

20 Questions Muslims Ask About Christians - Part 1

Questions answered by Karen Sue Nyquist

Most of these questions come from an article posted by CARL MEDEARIS. carlmedearis.com

1. Is the West Christian? Is being Christian Western? - The “West” is referring to the cultures of the “Western Civilization.” Though many countries in the western civilization have some roots in Christianity, that does not make them “Christian.” Most nations do not hold true to Christian values because many of their citizens and immigrants are not Christians. Many of their laws and values do not line up with Christian teaching. The United States has been called a Christian nation because its founders were Christians and many of its laws and values originally came from a Christian perspective. Through the centuries, many laws have been changed and do not represent Christian values. Christianity is not a theocracy, where the church decides in civil matters. Once God started appointing kings, He separated the governing powers between the civil government (which was the king and his civil authorities) and the religious government (which were the priests and the temple authorities).

2. America is a “Christian” nation. But look at all the crime, violence, divorce, pornography, and emphasis on sex here. Is this what Christianity teaches? - Christianity does not support crime, violence, pornography, and emphasis on sex, it teaches against these. It discourages divorce in most situations. These come from non-Christian influences in our country.

3. Do Christians really follow Jesus or do they follow their churches, or...? - Many people who call themselves Christians do follow Jesus’ commands and His example. Others believe that if they follow their church’s teachings, they are following Jesus. To know for sure how to truly follow Jesus, we need to read His words in the Bible and follow the leading of His Spirit that is living inside of us. “... which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). Jesus said, ‘**Follow Me,**’ (Mark 1:17). He also said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).

4. Is the Pope the head of the Christians? What’s the difference between Protestants and Catholics and Orthodox? - Just as Islam has various branches, Sunni, Shi’a, and Ahmadiyya, etc., Christianity has various branches. Centuries ago, there were differences in the teachings among Christians so they split into different groups. The eastern churches became the Russian Orthodox and the Eastern Orthodox. The western church became the Catholic Church. Later, the Protestant Christians “protested” against some of the Catholic teachings and split off from it. The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church, but not of all Christians. Because the Catholic Church is so large, the world mistakenly assumes that the Pope represents all Christians.

5. Does Christianity want to take over the world? - No, the words “take over” imply forcing or coercing someone. We are not to do that. Jesus told us to, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16). We are to present the truth about Jesus, but we never force anyone. If someone does not want to listen, Jesus said, “ And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet” (Matthew 14:10). Christians do want as many people as possible to choose to become Jesus Followers, but we cannot force anyone.

6. Does the Bible support violence against Muslims? - Jesus is our example of non-violence. When Jesus was being arrested, one of His disciples pulled out a sword. Jesus told him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (Matthew 26:52). At His trial Jesus explained, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My

kingdom is not from here” (John 18:36). Jesus never told us to do violence toward anyone or toward any group of people. **There are verses in the Bible that indicate that we can use violence to protect ourselves.** “When a strong man, fully armed guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed” (Luke 11:21). **The government can use violence to punish people that break certain laws.** “For he (the governing authority) is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil” (Romans 13:4).

7. Are there any passages in the Bible that condone or even encourage violence?

Because some Muslims misuse the Qur’an in that way, we wonder if some Christians also misuse the Bible that way. - There are passages in the Old Testament that some Christians may believe say that they can resort to violence, but we can never do it for revenge. “Do not say, ‘I’ll pay you back for this wrong!’ Wait for the LORD, and he will avenge you” (Proverbs 20:22). Nor can we do violence to “protect our honor.” Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also” (Matthew 5:38-39.). A slap is an insult, it is not a punch or a physical beating. Some Christians do not believe in violence for any reason, not even for self-defense. The goal of Christianity is to be peace makers and to live peaceably with others. Jesus said, **“Blessed are the peacemakers,** for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Paul, one of Jesus’ apostles said, “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, **to be peaceable, gentle,** showing all humility to all men” (Titus 3:1-2).

8. Is the Bible the rule for Christians? Do they really follow it? - The believers in any religion that has holy scriptures, vary in their adherence to them. Some Christians follow the Bible faithfully, some do it when it is convenient, and some don’t even read the Bible, so they don’t follow it. True followers of Jesus know how important the Bible is. David wrote, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).

9. Has the Bible been changed? We (Muslims) think it has been, but Christians don’t. -

The Qur’an directs Muslims to believe the Taurat/Torah (*the first 5 books of the Bible, written by Musa/Moses*), Zabur/ Psalms, and the Injil/Gospel, which means **they have not been abrogated nor annulled.** “... for, verily, those who have attained to faith [in this divine writ], as well as those who follow the Jewish faith, and the Sabians, and the Christians - all who believe in God and the Last Day and do righteous deeds - no fear need they have, and neither shall they grieve” (Qur’an 5:68-69). Because Jesus prophesied, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will **by no means** pass away” (Luke 21:33), we know that **the Injil/Gospel has not been corrupted.** The prophet Daud/David declared, “The words of the Lord *are* pure words, *Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall **preserve them from this generation forever**” (Zabur/Psalms 12:6-7). **God knows how to protect His Word from being corrupted!**

10. What is an “Evangelical Christian?” - These are the characteristics of evangelicals:

- a) They believe a Christian needs to repent of their sins and have a conversion, a real change in their life (Acts 3:19). They believe a person must be “Born Again (John 3:3). (1)
- b) They believe in the Rapture (1 Corinthians 15:52), the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-21) and the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:15-26). (1)
- c) Their Statement of Faith declares, “We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.” (1)
- d) They emphasize witnessing, telling other about Jesus.
 - (1) “What Does “Evangelical” Really Mean? 10 Things to Know,” Amanda Casanova
www.christianity.com/church/denominations
 - (2) “20 Questions Muslims Ask About Christians,” Posted by CARL MEDEARIS. carlmedearis.com