

- Salvation comes if a person a) declares “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammed is his messenger”, b) sincerely repents of their sins, and c) has accumulated more good deeds than bad deeds, following the five pillars of Islam. Muslims have no assurance of salvation.
- **Truth: We are sinners, saved not by works, but by grace alone, justified through faith in Jesus Christ alone, work that Christ completed on the cross. Jesus is one and only mediator between people and God.**
- **Rom 3:23-25** <sup>“23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. <sup>25</sup> For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.”
- **1 Tim 2:3-6** <sup>“3</sup> This is good and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. <sup>5</sup> For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup>He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.”

### The Future

- Islam Teaching
  - A day of judgment is coming when the world will end and all people will be judged according to their deeds
  - Good Muslims will be rewarded and admitted to paradise. Heaven is a place of bliss and perfection, with emphasis on the promise that there is a garden populated with maidens to provide sexual pleasure to righteous men.
  - Those who die that are not Muslims will be sent to Hell
  - There is absolutely no guarantee of Paradise, with the sole exception of dying as a martyr for Allah.
- **Truth: Only those who believe in Jesus will go to heaven.**
  - **John 3:17-18** <sup>“17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son.”
  - **John 3:36** <sup>“36</sup> And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”

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All Scripture references are from “The Holy Bible: New Living Translation” unless otherwise noted

# So What’s the Difference?

## *Comparing Evangelical Christianity to Other Faiths*



### #14 – Islam

#### A. Overview of Islam

- Muhammed claims to have been visited by the angel Gabriel in AD 610 who revealed God’s Word to him over 23 years. He could neither read nor write, so he memorized these revelations, which were compiled after his death. They now form the Qur’an, which is considered by Muslims as the literal words of God. It is to be memorized and recited in Arabic.
- Islam was founded approx. AD 620 by Muhammed in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, although Muslims believe that Islam started at creation when God created Adam and Eve. Muhammed proclaimed he was God’s final and greatest prophet.
- Islamic law (Shari’a law) governs all aspects of life. It is derived from the Qur’an and the Haddith, which is a compilation of Muhammed’s sayings and conduct. There is no separation of church and state in Islam.
- The majority of Muslims act peacefully, but historically Islam has grown by force as well as persuasion, following Muhammed’s example. Early surah’s (chapters) in the Quran speak of peace, but later surah’s speak of violence, inciting conflict within Islam. There is a small radical faction of militant Islamic extremists who inflict violence & terrorism against the Western world, in the name of Allah, to advance Islam.

- Today, there are about 2 million Muslims in Canada, and 1.7 billion Muslims worldwide, in three groups - Sunni (90%), Shi'ite (5%), and Sufi (5%).

### The Five Pillars of Islam

- Shahada – Profession of faith “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammed is his messenger”
- Salat – Prayer 5 times a day while facing Mecca
- Zakat – Alms-giving of at least 2.5% of their wealth income given to address the imbalance between rich and poor
- Saum – Fasting during daylight hours in the month of Ramadan
- Hajj – Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once

## B. So What's the Difference?

### God the Father

- Islam Teaching
  - There is one supreme all-powerful God who can do all things and knows all things. His name is Allah, the arabic name for God. People are to fear and submit to Allah.
  - Shirk is a great sin, which is associating anything with Allah. The Christian doctrine of the trinity is seen as great shirk.
  - God has revealed himself through His last and final prophet Muhammed, the Qur'an, and the Hadith. The Qur'an affirms the original Biblical Torah, Psalms and Gospels, but Jews and Christians have corrupted the original texts, and must now be understood in light of the Qur'an.
- **Truth: The Bible has been accurately preserved and is the true Word of God, not the Qur'an.**
- **2 Tim 3:16** “<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”
- **Truth: There is one true God who revealed Himself in the Bible as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We can have a relationship with God. He is our loving Father, and we are His children.**
- **Jer 31:33-34** “I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup>And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the Lord.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the Lord.”

- **John 3:16** “<sup>16</sup>For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”
- **Rom 8:15** “<sup>15</sup>So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”

### Jesus Christ

- Islam Teaching
  - Jesus' virgin birth is affirmed. Jesus was sinless, taught with wisdom, performed many miracles, and is a respected prophet of Allah, but not the Son of God
  - Jesus did not die on a cross because God would not allow his prophet to die like that. Jesus was not resurrected.
  - Jesus will return as the last Muslim warrior that ushers in the end times and brings Islamic world domination.
- **Truth: Jesus is the one and only eternal Son of God. He is by very nature God. He died on the cross for our sins, and was resurrected by God.**
- **Heb 1:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. <sup>2</sup>And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.”
- **Phil 2:5-11** “<sup>5</sup>You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup>Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup>Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

### How People Are Saved

- Islam Teaching
  - Adam and Eve sinned, but they were forgiven, with no consequences from their rebellion.
  - Mankind is not fallen and death is natural. People are basically good, but need the guidance of the Prophet.
  - There is no original sin, so a Saviour is not necessary.