

Islam and Jesus Christology

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Christianity and Islam are two different religions. Islam worships and glorifies god, but their god is not the same God that Christianity describes. Islam is a different religion and cannot be in the same category as Christianity. Islam recognizes Jesus as a prophet, does not recognize the Holy Spirit, and has different doctrinal interpretations of the God. From a Christian perspective, Islam is verily a monotheist religion that worships one god, not the same God as Christians do. From the Christian perspective, it is heretical believing that the God Jesus Christ is a prophet and not a fully divine God.

Introduction

Christianity is a monotheistic trinitarian. Christians believe that God is one and is three persons: The Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. All three persons are equally divine and share the same essence. The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit together is worshipped and glorified. Muslims call their one god (Allah), Christians who speak Arabic call God Allah as well. Allah is the Arabic term for God. People often believe that because Muslims use the term Allah, that makes him a different god. That is not the reason why Muslims one god is not the same one God as Christians. Muslims do mean worshipping the Father God from their perspective, the creator and the ruler as Christians do, but they misinterpret him in who he truly and fully is. Teachings of Islam's father god as a person presents the Christian Father God as a different person. Although this paper focuses only on Christ in Christianity and Christ in Islam it will not try to prove the latter.

This paper will demonstrate differences and similarities and will focus only on Christology. As mentioned above Islam is monotheistic, but not trinitarian. Islam denies the divinity of the Jesus Christ and believes that he is a prophet. This paper does not bring much of the biblical; reference and does not argue and debate on each verse but it provides the Christian church's teachings (Dogmas on Christ).

Purpose

The purpose of this topic is to acknowledge and study what are the two most popular religions in the world: Christianity and Islam and what are their major differences and

similarities Jesus Christ concentrating. As this topic is a fact based in the dogma-doctrines, it still has a lot of bias in opinion and is not ambivalent in proving its thesis.

Topics

What is Christology?

Christology is a major branch of theology that studies, specifically Jesus Christ. It studies Christ's nature, by all means who he was and is. Christological views on Christ are not the same from all the religions perspective. Different people and religions have different views on Christ's nature and who he was. Whether he was/is only fully divine God, only fully human (man), A human prophet, fully divine God, and Man at the same time and so on. Therefore, dogmas and doctrine on Jesus Christ are different in Islam and Christianity.

Who is Jesus Christ? (Christian view)

Christ's nature and who he is shown very concrete and short way in the Nicene Creed. Nicene Creed is a short version of Christian dogma approved by the holy Christian fathers in council of Nicea (325). Nicene Creed from OCA:

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became

man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end.”

The Christian dogma says that the Christ is the Lord, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages, Light of Light; true God of true God. This says it all that, the Jesus Christ is the true God not created and made like human beings, including angels, prophets etc. He is the only-begotten of the Father before all ages.

“who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man.” – this part says about Jesus Christ’s incarnation, becoming man, fully human. At the same time, he is being Fully divine God and fully human, is very hard to be comprehended, but that is the true Christian teaching.

Later was added the Constantinopolitan part in Constantinopolitan Council 381. Fully the creed is known as Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. In that part Christian dogma about Holy Spirit says that the Holy Spirit with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified. This says it all, that the three persons of one God are equally divine, participants in giving life and creating, ruling.

Later were more ecumenical councils, and more comprehensive dogma about Christ is provided in the Chalcedonian Creed 451. According to the OCA, Chalcedonian creed says that the Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, one of the Holy Trinity, who became a real man in every way, without sin. Chalcedonian creed focuses on the union of divinity and humanity in Christ. Christ’s union with God, the love between the Father and the Son. Main point of Christ’s

incarnation is that the Christ was incarnated of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, with the seed of God, not the physical form as humans -father and mother give birth. Mother of God is surely a Virgin Mary.

What is Islam?

Islam is the religion that has a lot of biblical things mentioned in it. Muslims believe that the Quran came from Allah through the Archangel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad, who then spread and it and preached. Quran is the book as Bible for Christians.

Who is Jesus Christ? (Islamic view)

Jesus Christ for Muslims is not certainly the Divine God. It rejects Fatherhood of God and the Sonship of God the Son. The term Son of God is used many times in the Quran, but it does not hold the same doctrine as Christians. Muslims interpret the term “Son of God”, that they do not believe in the Christian doctrine of Son of God. Some of them interpret from the perspective of human concept, of physical sexual reproduction. This is very blasphemous towards the Father God. Islam even gives Jesus the title of the Messiah, but it misinterprets it as, Islam does not believe that Jesus died on the cross and he paid price for our sins. Jesus has titles as the prophet and messenger of God, Word of the God, Messiah. Other than the prophet and the messenger, Jesus is referred with most of the terms that are in the bible too. Messiah, Word of God and so on, these Christian dogma-doctrines are interpreted in very

different ways that does not consider Jesus as a divine God and makes him a creature. Islam do loves Christ and venerates highly as top prophet.

Salvation and Judgment

Christians shall never judge anyone whatsoever; judgment is a sin, and it is only for God. God is the only one who will judge his every creature. God is merciful and knows everyone's heart. Christians never know who will be saved and who not. Christians should pray for everyone, especially for those who are very close to the truth and are misled.

Conclusion

Thus, Christianity and Islam have a lot of similar, but different. The divine God, Jesus Christ in the Islamic doctrine is misinterpreted, and Islamic Christological doctrine differs from Christian dogma-doctrine. For Christians Christ is to be worshipped and glorified as the Father God and is equally divine as the Father. Christ is co-participant of creation, is the co-ruler, fully divine as the Father and is in Union with the Father God, with Father and Son love. In Islam it is not as in Christianity, but judgement is not necessary.

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