



# Co-exist: A question of inclusivism

**Dear Friend in Jesus!** The gurus of post-modernism have taken over the social media along with making room for every idea you can think of in the name of 'co-exist'. As usual colleges and universities are a breeding ground for

such propagation to the extent that popular logos and names are used with such signs. See for example the University of Florida sign for the 'Gators' on one of its pages for Student affairs. The ironical side of it is that Muslims too use the 'co-exist trend' as to dilute and divert the critical attention of those who look at Islamic teaching with suspicion.

Recently a Muslim wrote to me, advising me to stop my 'so-called conservatism' and claiming Jesus 'as the only way'. According to him, 'Both, Islam and true Christianity teach inclusivism.' He quoted from the Qur'an where Muhammad is mentioned to have said, 'for you is your faith and for me is my faith' (Sura 109:6). In his letter, he then equated the Qur'anic reference with what Jesus said, 'one who is not against us is with us' (Mark 9:40). He went on to claim that the Bible teaches co-existence with others and thus Christians should work towards a 'peaceful co-existence between Islam and Christianity'.



## 'The Bible and the Qur'an: A question of Inclusivism'

No, the Bible and the Qur'an do not teach Inclusivism. Both references from the Qur'an and the Bible have been expunged from their context. The context of Mark 9:38-41 shows Jesus was not preaching inclusivism, if he was then elsewhere he would have never said, 'He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters' (Luke 11:23; Matthew 12:30). Elsewhere, Jesus emphatically claimed, 'No one can come to the Father but through me' (John 14:6). In addition, his apostles would have not preached, 'under heaven no other name has been given through whom we can be saved' (Acts 4:12). The Bible rejects any other way (Matthew 17:8; Galatians 1:8; Hebrews 1:1-2).

Similarly when we check the Qur'anic context of Sura 109:6, we find the total opposite of any inclusivism. In fact it shows that Muhammad was standing up for what he believed. To not cause trouble for himself and persecution of his followers, Muhammad said those words, 'for you is your faith and for me is mine'. The only thing at that time he did not do is to use force to subject his opponents to believe in his stand as he was not yet powerful enough because it was the beginning of his mission. His example is the case for Muslims in America today.

The truth is that the Qur'an refuses inclusiveness and co-existence with other faiths. It claims that God has revealed Islam so to take over all religions (Sura 9:33; 48:21; 61:9). It is noteworthy that in the context of 61:9, just a few verses up, the Qur'an claims that 'Allah loves those who kill for him' (61:4). The problem is that many Muslim protagonists in the West do not tell you that. In the light of the Qur'an, Ahadith (traditions) and Islamic history we find that Islam not only is exclusive but also teaches to obliterate those who deny Islam with the exception of some spared, if they accept to be a second class citizen under Islamic jurisdictions.

Indeed Allah loves those who kill for His cause (Sura 61:4)

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِهِ

## 'The Bible and the Question of peaceful co-existence'

Christians are instructed to 'live at peace with all men' (Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14), including those with whom we disagree. Attempts to execute wrath upon others are totally contrary to the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles. 'Vengeance is mine, says the Lord. I will repay' (Romans 12:19). Sadly, we acknowledge that not all Christians have truly followed the teachings of the Bible in this respect. Biblically and in total opposing direction of Islamic teachings, Christians are advised; 'Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord' (Hebrews 12:14).

Let us be clear that this peaceful co-existence does not mean to compromise the Christian faith. Nor it suggests that Christianity is as true as Islam or any other faith. In other words, it is illogical to accept, on one hand, that God has spoken in these last days through Jesus, as His Word and that he provided the only way of salvation. Then, on the other hand, to stand with Islam, which came 600 years after Jesus and denies all those claims about Jesus. They both cannot be true. Islam denies the crucifixion and thus both his death and resurrection; indirectly make Jesus and his disciples to be liars. Not only Jesus predicted his death and resurrection, the apostles also, like a broken record, went everywhere, testifying, preaching and teaching about this matter. So much so, the faith depended on this factor thus their warning: 'And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith' (1 Corinthians 15:14).

### The Truth behind the efforts

The Bible does teach conservatism and exclusiveness but a believer cannot go and preach and teach that those who disagree with the Biblical message be eliminated. According to the Scriptures, we are asked to even love those who hate us (Matthew 5:44).

As a student of the Qur'an and Islamic history I have found that Islam advises its believer to co-exist with others and tolerate in a situation when you are weak in political and militant influence. However, when in power, then Jews and Christians can co-exist with Muslims, as long as Islam has the upper hand and all should submit to *Shari'a* (Islamic law). I believe that Muslims as protagonists of movements like 'Co-exist' and 'interfaith' in the West are using such ventures to undermine other faiths, Christianity in particular, so to pave the way one day for Islam to dominate. Sadly they have taken along with them, many 'Christians', now also in the guise of 'Chrislam'.

Jesus said, 'What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?' (Matthew 16:26) – Steven Masood

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

Dear Friends, 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:

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- We praise Him for continuous help for Muslim background believers, willing to be grounded in Biblical doctrines and live accordingly.
- Praise God for our new 'house parents' in our safe house also ministering to Muslims & translating our evangelizing leaflets to Spanish!
- Financial support is needed for billboards, editing and printing of new books.
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