

Ricky Joe Lowe

World Religions and Cults

Please discuss the following questions and answer to the best of your ability as a group. Use Bible references where possible.

Lesson 1 God vs Man

1. In your own words give a definition of Humanisms
 - a. Humanism = oxford = a system of thought that considers that solving human problems with the help of reason is more important than religious beliefs. It emphasizes the fact that the basic nature of humans is good.⁵
 - b. webster = a doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on human interests or values *especially* : a philosophy that usually rejects supernaturalism and stresses an individual's dignity and worth and capacity for self-realization through reason : secular humanism
 - c. Cambridge = a belief system based on the principle that people's spiritual and emotional needs can be satisfied without following a god or religion
2. What is the problem when autonomous creatures remove God?
 - a. It creates a vacuum that must be filled with something or someone
3. What are a few ways to demonstrate how some religions are false?
 - a. Determine where the religion is arbitrary - determined by impulse rather than reason
 - b. Identify inconsistencies in logic
 - c. Identify where the world religion borrows from the bible for those who insist we are nothing but animals
 - d. Identify where these religions lead **EX**: atheist believe since we evolved there is no purpose to life but admitting this, they confirm purpose does exist

Lesson 2 and 3 - Counterfeits of Christianity: Islam

1. What is the structure which the first president of the united states considered important to erect? National Cathedral
2. How many Muslims are there world wide? 1.8 billion

3. How many Muslims are there in Washington State? apx 100,000
4. How many Mosques are in Washington State? 79
5. What does Islam mean? Submission to Allah
6. How old is the Muslim religion which began with Muhammad? 1,400
7. What are the five pillars of Islam and a brief description?
 - a. **The Creed:** the great Shahada "confession" Acknowledging Muhammad as the prophet of Allah, the believer now submits oneself to the teachings of Islam. The Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, becomes the guiding principle of life and eternity, and Muhammad is now the example by which a Muslim lives (Qur'an 33:21).
 - b. **Prayer:** The lifeline of Muslims, prayer is the central practice of Islam. Muslims are obligated to pray five times daily. The prayer ritual includes washing themselves beforehand (wudu) and reciting their prayers in Arabic while prostrating themselves before Allah. The Muslim is also required to pray with the Islamic community on Fridays (jumu'ah). If a Muslim does not pray regularly, he will forget about Allah and his greatness.
 - c. **Almsgiving:** This pillar demands that Muslims reject individual greed and embrace generosity to others. Therefore, Muslims are commanded to give 2.5 percent of their incomes, excluding debts, to those less fortunate in the community.
 - d. **Fasting:** According to the Qur'an, fasting is prescribed of the Islamic believer in order to learn "self-restraint" (Qur'an 2:183). For one month, from before sunrise to after sunset, the Muslim abstains from food, drink, strenuous activity, and even marital intimacy. In their place, the Muslim should devote himself to such things as reading the Qur'an.
 - e. **Pilgrimage** : The climax of the Muslim experience, followers of Islam who are physically and financially able are required to visit the holiest city of Islam, Mecca (Saudi Arabia). The centerpiece of Mecca is a cube-shaped building called the Ka'aba. This structure, which Muslims believe was first established by the Old Testament prophet Abraham as the first house of worship on earth, had become corrupted with hundreds of idols by the time of Muhammad.
8. What happened with Mohammad which caused him to start Islam religion? The Angel Gabriel visited in in a cave and provided him with a vision.
9. Is Allah and the God of the Bible the same God? No
10. What books/writings do Muslims read from? (6)
 - a. Qur'an -the holy Book

- b. Hadith - Mohammad's oral teachings
- c. Sunnah - Mohammad's actions
- d. The books of Moses
- e. The gospel of Jesus
- f. The Psalms of David

Defending our faith: please answer the question and give **Bible verses** that are contrary to Muslim views:

1. What is the difference between how Muslims view god (Allah) and how Christians view God (Jesus)?
 - a. Muslims: Allah is not knowable, he dictates (sovereignty) as a judge and ruler. Allah's characteristics are that of Judge and ruler. Allah Loves conditionally upon his own desires.
 - b. Jesus -For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son (John 3:16 "16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God is knowable (John 17:3 "3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." God is one essence (being) in three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20 "19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
2. What is the difference between how Muslims view Humanity and how Christians view humanity??
 - a. Muslim: There is no such thing as redemption or vicarious atonement in Islam. According to the Qur'an, no one is lost (30:30) but all are born "weak" (4:28) and forgetful (20:115). Therefore, human beings are in need of guidance, wisdom that ultimately comes from the Qur'an,
 - b. Christians: Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
 - i. We are all born with a sin nature
3. What is the difference between how Muslims view Sin and how Christians view sin?
 - a. Muslim: humans are weak and forgetful and in need of guidance which comes through Allah through the Qur'an

- b. Christians: Sin is a transgression of God's law. All have sinned Romans 3:23 "23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
4. What is the difference between how Muslims view salvation and how Christians view salvation??
 - a. Salvation is deed based, enough good works and Heaven is a possibility
 - b. Christians: Salvation is by grace through faith Ephesians 2:8-9 "8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."
 5. What is the difference between how Muslims view Jesus and how Christians view Jesus?
 - a. Muslims : View Jesus as a prophet
 - b. Christians: View Jesus as God incarnate in the flesh: John 1:14 "14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 5 and John 10

Questions to Ask Muslims:

1. What _Historical ___ proof is there for the Islamic Jesus?
2. Can you be sure you will go to ___Heaven_____ when you die?
3. Does Allah still __Love____you when you do wrong?
4. Do you ever get tired of trying to ___work _____your way to heaven?
5. Have you ever read the _Bible _____? Would you read the Bible if I gave you a free copy in your language?
6. If the ___Qur'an _____ is what it claims to be, that Allah is unknowable, how can we trust the Qur'an to be accurate when it claims to reveal knowledge about Allah?