

Reflection Paper

Is the Father of Jesus the I God of Muhammed?

Several years ago, I was visiting my wife's mother in Accra, the capital city of Ghana in Africa. I was awakened early in the morning to the sound of many Muslims praying in their Mosques. There are many Christians in Ghana but there are also many Muslims, and they have learned to accept and get along with each other, even in their government. Much like the government of Israel, has many Muslims in their government.

One of the things I have noticed about the paper was that the author did not talk about how Islam treats women. He did not mention how Asian Christians who use the word Allah for the God of the Bible were persecuted, but nothing about women. To be fair, the subject of how women are treated is not the main point of his paper, but I was surprised that he did not go into any detail about Muslim persecution of women and Christians.

As I stated in the introduction to my reflection paper, Christians and Muslims need to learn to live together in harmony. Last semester, I had the privilege of taking Aramaic with Dr. Dost. I have also had the opportunity to study Hebrew and Greek in seminary, so I enjoyed his study of the etymology of the name Allah. It certainly does have its roots in the Ancient Aramaic tongue. Muhammad was certainly a product of his environment. Christians with Arian beliefs lived in his area as well as Jews. He took from these various beliefs and founded the Islamic religion.

While I strongly disagree that Muhammad was a prophet, I do believe that as Christians we need to have a strong love for the Muslim people. We need to take the time to learn about their beliefs and do our best to share ours. Many people believe that we all worship the same God, The problem is behind each person's God is a set of beliefs. When it comes to Christians and Muslims they each have a different book they base those beliefs on. What does the Koran say about Jesus? Yes, Jesus is born of a virgin but He is not God. He did not exist eternally with the Father from the beginning. Muslims do not believe in the Trinity. Infact the Koran says that "God has no Son".

There is also the major problem in regard to the Bible. Muslims believe that the Christians and Jews corrupted the text of the Old and New Testaments. This has been disproven by the discovery of Dead Sea scrolls that contain Old Testament texts that predate the time of Jesus.

Can we find common ground in regard to our beliefs?

To be sure we can look for ways to find common ground. We both believe in One God. We need to reach out to Muslims with love and prayer.