

Divine Appointments **Session 3: SHARING CHRIST WITH MUSLIM FRIENDS**

Muslim Beliefs

- **Simple Monotheism:** There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the final Prophet sent to humanity. Jesus is not the Son of God or God in the flesh because Allah cannot have an equal or beget children.
 - *“People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah ... And do not say, “Three”; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son...” (Surat un-Nisa 4:171)*
- **Post-Christian Revelation:** The Qur’an is the final, perfect revelation to humanity. The Old and New Testaments were originally given by Allah, but have been corrupted by interpolation and human errors.
 - *“Allah - there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of existence. He has sent down upon you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel.” (Surat Ali ‘Imran 3:2-3)*
- **Corruption of NT Gospel Message:** Jesus did not die on a cross to pay for the sins of humanity. Rather, someone else was crucified in his place.
 - *“And [for] their saying, ‘Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.’ And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them... And they did not kill him, for certain.” (Surat un-Nisa 4:157)*
- **Muhammad as Final Prophet:** Muhammad, who came approximately 580 years after Jesus, is the final prophet of the Abrahamic Faiths.
- **Angels:** Celestial beings, servants of Allah
- **Predestination:** Allah has predestined each person to either eternal salvation or damnation
- **Salvation by Faith & Works:** Entrance into heaven is based upon one’s own righteous deeds and responsiveness to the message of Islam.
 - *“Indeed, those who have believed **and done righteous deeds** - they will have the Gardens of Paradise as a lodging” (Surat ul-Kahf 18:10)*

Muslim Practice: 5 Pillars of Islam

1. **SHAHADAH:** Verbal proclamation of “I believe there is no god but God (Allah), and Muhammad is his [final] Prophet.”
2. **SALAT** Obligatory, ritual prayer 5 times a day toward Mecca.
3. **SAWM:** Obligatory fasting from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan.
4. **ZAKAT:** Obligatory charity – 2.5% of excess wealth.
5. **HAJJ:** Obligatory pilgrimage to Mecca once in one’s lifetime to visit Islamic holy sites.

Reasons Muslims tend to reject the gospel

- **The Qur’an explicitly rejects the NT Gospel message...**
 - *“And [for] their saying, ‘Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah .’ **And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him;** but [another] was made to resemble him to them... **And they did not kill him, for certain.**” (Surat un-Nisa 4:157)*
- **...while affirming a different “gospel”?**
 - *“Allah - there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of existence. **He has sent down upon you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming what was before it. And He revealed the Torah and the Gospel.**” (Surat Ali ‘Imran 3:2-3)*

Why the gospel is “good news” for Muslims

- Deliverance from slavery to works-based faith, crippling fear of judgment day
- Provides assurance of salvation that they can never find in Islam

5 Tips for Cultivating Christ-centered conversation (Colossians 4:5-6, 1 Peter 3:14b-15)

1. **Cultivate natural, intentional relationship** — but don’t force spiritual conversation.
2. **Ask genuine questions** — not “gotcha” questions.
3. **Don’t assume that all Muslims are Islamic scholars** — many are nominal.
4. **Remain confident and bold about Biblical truth** — don’t try to accommodate or synchronize.
5. **Respond graciously to pushback.**

Resources

1. Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus, Nabeel Qureshi
2. Son of Hamas, Mosab Hassan
3. Desolate Vineyards, W.A. Sofien
4. The Ambassador’s Guide to Islam, Alan Shlemon