

COMPARING THE INTER-FAITH COMMONALITIES AND DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY

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Abstract

Islam and Christianity, both traditions of Abraham, share centuries of mutual influence as well as an assortment of core values. This research involves an in-depth comparison between the two distinct global faiths within consideration, highlighting both their similarities and differences. The monotheistic faith or believing in a single Lord, is a key aspect that the two faiths have in agreement. This study discusses the shared admiration that Jews and Christians have towards messengers who include Abram and Christ. It investigates their significance to faiths, particularly Jews as well as Catholics. The primary contrasts are then analysed, with the initial one having Jesus' reverence in Catholicism. Conversely, he is just a messenger of Allah, like he belongs to Islam. The nature of Lord, the many explanations of the holy Scriptures, including the types of devotion are all addressed as well. By identifying such similarities and differences, our piece is targeted to ensuring that cultural awareness between Islam and Christianity within modern day society is increased, followed by inter-religious discussion as well as tolerance amongst various religions.

Keywords: Christianity, Semitic Faiths, the Basic Essence of Lord, Islam, Similarities

INTRODUCTION

Islam and Christianity, having both of their greatest as well as greatest faiths, constitute the two most widely practiced faiths, having millions of adherents worldwide. Islam, most recognised due to its heavenly prophet Muhammad, was established by the seventh century BC (Common Era) upon its faith in only one Allah (God) as well as Mohammed's completion as a messenger, as stated in the holy text of Quran. The religion of Christianity, an early concept centred around the message of Jesus Christ throughout the first few centuries CE, saw the Messiah as the incarnation to God, the child of Man, which was and the saviour of humanity as a whole as portrayed in the Holy Bible. Both faiths have long traditions and distinct customs that play important roles in shaping the lives of people (Esposito, 2002). Conducting an examination regarding the Muslim along with Christian religions provides vital understanding to their shared ground, difference in tenets as well as differing perspectives.

This approach addresses the issue of developing a stronger connection among both religions by highlighting historically significant, cultural in nature and theological ties, shining more clearly on points of overlap and distinction, as claimed by (Denny, 2010). Al-Azmeh (2003) by contrasting conducted a deeper investigation of principles in faith, practices, morality, as well as behaviours, with certain characteristics shared by religions that are monotheistic, like the presence of prophecy along with ethical messages, and others that are unique, such to be a belief of the attributes of God as well as the role of spiritual leadership. Coulson (1963) comparing the overlaps and differences across Islam and Christianity familiarises academics and professionals with the social context of each religion, allowing them to foster interaction and collaboration among people of various faiths. Khan et al. (2017) deconstructed ideological discursivity by viewing gender issues in light of Quran (Bhutto & Ramzan, 2021).

In light of this, it is evident that the purpose of the research is to investigate the similarities and contrasts among both of the globe's largest faiths. This section relies upon an in-depth examination of the fundamental ideas, past events, and modern manifestations of both the Islamic as well as Christian faiths. The article attempts to comprehend how their shared foundations and different interpretations lead to a vast religious spectrum. Comparative analyses employing techniques like assessing tenets, volumes of scripture, religious rites, and customs of culture to improve understanding of the complicated relationship among Islam and Christianity constitute an important component of this subject.

COMMON ABRAHAMIC ORIGINS

Although Islam and Christianity adhere towards a single religion, they declare the omnipotent, omniscient, character of God, the single Creator (Esposito, 2002). Such a belief in a single creator is a particularly significant and vital element between the two faiths, determining their intellectual concepts, practices, and morality. Into Islam, the belief of Tawhid emphasises the Lord's ultimate oneness as well as sovereignty, whereas Christianity preaches a doctrine called the Trinity, which affirms God's oneness across three individuals: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Despite doctrinal differences, the concept of a single deity unites Islam and Christianity, indicating a shared foundation or demonstrating creedal as well as theological consistency (Hidayatullah, 2019). Aside from Christianity, Islam placed apostles and prophets at the centre, working as intermediaries amongst Lord and people and demonstrating the greatest ethical behaviours by directing humanity in the correct direction (Esposito, 2010). The shared character of Abraham, who is the defender of a single religion, whom is revered by both faiths and represents personal faithfulness, devotion, and unwavering faith, is being formed.

Moses' standing for both lawgiver as well as rescuer is great. Allah gave him the written word, and he eventually came to be known as the Apostle of Islam after being a Tawrat disciple. In addition, the Messiah is presented as an apostle within Islam as well as the incarnation of Lord within the Christian faith, as a manifestation of Lord's almighty compassion, tenderness, and salvation on Planet Earth (Esposito, 2008). The mutual regard displayed by these holy personalities throughout Islamic as well as Christian tradition alludes to an intersection of doctrinal foundations and metaphysical legacy (Gibb, 1953). At one side, both Islam and Christianity claim a shared credo pertaining to moral ideals, since compassion, fairness, as well as societal duty remain eternal principles preached in their sacred texts in addition to the messages given by the earliest apostles (Esposito, 2017). The Quran, the teachings of God, lays an intense focus on *rahmah*, the word used in Arabic for His limitless love for people (Nasr 2009). Those who believe are then asked to emulate the identical emotion by showing tenderness, affection, and kindness to everyone.

MAJOR PHILOSOPHICAL CHANGES

Esposito (2004) stated that in accordance with Islam, God is symbolised by complete oneness referred to as Tawhid, that emphasises Allah's oneness and independence. Muslims recognise a one Lord who exists above everything including throughout the cosmos, implying therefore any intermediary or interaction regarding this Ultimate is forbidden. The Christian faith, on the contrary hand, believes within the Trinitarian belief, that asserts God's oneness across his three individuals: Son, Spirit of Truth, and Father (McGrath, 2012). Catholics have complete faith in Lord's three-part nature, which includes Lord the Creator, Christ the Son, & the gift of the Holy Spirit. Although the two faiths acknowledge God's authority, they differ in their understanding of

God's uniqueness and multiplicity (Brown, 2008). The primary and distinctive direction of Catholicism is based on the character of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is viewed as God's divine Son within whom that is both Godliness as well as humanity (Pelikan 2005). Catholics make such claims because they believe in Christ as the Son of God (Messiah), he was crucified however promised them of redemption. Mankind praises Him. Furthermore, Jesus is honoured and respected as a member of the Holy Trinity, which is one Lord. Another argument is the fact that Christ is widely respected within Islam as the Lord's undisputed apostle (Nazr, 2007). Yet, Catholicism opposed him, claiming that he being a divine entity, which is why he got crucified. The Islamic faith, on the opposite hand, argues that the Messiah is an identifiable human messiah born by Mary when she was virgin. Therefore, Jesus isn't heavenly (Esposito, 2000).

TRADITIONS AND FESTIVALS

Both Islam and Christianity provide religious ceremonies that serve as a road to mysticism and an intimate relationship to God. Salah (five prayers a day within Islam) is a vital part of Muslims' everyday life. It provides a chance of Muslims to communicate with Allah as well as keep track of their convictions (Esposito 1998). The prohibition of food throughout the holy month of this holy month (Sawm), involving abstaining to consuming food or beverages in addition to ceasing additional bodily requires such as having sexual relations along with smoking, via dawn to sunset, is a further significant behaviour that has been associated with a variety of benefits, including discipline, empathy, and spiritual growth. Furthermore, the Muslim Hajj trip, that represents the fifth pillar to Islam, emphasises the following qualities of life: solidarity, equal treatment, and obedience to Lord (Peters, 1996). The majority of Christians fast during Lent, it might be interpreted as a period of denying oneself and meditation, similar to Christ' fasting within the desert. Despite most religions, pilgrimage does not exist in Catholicism. Some faiths place a high value on locations because they are visited in order to obtain religious enlightenment; one such site is Bethlehem, whereas, Shariah functions as a cohesive system of living founded on the teachings of the Quran as well as Sunnah, including all aspects of life such as private morality, parental rights, and communal ethics (Armi, 2001). The law of sharia provides guidance on daily things like as praying hours, a fasting state charity, as well as dietary requirements, in addition to relationships between humans, with the goal of promoting justice and the good of individuals and communities (An-Na'im, 2008). However, unlike Christianity, Sharia has no conventional system of justice. Instead of employing the global canonical law, which acts as a covering for religious problems and the Catholic Church's organisational element (Norman, 2009). Similarly, Canon Law investigates the essence of rites of passage clergy disciplinary procedures, church community governance, and theological principles that the law is meant to govern (Tanner, 2012).

Iman (faith), that encompasses simultaneously thought and conduct, is a fundamental component in the Islamic philosophy. Therefore, redemption is found in Iman, together with Amal, that denotes good works. Most excellent degree of redemption, still is closeness to Allah's compassion, which is attained by submitting to His decrees and following His counsel. Christianity, contrary, places Jesus' divinity at the centre of redemption instruction, implying that an individual is saved just by accepting in Jesus, being born of God, and embracing His sacrifice death for a way of atonement as well as forgiveness (McGrath, 2011). According to Christian theology, the ultimate judgement of dead people coincides to the last judgement that leads to either heaven or an everlasting separation with God.

MODERN PROBLEMS ALONG WITH INTERFAITH DISCOURSE

Two belief systems, Islam and Christianity, are facing identical tensions that offer today's issues. In this sense, the two faiths are believed to be linked on the core principle of fairness and assisting others, resulting in the use of their abilities to participate in charitable activities and highlight the situation of the within society underprivileged (Hussain, 2003). Both faiths place a great priority on solving conflicts strategies, the nonviolent ideal, and promoting peace efforts. Collaboration on such matters, in specific, demonstrates an effective national interfaith harmony. Connecting between religions being one way Islam and Christianity might work over their differences in order to work along. In fact, communal prayers between devotees belonging to both faiths are going to break traditional beliefs and strengthen bonds of compassion. Conversation allows individuals to find answers to universal problems, which promotes peace and plays an important part in building a nation (Knitter 2002). A commonality is established, yet dripping apart happens in the course of things. Theological disputes, the majority of who stem in the concept of Lord and Christ' place in the universe, may prove contentious (Miller, 2013). The intricacy and ambiguity involved with some previous disagreements, as well as ongoing confrontations among certain nations, can also impede the preservation of a shared knowledge.

CONCLUSION

To summarise, cross-cultural examination of Islam and Christianity makes a significant addition to our knowledge of their shared foundation. By tracing shared genealogy through Abraham, who is moral perspectives, as well as some assignments, we get a deeper understanding of the strands that connect both historic creeds. Understanding the notion that people are both similar and different at exactly the same moment is essential for the development of compassion and reverence. Interfaith discourse, which is based on understanding, contributes to a partnership between Islam and Christianity as a result of present societal difficulties like harmony and fairness. Further research should look at how one religious's identification evolves and influences other faiths, in addition to the overarching issue of how religion interacts to the larger environment of globalization.

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