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Religious History



Practicesand Rituals



Who is God?



Salvation and Paradise



Holy Scriptures



Role of Women



Prophets

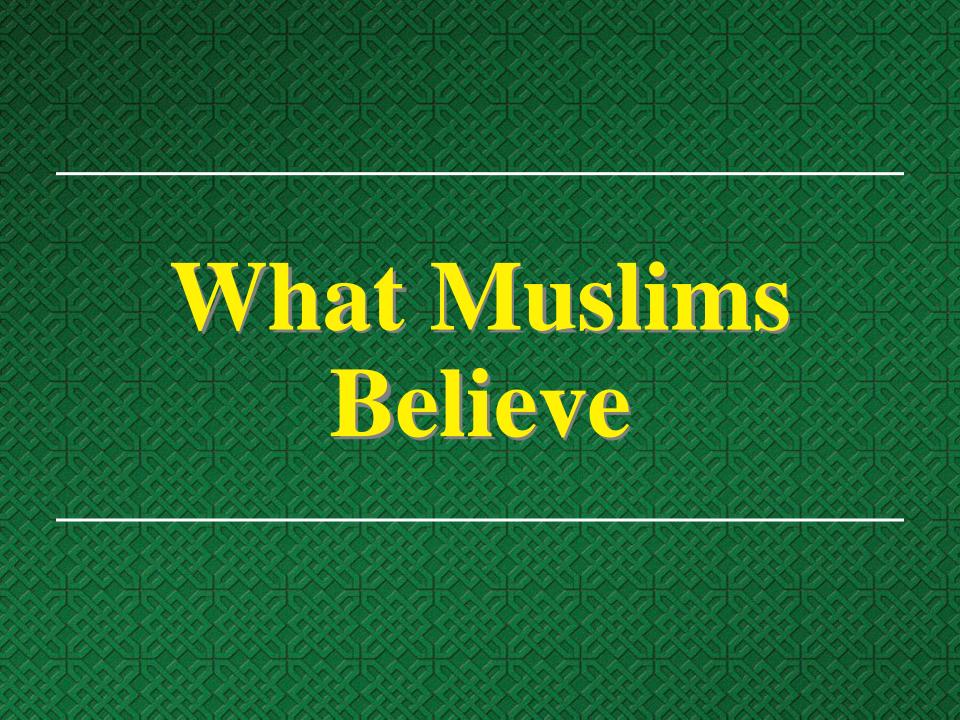


Religion and Culture

Select from any option above









What Muslims Believe

Islam, the Original Religion

- ❖ Muslims believe that Islam (meaning "submission to Allah") is the original religion since the creation of Adam, the first prophet.
- Since the beginning of time, all people who submit to Allah are called Muslims.
- Over the centuries, Allah appointed thousands of prophets to warn and guide mankind.





What Muslims Believe

Islam, the Original Religion

- Prominent among them were:
 - * Ebrahim
 - **♦**Musa
 - **❖** <u>Dawud</u>
 - **❖**Isa Al Masih



Quran: Surah 3: Ayah 66:





What Muslims Believe

Sura [3] Aal-'Imran: 🔣 🚺 aya 🕞 🔁







مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ يَهُودِيًّا وَلا نصر انِيًّا وَلَكِن كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُّسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِن المشركين

Ouran.nu

Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian. but he was a true Muslim Hanifa (Islamic Monotheism - to worship none but Allah Alone) and he was not of polytheists.

Shakir

Ibrahim was not a Jew nor a Christian but he was (an) upright (man), a Muslim, and he was not one of the polytheists.

Pickthall

Abraham was not a Jew, nor yet a Christian; but he was an upright man who had surrendered (to Allah), and he was not of the idolaters.

Yusuf Ali

Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian; but he was true in Faith, and bowed his will to Allah.s (Which is Islam), and he joined not gods with Allah.

Quran: Surah 3: Ayah 66:

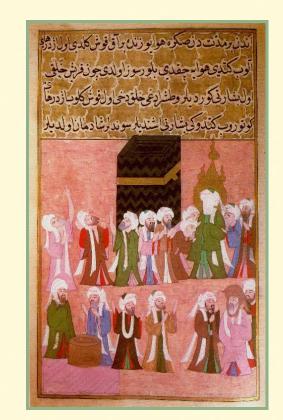




What Muslims Believe

Muhammad, the Final Prophet

- Mankind habitually strayed from the way of Allah revealed through the prophets.
- About AD 610 in Arabia, Allah sent the last prophet,
 Muhammad, who united the
 Arab tribes and turned them
 from idolatry to Islam.



Muhammad at the Kaba Osman (1595)



What Muslims Believe

The Spread of Islam

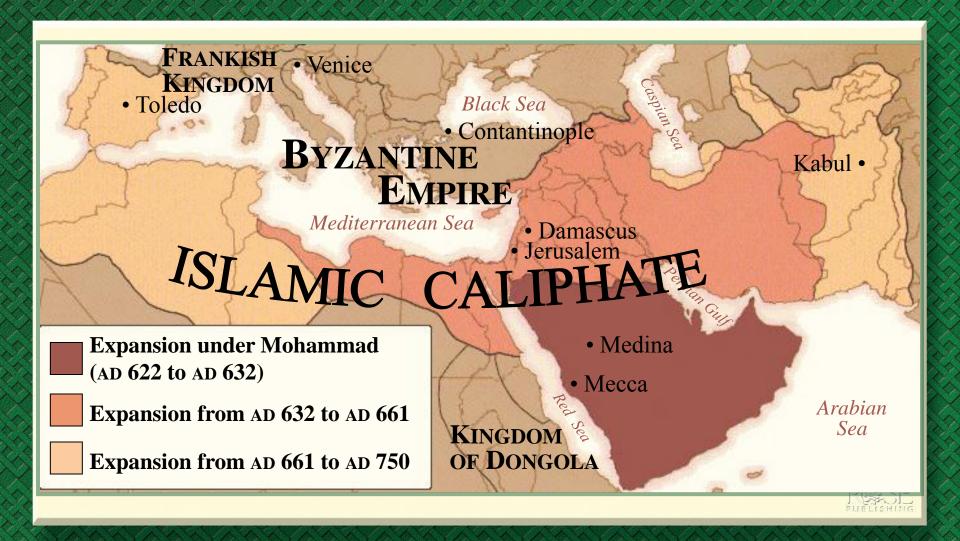
*After the death of Muhammad in AD 632, Sunni Islam rapidly spread from Arabia under the leadership of the first four "rightly guided" rulers (caliphs) who were close companions of Muhammad.



The Death of Muhammad (1595)



What Muslims Believe





What Muslims Believe

The Spread of Islam

- *Shia Islam began to rapidly spread through the teachings of "infallible" Imans from the bloodline of Muhammad.
- To Muslims, the military and economic expansion of Islam liberated people suffering under the harsh and corrupt Byzantine and Persian Empires.



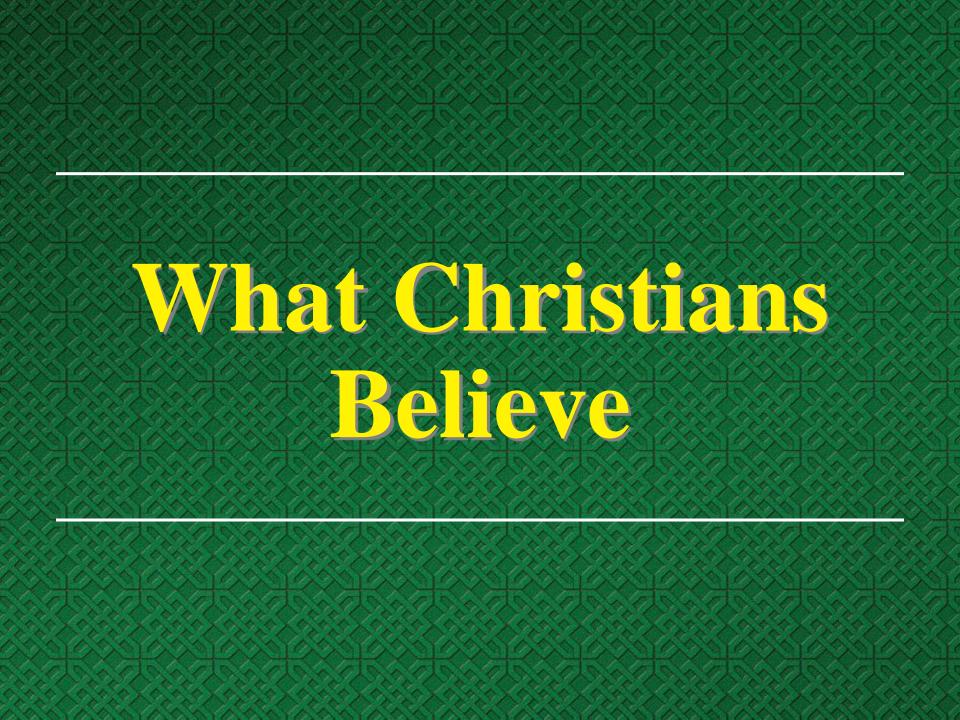


What Muslims Believe

The Ending of the Era of Conquest

- Conquests transitioned to internal struggles.
- *The Shia–Sunni split divided the Muslims.
- Shia (meaning "party" of Ali) followed only a blood relative of Muhammad.
- Sunni (meaning "path") followed the tradition of choosing caliphs by consensus.





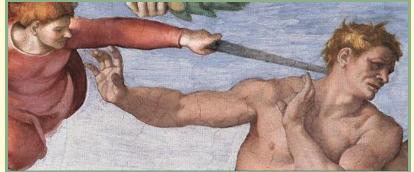


What Christians Believe

Adam and Jesus

Christians trace their religious history back to Adam, who brought the curse of sin upon all mankind. (Genesis 1-3)

❖ Jesus is called the second Adam, who came to remove this curse of sin. (Romans 5)



The Fall and Expulsion from Garden of Eden (detail)
Michelangelo (1509-10)



What Christians Believe

Abraham and Jesus

- God's plan unfolded carefully over history.
- Abraham was promised the blessing to carry out God's eternal purposes.
- ❖ He was blessed so he could be a blessing to all the families of the earth. (Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3)

The Sacrifice of Abraham, Rembrandt (1635)





What Christians Believe

Abraham and Jesus

- ❖ Jesus is the promised seed of Eve who would crush the head of Satan (*Shaytan* in Arabic—Genesis 3:15).
- ❖ Jesus will bring the blessing of the "Good News" (*Injil* in Arabic).

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

—Genesis 3:15

ROSE



What Christians Believe

The Victory of Jesus

- A great war has been raging throughout the Creation, a struggle in which Satan has twisted all good things—even religion—into weapons to discredit God.
- The decisive battle of this war was won on the cross when Jesus destroyed Satan's power and overcame the curse of sin.

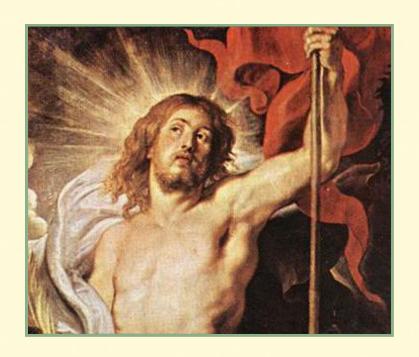




What Christians Believe

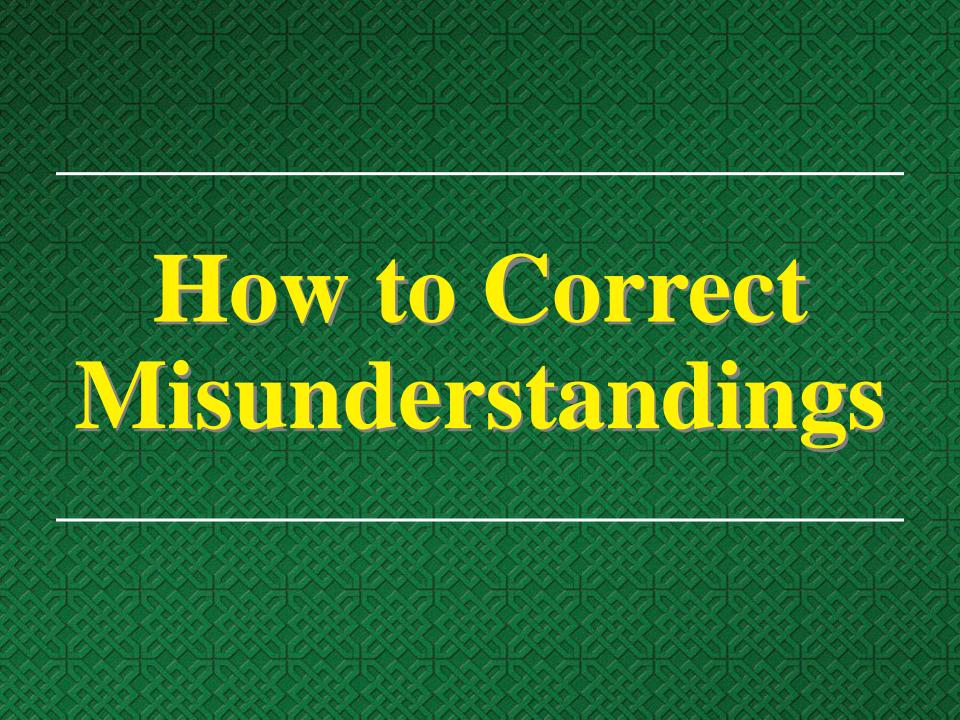
The Victory of Jesus

- Jesus conquered death.
- With the authority won by rising from the dead, Jesus offers eternal life to mankind.



The Resurrection of Christ Rubens (c. 1612)







How to Correct Misunderstandings

Both Sides have Distorted History

- Religious history between Christians and Muslims is covered with blood and war, much like all of human history.
- God's name has been used by both sides to justify murder and mayhem.
- Several key events in history continue to affect the perceptions of Christians and Muslims.





How to Correct Misunderstandings

Misunderstandings Surround such Events:

- ❖ The Islamic Conquest (AD 600 to 800s)
- The Crusades
 (AD 1000 to 1200s)
- ❖ The founding of the state of Israel in 1948



David Ben Gurion
(First Prime Minister of Israel)
publicly pronouncing the
Declaration of the State of Israel,
May 14, 1948





How to Correct Misunderstandings

The Misunderstandings Intensify:

- The attack on the World Trade Center (September 11, 2001)
- The Gulf Wars of 1991 and 2003



World Trade Center Memorial Lights

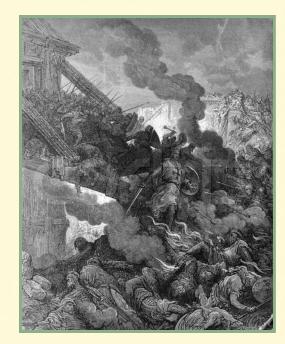




How to Correct Misunderstandings

Correcting the Misunderstandings

- Historians have pointed out that these "holy wars" were more about economics than faith.
- *Yet economic struggle cannot explain the intense hatred, cruelty and malicious evil of a Crusader, a Nazi, or a suicide bomber.



The Crusades



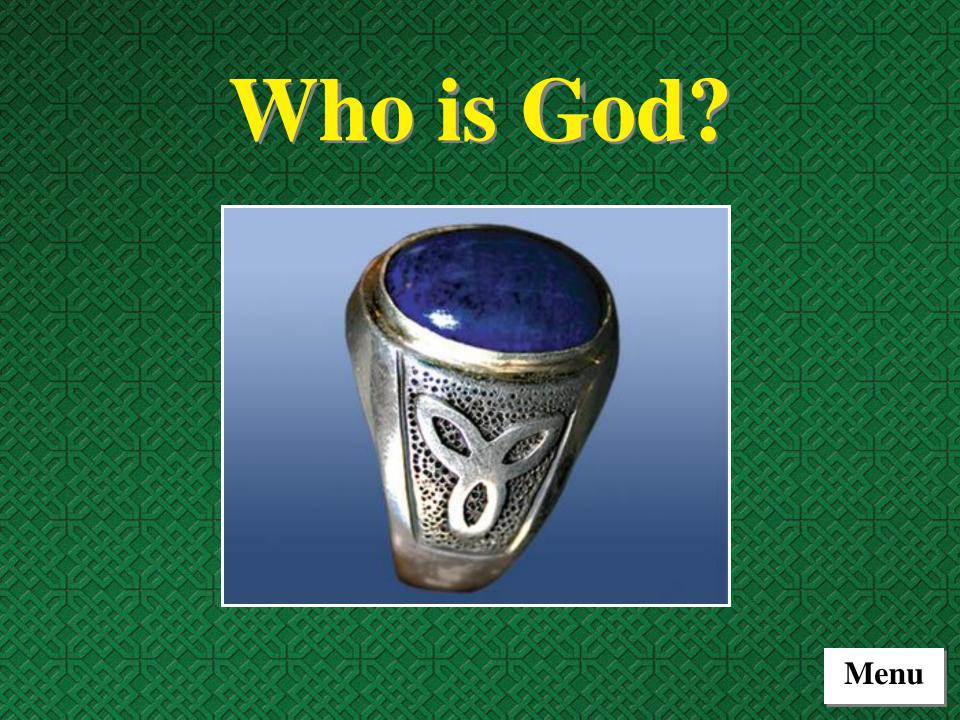


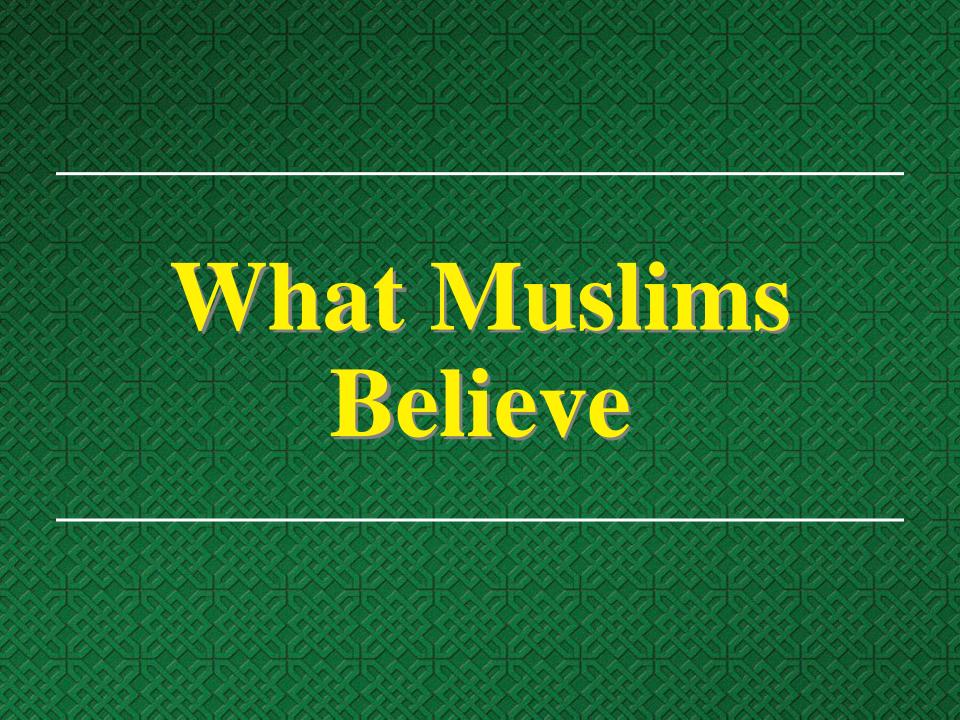
How to Correct Misunderstandings

Find Common Ground

- ❖ Behind these horrors is a deeper spiritual war and a vindictive enemy, namely, Satan.
- ❖By recognizing our common enemy, Christians and Muslims can be partners in fighting evil.









What Muslims Believe

Allah is One

- The absolute Oneness of Allah is primary to Muslims.
- The greatest sin is to associate any partner with Him.
- **❖** This sin is called *shirk*.







What Muslims Believe

Allah is One

- Muhammad's message advocating one God was courageous because idolatry was the established religion of Arabia.
- Muhammad challenged this system and finally prevailed with the message of monotheism.
- ❖Islam is rooted in this commitment to the belief in one God.





What Muslims Believe

Allah Cannot be Compared

- *Allah is transcendent and cannot be compared to humans or any other created thing.
- Allah's character and attributes are revealed through His 99 Arabic names, the two most common being "The Merciful" and "The Compassionate."





What Muslims Believe

Allah Cannot be Compared

- Allah is never described in Islam by using human family terms such as "father" or "son."
- ❖In the Quran he reveals his will for mankind to obey, not his person for mankind to relate with and know.



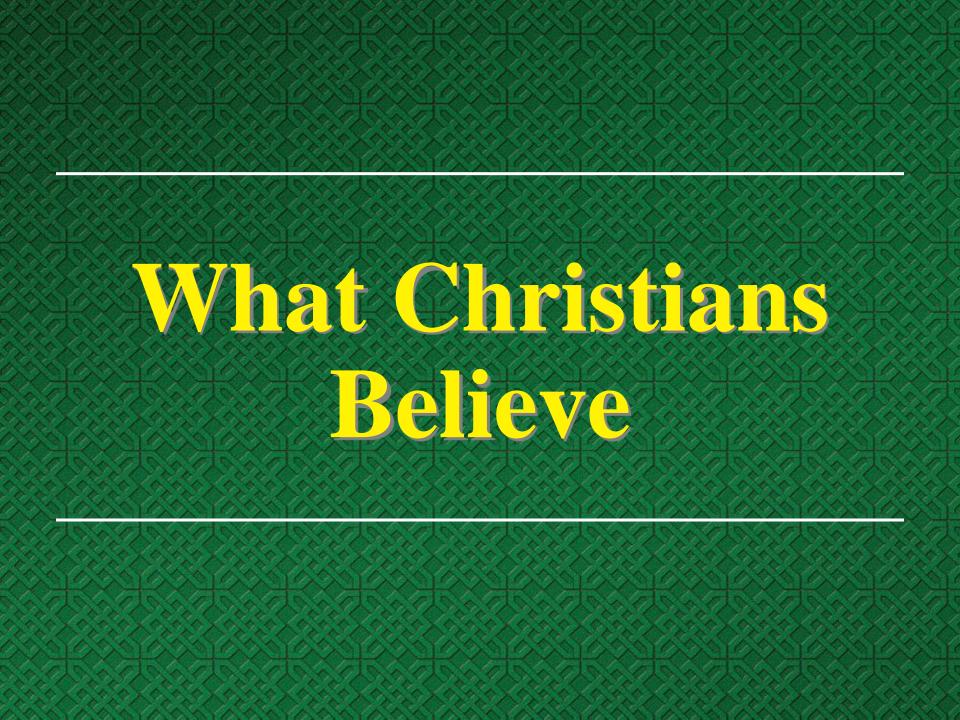


What Muslims Believe

Allah's Ultimate Attribute: His Will

- Allah creates and sustains all life, spiritual and material; his will is absolute and cannot be questioned by his creation.
- He is our final judge without a mediator.
- ❖ The best chance on Judgment Day is for those who live lives of righteousness and submission to Allah's will—<u>Insha Allah</u> (God willing).







What Christians Believe

God: A Unity, not a Unit

- The Bible teaches that God is One, but He is a complex unity, not just a simple unit.
- He is completely unique, a personal God who existed in relationship from eternity.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

—Deuteronomy 6:4





What Christians Believe

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit

- Scriptures reveal God as the ultimate Father, in name, character, and person, but always as the Creator, never with sexual references.
- ❖God also reveals Himself as the Eternal Word, who became flesh when the Holy Spirit overshadowed the Virgin Mary and conceived Jesus, the Messiah, who is also called the Son of God in the Bible. ■



What Christians Believe

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit

- In His teaching, Jesus further reveals God the Holy Spirit, who was sent by the Father and Himself.
- The Bible presents a mystery of three persons revealed as one God.
- *Although the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible, the term captures Bible truths about God.

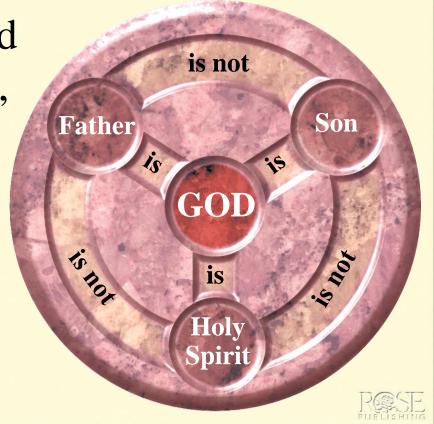




What Christians Believe

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit

- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are God, not just three parts of God or three names for the same person.
- God reveals Himself as a Tri-Unity.





What Christians Believe

God's Ultimate Attribute: His Love

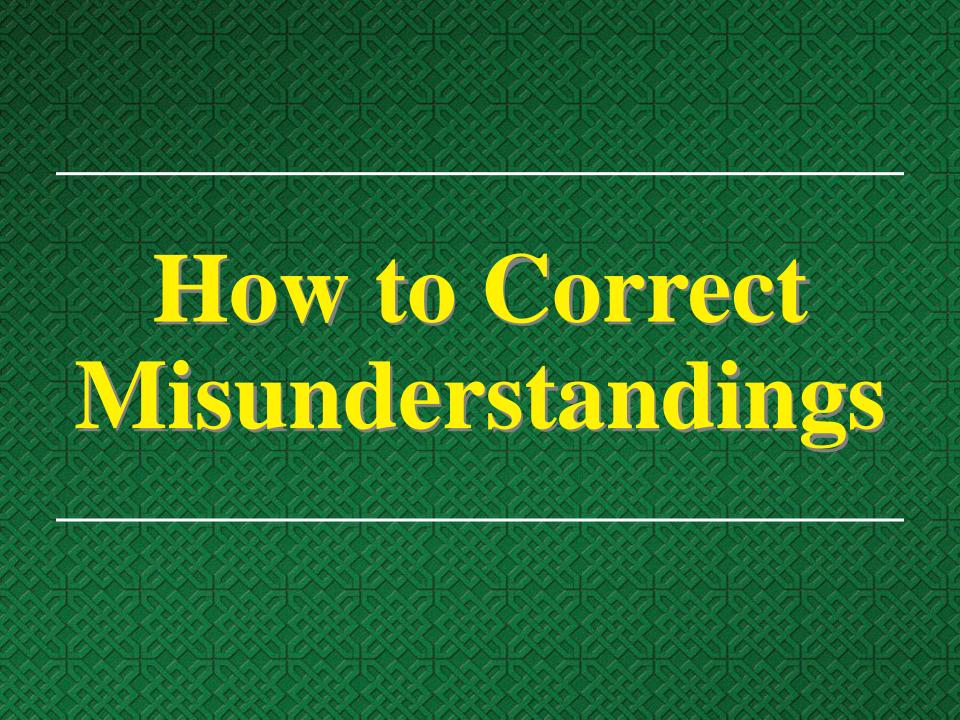
- ❖ The Bible says, "God is Love" (1 John 4:8).
- This love existed from eternity as the Father loved the Son before the foundation of the world.

God so loved the world that He gave His Son....

—John 3:16

- God's love is expressed through creation.
- God does not simply choose to love;
 His Love chooses to act.







How to Correct Misunderstandings

The False Trinity

- Most Muslims consider Christians to be polytheists (people who believe in many gods) because of the Trinity.
- A common misunderstanding of the Trinity is that a Father God had sex with a Mother God (Mary) to produce their "Son of God."

 No Christian believes this false idea.





How to Correct Misunderstandings

The True Belief is Still Misunderstood

- Educated Muslims understand this false "Father-Mother-Son" Trinity is not a Christians belief, but they still do not understand how the math can show God's unity.
- ❖To them it is simple: 1+1+1=3; Father + Son + Holy Spirit = Three Gods.
- *This is not what Christians believe.





How to Correct Misunderstandings

Correcting the Math

❖Rather than use an analogy of adding units (1+1+1=3), the Trinity has been explained as multiplied wholeness (1x1x1=1).

The Son is the "Word of God"

The Bible says Jesus is the eternal "Word of God" revealed in flesh through the virgin birth.





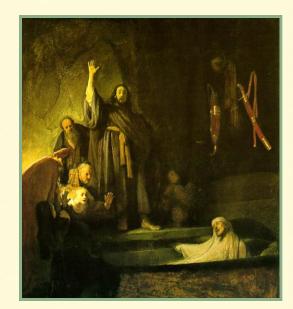
How to Correct Misunderstandings

Isa Al Masih is Highly Honored in Quran

The Quran sets apart <u>Isa</u> as the "Word of God"

and "Spirit of God" and affirms his virgin birth and miracles, even raising the dead.

Muslims also believe in the Second Coming of Isa, because the "day of his return" is mentioned in the Quran.



The Raising of Lazarus
Rembrandt (c. 1630)

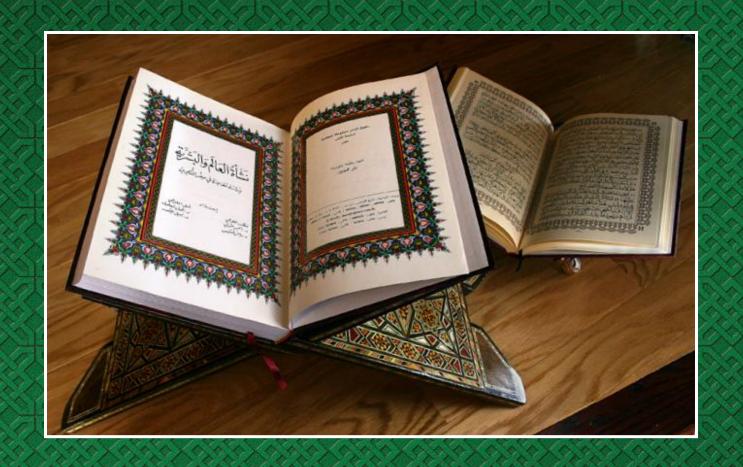


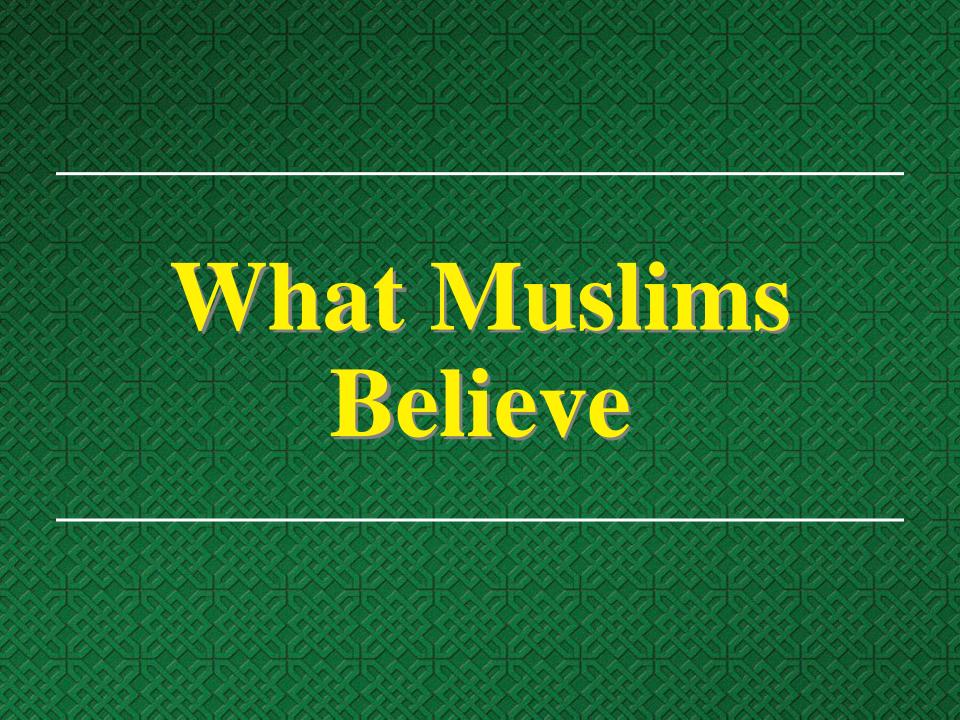
How to Correct Misunderstandings

Correcting the Misunderstandings

- Muslims like to point out how the Quran honors Isa Al Masih.
- *Yet such positive references to Isa in the Quran are few compared to the complete story of Isa preserved by God in the Injil.
- Can Christians and Muslims learn from each other's stories and teaching of Isa?









What Muslims Believe

The Only Trustworthy Scripture

According to Muslims, there is only one trustworthy Holy Scripture, the Quran.

Illustrated folio from a Quran, 16th century





What Muslims Believe

Other Books Sent by Allah

- Many prophets before Muhammad were also given <u>Allah's</u> Word, among them:
 - ❖ Musa given the Taurat
 - ❖ <u>Dawud</u> given the <u>Zabur</u>
 - **❖** *Isa* given the *Injil*



David dictating the Psalms (c.1200)



What Muslims Believe

Did Allah Allow His Holy Books to Change?

- Most Muslims are taught that Jews and Christians changed and corrupted the previous Holy Books.
- Therefore, Allah appointed Muhammad to receive the Quran in order to correct this corruption.



Arabic translations of the Injil (Gospel of Luke) and Taurat (Genesis)





What Muslims Believe

How Muhammad Received the Quran

- ❖In AD 610, Allah sent the angel Gabriel to Muhammad in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- *Over the next 22 years
 Gabriel revealed
 suras (chapters) to
 Muhammad with the
 command to recite
 them to others.



Angel Gabriel speaking to Muhammad, c. 1500



What Muslims Believe

How Muslims Preserved the Quran

- Shortly after Muhammad's death in AD 632 his followers gathered the suras into the Quran.
- The third caliph, Uthman, had scholars compile an official Quran and had all other variant texts burned.



Folio from Quran Surah 5, verses 12-13

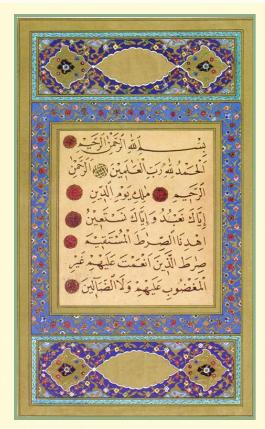




What Muslims Believe

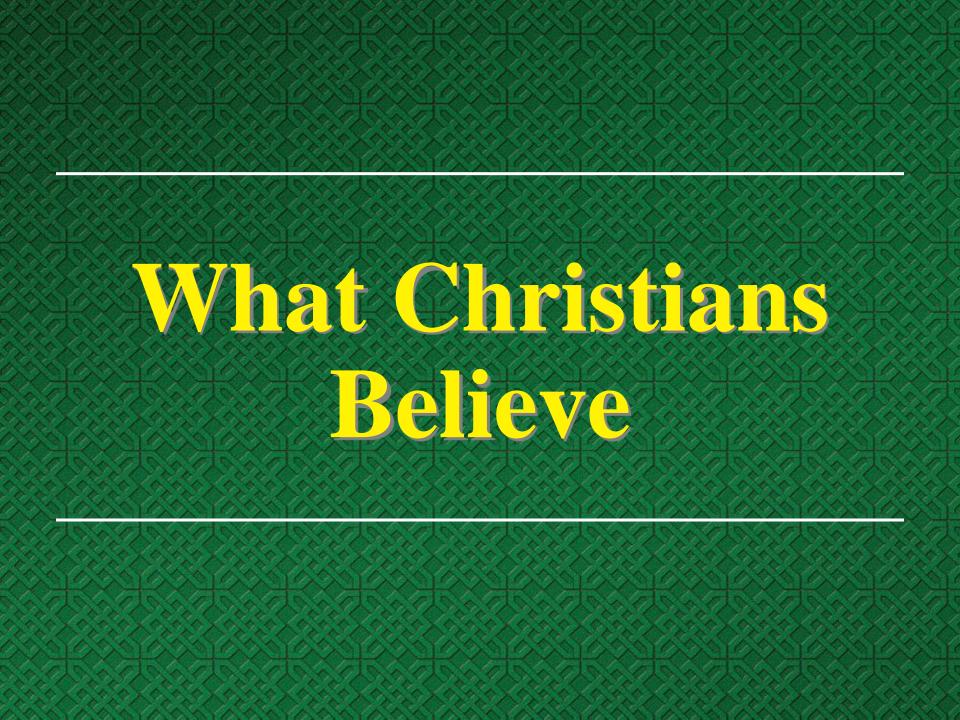
The Quran Today

- The Quran is considered divine in its original Arabic form.
- Muslims memorize and recite it only in Arabic.
- Translations are often called "interpretations."



The First Surah



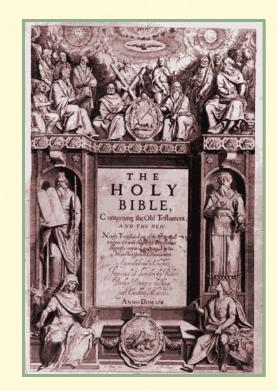




What Christians Believe

The Bible is God's Word

- Followers of Jesus believe the Bible is the authoritative, inspired word of God.
- The Bible is composed of 66 different books, transmitted through at least 40 prophets, apostles, and holy men.



Frontispiece to the King James Bible (1611)



What Christians Believe

The Old Testament from the Jews

- The first 39 books, written before the coming of
 - Christ, are called the Old Testament.
- The Old Testament was written over many centuries by various authors in diverse cultures using the Hebrew and Aramaic languages.



Hebrew Manuscript





What Christians Believe

The New Testament Written in Greek

- The remaining 27 books after Christ are called the New Testament.
- They were written in Greek, the dominant language of the first century.

EMBYL GWHLYL DEWMYNA HCORY!

FHRYL GWHLYL DEWMYNA HCORY!

WI ALECA A Les olled kylnichrinichrinic

WLY HINYLY YOAKE ZENYHERIMOYY

WLY HIN CHARLE

WLY HIN CHARLE

WLY HIN CHARLE

WLY HIN CHARL

WLY HIN CHA

Greek Manuscript (2 Corinthians 11:33–12:9)





What Christians Believe

The New Testament Contains:

- Collections of eyewitness reports of the life and teachings of Jesus.
- A history of Jesus' disciples over the next 50 years.
- *Letters from His apostles.
- A vision of the end times called the "Revelation."





What Christians Believe

The Bible: Inspired by God's Spirit

- *Over centuries God "breathed" (inspired) His Word using humans as his instruments.
- Therefore the Bible uses different languages and reflects diverse cultures such as:
 - Abraham's nomadic lifestyle.
 - The royal court of King David.
 - *The Roman occupation of Palestine.



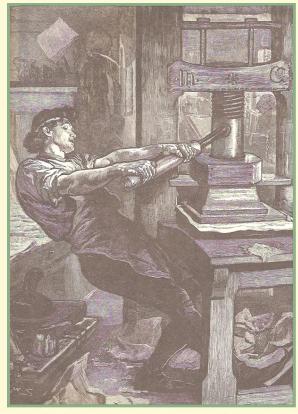


What Christians Believe

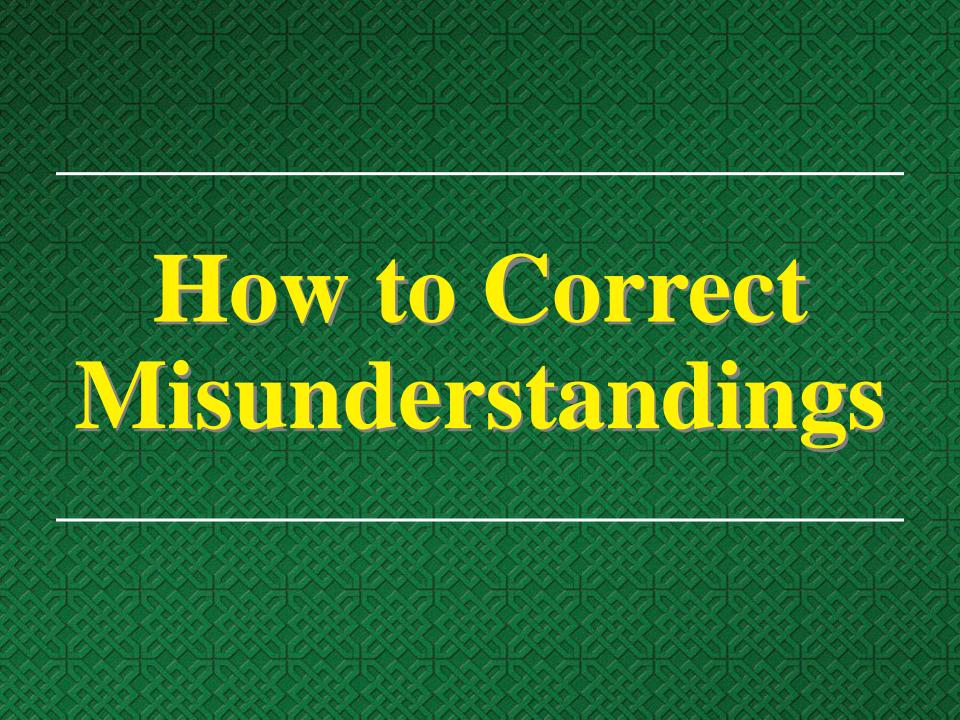
The Bible: Unity in Diversity

God designed a book of beautiful human diversity interwoven with divine unity.

The Bible was the first book to be printed in human history.
The Gutenberg press, 1455









How to Correct Misunderstandings

Why Many Muslims Avoid the Bible

- Muslims feel sorry that Christians follow a corrupted book.
- Even among Western-educated Muslims, the great diversity of Bible versions and translations adds to their belief that the Bible is corrupted.





How to Correct Misunderstandings

The Quran Honors all Holy Books

- The accusation that the Bible had been corrupted came centuries after Muhammad, at a time when some Muslim scholars thought they found contradictions between the Quran and the Bible.
- ❖ Yet the Quran points to the Bible as truth over 120 times and twice admonishes Muslims to "go to the people of the Book."





How to Correct Misunderstandings

Scientific Textual Evidence for the Bible

- Ancient Bible manuscripts are more numerous and better preserved than the writings of Plato and Aristotle.
- Archeological discoveries (like the Dead Sea Scrolls) confirm the textual reliability of the Bible.



Plato and Aristotle

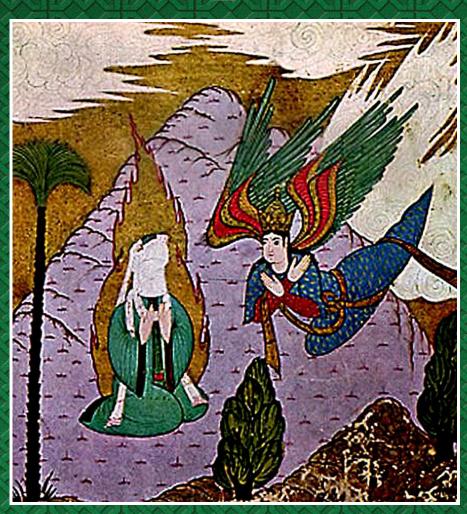


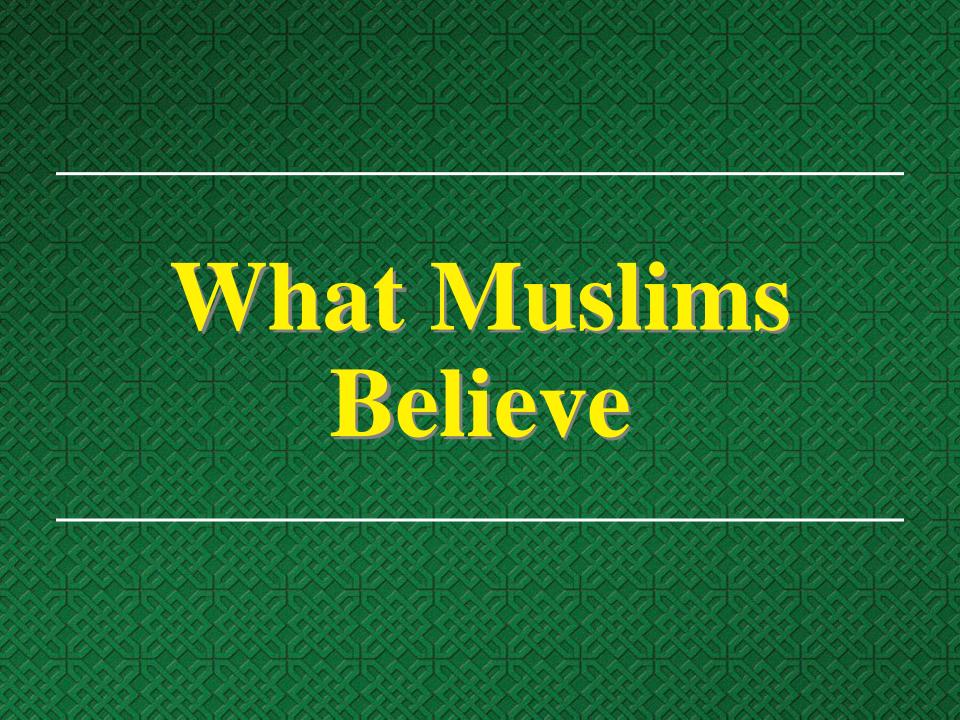
How to Correct Misunderstandings

God's Word and His Reputation

- To a Muslim, it is impossible to think that any man could corrupt the actual Word of God, and thereby be greater than God.
- ❖By His reputation God is committed to protect His Word. (Psalm 138:2)
- ❖For Muslims, the best defense of the Bible's integrity is God's nature, power, and reputation.





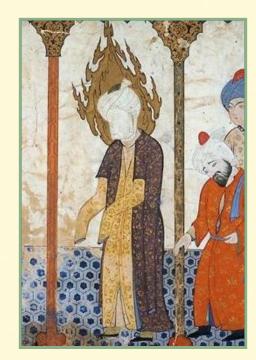




What Muslims Believe

Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets

- ❖To Muslims, the Prophet Muhammad, known as the "seal of the prophets," is the last of over 124,000 prophets going back to Adam.
- His name means "praised one," and he is commended by Allah in the Quran.



The Prophet Muhammad in a Mosque (1500)



What Muslims Believe

Muhammad, from Reformer to Refugee

- Mecca was a center of idol worship in AD 610 when Muhammad first challenged the people to forsake idolatry and embrace Islam.
- Most Meccans rejected his message and many began to persecute the early Muslims, causing them to flee to the town of Medina in AD 622. (This flight, known as the *hijara*, marks the first year on the Islamic lunar calendar.)



What Muslims Believe

Muhammad, from Refugee to Conqueror

- Muhammad was welcomed by the Arabs of Medina.
- From Medina, through battles and diplomacy, Islam spread back to Mecca and to other Arab tribes before Muhammad died.







What Muslims Believe

Muhammad, the Perfect Example to Follow

- Muslims try to follow Muhammad's example known as his <u>sunna</u>, or his way, in every detail possible.
- Everything is prescribed, from ritual washings before prayer to hygienic practices in the bathroom.

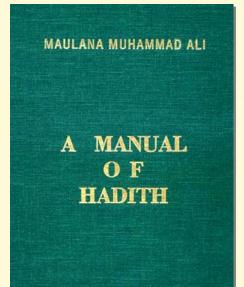




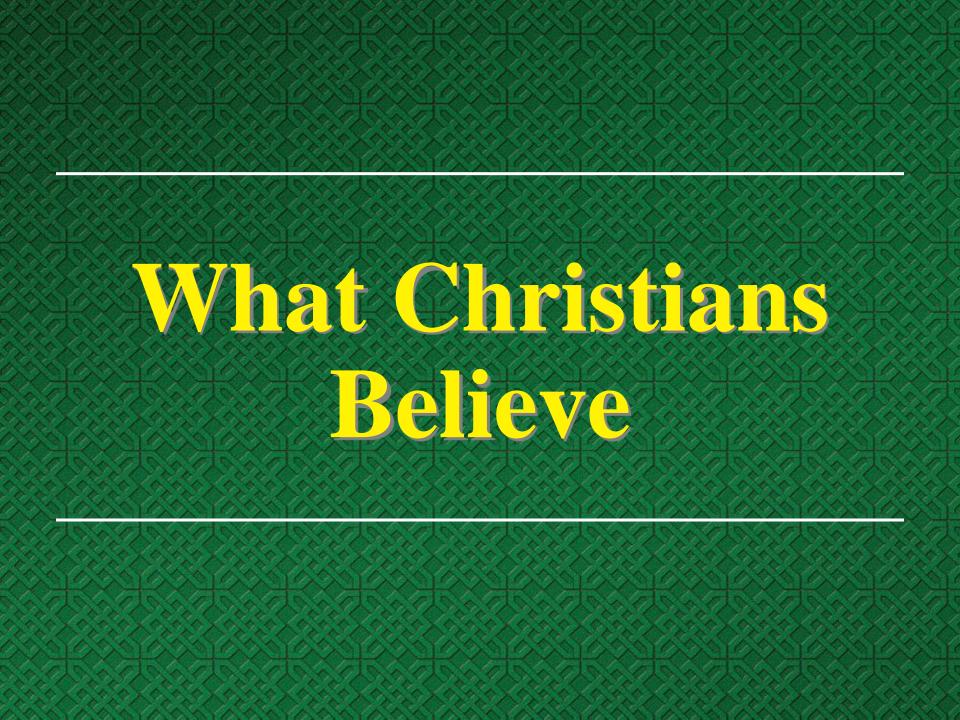
What Muslims Believe

Muhammad, the Perfect Example to Follow

Such detailed behavior is known through large collections of *hadith*, accounts of Muhammad's life, words, and behavior passed on by his early followers.





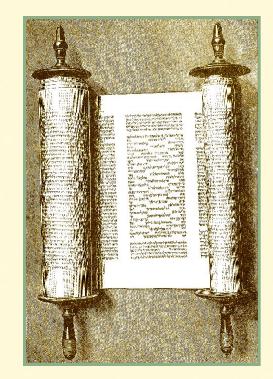




What Christians Believe

Old Testament Prophecy

- New Testament writers proclaimed Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law of Moses (Taurat) and the predictions of prophets.
- These prophets are quoted in the New Testament.



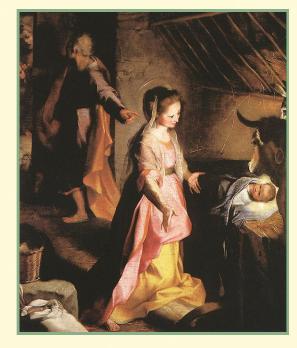
Law of Moses (Taurat)



What Christians Believe

Isa Fulfills Prophet's Predictions

- Matthew quotes numerous prophets concerning:
 - ❖ Jesus' birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
 - ❖ Jesus' mother being a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
 - The killing of baby boys by King Herod (Jeremiah 31:15)



The Nativity
Federico Barocci (1597)



What Christians Believe

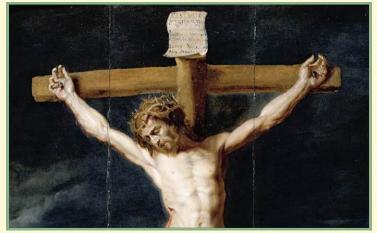
Prophecy Fulfilled in Great Detail

The prophets also detail the suffering, death,

and resurrection of Jesus.

(Isaiah 53; Psalm 16:8-11)

The Bible points out that God carefully planned and carried out the details of the coming of Jesus in history. (Luke 24:27; Acts 3:18)



Christ on the Cross Jan van Beockhorst (c. 1640)



What Christians Believe

Christ's Warning About False Teachers

- The Bible contains numerous warnings about false teachers and prophets.
- ❖ Jesus predicts the end times will be full of these. (Matthew 24: 11)
- ❖Therefore, every teaching must be judged against the truth already revealed in the Bible.





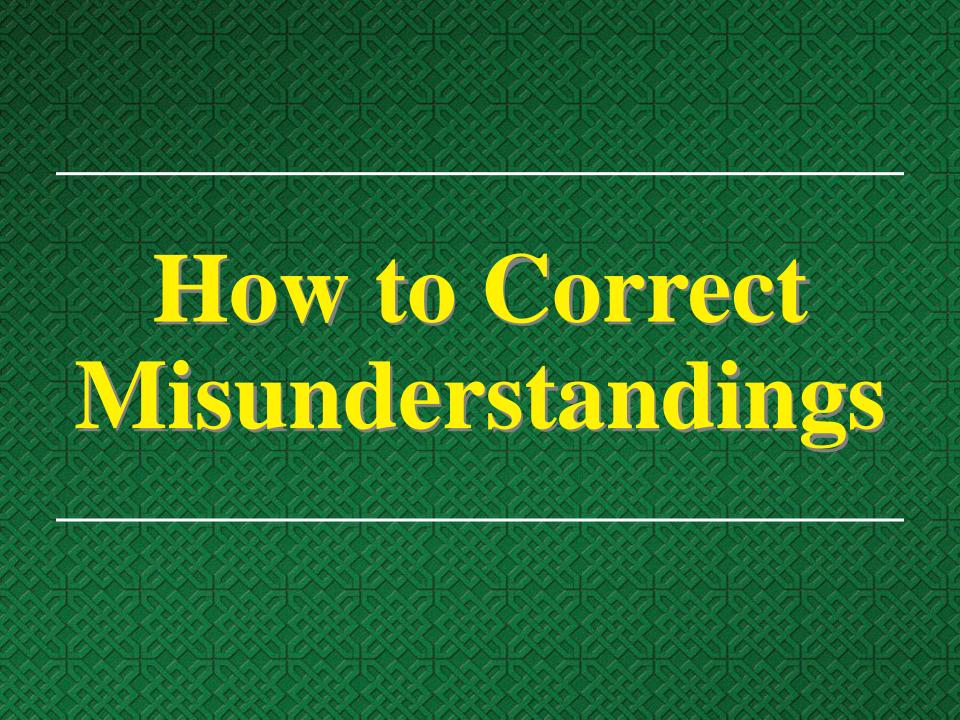
What Christians Believe

Christ's Warning About False Teachers

❖ Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit ("The Spirit of Truth") would guide truth seekers into all truth. (John 14–16)



The dove is used in Scripture as a symbol of the Holy Spirit





How to Correct Misunderstandings

Do Not Try to Insult Muhammad

- Much of Muslim culture and behavior is determined by imitating Muhammad.
- To insult Muhammad is to attack a Muslim's entire life and culture.
- ❖It is better to find common ground in the life and teachings of Muhammad.





How to Correct Misunderstandings

Common Ground with Prophets

- Muhammad has much in common with Old Testament prophets.
- Like David and Solomon, he was a political and military leader with multiple wives.



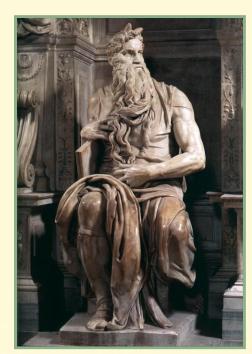
The Queen of Sheba Kneeling before King Solomon, Johann Tischbein



How to Correct Misunderstandings

Muhammad and Old Testament Prophets

- Like Moses and Joshua, Muhammad united tribes and led them in battle.
- Like Elijah, Muhammad destroyed idols and confronted the corrupt political and economic powers of his day.



Moses
Michelangelo (1515)



How to Correct Misunderstandings

Muhammad Honors Jesus

- Whereas Old Testament prophets looked forward to the coming Messiah, Muhammad looked back with respect and admiration to Jesus as the Messiah.
- ❖The Quran calls *Isa Al Masih* (Jesus) "God's word" and a "Spirit from Him." (Surah 4:171)
- ❖It affirms His virgin birth and special role in the end times.



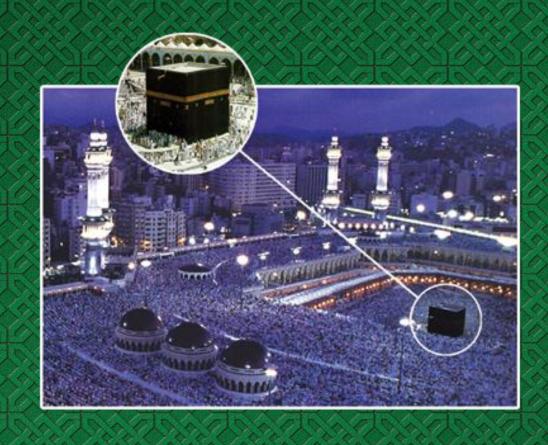


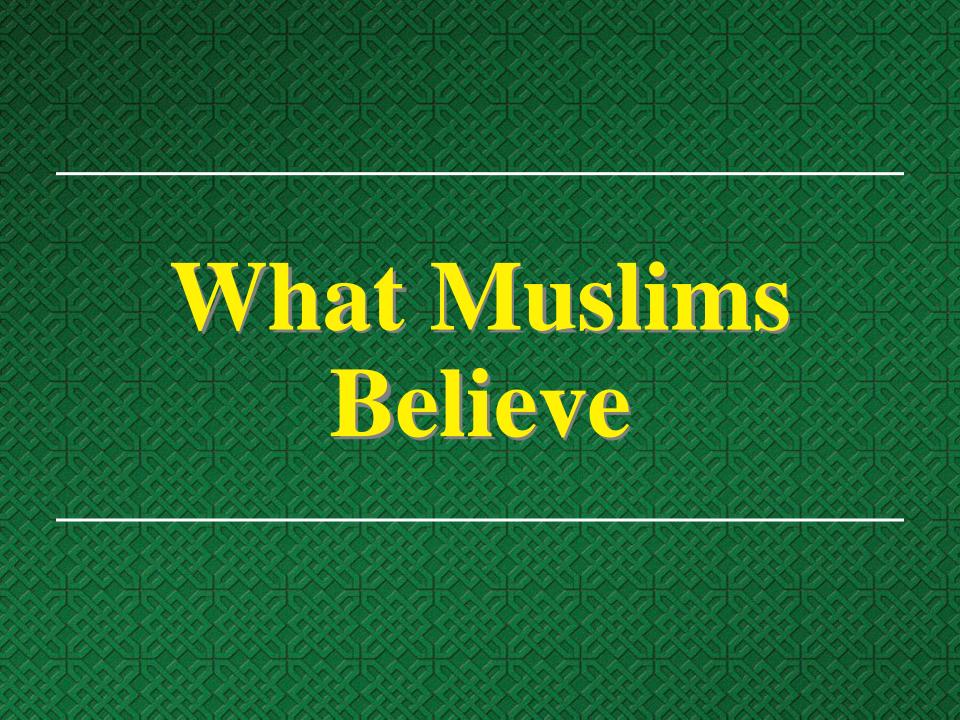
How to Correct Misunderstandings

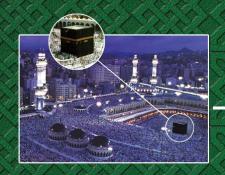
Correcting the Misunderstandings

- ❖Followers of Jesus do not have to deny or embrace Muhammad in order to exalt the Messiah.
- ❖It is more important to lift up Jesus by sharing the good news and personal testimonies, than to tear down Muhammad.









What Muslims Believe

The Five Pillars

- The ritual practices of Islam are the pillars of their religious system.
- The objective is to follow Muhammad's pattern (his exact words, motions, and timing) found in the *sunna* as they accomplish the pillars.
- ❖Beliefs are important, but the substance of Islam is the accomplishment of the five pillars.





What Muslims Believe

The First Pillar: Confession (Shahada)

- *Shahada is a public statement said in Arabic which means: "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet."
- ❖Making this confession is the first step in becoming a <u>Muslim</u>.
- **❖**Islam requires that everyone say this confession in Arabic.





What Muslims Believe

The Second Pillar: Prayer (Salat)

- *Salat is a set ritual to be done five specific times every day (sometimes combined in three sessions).
- Prayers are memorized in Arabic, with ritual washings before each sequence.





What Muslims Believe

The Second Pillar: Prayer (Salat) continued

- The head must be covered.
- The body must be pointed in the direction of Mecca.
- The motions and prostrations must be followed for the prayers to be valid.







What Muslims Believe

The Third Pillar: Fasting (Sawm)

- *Sawm is an annual community event for all Muslims (except children, pregnant women, and travelers).
- The fast lasts the entire lunar month known as Ramadan, and involves abstinence from all food, water, and sex during daylight hours.





What Muslims Believe

The Third Pillar: Fasting (Sawm) continued

- ❖ A special meal (*iftar*) is served at sunset when the daily fast ends.
- Everyone is awakened before sunrise to eat and drink to prepare them for the daylight fasting.
- In Muslim-dominated countries there is often a shift to a more nocturnal schedule with more sleep during the daytime and feasting at night.





What Muslims Believe

The Third Pillar: Fasting (Sawm) continued

- Nighttime can be very festive and social during Ramadan, in contrast to the slower daytime.
- Many Muslims gather together for the recitation of the Quran every evening of Ramadan.
- There is an important three-day holiday (*Eid Al Fitr*) following Ramadan.





What Muslims Believe

The Fourth Pillar: Giving of Alms (Zakat)

- *Zakat is obligatory annual giving of 2.5% of a Muslim's wealth, primarily to the poor.
- ❖ There are rules for determining the basis of wealth and how *zakat* is given.
- Some Muslim governments have a *zakat* tax.





What Muslims Believe

The Fifth Pillar: Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)

- *Hajj is to be carried out at least once in a
 - lifetime, providing a Muslim can afford it.
- Uniformity is enforced in the manner of dressing—in a white garment—to shaving the head (for the men).





What Muslims Believe

The Fifth Pillar: Pilgrimage (Hajj) continued

- The objective is to copy the patterns set by Muhammad and do all the various rituals as he did them.
- The *Hajj* rituals promise Muslims multiplied credits as well as help in removing the weight of sins in preparation for Judgment Day.





What Muslims Believe

Jihad: A Sixth Pillar?

- Some Muslims would include a sixth pillar, Holy Struggle (*Jihad*).
- This struggle could be internal (a struggle in the soul to do the right thing) or external (an effort against the enemies of Islam).
- The interpretation of *jihad* can determine the difference between moderate and radical Muslims.



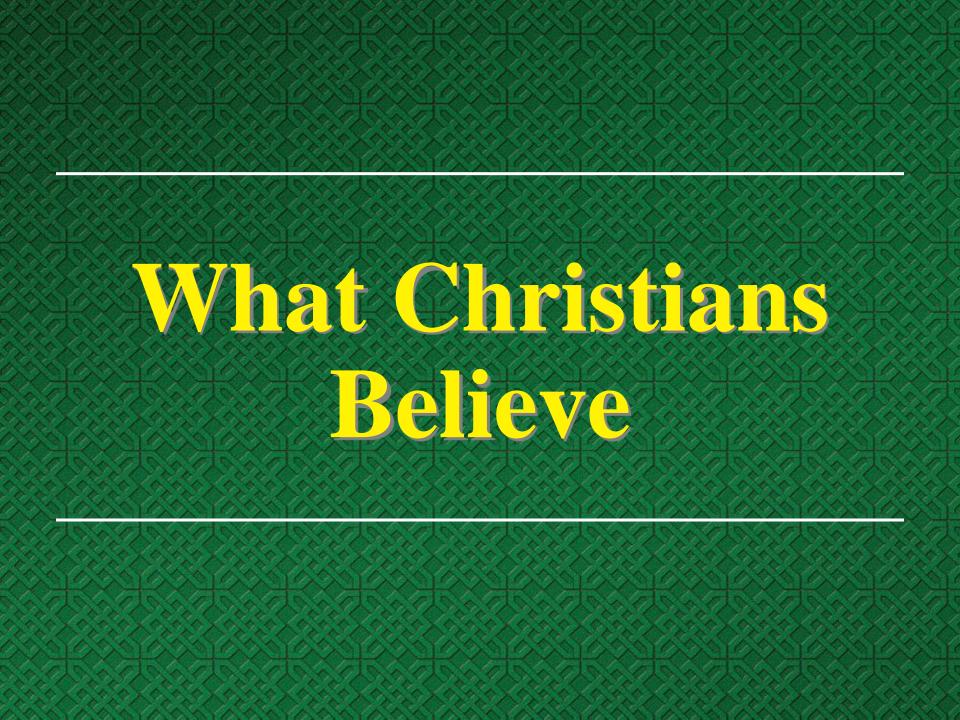


What Muslims Believe

Judgment Day

- Belief in the nature of the final Judgment Day motivates Muslims to faithfully accomplish these pillars.
- ❖In the Quran, these practices are of great importance.







What Christians Believe

The Gift of Salvation

- The Bible teaches that salvation is a gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ (Isa Al Masih).
- There are no rituals or practices that anyone can do in order to get right with God. (Ephesians 2: 8, 9)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

—Ephesians 2:8, 9





What Christians Believe

Why Jesus' Followers Obey Him

- Even though no one can be saved by good works, followers of Jesus serve him, imitate him, and do what he commanded because they are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Jesus said, "If you love me you will keep my commands, and my commands are not burdensome" (John 14:15). He gave seven specific commands.



What Christians Believe

Jesus' Seven Commands

- Repent and believe (a turn of heart)
- Love God and others (greatest command)
- Pray (as a lifestyle, from the heart)
- Celebrate the Lord's Supper (remember Jesus)
- ❖Be baptized (with water)
- Give (with a joyful heart)
- Make disciples (among all peoples)





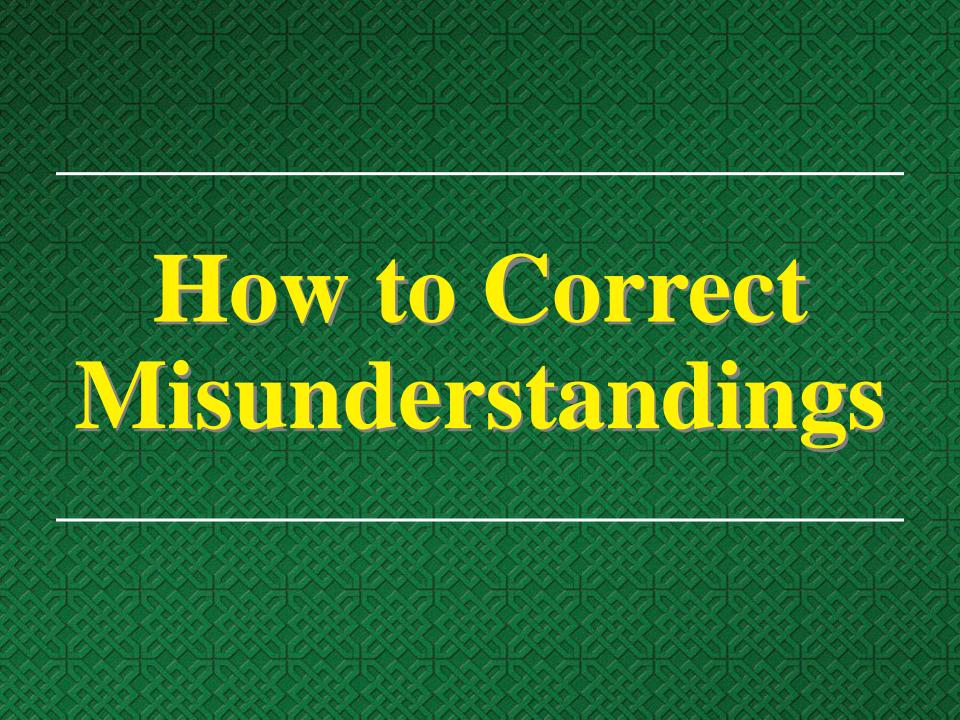
What Christians Believe

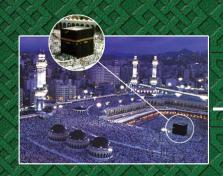
Jesus' Seven Commands

- Making disciples involves:
 - Worship
 - Fellowship
 - Prayer
 - Studying Scripture
 - Sharing the good news



❖ Jesus said that his disciples would be recognized by their love for one another. (John 13:35) ■ Pes





How to Correct Misunderstandings

Symbols Can Be Confusing

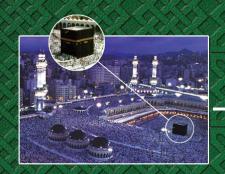
- *A Muslim can be confused by Christian symbols and rituals, such as the cross (considered a military symbol to Muslims) and the Lord's Supper when using wine (alcohol is prohibited in Islam).
- Christians are confused by some Muslim rituals as well.



How to Correct Misunderstandings

Discover the Correct Meanings

- If Christians and Muslims can communicate and completely understand the meaning behind these symbols and rituals, meaningful relationships can be built and truth-sharing can take place.



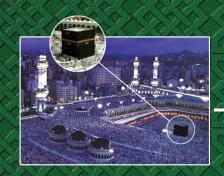
How to Correct Misunderstandings

The Need for a Consistent Lifestyle

- The "Sermon on the Mount" challenges all followers of Jesus to live a righteous lifestyle of humility and love.
- Unfortunately, today in Western culture, Christian practices such as prayer, fasting, and giving are not emphasized.



Sermon on the Mount Carl Bloch (c. 1890)



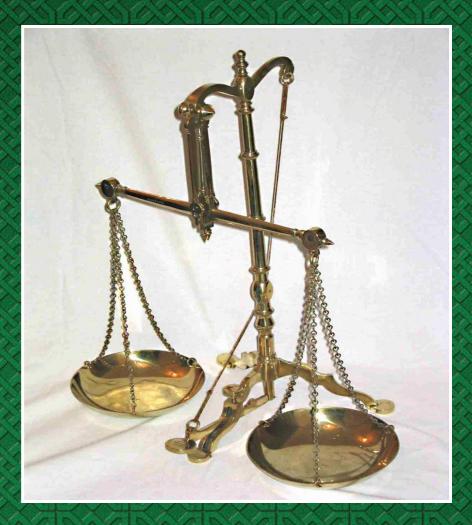
How to Correct Misunderstandings

Your Life Speaks Louder than Your Words

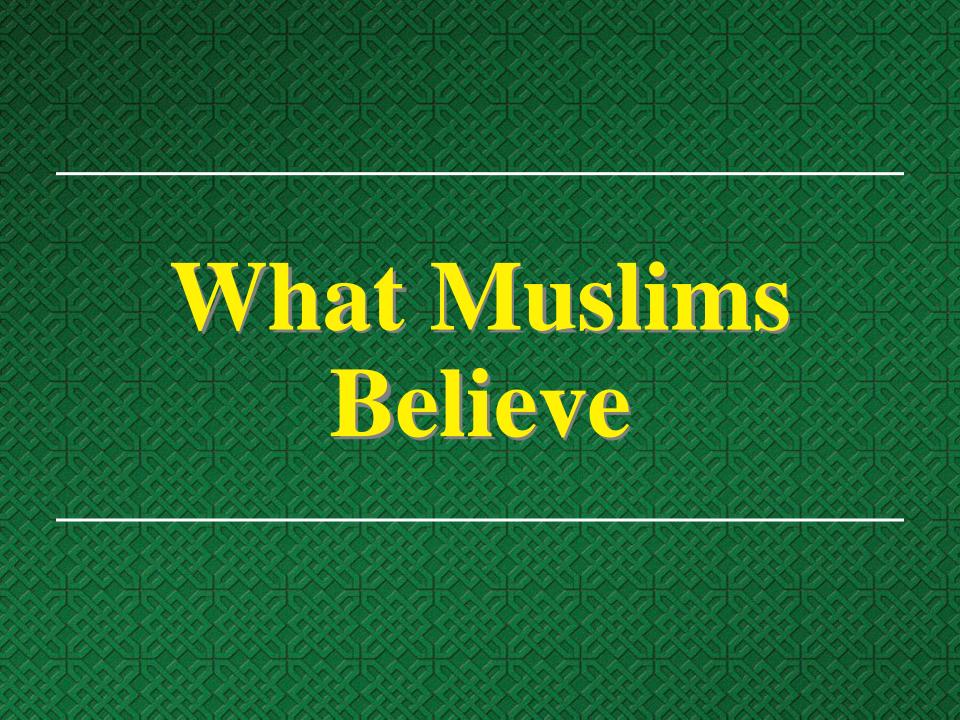
- Muslims need grace-motivated Christian friends who follow the disciplines of Jesus.
- Jesus calls his followers to pray as a lifestyle, frequently and effectively.
- By confronting evil and bringing healing, believers can introduce Christ to their Muslim friends.



Salvation and Paradise



Menu





What Muslims Believe

Reward and Penalty

- *The Quran says, "For those who reject Allah, there is a terrible penalty: but for those who believe and work righteous deeds, there is forgiveness and a magnificent reward" (Surah 35:7).
- This great reward is *janna*, a garden paradise, an eternal place of sensual and spiritual pleasures.





What Muslims Believe

No Savior, but Mercy Is Possible

- ❖In Islam, there is no savior.
- That is not to say salvation is impossible, for Allah is merciful and compassionate.
- ❖ He can always forgive—for Allah's will is supreme—but He is primarily the judge.
- There are many descriptive warnings about hellfire and punishment in the Quran.





What Muslims Believe

Judgment Day: Religious Deeds are Best Hope

- All men should fear Judgment Day, in which each person's deeds will be weighed on a scale.
- *"Recording angels" keep a list of every deed, both good and bad.
- ❖Islamic teachers assign credits to deeds related to the pillars of Islam; it is unthinkable for many <u>Muslims</u> to abandon their accumulation of credits and trust a Savior.

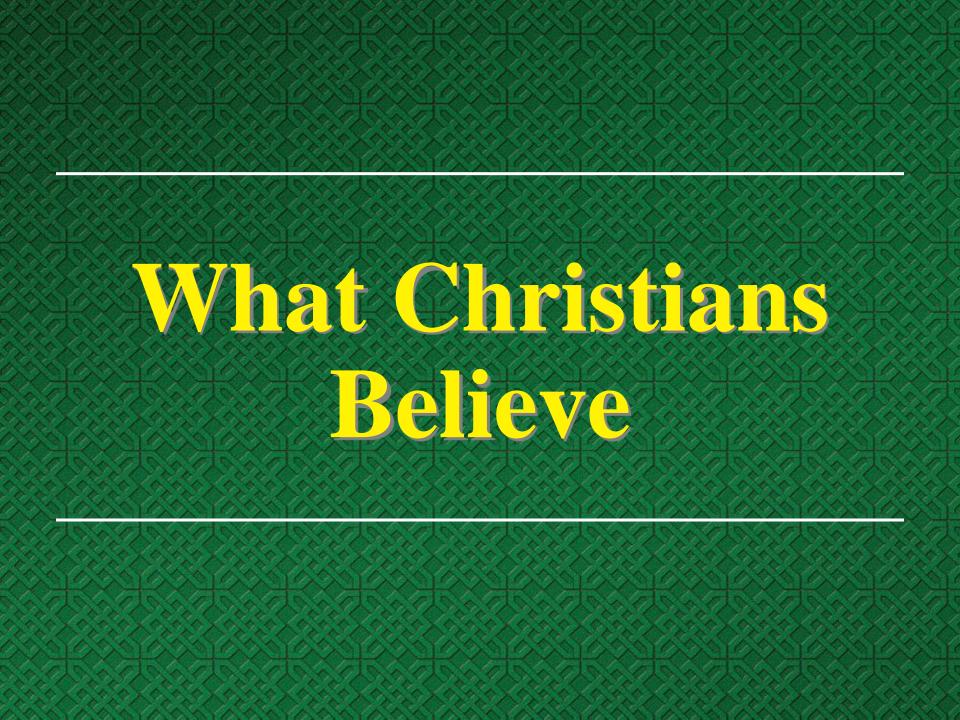


What Muslims Believe

Guarantee of Paradise?

- Muslim terrorists interpret the Quran to suggest that paradise is guaranteed for jihad martyrs.
- Most Muslim scholars and leaders reject the terrorists' definitions of *jihad* and martyrdom.







What Christians Believe

Judgment Day

Christians believe that after death, all people await the Final Judgment when both believers and unbelievers will be resurrected.



The Last Judgment Polyptych Weyden (1446-1452)



What Christians Believe

A Hope for the Day of Judgment

- All will be judged according to the deeds they have done, but believers will be saved because God removed the record that contained the charges against them.
- ❖He destroyed the record by nailing it to the cross of Jesus. (Colossians 2: 14)





What Christians Believe

Removal of Bad Deeds

Therefore Christ's sacrifice could remove the list of bad deeds kept by any Muslim's "recording angel."



Justice, Giotto





What Christians Believe

The Gift of Salvation Produces Humility

- Even if one's list of good deeds outweighed the list of bad deeds, it would not make one acceptable to God.
- The Bible says this would only cause boasting and pride, as though someone could impress God by good deeds. (Ephesians 2: 8-10)

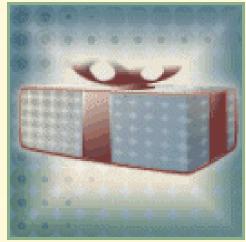




What Christians Believe

The Gift of Salvation Honors God

- ❖Instead God has credited us with the righteousness of Christ.
- Therefore, salvation is a gift, not earned by anyone (not even martyrs) but bought with a great price (Jesus' blood).







What Christians Believe

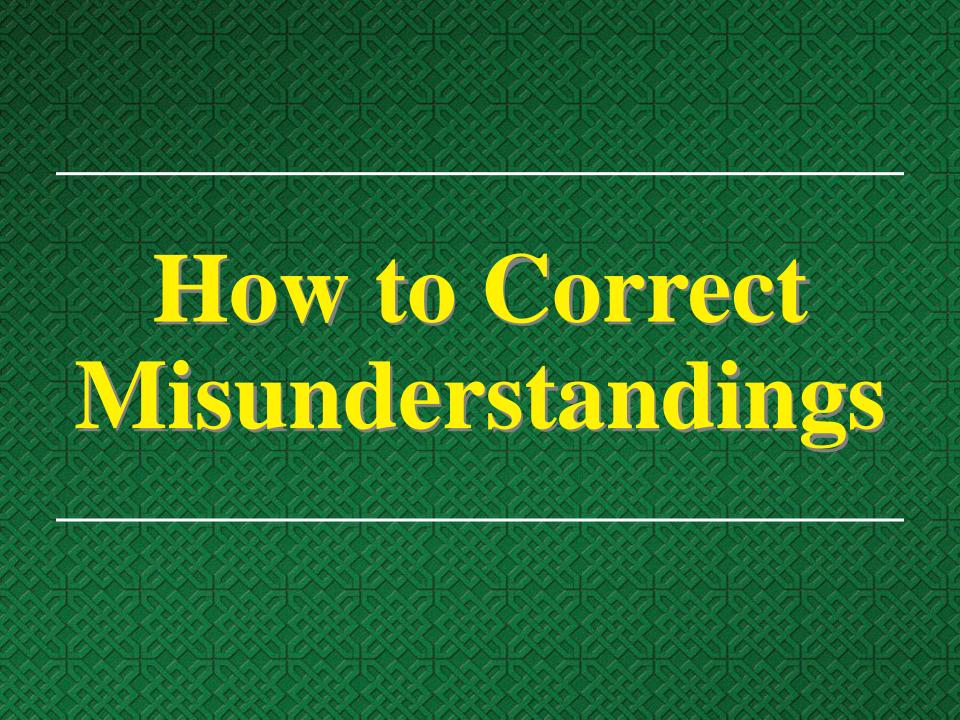
A Renewed Relationship With God

- In addition to this great gift, God the Father adopts those He saves into His family so they may live with Jesus in Heaven.
- *To be saved involves being "born again" into a new relationship with God. (John 3:5)

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

—John 3:5







How to Correct Misunderstandings

Child-like Faith is Needed

- Thinking about Allah as Abba-Father is difficult for some Muslims.
- Any negative view of the earthly father role will twist one's view of God.
- ❖In Western cultures, parenting trends err toward permissiveness (more love than discipline).





How to Correct Misunderstandings

God: Slavemaster or Father?

- ❖In the East, fathers tend to be negligent or authoritarian (more discipline than love).
- ❖God is a Father who shows both love and discipline.
- ❖He wants loving followers, not just slaves or spoiled children.

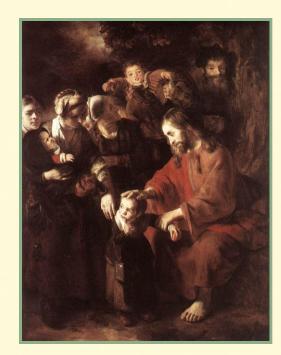




How to Correct Misunderstandings

Allah and Abba are One

- This view of fatherhood makes it easier to relate to God as Abba and to come to Him as a humble child, ready to be loved and disciplined.
- ❖ Jesus said one must enter God's kingdom as a little child.



Christ Blessing the Children Niolaes Maes (1652-53)



How to Correct Misunderstandings

A Vision of Heaven

The final book of the Bible describes the future scene of a huge family gathering with many from every tribe, tongue, people, and ethnic group gathered around the throne of God. (Revelation 5)





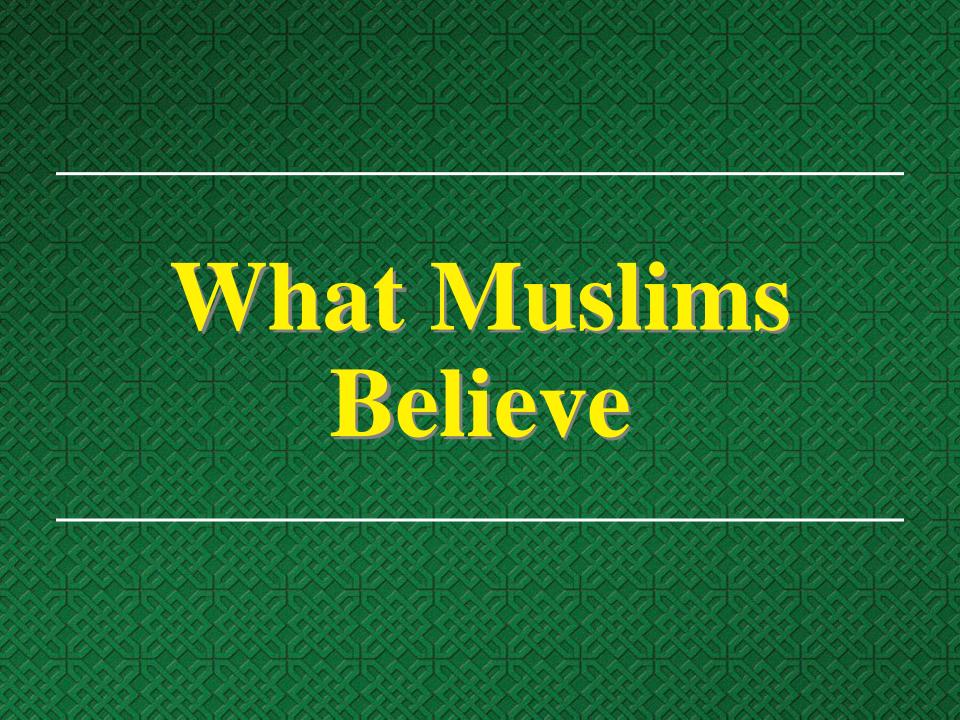
How to Correct Misunderstandings

The Lamb of God on the Throne of Heaven

- ❖Boasting of good deeds would be unthinkable, because Jesus, the Lamb of God, sits upon the throne.
- Everyone in this great crowd honors Jesus as his or her substitute sacrifice, just as God pictured beforehand when He provided a ram to die in place of Abraham's son. (Genesis 22)









What Muslims Believe

The Perspective of Muslim Women

- **❖** Muslim women generally consider themselves protected and satisfied within their culture.
- Their fulfilling social life is usually gender-separated and happens primarily within extended families and among some close neighbors.





What Muslims Believe

The Protection of Muslim Women

- Women are valued in Islam. In fact, Muhammad brought an end to the practice of female infanticide, widely practiced before his time.
- The honor of women is a major concern in Muslim societies.
- The reputation of the family is linked with the women.





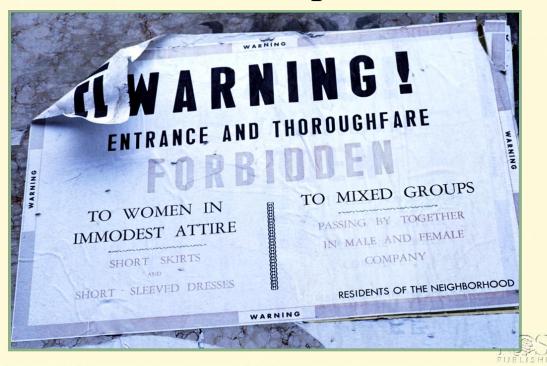
What Muslims Believe

The Protection of Muslim Women

❖Islam helps maintain roles and expectations

that predate Muhammad.

The modest dress code is to protect women.





What Muslims Believe

The Protection of Muslim Women

- ❖If seen without loose clothing or a veil, men might judge a woman based on her appearance or may try to abuse her.
- Muslim women do not need to wear a veil or loose clothes at home or when only women are present.



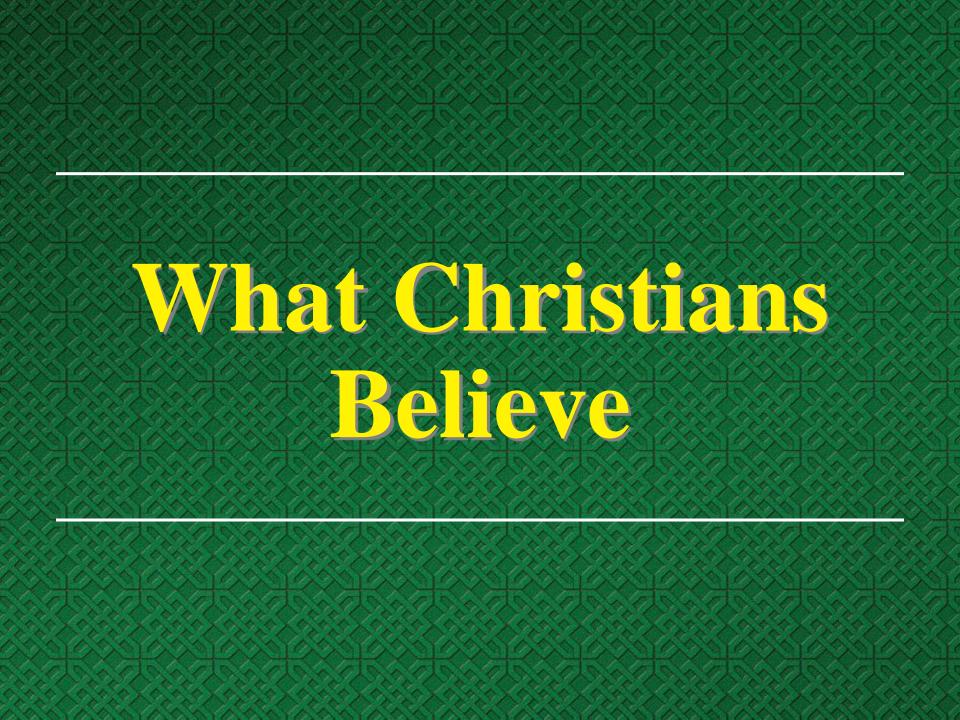


What Muslims Believe

Polygamy

- Since marriage and child bearing are highly valued in the Middle East, polygamy is allowed and yet controlled.
- ❖Islam limits a man to four wives and requires equal treatment for each.







What Christians Believe

The Perspective of Christian Women

- Christians believe that the Bible teaches that both man and woman were created in God's image.
- They had a direct relationship with God, and shared jointly the responsibilities of bringing up children and ruling over the created order. (Genesis 1:26-28)





What Christians Believe

The Perspective of Christian Women

- Christian husbands and wives are to mutually submit to one another.
- ❖ Women are to respect their husbands; husbands are to sacrificially and selflessly love their wives, just as Jesus Christ loves His church. (Ephesians 5:21-25)





What Christians Believe

The Protection of Christian Women

- Christian womenare to dress modestly.(1 Timothy 2:9)
- ❖ Followers of Jesus are to flee from sexual immorality.
 (1 Corinthians 6:18)

The Apostle Paul wrote, "I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes."

—1 Timothy 2:9





What Christians Believe

Not Conforming to the World

Followers of Jesus believe that they must be transformed by renewing their minds and avoid conforming to the patterns of the secular world. (Romans 12:2)

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

—Romans 12:2



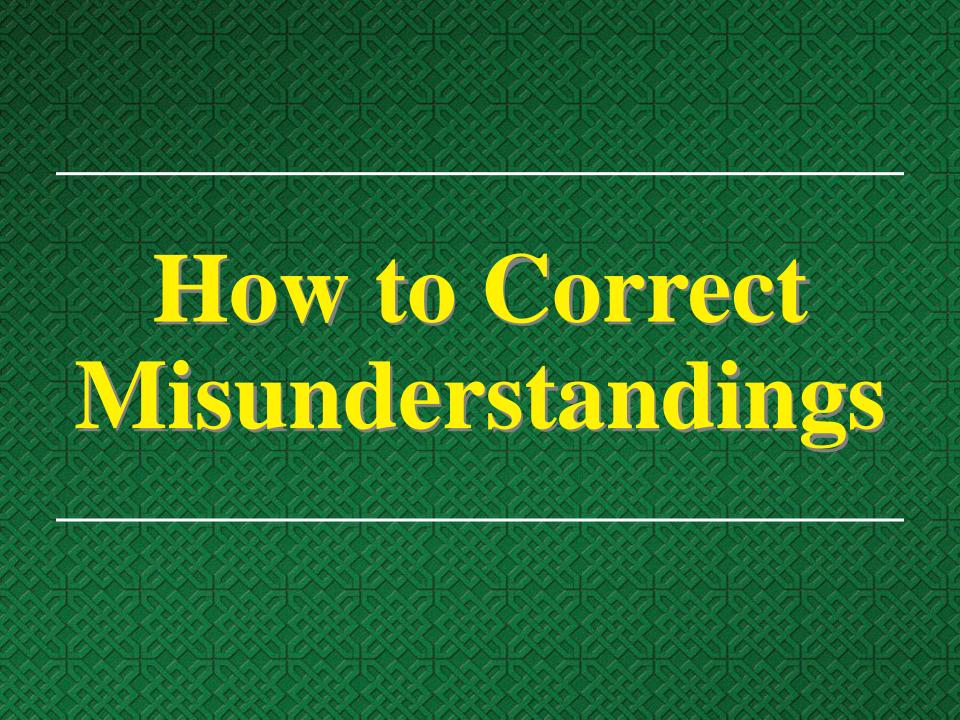


What Christians Believe

Not Conforming to the World

- ❖ Problems arise when Christians adapt to the Western secular culture more than to the Bible.
- When this happens there is a decline in morality which leads to an increase in sexual immorality, drunkenness, deceit, selfishness, rage, and other sins.







How to Correct Misunderstandings

A Clash of Values

- Western values regarding women conflict with
 - Muslims' in perhaps more than any other category.
- Christians often focus on Muslim women's lack of freedom.



Women wearing burkas in Afghanistan



How to Correct Misunderstandings

Western Solutions?

- However, the "Christian" West has several problems as well.
- Many Christians neglect to consider the privileges and responsibilities that come with freedom.







How to Correct Misunderstandings

Emphasize Positive Values

Many Muslims fear and disapprove of Western values that seem to result in isolation, sexual exploitation and materialism.

- *Both Muslims and Christians can focus on values that honor family and morality.
- Christians need to address their own cultural problems as well.







How to Correct Misunderstandings

Get Rid of Hypocrisy

Jesus said:

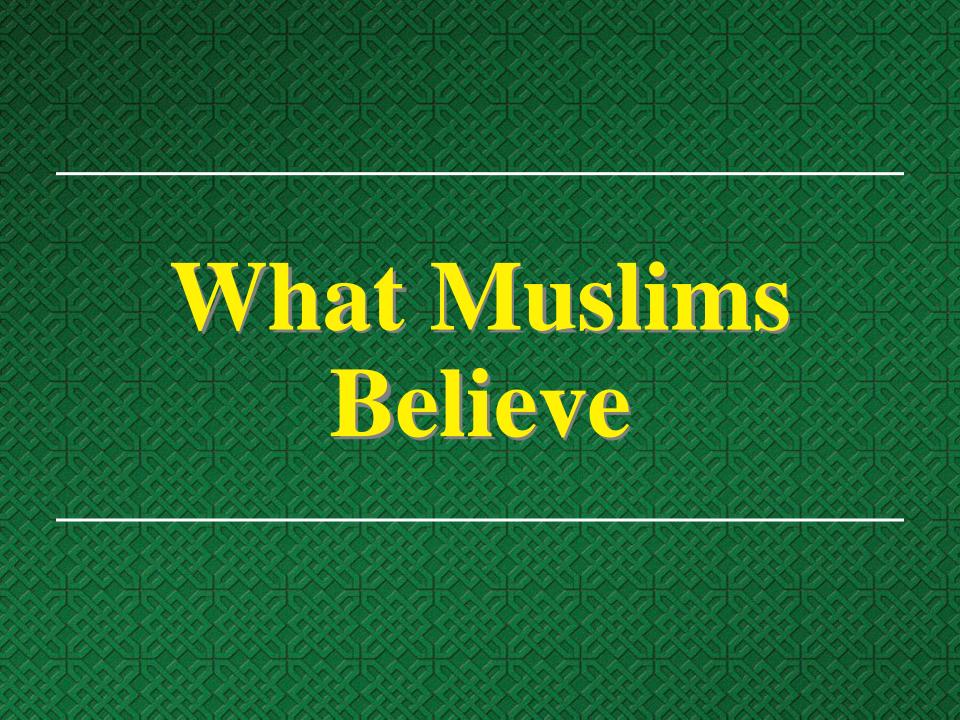
"You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

—Matthew 7: 5





Menu





What Muslims Believe

The Muslim Holistic Worldview

- Muslims understand religion as a whole and integrated way of life.
- Secular, Christian-influenced cultures can confuse and even anger Muslims who see things through their holistic worldview.





What Muslims Believe

The Muslim Holistic Worldview

- *They often view "Hollywood sexuality" as "Christian," or a military action as a "Crusade."
- ❖To them, the cross is a military symbol.





What Muslims Believe

The Islamic Community

- In Islam, brotherhood and consensus is emphasized, and individualism is avoided.
- The "community of the faithful" is responsible to enforce the moral code.







What Muslims Believe

Guilt Does Not Motivate Like Shame

- This can explain how a lone Muslim, outside a community support structure, does not feel as guilty when breaking the code.
- However, bringing shame on his family or community would be a great sin.



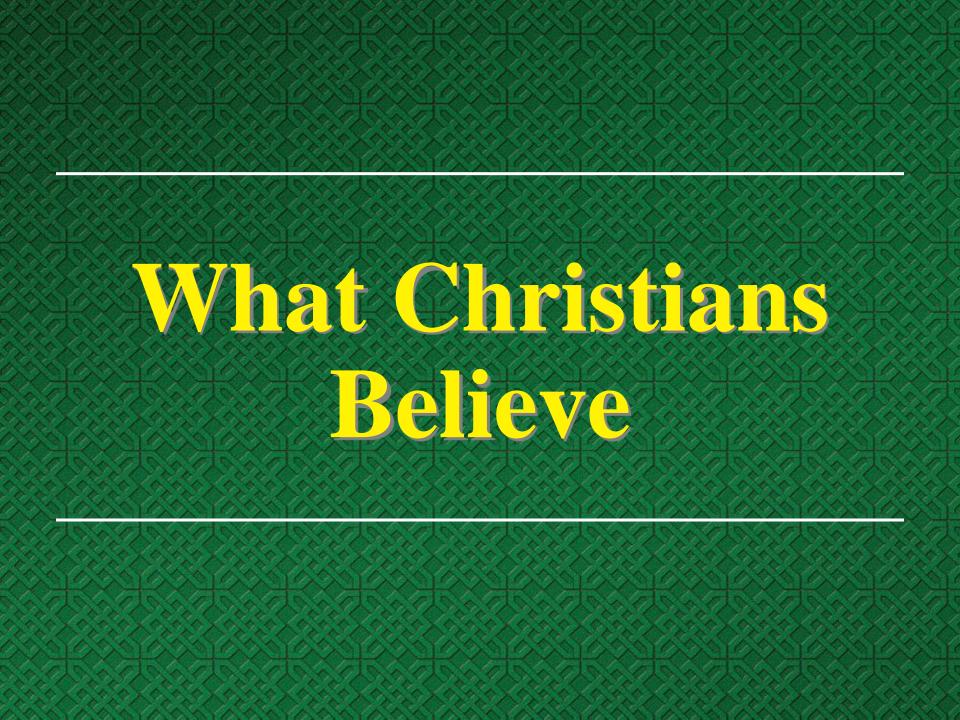


What Muslims Believe

Shame-Honor Culture

- Avoiding shame and protecting honor are primary motivations of most Muslims.
- Shame and honor are community related, as contrasted with an individual sense of guilt.
- *Radical Muslims, known as Islamists or Jihadists, use this sense of community honor and shame to recruit and motivate their followers.







What Christians Believe

Christian Influence Shrinking in the West

- *Throughout history followers of Jesus impacted various cultures by going into all parts of the world with the life-transforming gospel. (Matthew 28:19, 20)
- ❖But in the West, a division has grown between secular culture and religion.





What Christians Believe

Separation of Church and State

Religion is separated from government, and some people object to any influence of religion on state institutions and symbols.



Problematic cross in the Los Angeles County Seal



What Christians Believe

Community in the West

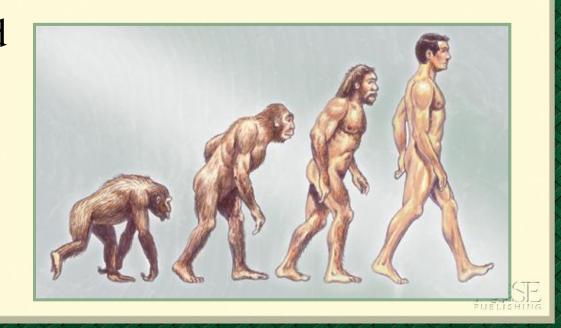
- *Followers of Jesus do influence Western culture and institutions, but they seem to be a shrinking influence.
- Western culture affirms individualism and personal freedom.
- A community sense of responsibility can suffer as a result.





What Christians Believe

- "Freedom of" or "Freedom from" Religion?
- ❖Tolerance of sin and unbiblical practices continue to dilute the true Christian message.
- Evolutionism and atheism also continue to influence the increasingly secular West.



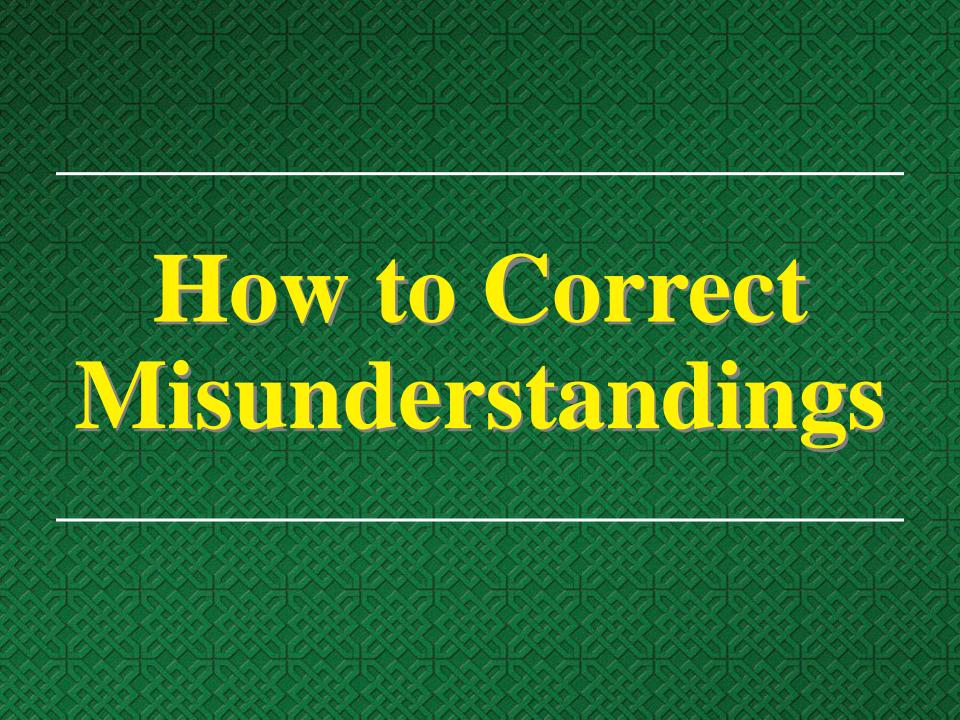


What Christians Believe

Is the West a Post-Christian Culture?

- Only a minority of those in the West consider themselves followers of Jesus Christ.
- Most simply consider themselves Christian by name only, and do not follow the teaching of the Bible, of which they are largely ignorant.
- Generally, Western culture does not have a sense of the "community of the faithful."







How to Correct Misunderstandings

To Convert or Compliment?

- Recently, Time magazine ran a cover article asking the question: "Should Christians Convert Muslims?"
- The artwork featured a militant-looking clenched fist holding a metal cross reminiscent of a Crusader's sword.







How to Correct Misunderstandings

Conversion = Corruption?

*This imagery correctly symbolizes some typical Muslim misunderstandings, especially when viewed with the cigarette advertisement on the back cover.







How to Correct Misunderstandings

Christendom: A Source of Evil?

- The advertisement features a sensual goddess-like model with men fawning at her feet.
- These pictures display some fears of Muslims: to be dominated militarily and corrupted morally by "Christianity."

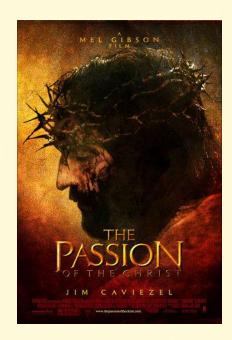




How to Correct Misunderstandings

The True Meaning of the Cross

- The challenge is to present a correct view of the cross.
- The recent movie, "The Passion of the Christ," has been seen by Muslims all over the world.



They have seen the cross as a symbol of honorable suffering, not as a military icon.





How to Correct Misunderstandings

How Can Christians Make Jesus Attractive?

- Followers of Jesus are called to show Muslims that God loves all people so much that Jesus died on the cross; He also defeated Satan and death by rising from the grave.
- ❖ Jesus made it possible for all of God's children to live with Him forever. The Bible promises every tribe will be represented in heaven.
- How can we share this "good news" to Muslims?



Primary author: Rev. Bruce Green (MA, Biola University, 1983) has been building bridges since 1983 between Muslims and a consortium of evangelical churches.

Photographs of handcrafted silver ring featuring a symbol of the Trinty and the Arabic translation of the Injil and Taurat: Peter Commandeur.

The Last Supper with Twelve Tribes. 20 ft. X 4.5 ft., © 2001 Hyatt Moore (www.hyattmoore.com)

Special thanks to: Amal Bejjani, Anne Dinnan (Coordinator of Resource Development Muslim Ministries), and Labib Madanat (Executive Secretary, Palestinian Bible Society).

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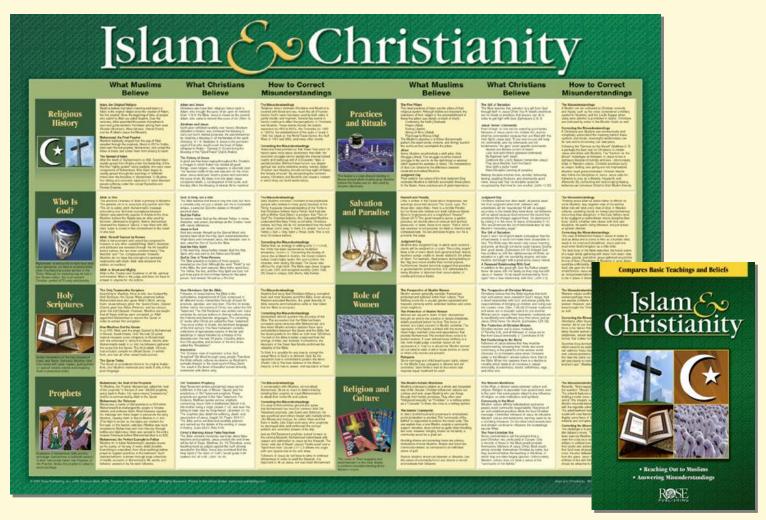
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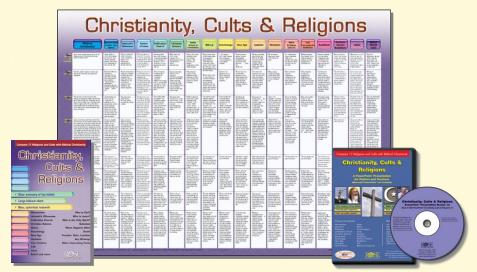
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Islam and Christianity wall chart and pamphlet



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Christianity, Cults & the Occult wall chart, pamphlet and PowerPoint® presentation



The Trinity wall chart and pamphlet

Muslim: *Muslim* is an Arabic term derived from the same root as the word for peace (*salam*).

Note that the tri-lateral root _S_L_M_ is shared by all these related terms: SALAM, ISLAM, MUSLIM.

The root and its derivatives are very similar to the Hebrew word "Shalom," which means peace.

Back

"Allah" and "God": Allah is the proper pre-Islamic Arabic name for God, used even today by Arabic-speaking Christians as well as by Muslims. The exact history of the English word "God" is unknown. It may have derived from the Old High German name for God which was "Gott." The word "God" was never used in any ancient scriptures that were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, or Latin. Although all Muslims use the Arabic name "Allah," only 20% are native Arabic speakers. Muslims with other native languages have still another name for God. For example, Farsi-speaking peoples use "Khodah" to mean God. Bible translators usually employ the native language Back term for God, the uncreated Creator.

Ebrahim (E-brah-HEEM) Literally: "Abraham."

Musa (MOO-sah) Literally: "Moses."

Dawud (DAU-ood) Literally: "David."

Isa Al Masih (EE-saw-all-Mah-SEE) Literally: "Jesus the Mes-si-ah." The word "Ma-sih" is similar to the Hebrew word. "Isa" for "Jesus" was evidently a sixth century Arabic adaptation from the Hebrew word "Yeshua."

Back

Sunni (**SOO-nee**): Literally "One on the path"; how the majority of Muslims (90% worldwide) identify themselves as contrasted to Shiite.

Shiite or Shia (SHE-ite or SHE-ah): Literally: "The party of Ali" (10% worldwide) that believes that the proper successor to Muhammad should be his blood relative, beginning with Ali. The Sunni-Shia split happened shortly after Muhammad's death in a violent dispute about who should lead the Muslim community.

Back

Shaytan (Satan) (Shay-TAAN) The devil. Some Muslims refer to mischievous behavior with this term (like devilish).

Injil (In-JEEL) This term refers to the "book given to Jesus" and is similar to the Greek word "evangel," meaning "good news." Muslims do not believe that there is an Injil remaining on the earth that has not been corrupted. Christians often refer to the Gospels or a single Gospel as "the Injil" when conversing with Muslims.

Back

Shirk (**SHIRK**) "Associating." Idolatry or blasphemy. Making others equal to God.

Insha Allah (In-SHA-al-lah) Meaning "God willing," this common phrase is often tagged onto a sentence expressing hope or intention, and sometimes resignation to destiny. It is an expression of Allah's ultimate attribute: His absolute will.

Back

Taurat (**Tor-AT**) Literally: "Torah," the book given to Moses. The first five books of the Bible.

Zabur (**Zah-BOOR**) Literally: "Psalms," the book given to David. The Psalms.

Sunna (**SOO-nah**) Literally: "Trodden path" of Muhammad and his close companions. The Sunna (Muhammad's examples) becomes the basis of Sharia law.

Hadith (Hah-DEETH) A report of a saying or behavior of Muhammad which sets a precedent for Muslim practice and becomes the basis of Sharia.