

# FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

## *Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims*

### **Lesson 16: A Christian Nation?**

*I have studied more than enough about Christians but the thing is that practically they are not close to religion and there are many divisions in Christianity. All of them are entirely based on different myths. Although there are sects among Muslims, they all believe the same God. They believe in Muhammad (PBUH), they believe in the Four Caliphs, and they also believe in the one Qur'an (Holy Book of Muslims). - Bilal*

How would you respond to this comment from Bilal? Muslims often denounce Christianity because they see TV shows and movies depicting immorality and materialism that come out of 'Christian' countries such as America. From their perspective, America is a Christian country, in the same way that Pakistan or Bangladesh, for example, are Muslim countries. Therefore, whatever America produces must be "Christian."

For those of us who are from America or the West, when we're faced with these types of questions from internet contacts, it is crucial to humbly admit our failures as a culture and as a nation. Our culture does have a lot of sin and many problems. It's probably not very productive to point out that Muslim countries have problems as well, but we can remind the seekers that every culture and every country has sin.

We might want to argue that America is actually not a Christian country or a Christian culture, and that the movies and TV shows that portray immorality and other sins are not Christian productions. Although this would be true, pointing it out sometimes isn't the most helpful approach. It might be better just to acknowledge that countries of every religion have different types of sin, and this is definitely a bad thing.

What matters is whether we as individuals truly honor and obey God. In America, we can explain, there are some people – a minority – who do truly follow God and who reject immorality and materialism. The most important thing is Jesus; he must permeate our hearts and minds. It doesn't matter what socio-religious community or society we belong to. What matters is whether we have true faith in God and submit to him in obedience through Jesus.

We must emphasize to the seeker that those of us who do submit to God, whether we live in America or in South Asia or anywhere else, should reject all forms of immorality and materialism even if our culture promotes them. But it is only through God's Spirit living in us that we're able to live in righteousness.

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