

Muhammad

For Further Reflection

1. Is prophethood a helpful category for Christian reflection on Muhammad? If so, what criteria should be involved in discussing whether Muhammad is a prophet? If not, what other categories would serve Christian reflection better?
2. Is Christian response to Muhammad inevitably more sympathetic to him in the Meccan than in the Medinan period?
3. Can Christians frame a sympathetic account of Muhammad as political and military leader?
4. What challenges are there for Christians in Muhammad?
5. How should Christian reflection respond to the multiplicity of Muslim accounts of Muhammad? With which Muhammad are we dealing, and what determines our choice?
6. What are the implications for Christians of the exalted place given to Muhammad in popular veneration?
7. What parallels are there between veneration of Muhammad by Muslims and veneration of Mary by Christians, and what is the significance of these parallels?
8. What are the implications of recent scholarship on Islamic origins for Christian reflection on and response to Muhammad?
9. Can Christians (and non-Muslims more widely) draw critical conclusions about Muhammad without offending Muslims and undermining relations with them? If not, what paths should be chosen both for scholarship and for wider public discourse?

10. Are there parallels worth exploring between Jewish responses to Jesus, Christian responses to Muhammad, and Muslim responses to alleged bearers of prophecy after Muhammad?
11. How should Christians respond to the abuse or ridiculing of Muhammad? Do Christians have a responsibility to discourage such abuse or ridicule?
12. What priorities should there be in future Christian study of Muhammad?