



Islam: Moderate or radical?

Dear Friend in Jesus! Some people think that radical Islam is merely an extreme version of Islam, based on a cultural-social ideology. Such a notion is only partly correct. When a Muslim wants to truly follow the Qur'an and Muhammad's example, he or she becomes what today the Western media calls a radical or militant Muslim. Radical Islam's primary objective is to dominate all those within its reach and suppress all other ideologies, movements, and beliefs in its path. Islam as a faith sees non-Muslims and other faiths as a threat. Christians and Jews, as well as people of other beliefs, have been persecuted around the world whenever a Muslim group decides to go back to practicing fundamental Islam. In many Middle Eastern and South Asian countries, Christians are forced to keep their faith undercover in order to avoid personal attacks.

Islam does not embrace freedom of any other ideology except its own. The Qur'an in three places mentions that Allah has revealed the religion of Islam to take over all others (Sura 9:33; 48:28; 61:9). To establish this goal, a Muslim has many avenues open to him or her: evangelism, population explosion, political influence and using force to the extent of even "killing for Allah" to "suppress and submit the opposition." In the Qur'an, a Muslim is told, "Allah loves those who kill for His cause" (Sura 61:4). Islam includes the political and jurisprudential project of *Shari'a* (Islamic law). Muslims who truly follow the Qur'an and the hadith recognize that *Shari'a* cannot be separated from Islam.

Moderate or radical?

The term "Muslim" is a general term. Subcategories such as "moderate" and "radical" only address how believers practice their faith. The term "Christian" is also a general term, with subcategories as well. Just as there are wishy-washy Christians who do not follow what Jesus has commanded, so there are Muslims who do not follow Muhammad's example. These Muslims are known in the West as moderate Muslims. Our observation is that when a formerly wishy-washy Christian decides to do what Jesus has commanded, he or she becomes loving to the neighbors and wants to be of value to the community. He/she shares the love of Christ with others. When a Muslim follows what the Qur'an and Muhammad commands, he becomes radical in the sense to subjugate the world for Islam to the extent of killing those who do not submit. Although that is the real Islam, it is known by Western liberal media as "radical Islam."

Different Dictionary

Sadly, some churches' reaction is to blur theological differences between Islam and Christianity. These liberal churches have conformed themselves into a society of embracing all people in a non-Biblical way, "just to get along with their neighbors." They are charmed by Muslims who use similar vocabulary to theirs, somehow not realizing that although Islam uses the words "peace, love, mercy, freedom," and so on, that the definitions are different. Islam has its own dictionary. For example, many Muslims in the West say the meaning of the word "Islam" is "peace." The word Islam actually means "submission." A Muslim believes that peace only comes as a fruit of submission. For example, if two people are in conflict and one submits to the other then peace will be established. The Muslim mind accepts the idea that conflict may be necessary to bring submission and ultimately, peace.

One may come across billboards stating that Islam abhors terrorism. However, many Muslims think that what the West calls

Jesus or Muhammad?

A Question of Assurance

In his new book, *Jesus or Muhammad?* (315 pages), Steven Masood responds to the above question and many others.

Available now from us for a gift of \$20 or more to *Jesus to Muslims*.

All donations are tax-deductible.

For online reservation go to www.JesusToMuslims.org and click on support. In the note section please type: J-M-Book.

If sending a check, please print J-M-Book in the memo.

This book answers to questions like:

- Is the Qur'an the continuation of the Bible?
- Did Jesus promise the coming of Muhammad?
- Is Jesus or Muhammad the 'final messenger' with the authority of assurance from God?
- What guidance was promised to Adam, to restore him and his progeny to God?
- If Jews, Christians, and Muslims believe in the same God, why the different messages?

“terrorism” is actually “a fight for freedom.” A Muslim would agree that committing suicide is forbidden in Islam (Sura 2:195; 4:29), but considers a suicide bomber to be giving his or her life for Allah and thus acceptable. A Muslim once wrote me these words: “When Islam has its own state and own military, then the Islamic military will deal with enemies of Islam, and there will not be a need for a suicide operation.”

A Biblical response to Islam

When we see violence from Muslims, our response should not be composed of fear or intimidation but rather of power, love, self-discipline, and commitment to stand for the Truth (2 Tim 1:7). The Scriptures challenge Christians with these words, “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18). As people of faith we are asked to move past the fear. Those who follow Jesus are called to a higher principle than tolerance. Jesus taught, “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you...’” (Matthew 5:43-44). Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Friends, loving our enemies and being peacemakers is what Jesus calls us to do, but without compromising the Word of Truth (Romans 12:18).

Christians also need to put the “Great” back into the Great commission that Jesus gave us (Matthew 28:18-20). God’s heart can be seen through the Great commission. He wants all nations to be blessed and flourish and all people to come to Jesus! How about making time to sit down and have tea with a Muslim friend? He or she could be a work colleague or a doctor or shopkeeper or running a pharmacy near you. Take action! Share the hope we have in Christ! (1 Peter 3:14-16).

Islam has founding documents: the Quran and the Ahadith. On the basis of its founding documents, it also has tenets and doctrines. Christians need not be ignorant of Islam, but rather need to learn about this belief that enslaves many people away from God and true freedom in Christ. Both Muslims and Christians believe in God, the Day of Judgment, and eternity. A Muslim strives to earn eternity by righteous works by keeping Islamic law (Shari’a). The only ultimate assurance available in Islam is through martyrdom. A Christian’s assurance is in Jesus. Jesus is the anecdote, the remedy, to the misery of this fallen world. Jesus is the end of the law. We, as Christians, should love God with all our heart and mind and strength and love our neighbors (which includes Muslims) as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). Let’s pray for Muslims and tell them about Jesus, the only assurance from God, fixing our eyes on our Savior (Hebrews 12:2-3)!

Prayer and praise points

❖ To run the ministry we are involved full-time and thus rely on God and his people to support this ministry. We thank Him for His providence.

❖ Steven’s book *Jesus or Muhammad: A Question of Assurance* (315 pages) is now in the hands of many Muslims. We thank God for the supporters who helped us in this project. We pray God will bless them abundantly.

❖ Pray for & attend our seminars on Islam. (See enclosure)

❖ Work of outreach to ‘Christian’ women married to Muslims has increased. Please pray for Karen and friends to be able to deal ‘lovingly’ with ‘Biblical advice’. Pray for the Holy Spirit discernment in dealing with such delicate matters. Admin help still needed.

❖ For funds to produce professional DVD’s of teachings on Islam and a Biblical approach and other related subjects as well as mentoring programs.

Jesus to Muslims: Financial Aspects

Year 2013 marks the 7th anniversary of *Jesus to Muslims* ministry. This ministry relies solely on the generosity of our donors, to continue our daily operations, to expand our outreach, to do seminars to equip Christians and to research and publish material to reach truth seekers.

We thank you and praise God for your continuous support and being steadfast with us in *your calling* as we fulfill *our calling* in reaching Muslims and equipping Christians.

Funds in total received:

November 2012: \$6897

December 2012: \$16,942

January 2013: \$6327

God has promised to be faithful and we Praise God for our blessings! We thank you and praise God for those of you who gave toward the publishing and printing of 2 books out of Dec. total! In 2013, we are trusting God to lead you to help meet our monthly need of \$12,800!

If you are mailing your gift, please use the envelope provided. For online giving go to: www.JesusToMuslims.org and click on ‘Support’.