

The Good News for Muslims



St. Catherine of Siena
06 February 2016

The Church and Other Religions

“[T]he Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions. She regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones she holds and sets forth, nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men”

Nostra Aetate, 2

Dominus Iesus

“Above all else, it must be firmly believed that ‘the Church, a pilgrim now on earth, is necessary for salvation: the one Christ is the mediator and the way of salvation; he is present to us in his body which is the Church. He himself explicitly asserted the necessity of faith and baptism (cf. Mk 16:16; Jn 3:5), and thereby affirmed at the same time the necessity of the Church which men enter through baptism as through a door’.”

Dominus Iesus, Declaration on the Salvific Universality of Jesus Christ and the Church, 20

Proclaiming the Good News

“I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my *proclamation* were not with persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.”

(1 Cor 2:4-5)

Why Conversion Has Been Slow

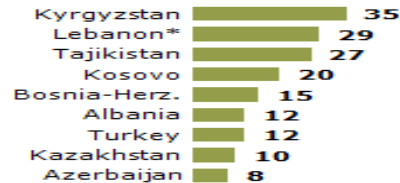
Higher Support for Sharia Where Islam Is Officially Favored Religion

% of Muslims who say sharia should be official law ...

In countries where Islam is the officially favored religion



In countries where Islam is not the officially favored religion



* Lebanon has 18 favored religious sects, both Islamic and non-Islamic.

This question was not asked in Uzbekistan, Russia and Thailand are excluded since the question was modified to ask if sharia should be the law of the land in Muslim areas. (See Chapter TK for more details.)

Data on government favoritism of Islam is from the Pew Research Center's September 2012 report "Rising Tide of Restrictions on Religion" (GRI.Q.20.1).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q79a.

Pew Research Center, *The World's Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society*, 2013

Dialogue with Muslims?

“To convince a reasonable soul one does not need a strong arm, or weapons of any kind, or any other means of threatening the person with death”

Pope Benedict XVI, Regensburg Lecture, 13

Common Ground?



“...the basis for this peace and understanding already exists. It is part of the very foundational principles of both faiths: love of the One God, and love of the neighbor. These principles are found over and over again in the sacred texts of Islam and Christianity. The Unity of God, the necessity of love for Him, and the necessity of love of the neighbor is thus the common ground between Islam and Christianity.”

A Common Word Between us and You: A Letter to Pope Benedict XVI from 138 Muslim Scholars

St. Thomas Aquinas on Islam

“It was a shrewd decision on his part to forbid his followers to read the Old and New Testaments, lest these books convict him of falsity.”

Summa Contra Gentiles,

Corrupting God's Word

“Perfected is the Word of thy Lord in truth and justice. There is naught that can change His words. He is the Hearer, the Knower.”

6:115

Islamic Trinity

O followers of the Book! do not exceed the limits in your religion, and do not speak (lies) against Allah, but (speak) the truth... say not, *Three* . Desist, it is better for you; Allah is only one God; far be It from His glory that He should have a son, whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth is His, and Allah is sufficient for a Protector.

4:171

They indeed have disbelieved who say: Lo! *Allah is the Messiah, son of Mary*. .. if He had willed *to destroy the Messiah son of Mary, and his mother* and everyone on earth?

5:17

Jesus in the Koran

“O People of the Book! Do not exaggerate in your religion nor utter anything concerning God except the truth. The Messiah, Isa son of Mary, was only a Messenger of God, and His word, which He conveyed to Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in God and His Messengers, and say not ‘Three’. – Cease! ”

Sura 4:171

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist...” 1Jn 4:3

Jesus in the Koran

“They did not kill him (Isa) and nor did they crucify him , but it seemed to them (as if it was Isa being crucified) and those who differ there in, are in doubt. They have no certain knowledge. They are following nothing but conjecture for surely they did not kill him but Allah raised him up to him.”

Sura 4:154-158

Coexist?

“The tragic situation faced by our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq, as well as the Yazidi and members of other religious and ethnic communities, demands that all religious leaders clearly speak out to condemn these crimes unanimously and unambiguously.”

Pope Francis



God the Father

“They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will become free’?’ ... ‘I know that you are descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill me, because my word has no room among you. I tell you what I have seen in the Father’s presence; then do what you have heard from the Father.’ They answered and said to him, ‘Our father is Abraham.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works of Abraham.’”

John 8:33-34, 37-39



Jesus the Source of Evangelization

“The Messiah Jesus son of Mary is only a messenger of Allah and a *word* which He projected to Mary and a *spirit* proceeding from Himself.”

Sura 4:171



Mary in the Koran

“When any human being is born, Satan touches him at both sides of the body with his two fingers, except Jesus, the son of Mary, whom Satan tried to touch but failed, for he touched the placenta-cover instead.”

Hadith 4506



A Missionary Strategy

“Missionaries in the future will, more and more, see that their apostolate among the Moslems will be successful in the measure that they preach Our Lady of Fatima. Mary is the advent of Christ, bringing Christ to the people before Christ Himself is born. In an apologetic endeavor, it is always best to start with that which people already accept. Because the Moslems have a devotion to Mary, our missionaries should be satisfied merely to expand and to develop that devotion, with the full realization that Our Blessed Lady will carry the Moslems the rest of the way to her divine Son. She is forever a traitor, in the sense that she will not accept any devotion for herself, but will always bring anyone who is devoted to her to her divine Son. As those who lose devotion to her lose belief in the divinity of Christ, so those who intensify devotion to her gradually acquire that belief.”

Venerable Fulton Sheen, *The World's First Love*

Questions

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