

Defending Your Faith – Knowing What You Believe 1 Pet 3:15 **CHRISTIANITY VS ISLAM**

| | BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY | ISLAM |
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| KEY PERSON OR FOUNDER DATE, LOCATION | Jesus Christ. Founded about A.D. 30-33, in the Judean Province of Palestine (Israel today), under the Roman Empire | Muhammad (570's-632). About A.D. 610, in Mecca and Medina. Headquarters in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Main sects: Sunni, Shi'ite. |
| KEY WRITINGS | The Bible, written originally in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament), and Greek (New Testament) | Qur'an (Koran), scripture in Arabic. Hadith (Muhammad's words and deeds. Biblical law of Moses, Psalms, and Gospel of Jesus (the Injil) accepted by the Qur'an, but considered by Muslims to be "corrupted" |
| WHO IS GOD? | The one God is Triune (One God in three Persons, not three gods): Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Often the title "God" designates the first person, God the Father. God is a spiritual being without a physical body. He is personal and involved with people. He created the universe of nothing and of nothing. He is eternal, changeless, holy, loving, and perfect | God (Allah) is one. God revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel. God is a severe judge (though sometimes merciful) and is not depicted as loving. |
| WHO IS JESUS? | Jesus is God, the second Person of the Trinity. As God the Son, He has always existed and was never created. He is fully God and fully man (the two natures joined, not mixed). As the second Person of the Trinity, He is coequal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. In becoming man, He was begotten through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus is the only way to the Father, salvation and eternal life. He died on a cross according to God's plan, as a full sacrifice and payment for our sins. He rose from the dead three days later, spiritually and physically immortal. For the next forty days He was seen by more than 500 eyewitnesses. His wounds were touched and He ate meals. He physically ascended to Heaven. Jesus will come again visibly and physically at the end of the world to establish God's kingdom and judge the world. | Jesus is one of up to 124,000 prophets sent by God to various cultures. Abraham, Moses, and Muhammad are others. Jesus was born of a virgin, but is not God's son. Sinless. Not divine or God Himself. He was not crucified. (He ascended to heaven without dying. He is referred to as messiah and ayatollah (ayat allah, sign of God). Jesus will return in the future to live and die. |
| WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? | The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field. He comforts, grieves, reproves, convicts, guides, teaches and fills Christians. He is not the Father, nor the Son, Jesus Christ. | The Qur'an refers to Jesus as the spirit of God. Muslim scholars see the angel Gabriel as the Holy Spirit. |
| HOW TO BE SAVED | Salvation is by God's grace, not by an individual's good works. Salvation must be received by faith. People must believe in their heart that Jesus died for their sins and physically rose again, which is the assurance of forgiveness and resurrection of the body. This is God's loving plan to forgive sinful people. | Humans are basically good, but fallible and need guidance. The balance between good and bad deeds determines eternal destiny in paradise or hell. God's mercy may tip the scales but it is arbitrary and uncertain. |
| WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH? | Believers go to be with Jesus. After death, all people await the final judgement. Both saved and lost people will be resurrected. Those who are saved live with Jesus in Heaven. Those who are lost suffer the torment of eternal separation from God (Hell). Jesus' bodily resurrection guarantees believers that they, too will be resurrected and receive new immortal bodies. | Resurrection of bodies. Final day of reckoning and rewards. Eternal paradise for those who believe in Islam. Eternal hell for infidels, those who reject Islam. |
| OTHER BELIEFS OR PRACTICES | Group worship, usually in churches. No secret rites. Baptism and Lord's Supper (Communion). Active voluntary missionary efforts. Aid to those in need.: The poor, widows, orphans, and downtrodden. Christians believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah promised to Israel in the Old Testament (Tanakh). Jesus said His followers would be known by their love for one another. | Followers are called Muslims. Go to mosque for prayers, sermons, counsel. Holy efforts to spread Islam (jihad). Five pillars of Islam: Confess that Allah is one true God and that Muhammad is his prophet. Pray five times daily facing Mecca. Give alms (money). Fast during the month of Ramadan. Make pilgrimage to Mecca (once in a lifetime).. |