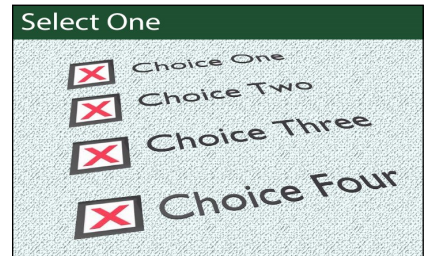


Engaging World Religions



Session 5: Engaging Islam

Where Christianity differs from ALL other religions:

Nature of God, Jesus (being God and man, His death and resurrection), Man, Sin, The Gospel (Salvation), Eternal Life, the Bible (our source of Authority)



Islam

• Islam means “submission”

- 2nd largest World Religion
- 1.2 billion followers (1.5 million US)
- Islam is religious belief, political, social, and cultural (no separation between belief, politics, and culture)
- Subgroups
 - Major divisions: Shia/Shiite
 - Sunni (85-90% of Muslims)
 - Many sub groups under Shia and Sunni like we have many denominations
 - Different leadership depending upon who is considered the rightful successor (caliph) to Mohammad
- Beliefs
 - Monotheistic along with Christianity and Judaism - Allah (the God)
 - One prophet: Mohammad (570-632 AD)
 - Source of Authority: Quran (610-632 AD)
 - Uthman burned all but one version (d. 656 AD)
 - Hadith: stories of what Muhammad said or did
 - Sharia Law: for Shiites it includes Imam authority
 - Abrogation: in situations wherein verses contradict one another, the early verses are overridden by the latter verses.
 - Regarding Christianity:
 - The Bible has been corrupted
 - No real concept of original sin, so no separation from God due to sin
 - Love does not really exist. No relationship with God. Love is only seen in poetry and but not in a relationship with God
 - No view of Christ as God Incarnate or atonement. He was a prophet only. He was not killed. He was not crucified. He did not rise from the dead (Surah 4:157; 4:171)
 - No view of God as Father
 - Works based ‘salvation’. No assurance
- Practices—5 Pillars of faith
 - The Creed: Profession of faith “I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Prophet of God”
 - Prayer: 3 times they pray each day
 - Alms (giving): a tax
 - Fasting
 - Pilgrimage (the Hajj) to Mecca

• 3 Barriers:

- The Bible is unreliable
- The Trinity is heresy
- Jesus is not God

Romans 10:9

“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Jesus is Lord.....He died and was raised....Salvation is through Him

5 Elements for engaging Muslims:



Pray



Prepare



Participate



Proclaim



Persuade