

The Unique Son-ship

Some Muslims try to reinterpret the concept of son-ship rather than deny it. They quote references from the Bible where other people are addressed as sons. They use these examples to show that the expression, Son of God, when spoken by Jesus about Himself or by others, meant no more in his case than its application to others in the Scripture. The Muslim writer Ahmad Deedat, for example, quotes several texts from the Bible in his booklet, *Christ in Islam*, to show that the expression, Son of God, 'was a metaphorical descriptive term commonly used among the Jews.' To conclude his argument, he adds that in the Bible, 'God has sons by the ton' (page 28, Durban: Islamic Propagation Center, 2001).

It's crucial to note that Jesus' claim of being the Son of God is not in the same sense as that of all true believers. His unique Sonship is implied in numerous instances. For instance, he declared, 'All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is, except the Father, or who the Father is, except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him' (Luke 10:22).

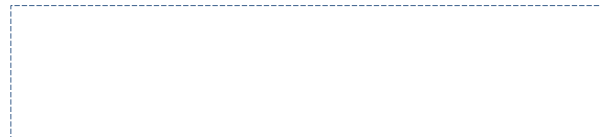
Jesus said everyone should honor him as the Son of God, even as they honor the Father. "The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may

honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him" (John 5:22-23).

Furthermore, the divine testimony to Jesus' Son-ship is unequivocal. God the Father bore witness to Him: "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). The overwhelming witness of Scripture to Jesus' unique Son-ship cannot be ignored. God spoke through Jesus, not only as a prophet but as His Son, through whom He made all things (Hebrews 1:3). We affirm the trinitarian nature of God: there is only one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As an Arab Christian would say, "Bismil-ab wal-ibn war-ruhi-l-quddus, Allahu Wahid!" As an Arab Christian would say, "Bismil-ab wal-ibn war-ruhi-l-quddus, Allahu Wahid!" or, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God." Amen.

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Published by:

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Who is God?





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Both Muslims and Christians acknowledge that God sent Jesus as the promised Messiah. They affirm that Jesus is God's Word and Spirit - *Kalimatuhu wa Ruhun-minhu* (Sura 4:171; John 1:1, 18). However, many Muslim friends see Christians as committing *shirk* by associating a partner with God, calling Jesus the Son of God. In their view, such a belief is blasphemy.

In their discussions, Muslims often quote the Qur'anic verses, 'How can He have a son when He hath no consort?' and that God 'has taken neither a wife nor a son' (Sura 6:101; 72:3). They accuse Christians of believing that God is 'the third of three' and warn: "Say not Three . . . For Allah is one God" (Sura 4:171). Some in the light of the Qur'an state that Allah will ask Jesus at the end of time: "Didst thou say unto men: 'Take me and my mother for two gods beside Allah?' Jesus will reply, "Never said I to them aught except what thou didst command me: 'Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord?'" (Sura 5:116, 117).

These passages show that what the Qur'an condemns is not the Trinity that Christians believe. The Qur'an denounces a Trinity that is God, Son, and Mary (Maryam). Similarly, when the Qur'an objects to the Sonship, it asks: 'How can God have a son when he has no wife and no consort?'

Bible-believing Christians are horrified as this suggests that they believe that God had a wife, and as a result, Jesus was born. Christians have never held this as truth. The Bible does not say that God took a wife and then had a son, Jesus. Nor does it present the idea of a Trinity comprised of the Father, the Mother, and the Son. Jesus never said that His mother was to be taken as God. That is total blasphemy.

The Qur'an does not reject Jesus as the "Son of God" in the biblical sense but denies a false aspect that Christians also condemn. The phrase "Son of God" is never used in the Bible in the carnal human sense.

Allahu akbar – God is greater

God is greater than the limits we place upon Him. For us to create the belief that Jesus was the Son of God would indeed be the utmost blasphemy, but if Al-Masih is the excellent means by which God chose to disclose Himself to the people of this earth, who are we to tell God that He can't do things this way?

The Word of God

What Christians believe is that God has manifested Himself in Jesus. Christians believe Jesus the *Kallimatu'llah* is God's revelation in the same way Muslims esteem the Qur'an as the eternal word of God. The Qur'an confirms that

God did something extraordinary in sending Jesus, His Word, into this world. According to the Bible, the eternal Word of God was made flesh and lived on earth as Jesus. Why did God do such a thing? The Bible says, 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself' (2 Corinthians 5: 19). Let's be clear here that the Scriptures do not call a mere man God but states that God, in absolute sovereignty and power, revealed Himself through His living Word in human form. 'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation... For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things ...' (Colossians 1:15, 19-20a).

He has Revealed Himself.

The Bible states that God spoke in the past through His prophets and now through Jesus, His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2). God, the Al-Batin 'hidden', became az-Zaher 'manifest' in Christ (John 1:18). Like the prophets Moses and Elijah, many people wanted to know God but only had a verbal encounter with Him. In Jesus, we see the whole possibility of knowing God. It is not merely a message about God but full communion with Him. No wonder Jesus said, 'He who has seen me, has seen the Father' (John 14: 9). That is as the Scriptures say: 'In Christ, all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form' (Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3a).

