

# ISLAM AND THE USA - TIES THAT BIND AND SCARS THAT HURT



**SEPTEMBER 27, 2005**

## QUESTIONS FROM "ISLAM - AN INTRODUCTION"

What are the % splits of moderates v. radicals?

How do moderates become moderates if all are fundamentalists?

What about women - do they have equal rights in the Qur'an? In Muslim society?

Questions: [tim@faithcapecoral.org](mailto:tim@faithcapecoral.org)

Outlines: [www.faithecapecoral.org](http://www.faithecapecoral.org)  
Under Upcoming Events select Tuesdays  
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## **SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM IN DEFENSE OF ISLAM "HAS DECLINED DRAMATICALLY"**

Indonesia	27 to 15%	(since 2002)
Pakistan	41 to 25%	(since 2004)
Morocco	40 to 13%	(since 2004)
Lebanon	73 to 26%	(since 2002)

Turkey support has remained low (14%)  
Jordan which has a Palestinian majority,  
"remains high"

Source: Pew global Attitudes Project survey of opinions in six Muslim nations as reported in the ***US News and World Report***, August 24, 2005

## **SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN 6 ISLAMIC COUNTRIES**

77 – 83% say 'democracy could work in our nation' – the nations are Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan and Indonesia

In Turkey and Pakistan, "percentages hover around 50%"

Source – Pew Global Attitudes Project survey

## OVERVIEW

### TIES THAT BIND

5 similarities: Judaism, Christianity and Islam

### SCARS THAT HURT

Then: The Crusades

Now: The Battle of Cultures  
*4 critical differences*

Multiculturalism: A myth?

## FIVE SIMILARITIES

### Islam, Judaism & Christianity

**1. Historical** – God has acted to make His will known in history; reject idea that life is a great wheel turning over and over again with seasons

Jews: Exodus

Christians: Incarnation

Islam: Muhammad and Qur'an

"All of you descend from Adam and Adam was made of earth. There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab nor for a non-Arab over an Arab, neither for a white man over a black man nor a black man over a white man except the superiority gained through consciousness of God."

(p.40) *Islam Today* (1999) Abbar Ahmed

## **FIVE SIMILARITIES**

### **Islam, Judaism & Christianity**

#### **II. Scriptural** – traditions believe in an 'inspired' Word

Muslims are literalists – each word is God's precise word (as do many Jews and Christians). Only Arabic version has authority.

Reformed tradition: Jesus is (literal) Word of God

Muslims believe in only One Holy Book, the ***Umm al-kitah*** (the mother of all books). All Scriptures come from this one book that is kept in heaven. Qur'an is latest, therefore most accurate, revelation from God's Book.

## **FIVE SIMILARITIES**

### **Islam, Judaism & Christianity**

#### **III. Monotheistic** – God is one, idols are shunned, undivided loyalty. Trinity (monotheism) is a problem for Muslims (as for Jews). Note – Christians called God Allah long before the Muslims. (Muslims have 99 names for God of which Allah is preferred).

Monotheism introduces two radical things

1. All people equal – same God
2. Certain inalienable liberties – given by God and state cannot take away

In late 2003 President Bush said, in response to a reporter's question, that he believed that Muslims and Christians "worship the same God." The remark sparked criticism from some Christians, who thought Bush was being politically correct but theologically inaccurate. For example, Ted Haggard, head of the National Association of Evangelicals, said "The Christian God encourages freedom, love, forgiveness, prosperity and health. The Muslim god appears to value the opposite."

## THE FOURTH SIMILARITY

### IV. Missionary -

less so in Judaism (because of persecution)

Islam and Christianity - **competitors**

(sadly, turned violent in Crusades).

Christians have viewed the world as those 'in Christ' and those 'not in Christ' (infidels).

Islam divides the world into two houses: the **House of Islam** in which Muslim government rules and Muslim law prevails and **House of War**, the rest of the world, still inhabited and ruled by infidels.

## MISSIONARY – COLONIALISTS?

**Islam argues that Christianity Colonizes,  
but is the same true for Islam?**

**V.S. Naipaul** "...no colonization has been so thorough as the colonization that has come with the Arab faith...It was an article of the Arab faith that everything before (it) was wrong, misguided, heretical; there was no room in the heart or mind of these believers for their pre-Mohammedan past".

## THE FIFTH SIMILARITY

**V. Purpose Driven** – the God of history is also the God of the Final Judgment.

Present world is a 'getting ready place' – urgency to life here and now.

(Some) Christian Fundamentalists (Hal Lindsey, ***Blood on the Moon***,) explain how Muslims play a role in end-of-world Armageddon.

## SUMMARY OF THE FIVE SIMILARITIES

- I. Historical** – God has acted to make his will known in history
- II. Scriptural** – traditions believe in an 'inspired' Word
- III. Monotheistic** – God is one, idols are shunned, undivided loyalty
- IV. Missionary**
- V. Purpose Driven** – the God of history is also the God of the Final Judgment.

## THE CRUSADES

**Western leaders saw their civilization threatened by militant Islam. The Crusades were a violent, sporadic, and ultimately ineffectual response to this threat.**



Senator James Inhofe, Oklahoma, insisted in a speech March 4, 2002 in the Senate that "the ongoing conflicts with the Middle East are not political or territorial battles but a context over whether or not the word of God is true".

(This is the same language used by the Crusaders)

**636 Fall of Jerusalem –**

**in blitzkrieg-like fashion, Muslim armies captured all of the major urban centers of early Christianity – Antioch, Damascus, Alexandria, and Carthage, including Jerusalem.**

**The Crusades (may be) seen as a delayed reaction of the 636 sack of Jerusalem. Christians acted with savage cruelty...bitterness still extends beyond Muslims to Greek Orthodox Christians who have not forgotten the trauma of the Fourth Crusade of 1204 – on that occasion, Crusaders from the West, marching under the banner of the cross, raped and pillaged Constantinople, doing to fellow Christians what no Muslim army had been able to do up to that point.**

**In 1099 Jerusalem fell to the Crusaders – they slaughtered all Muslims and Jews, including women and children.**

**Saladin recaptured the Holy City in 1187.**

Saddam Hussein often referred to previous rulers of Iraq as heroes – **Saladin** (who routed the Christians) and **Nebuchadnezzar** (who solved “the Zionist problem”).

During the Reformation – **1520’s** – the armies of Islam were pressing on the gates of Vienna – not turned back, finally, until **1683** (thus began a ‘dark age’ for Islam often cited by Osama bin Laden)

## 1492 Critical Year!

1. In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue.
2. Jews were kicked out of the Iberian (Spain and Portugal) Peninsula.
3. Muslims were also expelled from Spain and Portugal.

Until 1492, Judaism, Christianity and Islam had lived together in Spain in relative harmony...in exiling the Jews and Muslims, Spain plunged into a dark time.

## CORDOBA THE GOLDEN AGE



Cordoba – the caliph that ruled Spain between 800 – 1200..time of art and culture. In fact, Jewish and Christian intellectuals moved there as they found more freedom in the arts, etc. to do their creative work. Less oppressive.

"Some Westerners, including **President Bill Clinton**, have argued that the West does not have problems with Islam but only with violent Islamic extremists. Fourteen hundred years of history demonstrate otherwise...deeply conflictual relation between Islam and Christianity."  
Samuel P. Huntington "*The Clash of Civilizations*"  
(page 109)

**Osama bin Laden** – 'the crusades never ended...the present conflict is a continuation'. bin Laden says they are fighting a 'defensive' war to remove Western hegemony from the culture. In Holy War there are no innocents – everyone is a combatant.

## WHO IS RIGHT?

Samuel Huntington

Bernard Lewis



**West vs. Islam**

**OR**

Islamic Moderates – internal problem to Islam

When jihadist-style bombings happen in Riyadh, that is a Muslim-Muslim problem. That is a police problem for Saudi Arabia. But when al-Qaeda-like bombings come to the London Underground, that becomes a civilizational problem...it is essential that the Muslim world wake up to the fact that it has a jihadist death cult in its midst.

Thomas Friedman, NY Times columnist  
Quoted in **Christian Century**  
August 9, 2005

## THE CONFLICT - a Battle of Cultures

### Four Critical Differences in the 'Clash of Civilizations'

1. **West** (U.S.) founded on idea of Original Sin – Qur'an and **Islam** reject Sin and believe in the Perfectibility of man.  
Result:

**Islam:** reveres strong leaders, trusts them, gives authority to leader, Adam was the first caliph (God's deputy)

**West:** power corrupts – system of checks and balances (3 branches of government), democracy necessary safeguard against tyranny.

\*note – in US, taxation by representation. Alien concept in Islam – great oil wealth does not need votes, does not need to explain to the public what it is doing, can disregard public opinion and spend as it chooses.

### Four Critical Differences in the 'Clash of Cultures'

2. **West** – reads the Bible as story of fallible people (Noah got drunk, Jacob was a liar, Judas betrayer, Peter weak). Islam believes that sloppy translations have tainted these men's reputations – they were great heroes.

**West:** humility, humility, humility – saved by grace not works. Man and state fallen.

**Islam:** because man is perfectable, there are rules to govern nearly every situation, every aspect of conduct. By following rules we can gain perfection. No notion of Christian liberty – no idea of 'western individualism' or person against state.

## Four Critical Differences in the 'Clash of Civilizations'

**3. West:** 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.

**Islam:** Islam is politics or it is nothing. The **shari'a**, or Holy Law, is the way to order all society.

**Result:** While the Supreme Court in US attempts to determine what the Founding Fathers intended – what is the extent of this separation – in the Muslim world '**ulema**' (the word means knowledge – clerics who uphold and interpret the law) are **above the law and immune from criticism!**

## Four Critical Differences in the 'Clash of Civilizations'

**4. West,** God is broken-hearted at our disobedience – like a parent saddened by our rebellion or, like Hosea, a spouse whose partner has betrayed him. Finally, God suffers in Jesus for humanity – comes as one who is 'despised and rejected'. **Islam,** Allah is the master to whom we submit; God is not a parent – there is no sense in which we are children.

**West:** God is tender, compassionate, forgiving – God as Father (story of Prodigal Son.) Parent-child relationship.

**Islam:** since there is no Sin, there is no need for forgiveness, thus no need for help from Christ. Jesus is but one of 124,000 messengers or prophets. Sincerity and good works bring salvation. Master-subject relationship.

**REVIEW:**  
**The Clash of Islam and the West**

- 1. Checks and balances (democracy) v. strong Godly leadership**
- 2. Individualism v. rules for all aspects of life**
- 3. Separation of church and state v. Islam is the State**
- 4. Creator as Father v. God as master**

Samuel Huntington: *"It is pointless to expect people who are not at all like us to become significantly more like us."*

**REVIEW:**  
**The Clash of Islam and the West**

**Muslims believe the West (as a culture/civilization) suffers three problems:**

- 1. it is false**
- 2. it is immoral**
- 3. it is dangerous**

**Osama bin Laden, for his part, seeks to incite civilizational conflict to destroy the infidel, the agent of Satan, the West.**

## **MULTICULTURALISM?**

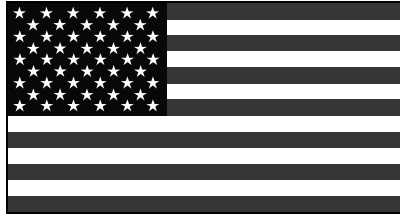
“Multiculturalism is based on the lie that all cultures are morally equal. In practice that soon degenerates to: All cultures are equal, except ours, which is worse. But all cultures are not equal in respecting representative government, guaranteed liberties and the rule of law.”

Michael Barone  
***U.S. News & World Report***  
August 22, 2005

**“The underlying problem for the West is not Islamic fundamentalism. It is Islam, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the superiority of their culture and are obsessed with the inferiority of their power. The problem for Islam is not the CIA or the U.S. Department of Defense. It is the West, a different civilization whose people are convinced of the universality of their culture and believe that their superiority if declining power imposes on them the obligation to extend that culture throughout the world. These are the basic ingredients that fuel conflict between Islam and the West.”**

Samuel P. Huntington,  
***“The Clash of Civilizations”*** (page 217)

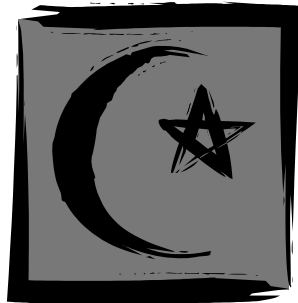
**And again... From Professor Huntington**



**"Critics say that America is a lie because its reality falls so far short of its ideas. They are wrong. America is not a lie; it is a disappointment. But it can be a disappointment only because it is also a hope.**

**Next Week**

**Jihad and the Holy War**



**The War Against Terrorism**