

5 Soft Side of Satan

By Dr. Stephen R. Phinney

Islam vs. Christianity

One fall day in 2003, in Washington DC, I woke up to a restless feeling. I had a meeting coming upon me requiring me to facilitate a faith-based meeting that had representatives of religions from around the world. Sitting at an oval table where some of the most powerful decisions were made in US history, I found myself looking into the faces of several enemies – those who hate Christianity - specifically Jesus Christ. I will not lie. I was having a difficult time embracing the moment. In fact, it affected my ability to facilitate the meeting. Sitting at this table were several representatives from the Counsel of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). Knowing exactly what they believed, I became trapped by not knowing how to integrate/share my faith in the moment. It was this experience where I became determined how to share my faith in Christ with Muslims. Not only did I learn how, the Lord gave me a deep love for these people.

The primary claim that Christians have is sharing the Love of Jesus to all, especially to our enemies.

"But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil. You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:37-48).

These are words that became my greatest challenge, as a true indwelt believer in Christ. Demonstrating this in the presence of a religious order that teaches, practices, and advances hate became the core of this challenge.

"When you meet the unbelievers, smite their necks, then, when you have made wide slaughter among them, tie fast the bonds; then set them free, either by grace or ransom, till the war lays down its loads. So it shall be; and if Allah had willed, He would have avenged Himself upon them; but that He may try some of you by means of others. And those who are slain in the way of Allah, He will not send their works astray" (Qur'an 47:4).

What is a believer in Christ to do? The first thing I was led to do was study the differences of beliefs.

Christianity vs. Islam:

Comparing Truth Over A Lie	
Muslim	Christianity
<p>Muslims believe that Islam is the authentic and only religion in the world. Their first prophet is Adam. They believe that all who submit to Allah are called Muslim, no matter their bloodline. They make claim to the Jewish prophets and leaders and call them their own – Ebrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses), Dawud (David), Isa Al Masih (Jesus), and others.</p> <p>Muhammad, is considered their final prophet. It is said that Allah sent him due to the rebellion of the people. In 610 AD, in Arabia, Muhammad began uniting the tribes of Arabs by turning them away from their rebellion and joining what he considered to be the oldest religion in the world - Islam.</p> <p>Growth of Islam: After Muhammad’s death, Islam became the fastest growing and most populous religion in the world – to date. Their religion functions under “rightly guided” rulers called Caliphs. Shia Islam began to rapidly spread through their “infallible” teachers, Imams / Imams (supposed bloodline leaders of Muhammad). In the beginning, their goal was to free their people from the suffering and oppression of the Roman Christian Empire (Byzantine) and Babylonian Empire (Persian). Today, their goal is to take the earth for Allah’s one-thousand year reign, and require all humans to bow to Allah or be put to death.</p> <p>New life is not promised to any Muslim while they are living. All points of salvation are based on judgment in the afterlife.</p>	<p>True Christians believe Judaism is the only authentic religion in the world. Christians believe that once they become born-again (receive the indwelling Life of Jesus), they are “grafted” into the Body - Jesus and the people of God – Jews (1 Cor. 12:27). Christians/Jews also trace their roots back to Adam, who brought the curse of sin upon all mankind (Gen. 1-3). The Word of God teaches that Jesus is the second Adam, who came to remove the curse of sin (Rom. 5).</p> <p>Abraham & Jesus are the two main characters in Judaic history; although, the traditional Jews do not accept Jesus as their Messiah, as do Christians. Abraham was promised the blessing to carry out God’s heavenly purposes and plan for the earth and its people (Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3). Jesus is the promised seed of Eve, who would crush the head of Satan (Gen. 3:15), and bring the blessing that was promised to Abraham.</p> <p>New Life in Christ was/is delivered through Jesus. He came to win the battle that has raged throughout history since Creation - a struggle in which Satan has twisted all things, even religions, into weapons to discredit God. The decisive battle of this war was won on the Cross, when Jesus destroyed Satan’s power and overcame the curse of sin. By providing the convert with co-crucifixion; co-burial; co-resurrection; and thereby, offering eternal life for all who come to him for Salvation (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20).</p>
Muslim: Who Is God?	Christian: Who Is God?
<p>First of all, Muslims do not use the term “God” - only Allah. The absolute Oneness of Allah is primary to all who call themselves Muslim. Their faith does not allow for “liberal Muslims” to be of the true faith. Rather, they are Muslim infidels and are to be executed if they do not return to obeying the full Qur’an. The greatest sin (shirk) is to associate any other with Allah. This is why the new movement Chrislam (the merging of Christianity and Islam) is an act of betrayal. Islam is rooted in their commitment to a monotheistic view of Allah.</p> <p>Allah is transcendent and cannot be compared to humans or any other created thing. Allah is never described in Islam in a personal way by using, Abba Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. According to the Qur’an, having a direct relationship with Allah is considered an act of an <i>infidel</i>.</p> <p>Allah creates and sustains all of life - spiritual and material. His will is absolute and cannot be questioned by his creation. He is the final judge, without a mediator. Salvation depends upon Muslims living in full obedience to Allah’s will and will be revealed at their judgment day.</p>	<p>God is a tri-unity: God, the Father, God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit. Christians are to believe that God is personal and exists in relationship with His Son’s Bride – born-again believers. This relationship takes place through His Son, by the indwelling of His Life in His Bride.</p> <p>The Christian life does not condemn liberal or any other kind of Christian. In fact, they are required to love, accept, and forgive under all conditions, including their enemies – even under circumstances of persecutions. No matter what the condition of indwelt born-again believers, they will go to Heaven when they die.</p> <p>God reveals Himself as the Eternal Word, who became flesh when the Holy Spirit came upon the virgin Mary and conceived Jesus (the Messiah), who is also called the Son of God, in His Holy Word. In the teachings of Jesus, He further shows us God, the Holy Spirit, was sent by the Father and Himself. God is literally in three persons, while revealing Himself as One. He declares Himself as Triune - three in One.</p> <p>1 John tells us that <i>God is Love</i>, Christ is God, and His Spirit indwells and lives in the Bride of Christ – thus, all Christians are to love under all conditions. The Christian escapes the wrath associated with God’s Judgment. Each will face Judgment, but due to Jesus Christ paying the</p>

Muslims: Allah
Allah Changes: Surah 2:106 says, "If we supersede any verse or cause it to be forgotten, we bring a better one or one similar. Do you not know that Allah has power over all things."
Allah is Condemnation: Surah 32:13 says, "If we so willed, we could have brought every soul its true guidance, but the word from me will come true: 'I will fill Hell with demons and men all together.'"
Allah Deceives: Surah 8:30 says, "They plot and plan, and Allah, too plans, but the best of deceivers is Allah."
Allah, Trinity is Blasphemous: Surah 5:73 says, "They do blaspheme who say God is one of three...for there is no Allah except one Allah."
Allah Confused About Trinity: Surah 5:116 says, "And behold! God will say: O Jesus the son of Mary didst say unto men, 'worship me and my mother as gods' in derogation of Allah?"
Isa, The Muslim Jesus: Surah 3:59 says, "The similitude of Isa before God is as that of Adam; He created him from dust."
Isa, One of Allah's Apostles: Surah 4:17 says, "O people of the book, commit no excess of your religion: nor say of Allah aught but truth, Christ Isa the son of Mary was an apostle of Allah."
Isa, Only Appeared to be Crucified: Surah 4:157 says, "That they said in boast 'we killed Christ Isa, the son of Mary' but they killed him not, nor crucified him."
Muhammad: Surah 18:4-5 says, "And it (the Qur'an) warns those who say: 'Allah has taken a son.' Surely, of this they have no knowledge, neither they nor their fathers, it is a monstrous word that comes from their mouths, they say nothing but a lie."
Muhammad Did Not Know Hearts: Surah 11:31 says, "I do not say to you that I possess the treasures of Allah, and I do not know the unseen."
Muhammad Not an Advocate: Surah 9:80 says, "It is the same whether or not you beg forgiveness for them. If you beg forgiveness for them seventy times Allah will not forgive them, for they have disbelieved in Allah and His Messenger. Allah does not guide the evildoers."
Muhammad Demands the Sword: Surah 8:65 says, "O Prophet, urge the believers to fight. If there are twenty patient men among you, you shall overcome two hundred, and if there are a hundred, they shall overcome a thousand unbelievers, for they are a nation who do not understand."
Muhammad Filled with Revenge: Surah 2:194 says, "The sacred month for the sacred month, prohibitions are subject to retaliation. If anyone aggresses against you, so aggress against him with the likeness of that which he has aggressed against you."
Muhammad Was Sinful: Surah 18:110 says, "Say: I am only a human like you, revealed to me is that your God is One God. Let him who hopes for the encounter with his lord do good work, and not associate anyone with the worship of his lord."

penalty for their sins, each believer will be released from His punishment. Punishment and damnation will only be for those who refused to accept Jesus as the only way, truth, and life.
Christians: Yahweh/Jesus
Jesus doesn't change: "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (James 1:17).
Jesus Loves: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
Jesus Won't Lie: "in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago" (Titus 1:2).
God is Three In One: "Jesus answered, 'If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, "He is our God"' (John 8:54).
Jesus Not Confused: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19).
Jesus, God's Son: "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Col. 1:17).
Jesus, Who Is Lord: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me'" (John 14:6).
Jesus Crucified: "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).
Jesus: "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).
Jesus Sees The Unseen: "And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds" (Rev. 2:23).
Jesus is an Advocate: "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2).
Jesus is/was Non-violent: "Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword'" (Matt. 26:52).
Jesus Turned The Other Cheek: "'You have heard that it was said, "AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH." But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also'" (Matt. 5:38-39).
Jesus Without Sin: "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH" (1 Peter 2:21-22).

<p>Muslims Believe: Human beings are not born fallen, and sin only through their personal misdeeds.</p>	<p>Christianity: <i>"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).</i></p> <p><i>"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Rom. 5:12).</i></p>
<p>Muslims Believe, Jesus Was a Simple Worshiper of Allah: Surah 19:30 says, "He (the baby Jesus) said: 'I am the worshiper of Allah. Allah has given me the Book and made me a Prophet."</p>	<p>Jesus Is The Way: <i>"being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:24-26).</i></p>
<p>Muslims Believe, salvation is decided by Allah: Surah 2:284 says, "Allah forgives whom He pleases, for Allah has power over all things."</p>	<p>Jesus Saves: <i>"for 'WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED'" (Rom. 10:13).</i></p>
<p>Muslims Believe salvation is based on works: Surah 3:157 says, "And if you are slain, or die in the way of Allah, forgiveness and mercy from Allah are far better than all they could amass."</p>	<p>Christianity: <i>"and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28).</i></p>
<p>Allah Forces Worship: Surah 2:193 says, "Fight against them until there is no dissension, and the religion is for Allah."</p> <p>Surah 9:29 says, "Fight those who neither believe in Allah nor the Last Day, who do not forbid what Allah and His Messenger have forbidden, and do not embrace the religion of the truth, being among those who have been given the Book, until they pay tribute out of hand and have been humiliated."</p>	<p>Christianity: <i>"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).</i></p>

The Soft Side of Satan: Islam vs. Christianity. Copyright © 2015 IOM America. Permission to reproduce for educational purposes. Please keep author's name intact.

Scripture note: Changes made to original verses [i.e. bold, indent, underline, parenthetical contents...] are by this article's author for emphasis and/or clarification.

Unless otherwise noted, Scriptures are taken from the *New American Standard Bible*, © Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (Parenthesis and/or brackets are for clarification by this author.)