

APR. 14 / 15; 2007
KINGDOMS IN CONTRAST:

*Christians believe Jesus is God in the Flesh.
Muslims believe Allah is "The God"*

1. Read aloud the following verses from the Bible discussing this question after you read each scripture:

What stands out to you about Jesus from this passage?

- John 1:1-18; Heb. 1:1-4; Col.1:15-20

TO GET YOU THINKING:

For many Muslims, as it is for many Christians, their faith is at the very core of their lives. Simply put, it defines the way in which they perceive their world.

Meditating on that thought of how we see God: Jesus God incarnate (knowable, approachable) Vs. how a Muslim sees God: "The God" (unknowable, unapproachable), discuss the following questions.

1. How would each world view of that of a Christian and that of a Muslim, produce a differing sense of security and confidence?
2. If the dreams/goals of an "ideal" world for a Christian (righteousness, peace and joy – Romans 14:17) and an "ideal" world for a Muslim (the world under Islamic Law) became completely realized;
 - Discuss how those "ideal worlds" would differ?
 - Which world do you think an atheist (someone impartial to either faith) would choose to live in?

3. *In many Muslim nations, while Muslims are free to criticize and attack other faiths, Muslims and Non-Muslims alike risk being persecuted and killed for opening Islam up for a free discussion or open debate. Its teachings are left unquestioned. In contrast The Bible has been repeatedly debated and scrutinized for hundreds of years.*

- Why should we, as Christians, not be afraid of honest & fair debate and tough questions coming from sincere and searching hearts?
- What underlying issues would make one afraid to have his faith questioned?

4. *Muslims believe that Jesus will return but that he will return as a radical Muslim!*

- Compare and contrast the Biblical profile of Jesus (who you know Jesus to be like, as you read in the Gospels) to that of a radical Muslim.
- Is the Muslims' belief possible that Jesus will return as a radical Muslim?
- Why does this false belief attack the deity of Christ and the very heart of God?

{Refer back to the verses you read at the beginning of this study, in John, Hebrews and Colossians.}

5. *The truth of the Bible is confirmed by the fact that it had many authors over thousands of years with a consistent thread, echoed by each God-inspired author, throughout its entirety. The Koran, in contrast, had one author, with no other authors involved confirming the truth of its writings.*

- Discuss why the Bible is such a unique book compared to other "Holy" books such as the Koran, the Book of Mormon etc.?

6. This is how one account describes the "Mahdi", Islam's awaited Savior for the end times:

"He has been the vision of the visionaries in history. He has been the dream of all the dreamers of the world. For the ultimate salvation of mankind he is the pole star of hope on which the gaze of humanity is fixed."

- From a Christian's view point, if he (the "Mahdi") is not our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then who could he be?
- *Islam talks about the Mahdi filling the world with "equity and justice" when he comes.* In what ways can we use this inborn human yearning for equity and justice as an "entry" point to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our Muslim brothers and sisters?
- Take a moment to pray for any Muslim people you may have contact with.

PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER:

Please take the remainder of this time to support each other in your group as you pray together through any issues that have arisen.

KINGDOMS IN CONTRAST: ISLAM VS. CHRISTIANITY

SERMON-BASED DISCUSSION GUIDE

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