

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims

Lesson 25: Christianity and Islam are Both Okay

If you Christians will read your Holy Book properly, then I don't think there is much difference between us and you because both are Allah's Books, and the religion is of the same Creator. To bring peace to this world and the people who live in it we all need to study and research the different Books, so that we may get the similarities between different religions. And on the basis of those similarities, we can bring all people and nations together and make this a peaceful and beautiful creation of Allah. Amen.

- Khattak

You may receive emails like the one above from internet contacts who believe that there is no significant difference between Christianity and Islam. In addition, some internet contacts may write about the need for Christians and Muslims to keep peace and understand each other. These are great emails because they give us the opportunity to respond and explain the uniqueness of Jesus!

In responding to this issue, it is best to avoid simply comparing the two religions – which would involve making comments or judgments about Islam, the Qur'an or Muhammad. Instead, simply focus on talking about Jesus as the Bible describes him and as you have experienced him in your own life.

As an example, this is the response that an OM wrote to Khattak:

Dear Khattak,

Thank you for your email. You said there is not much difference between Christians and Muslims. Have you actually read the Injil? I would be interested to see how you find it compared to the Qur'an and what you think about it. I have read the Qur'an as well as the Injil, and I have found both similarities and differences between the two.

I would like to share a story with you from the Injil. This story is from the book of Mark:

"And when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

“Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ‘Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, ‘Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’--he said to the paralytic—‘I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.’ And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’” (Mark 2:1-12)

This is a very interesting story for several reasons. I would like to ask you several questions.

- 1. How did Jesus have such power to heal the sick?*
- 2. If Jesus had the ability to heal the sick and to forgive sin, then who is he?*

.... I look forward to hearing what you think about this, Khattak.

Luke

This is a good response because it does not simply compare Islam and Christianity in order to prove one better or the other wrong. It admits both similarities and differences, which keeps a friendly tone. Sometimes if we only point out differences, we appear to be bent on creating division and hatred in the world and between us and our “seekers.” And once again, it concludes by pointing the seeker to Jesus Christ, the rightful center of our attention.

Send comments/questions to flmcomments@navajeevan.org