saleeb, *Answering Islam* 85.