

Islam

- Review: 4 unique traits of Christianity

Islam

Facts

- Followers of Islam are called _____.

- There are about 1.8 billion Muslims in the world, and are mostly concentrated in North Africa, the Middle East, Western Asia, and Indonesia.

- Founded by _____ around 600 AD in Arabia.

- Muhammad had visions where God told him the real truth about himself. He wrote down what God told him which became the _____, their sacred scripture.

- Muhammad is not just the instrument God used but is also the ideal Muslim. His life is one they try to emulate. The other text that some Muslims use is called the Hadith which is a collection of writings about Muhammad's day to day life.

- Islam is broken up into Sunni and Shia Muslims. They are about 85% Sunni (believe Muhammad's first convert and friend is successor) and 15% Shia (believe Muhammad's cousin is successor). Sunnis believe their leader should be chosen by the people where Shi'ites believe it must be a direct descendant of Muhammad.

Beliefs

- God: _____. Allah is the Muslim word for God, not God's name.

- Islam is monotheistic > Allah is the only God

- Do not believe in the trinity, he is a single-person god

- Allah is transcendent, all-powerful, all-knowing, Creator, Judge

- Allahu Akbar: "God is most great"

- Scripture: Quran (which means "the recitation"). They believe that the Bible is corrupted.

- The Quran is believed to be eternal and only remains the Quran in its original language (Arabic). The actual book itself is holy.

- Rituals: Deeds (what you do) are more important than doctrine (what you believe). You are a Muslim if you do these things:

- Five pillars of Islam:

1. Confession - "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."

2. Ritual prayer 5 times per day facing Mecca.

3. Pilgrimage to Mecca.

4. Fasting (Ramadan).

5. Giving of alms.

- Jesus: Islam affirms that Jesus was born of a virgin, that he lived a sinless life, that he performed mighty miracles, and that he will come again at the end of history.

- However, it explicitly denies that He is God, that He died on the cross, or that He was resurrected.

- Other beliefs:

- Believe in many of the characters of the OT but believe Bible is corrupted

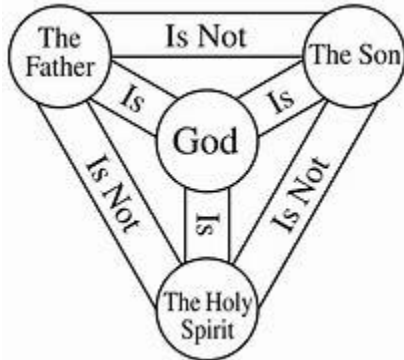
- No original sin

- Justification by works

The Trinity

What is the Trinity?

1. God is _____ persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
2. Each person is _____ God
3. There is _____ God



To help us understand the trinity, the most important thing to remember is that

God is first and foremost a Father

- He is not primarily the ruler/creator (which makes him dependent on creation to be who he is)
- What characterizes a father? Giving life and loving
- He has been life-giving (begetting) to his Son and loving Him since eternity
- Since God has always loved the son, it is characteristic of God to create and love others

Why the trinity matters

1. A single-person god can't be a loving father

- If God is one person than love for another is not in his nature
- God could not be love with no one to love (same with other outgoing characteristics)
 - To be God means you don't depend on anything else to be who you are
 - If Allah is loving, he is dependent on his creation to be who he is and so is not God
- He could not be a father without a child
- Single alone-for-all-eternity god is fundamentally self-centered and self-gratifying
 - They do not like creation
- Single-person gods create merely to rule and be served > sin is to not perform (external)
 - Our God creates out of overflowing love > sin is to not love (matter of the heart)

2. Our salvation depends on the trinity

- God so loved the world that he gave his son (John 3:16)
 - a single-person God could not offer this salvation, couldn't love and has no son to give
- If Jesus is not fully God, he is a creature and could not bear the full wrath of God, only God can save

3. We could not be God's children if he were not a father

- If God were not a father, he could never give us the right to be his children, we would be distant hirelings

4. A single-person God would not have created or spoken

- If God were single why would he speak? Why should he start now? Why would he have created?
- A non-father is not capable of bringing forth life/creation
- Creation exists because God loves
 - His love comes first and it is his love that creates and gives life

5. The Trinity allows for acceptance of diversity

- The Trinity is a unity among diversity, different persons but 1 God
- This is why we can celebrate diversity i.e. the church, marriage, families
 - What happens to unity in the non-Christian worldview?
- Single-person god is alone for eternity, why would he value any besides him?
 - Under Allah cultures are made uniform = one way of praying, one way of marrying, buying, fighting, relating
 - In Eastern religions what is the goal? Nirvana, to become part of the oneness

6. The Trinity allows for acceptance of authority

- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equal in value but subordinate in role
- This is why we can celebrate submitting to authority i.e. marriage, work, church, families
 - Submitting to authority doesn't mean they are more valuable, Jesus shows this to be true because he submits to the Father but is still fully God
- Groups of people (egalitarians, evangelical feminists) that want to undermine the roles of women and men in churches and marriages have to attack the trinity to defend their position

7. Trinitarian God needs nothing > He is fully glorious on His own

- A single-person god needs worship and service to be glorious, he has needs and so is not God

***Belief in the trinity is central to Christianity.