

INTRODUCTION

There is one true God who truly possesses the qualities of divinity and lordship, the Creator and Sustainer of the heavens and earth. He is the Lord, the master, the absolute. He has no partner, has no equivalent, and has no son. He is superpower, All knowing, All hearing and All seeing. The true God sent prophets and messengers to tell people about the God's religion. Messengers like Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and finally Muhammad (PBUT) were sent to bring peace and happiness for you. These prophets were sent from one source (one God), and logically their message and religion should be same.

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WHO IS THE TRUE FOLLOWERS

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By making a quick comparison in term of the teachings of Islam and the teachings of Christianity, and between Muslims and Christians, undoubtedly, we find Muslims men and Muslim women are closer to Jesus Christ and Virgin Mary by following their teaching and their character.

1. ONENESS OF ONE GOD

Islam preaches a plain and simple belief in the oneness of God (Allah). It affirms the uniqueness of Allah and states that He has no partner; He has no son; He neither gives birth nor is born. Nothing can come out of Him; He is the self-sufficient one upon whom all of creation depends and who depends on no one.

Quran (112:1-4)

"Say, He is Allah, [who is] One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born. Nor is there to Him any equivalent."

All previous prophets preached the oneness of God. Jesus Christ himself had the same concept as he never claimed divinity; instead he affirmed the divinity of God alone. Jesus Christ himself never mentioned the Trinity. Neither Jesus nor his disciples taught and none of the earlier great scholars or the followers of Jesus preached the Trinity. Such acts and claim do not befit the majesty of God and contradict the sayings and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Mark (10:18)

"And Jesus said to him, why do you say I am good? No one is good but one, and that is God"

Mark (12:28-29)

"And one of the scribes came, and hearing their argument together, and seeing that he had given them a good answer, put the question to him, Which law is the first of all?(28) Jesus said in answer, The first is, Give ear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; (29)"

2. GREETING OF PEACE

Islam instructs all Muslims to give greetings of peace (Peace be with you) when they meet each other. Earlier, Jesus Christ greeted his people by saying "Peace be upon you" as mentioned in The New Testament.

John (20:19)

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you'."

3. ABLUTION BEFORE PRAYER

Islam instructs all Muslims to perform ablution prior to making formal prayers. Jesus Christ used to wash his limbs according to the teachings of the Torah.

Exodus (40:30-31)

"And he set the laver between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing, with which Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet.... as the Lord commanded Moses."

4. PROSTRATION DURING PRAYER

Muslims bow down (prostrate) during prayers to show the meaning of submission to God. Jesus Christ is recorded and described in The New Testament to have fallen (prostrating) on his face during prayers (worship).

Matthew (26:39)

"He (Jesus Christ) fell on his face and prayed"

5. FASTING

Muslims during the Arabic month of Ramadan are requested to observe fasting. According to The New Testament, Jesus Christ fasted for 40 days.

Matthew (4:20)

"And he (Jesus Christ) fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry"

6. CHARITY

Muslims are requested to give zakah (a system of compulsory charity) to the poor and needy. Jesus Christ confirmed the payment of charity, known as "(tenth)", which was required from the annual harvest to be given back to God in celebration. He followed the laws of Moses.

Deuteronomy (14:22)

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed, which comes forth from the field year by year."

7. VEILING

Muslim women wear modest dress and observe veiling to comply first with God's command, secondly to follow the character of pure women like Virgin Mary. It is well known that Virgin Mary wore modest dress and covered her head and chest. In addition, the women around Jesus veiled themselves according to the practice of the women around the earlier prophets.

Genesis (24:64-5)

"And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she alighted from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man yonder, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself."

8. ALCOHOL

In Islam, drinking alcohol is totally forbidden. Jesus Christ abstained from alcoholic drinks and never drank it according to the instructions recorded. He followed the laws of Moses.

Numbers (6:1-4)

“And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Say to the people of Israel, when either a man or a woman makes a special vow, the vow of the Nazirite to separate himself to the Lord, he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink”

9. EATING PORK

In Islamic law, pork (swine) and its products are prohibited. Jesus Christ did not eat pork (swine). He followed the laws of Moses who did not eat pork too.

Leviticus (11:7-8)

“And the swine, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. Of their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch; they are unclean to you.”

10. EATING BLOOD

In Islam, eating blood is totally forbidden. Jesus Christ also did not eat blood and he followed the laws of Moses. God instructed Prophet Moses in the Torah to not eat the blood.

Deuteronomy (12:16)

“Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it upon the earth like water,”

11. CIRCUMCISION

All Muslims are circumcised following the teaching and the tradition of Prophet Abraham. Jesus Christ was circumcised according to the New Testament. Circumcision is a part of Jesus’ way. However, today most Christians are not circumcised.

Luke (2:21)

“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

12. POLYGAMY

At the time of Abraham, David, Solomon, and Jesus Christ, polygamy was part of the culture. In Jesus’ times, polygamy was allowed and part of the customs of the Israeli people. There is no record proving that Jesus Christ was against polygamy. Both Old Testament and New Testament have mentioned polygamy:

- Prophet Abraham had (2) wives, according to **Genesis 16**
- Prophet David had (2) wives, according to **Samuel 27:3**
- Prophet Solomon had (700) wives, according to **1st Kings 11:3**
- Prophet Jacob had more than one wife

Islam did not invent start polygamy as it was a normal practice before Islam. Polygamy in Islam is permissible but not mandatory. Islam limited polygamy to a maximum of four wives requiring fair and justice treatment among them.

13. INTEREST

Interest is strictly forbidden in Islam. Jesus Christ also opposed the giving or taking of interest and he followed the laws of Moses.

Deuteronomy (23:19)

“You must not charge interest on a loan to your fellow Israelite, whether on money, food, or anything else that has been loaned with interest”

CONCLUSION

All messengers were sent from one source (Allah) and they all were teaching one message and one religion (Islam). Jesus Christ was teaching the same message and invited his people to the same religion of previous prophets (Islam). Jesus Christ before his departure, he informed his people about the last prophet (Muhammad) who would come after him, and instructed his people to follow his teachings and his religion (Islam). Upon the departure of Jesus Christ from this world, his teachings were totally distorted and corrupted. Six centuries later, the laws and teachings of Jesus Christ were revived in their pure and final form (Islam). Nowadays, only Muslims actually follow the original teachings of Jesus and his true message. Loving, following and respecting Jesus Christ is an article of faith in Islam.