

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims

Lesson 2: We Agree!

Did you know that Muslims believe a lot of the things we do about God and Jesus? We're all aware that there are many critical differences between Christianity and Islam, but it is helpful to keep in mind that we do share commonalities with each other. Starting with a foundation of shared beliefs and values is helpful as we develop relationships of mutual respect through our correspondence.

We will discuss some of the differences between what Muslims believe and what the Bible teaches in later lessons. For now, here are some Islamic beliefs that we as Christians agree with. You may be surprised at how many points of agreement there are!

1. *There is one God* and he created the world. God is important in daily life, and how we live our lives matters to him. Life should be interpreted from a spiritual perspective.
2. *Everyone has sinned against God.* We have all broken God's laws and rebelled against him.
3. *Jesus is the "Word of God."* This is stated 93 times in the Qur'an. Jesus was born of a virgin and performed many miracles. He even raised dead people to life.
4. *Jesus is the "Spirit of God."* Jesus was without sin and he ascended into heaven in bodily form. In fact, he was the only prophet who was sinless and who ascended directly to heaven.
5. God has revealed himself through "*Holy Books.*" We can know what God expects of us by carefully studying these books.
6. God has revealed himself through a series of *prophets*. These prophets include Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus.
7. It is important to *live a moral life* – to be modest and pure – in order to please God. People should remain sexually pure until they are married. Women should dress in a modest way to avoid tempting the men around them.

Remember, these are all *Muslim* beliefs! Of course they are Biblical teachings too. Although Muslims may place greater or lesser emphasis than Christians do on some of these points, many Muslims are eager to discuss spiritual matters.

It is a privilege to get to respond to emails from Muslim seekers. They already agree with us on a number of spiritual issues and it can establish positive rapport to point out these areas. So

what else do they need? What do we Christians have that they don't? That will be the subject of our next lesson!

Send comments/questions to flmcomments@nayaajeevan.org