



# Islamicized gospel: Contextualization gone mad



*'The True Meaning of the Gospel of Christ' has replaced 'Father' with Allah and inserted Messiah in place of 'Son' and the 'Son of God'.*

~~Matthew 28:19: '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'.~~

Matthew 28:19: 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, washing them in the name of Allah, his Messiah and the Holy Spirit'.

**Dear Friend in Jesus!** As an occurring controversy in the Gospels, we find that the Pharisees and Sadducees did not like Jesus claiming to be the Son of God. Yet Jesus stood his ground. No wonder that Peter proclaimed, 'You are the Son of the Living God' and Jesus not only accepted it but also told him that it was the Father who revealed it. With such a backdrop, how would you feel if a certain missionary came along and told you that in their outreach and in their translation of the Bible for Muslims, they have discarded words like 'Father in heaven', the Son of God or his Son?

Contextualization of the gospel message is biblical and indeed necessary. However, such strategies should be within the confines of sound Biblical teaching. Regrettably, out there some missions and Bible translators with all their 'linguistic caliber' are now promoting some deviated strategies so to make the gospel for Muslims 'Islamic friendly', thus replacing 'Father' with Allah and 'Son of God' with 'the Messiah of God' and elsewhere with 'beloved of God'.

Such a methodology saw its beginning in the 1980's when both Christians and converts from Islam in South Asia and Africa were encouraged to call their place of worship as 'Isa Masjid' (lit: Jesus mosque), and perform prayers like the Islamic obligatory prayers (including all the standing and bowing down on prayer rug). During that practice they were to read/recite passages of the Bible as well as from the Qur'an.

Nowadays the next generation of missionaries following their peers, have stepped on to the next level, encouraging believers to use words like Allah (God) and Wali (Protector), etc. replacing the term 'Father' and use 'Messiah of God' in place of 'Son of God'. They have come up with audio New Testaments and books with quotations from the Bible with all such alterations.

Is it possible to follow Christ and keep such an Islamic vocabulary? I am an ex-Muslim. If it was probable, I would have stayed behind and not gone into so much trouble with family, friends and community. Even wishy-washy Muslims know that Islam is not only a religion but a government and plays a significant part in their everyday life. And no wonder we hear slogans like: *Al-Islam, din, wa dawla* - Islam is religion and state together. Such a view is ignored by the liberal missionaries and in their training seminars they play to the tune that since the 'Islamic culture' does not accept God having a son, Christians should not mention that our Scripture has Jesus as the Son of God. To overcome the difficulty, some missions including Bible translators have funded projects to print books, produce audio-video media to that affect so to entice Muslims to follow Jesus (secretly – if sensing persecution) and even remain Muslims, still believing in Muhammad and the Qur'an and performing all the rituals.

Such a notion is totally ridiculous! Muslim's primary objection to 'Father' and Son and 'Son of God' is theological. The Qur'an gives a reason: 'How can God have a son when he has no wife no consort? (Sura 6:102). Through the centuries, Christians have been trying to remove this misunderstanding of the Qur'an, but still being honest with the Biblical passages. Yes, Christians do have difficulty explaining the relationship in full but this is not a justification to replace 'Father' or 'Son' in the text of the Scripture with other words, which they may think are more appropriate and acceptable. The misunderstanding must be explained in the footnotes leaving God's Word intact.

In the name of 'cultural rational' the Bible translator(s) seem to have lost their mind. Imagine this. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, he said, 'When you pray, say 'Father hallowed be your name ...' (Luke 11:2). Now this is presented by the Muslim Friendly Gospel translator as, 'Our loving heavenly Lord ...'. This tactic of replacement is not just a linguistic matter but an assault at the heart of Biblical understanding of God as 'Our Father'. Among many

two other examples are: Luke 9:35 '... This is my Son, my Chosen one...' is translated as 'This is the beloved Messiah'. Luke 22:70 '... Are you the Son of God then?' is translated as 'Then are you the Messiah of God?'

Their so-called 'cultural Rational' is even against Biblical Rational. For example we see in Acts 15:19-20, where the gentile background believers were given four restrictions to show clear separation from previous 'religious' practices. According to Romans 10:9-17, a believer must confess Jesus as Lord – not just the Messiah of Allah. The position of Jesus is as John 5:23 states, 'Whoever does not honor the Son, does not honor the Father who sent him.' In other words a believer has to give the same reverence and rank to Jesus which he gives to God. The new trend in outreach to Muslims has watered down that level. Elsewhere in the Bible, we are told that believers should not participate in the worship of other Christ-denying gods (2 Cor 6:14-17). The God of the Qur'an denies the whole plan of redemption through Jesus when it states Jesus was not killed or crucified (Sura 4:157).

By Islamicizing the Word of God, these missions and their counterpart missionaries are doing a great disservice. Have they considered how Muslims would feel when they find out that the translations presented to them are nothing but a lie? It will certainly cause Muslims to lose their trust in the Bible. Have they considered what Revelation 22:18-19? Their actions seem to claim that they know better than Jesus and claim to do better for converts. By using these new trends, they claim to win more converts for Jesus. They ignore the fact that they are making the so-called Muslim debaters' argument stronger, giving them evidence that Christians have corrupted their Bible and that to trap Muslims, Christians have now deceitfully translated the Bible in a 'Muslim friendly' tone.

We condemn Muslims for following the doctrine of *Taqiyya* and *Kitman* (a doctrine that a Muslim can lie for the sake of a better and beneficial godly result). Now here we are seeing some of the 'Christian missionaries' using an Islamic trapping and a method which is not Biblical.

Please, be warned that although outreach methods like *C5 contextualization*, *Muslim Idiom Translation of the Bible*, *Common Ground*, *Word Movement*, and *Jesus in the Qur'an* training seminars and 'the insider movement' were initially introduced to draw Muslims and Christians together, but all such strategies have crossed the boundaries of sound Biblical teaching.

Please pray with us that these 'missionary friends' will move towards a Biblical stance on missions. Also pray for those Muslims who have come to know Jesus in a superficial way and that they will accept God as our Father and Jesus as the unique Son of God, who shares his inheritance with believers because being adopted as the children of God (Galatians 3:26; John 1:13).

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

Funds in total received:

December 2011: \$ 13,872.00

January 2012: \$05,229.00

Praise God! We exceeded our monthly goal in December. We pray for this continued consistency in spite of the economic crisis.

Outreach to Muslims is vital in light of the "times" we are in today and although our monthly need is \$12,800, we trust in HIM to continue to provide and pray that all those called to support this ministry will heed His call. Praise God for His provision for His work.

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### **Prayer and Praise points**

- That Muslims will listen to Jesus and be not confused by liberal Christians
- We praise Him for Continuous Support for the ministry
- We praise Him for helping Muslim background believers willing to be grounded in Biblical doctrines and live accordingly.
- For the resources available to teach and share the Gospel
- Financial support is needed for billboards, the 'safe house' (The Comfort Project) and printing of our new resources
- Vehicle needed
- Urgent - Admin help and websites expertise.

*Please call Karen if God is calling you to help*  
*954-290-0511*