

# Love, Compassion & Mercy

**Dear Friend of Jesus to Muslims!** Greetings! In the USA, Muslims are putting together American Muslim Community Centers. To embark on helping poor people in the community, including non-Muslims, they plan on establishing food and medical centers. This sign, using a similar font and design as President Trump's campaign, advocates "Making America Great with Love, Compassion & Mercy." The ad also lists their 24/7 hotline number and website for the Muslim advocacy group, WhyIslam.org. founded in 1999 by the Islamic Circle of North America. According to the website, their goal is "to dispel popular stereotypes and persistent misconceptions about Islam and Muslims." We found that in about 30 cities, such billboards have been displayed so far; the plan is to put them in all major cities and towns. This one is just a few miles from us near Trinity Lutheran Church in Summerfield.



## The Truth of the Matter

Does the Qur'an, the first hand authority for Muslims, instruct them to love and have compassion, and be merciful? Yes, it does but attached with conditions. For example, when the question of mercy comes, the Qur'an states that Muslims should be merciful to each other but 'ruthless to non-Muslims' (Sura 48:29).



Friendship is the first step towards love, compassion and mercy but the Qur'an instructs Muslims, "Take not the Jews and Christians for friends" (Sura 5:51). Indeed, the Qur'an does mention that Allah asks the believers to love others but it seems that it does not include the unbelievers. For example, we find that while Allah is said to love those who do good deeds (Sura 2:195), those who are pure (Sura 2:222), those who are righteous (Sura 9:7), and those who fight in his cause (Sura

61:4), the Qur'an is equally clear that Allah has no love for transgressors (Sura 2:190), ungrateful sinners (Sura 2:276), the unjust (Sura 3:57), or the proud (Sura 4:36). Even more significantly, the Qur'an states that Allah does not love non-Muslims (Sura 3:32; 30:45).

Although Allah is called "the Loving", *alwadood*, the Qur'an's meaning behind this is that Allah will love people once they believe in him and obey his prophet (Sura 3:31-32). In other words, "Love me first and do as I say then I will love you back." In contrast, Jesus had come several centuries before Muhammad and displayed God's unconditional love for us.

One of the most compact, probing dialogs on love is found in I John 4:7-21. The word is used 25 times in these verses. The central basis for people to love one another is rooted in the nature of God Himself - God is love. What is accepted as commonplace in the New Testament is a dim reflection in the Qur'an. While "God is greater" (*Allahu akbar*), is a statement of faith, affirmation and expression, *God is love (Allah mahabba)* is absent from the attributes of God. This slogan is not just used in prayers but also is and has been a War Cry.

'Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love' (1 John 4:8).

Love will not be satisfied with anything less than the total salvation of its object.

Indeed the Qur'an mentions Muhammad being Mercy for the world (Sura 21:106-107), but if one does not believe his prophethood, then we find some statements like this from Muhammad: "I have been ordered (by Allah) to slaughter people till they say *La ilaha illallah* [There is no god but Allah], and whoever said *La ilaha illallah*, he saved his life and property from me ..." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Vol 4: p.126.)

### God is not just loving but He is Love -

When it comes to love, yes we all need it. In sharp contrast to Muhammad, Jesus Christ commanded His followers to love their neighbors as oneself (Matthew 22:37-40; Luke 10:27-37) and love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-37). In fact, Jesus said, "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?" (Matthew 5:46). The Christian understanding of loving God is relational: love for God is first and foremost a response to God's love for us: "We love because he

first loved us” (1 John 4:19) for “...God is love” (1 John 4:8, 16). The Gospel is centrally a declaration of God’s love for mankind, demonstrated in the love of Christ (1 John 4:9-11). In response to this demonstration of God’s love, Jesus tells people to love each other, which is the “new commandment” (John 13:34). The Gospel teaches love for all people, not just fellow Christians. Christ himself taught that just as God loves all, so His children should love all people, including their enemies (Matthew 5:43-45; see also Romans 12:14-21).



As we compare love, compassion and the mercy aspects of God in Islam and Christianity, we recognize such contradictions that persuade us to see that the God of the Bible and Allah of the Qur’an are not the same ‘God’. Dear friends, not many people know that Islam uses Biblical vocabulary but has its own dictionary. We who claim to be Christ’s followers and know biblically what these three words “Love, Compassion and Mercy” mean should stand up for Jesus and show the real meaning of these words to our Muslim neighbors, so that they would know Him. Jesus is the real Granter of love, compassion and mercy. Muslims need Jesus Christ in order to love others with true love, compassion and mercy - even towards those who disagree with them. Meanwhile, in spite of what we see in Islam, we as followers of Christ should love others including Muslims. ‘Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love’ (1 John 4:8). Love will not be satisfied with anything less than the total salvation of its object.

### **The Great Commission**

Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20). Muslims are included in “all nations” – they desperately need the Good News of Jesus Christ! We at *Jesus to Muslims* are here to help you obey the Great Commission. Call us at 954 290 0511 to schedule your first (or an advanced) seminar at your church, group or fellowship today. We are in a full-fledged spiritual battle for souls who are eternally destined to hell or heaven after death. Arise, body of Christ, and engage in the battle! Get equipped now!

### **Prayer and Praise points**

- ❖ We thank the Lord for the final editing of Steven Masood’s book *Into the Light* in Spanish. It will be printed, along with the 14 evangelistic leaflets in Spanish. Praise God!
- ❖ We praise God for the help in times of trouble that Karen's book, *Wedding Preparation for Eternity, A Women's Search for true Love*, has been to many women so far! You can see some reviews here: <http://aishamydaughter.org/book-reviews>. Like our other resources, this book is available at [www.JesustoMuslims.org](http://www.JesustoMuslims.org).

### **Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects**

*Jesus to Muslims* relies solely on God through the generosity of our donors to: reach Muslims with the Gospel, expand our outreach, hold seminars to equip Christians, giving resources, as well as research and publish material for truth seekers.

Funds in total received:

February 2017: \$11,835

March 2017: \$ 8,877

Monthly Need is \$15,000. We pray that the Lord will provide an extra \$425 a month for the next five years, to pay off our zero percent loan for the studio. If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving, please go to: [www.JesusToMuslims.org](http://www.JesusToMuslims.org) and click on "Support". Donations are tax deductible.

### **DVDs available**

The following DVDs are available for donation of any amount to *Jesus to Muslims*.

1. “Answering Questions Muslims Ask”
2. “Jesus or Muhammad: A Question of Submission”
3. “Why do Muslims want to annihilate Israel?”
4. “The Two faces of Islam”

- ❖ We praise God for the few hundred people out of our 5000 readers who prayerfully supported the ministry financially in 2016 to make this year’s outreach & equipping work possible! We pray for more support in 2017.

- ❖ Please pray for more open doors to equip the body of Christ to reach Muslims. God uses your "word of mouth" promotions of the *Jesus to Muslims* ministry to open those doors.

- ❖ We receive many requests from around the world to provide financial and ministry material resources to distribute amongst the lost. Please pray with us that God will provide the finances and the wisdom to know which requests are from Him so to fulfill these needs.

- ❖ Please pray with us for the authority at Marion County to grant permission for the extension of a 12x15 room on to the existing building. We will use the room for video recording and as a studio for Livestream and prayer.