

Talking with Muslim People about Jesus

1 Some Introductory Thoughts – One Islam and Many islams

1a) 5 Pillars

1. *Shahadah*/profession (surah 2:255, 48:29, 64:8)
2. *Salat*/prayer (surah 11:114)
3. *Saum*/fasting (surah 2:183-185)
4. *Zakat*/almsgiving (surah 2:177)
5. *Hajj*/pilgrimage (surah 22:26-33)

1b) 6 Beliefs

1. The oneness of Allah
2. Allah's angels
3. Allah's messengers/prophets
4. Allah's revealed books (e.g. Torah to Moses, Zabur to David, Injil to Jesus & Qur'an to Muhammad)
5. The day of resurrection (physical and to judgement)
6. Allah's divine decree/sovereignty (surmised from surah 2:177, 285, *hadith*)
 - Notice: no mention of salvation, assurance, relationship with God, reading the Qur'an...

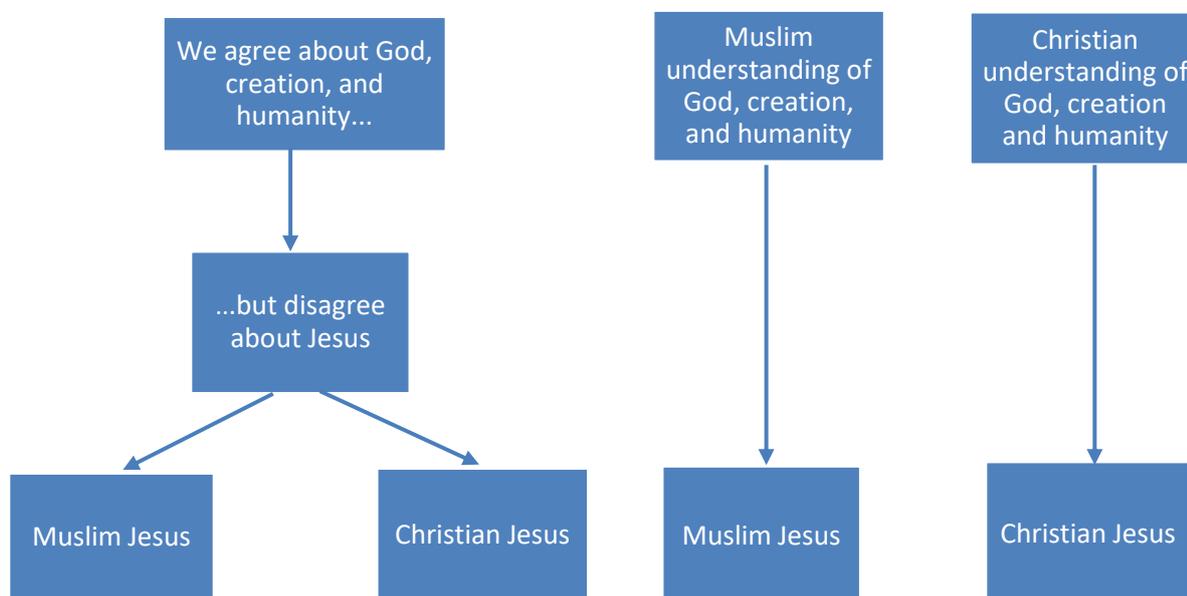
1c) 4 Objections

1. Jesus isn't the Son of God/divine (surah 4:171)
2. Trinity is wrong (surah 4:171 cf 5:73, 75, 116)
3. Jesus didn't die (surah 4:157)
4. The Bible has been CORRUPTED!
 - BUT, Qur'an says it confirms previous Scriptures (surah 4:163-165, 5:44-47 cf 3:3-4, 21:7 & 48, 10:94)
 - AND, Allah doesn't allow his word to be changed (surah 6:34, 6:115, 10:65, 15:9)
 - SO, previous Scripture not corrupted, but misquoted/misinterpreted (surah 2:75, 4:46 cf 5:13 & 41)

- Other things of importance in a Muslim friend's life:
 - Muhammad eg s33:21
 - Group > individual
 - Spiritual world

2 Some Things That Sound the Same...

- From Samuel Green's *Is Jesus God? An Explanation of the Divinity and Humanity of Jesus for Christians and Muslims* (https://engagingwithislam.org/leaflets/Is_Jesus_God.pdf): "A common mistake Christians make when talking to Muslims about Jesus being both God and man is that we *start* with Jesus." (p2)



- God – creator, sustainer, transcendent, revealer BUT NOT self-revealing/personal, immanent, rescuing or triune
- Humanity – deputies (caliphs/vicegerents) and slaves BUT NOT in God's image and friends
- The Garden of Eden – wonderful place BUT NOT on earth
- Sin – big and little law-breaking BUT NOT relational, destructive or corrupting
- Revelation – needed because we leave God's way BUT NOT progressive, about God or his plans
- Prophets – sent by God to point people back to God BUT NOT revealing God's promises, plans or self
- Sacrifice – done for God BUT NOT to take away sin

3 Assurance of Salvation?

- More about forgiveness or heavenly reward than assurance or salvation per se.
- Paradise through belief and works:

“And give good news (O Muhammad) to those who believe and do good deeds, that they will have gardens (Paradise) in which rivers flow...”(s2:25 cf 2:824:57, 103:1-3 see Zakir Naik on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtG10zNVKqc>, with s44:51-56, 52:17-28, 55:46-78 on its pleasures)

“Say: ‘I am only a human being like you, being inspired that your god is One God. Whoever hopes to meet his Lord, let him work righteousness, and never associate anyone with the service of his Lord.’” (s18:110)
- More than the Qur’an is needed
- Forgiveness through conversion – “A man called Amr came to the Prophet Muhammad and said: “Give me your right hand so that I may give you my pledge of loyalty.” The Prophet stretched out his right hand. Amr withdrew his hand. The Prophet said: “What has happened to you, O Amr?” He replied: “I intend to lay down a condition”” The Prophet asked: “What condition do you intend to put forward?” Amr said: “That God forgives my sins.” The Prophet said: “Didn’t you know that converting to Islam erases all previous sins?” (narrated in Sahih Muslim, no.121 and Mosnad Ahmad no.17,537)
- Forgiveness through God’s mercy according to deeds – “Your Lord, who is blessed and exalted, is most merciful. If someone intends to do a good deed but does not do it, a good deed will be recorded for him. And if he does do it, (a reward of) ten to seven hundred or many more times (the reward of the good deed), will be recorded for him. And if someone intends to do a bad deed but does not do it, a good deed will be recorded for him. And he does do it, a bad deed will be recorded against him or God will wipe it out.” (narrated in Mosnad Ahmad no.2515 and Sahih Muslim no.131)
- Through chastity – Narrated Sahl bin Sad: Narrated Allah’s Apostle: “Whoever can guarantee (the chastity) of what is between his two jaw-bones and what is between his two legs (ie his tongue and his private parts), I guarantee Paradise for him” (8:320; 76.23.481, Phil Parshall, *Inside the Community – understanding Muslims through their traditions*, p31).
- Through Friday prayers – IF you bathe on Friday, purify as much as you can, use hair oil, go to Jumu’a prayer, do not separate 2 people sitting together, pray as much as Allah has written for you, remain silent while Imam is preaching THEN your sins in-between the present and the last Friday will be forgiven (from Bk11, ch4, #495; 2:8 in 9 Volume Bukhari).
- Through pilgrimage – IF you do Hajj for Allah’s sake only, don’t have sex with your wife and don’t do evil THEN you will return from Hajj free from all sins as if he were born anew (from Bk26, ch4, #773; 2:596 in 9 Volume Bukhari).
- Through jihad – “O you who believe. Shall I lead you to a bargain that will save you from a grievous penalty? That you believe in Allah and His Messenger, and that you strive [jihad] in the cause of Allah with your property and your persons: that will be

best for you, if you but knew. He will forgive you your sins and admit you to gardens beneath which rivers flow, and to beautiful mansions in gardens of eternity: that is indeed the supreme achievement. Jihad will be compensated either by booty (if you live) or paradise (if you die) (Bk2, ch23, #34; 1:35 in 9 Volume Bukhari) – see <http://www.answering-islam.org/Authors/Arlandson/jihad.htm> for more.

- Isa al Masih/Jesus the Messiah cannot intercede on the Day of Resurrection and says you'd better go to Muhammad – 'Then it will be said, "O Muhammad raise your head and speak for you will be listened to; and ask for you will be granted your request: and intercede, for you intercession will be accepted." I will say, "O Lord, allow me to intercede for whoever said *La ilaha ill-Allah*. Then Allah will say, "By My Power and My Majesty, and by Supremacy, and by My Greatness, I will take out of Hell whoever said *La ilaha ill-Allah*. (Bk88, ch6, #2228-9; 9:601 in 9 Volume Bukhari)
- Majority of paradise: poor people (Bk54, ch6, #1372; 4:464 in 9 Volume Bukhari).
- Majority of hell: women who were unbelievers or ungrateful to their husbands (Bk2, ch17, #27; 1:28 9 Volume Bukhari & Bk54, ch6, #1372; 4:464 in 9 Volume Bukhari).
- "Allah created Adam, then touched his right shoulder, and out of his shoulder came many people, all with white skin. Allah said to those white people, "You belong in paradise and who is going to oppose that?" Then Allah touched Adam's left shoulder, and out of his shoulder came many people with black skin. And Allah said to those black people, "You belong in hell. Who is going to oppose that?"" (Mishkat al-Masabih, vol 1 ch4, bk1).
- Ultimate assurance? No
 - Muhammad was unsure (s46:9) as were his closest companions
 - Insh'Allah and hope-full, until they near death

4 Some Additional Things to Ask and Say

- How might you contrast all this with 1 Peter? And use 1 Peter with a Muslim friend?
- Can Allah be all-merciful if it is about my works? – Salvation belongs to the Lord, no boasting
- Can Allah be just if Allah *simply* forgives my sins? – God says that sin deserves death
- If Allah does forgive my sins because my good deeds outweigh my bad deeds, how do I know what the weight of each is? – Sin is sin and sin is serious, there is no one righteous
- Why do you do good works? – We do good works because we have received mercy, not to gain it (1 Peter 2)
- Can I share with you some of Jesus' teaching about this? – The parable of the outrageous father (Luke 15:11-32)