

### **Compare the vision of salvation proposed by Islam to Christianity**

All religions are deeply concerned with salvation. I will be comparing the vision of salvation proposed by Islam to the vision of salvation proposed by Christianity.

In Christianity Jesus was the manifestation of God on earth sent down to save mankind from eternal damnation. The three parts to God in Christianity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (the Trinity) is utterly rejected as Polytheistic as it is seen as contrary to the first of the six articles of faith that God is One. However, Isa (Jesus) is a respected Prophet in Islam. Islam has many of the same Prophets as the Hebrew Scriptures such as Ibrahim (Abraham) and Musa (Moses). Islam believes that God communicated his will through these Prophets and that Muhammad was the greatest Messenger. 'The Seal of the Prophets' of which no other Messenger will come.

Sin is the human failure to do God's will. In Islam there is intentional and unintentional sin. Intentional sin can be major or minor. Abstaining From the Major Sins Cause the Lesser Sins to be overlooked. The worst sin of all is to put someone on the same level of Allah either in your mind or heart. In Christianity there are mortal sin, like major sins in Islam or venial sins, like minor sins. Major sins in both religions are fornication, immorality, suicide and adultery. In Christianity Man is born with Original Sin and it isn't until one is Baptised that they are cleansed from the Original Sin with which we are all born. Baptism signifies the new life and the cleansing from sin, won when Jesus rose from the dead. In Islam, everybody is born in a pure state (fitra). It isn't until Puberty that we have the ability to sin. When a child hits puberty Angels records the good and bad deeds.

In Islam, a person must confess their sin directly to Allah, This sin should be repented sincerely. The person must intend to never do it again. They should then trust in the promises

of Allah's forgiveness in the Qur'an. Repentance should be proved by doing good deeds. A Christian does the Sacrament of Reconciliation that allows God's forgiveness to be sought. Belief in Jesus allows sinners to redeem. This sacrament includes: the word of God, confession of Sin, the giving of penance, a prayer of Sorrow and a prayer of Absolution.

One must go to confession to perform this sacrament and confess to the mediator that is the Priest or Clergyman, who will ask God to forgive you. This is frowned upon in Islam as it is believed that it undermined the Greatness of Allah. A Sheikh is not an intermediary between Allah. They have no ability to forgive your sins, i.e. offer absolution. It is only Allah who forgives sins and guides to the right path and no human being has that ability. Human beings are only able to guide them.

Like Christians, Muslims believe that the present life is only a preparation for the next life. The concept of The Day of Judgement are quite similar. Both believe this world is material and only temporary and testing and that a day will come when the whole universe will be destroyed. In Islam the door of repentance will shut. Both believe the dead will be resurrected for judgment by God. This day will be the beginning of a life that will never end. Good deeds will be rewarded and the evil will be punished.

Both religions come derive from Judaism. Muslims believe Islam has always existed and is now complete. In Islam the final guidance to salvation is the Qur'an. Jesus is the key to salvation in Christianity. There are many differences but there are also similarities such as the process of salvation. One must seek forgiveness or else they will not enter Paradise. There will be a Day of Judgement.