

Islam Discussion

Recommended book: *Jihad in the West: Muslim Conquests from the 7th to the 21st Centuries*. Paul Fergosi (Amazon.com)

Today we want to focus not on the history of Islam but on the historical interaction of Islam and Christianity. Specifically we will look at the Crusades, Jihad and the events in Egypt and the Middle East today.

The Crusaders of the 11-13th centuries seem to have a bad name among scholars and especially Islam.

What caused Christians to travel over 1450 miles to fight in the Crusades over a period of 196 years?

Revisionists (people who change history to fit a political point of view) are attempting to convince the world that it was due to hostile, greedy Christian aggression against peaceful Muslims who were minding their own business. Nothing could be further from historical truth! In fact, Islam had been invading Europe for over 400 years prior to the first crusade! From 711 A.D. to 1095 A.D. Islam had invaded and conquered: Spain (800* years), Portugal (600* years), France, Italy, Sicily, Austria, Bosnia, Serbia (400* years), Croatia, Hungary (150* years), Rumania (400* years), Wallachia, Albania, Moldavia, Bulgaria (500* years), Greece (500* years), Armenia, Georgia, Poland, Ukraine, and eastern and southern Russia.

Crusaders invasion of the Middle East lasted less than 150 years. The Crusades were a defensive action with the goal of driving the Muslims out of Europe and recapturing Christian lands.

*Total years of occupation. 197

Fergosi, Paul. *Jihad in the West*. Prometheus Books, 1998 pp. 23-24

I have heard some historians claim that the term “Jihad” means an inner struggle of the soul. Is that true?

This is again a revisionist attempt to tame the term “Jihad.” To

understand the Jihad we must be clear in our minds about what it is and what it is not. To start, it is *not* what most people think it is. Its purpose is not to convert unbelievers to Islam by force. This may have been so in its first century of life, when the choice given to the defeated was conversion to Islam or death, but this was soon changed to conversion to Islam, death or tribute in the form of a special tax. It was a case of “your money or your life”! The purpose of the Jihad was, and basically still is, to expand and extend Islam until the whole world is under Muslim rule. The Jihad is essentially a permanent state of hostility that Islam maintains against the rest of the world, with or without fighting, for more sovereignty over more territory. We should at this point recall the words of Jacques Ellal who, in his forward to Bat Yeor’s *The Decline of Eastern Christianity* (p. 19), reminds us of an almost forgotten basic fact concerning the Jihad: “*Jihad* is a religious obligation. It forms part of the duties that the believer must fulfill; it is Islam’s normal path to expansion.” The Jihad is an institution in Islam, which in Christian language we could call a sacrament. It is part of the normal functioning of the Muslim world, a religious duty, which the devout Muslim has to perform if, called upon.

Fregosi, Paul. *Jihad in the West*. Prometheus Books, 1998 pp. 20

How does Islam view Christianity and Judaism since they all claim Abraham as their forefather?

These three religions may claim the same forefather, but Islam’s view of Christianity and Judaism is not favorable. Serge Trifkovic, in his book, *Defeating Jihad*, presents this sobering insight: “Of all the ‘people of the book’ only Muslims are fully human, in Allah’s favor, worthy of another Muslim’s respect, and only they attain salvation. Jews and Christians may be distinguished from pagans, but their refusal to acknowledge Muhammad as the Prophet dooms them to discrimination and lowly status in this life, and eternal suffering after death.”

Trifkovic, Serge, *Defeating Jihad*, Regina Orthodox Press, 2006, p. 35

I have heard that Islam is a peaceful religion and that only a few extremists have high jacked this belief system.

This is a common politically correct falsification of Islam. In fact Islam is built on world conquest for Allah, and the sword has been the traditional means of conquest. Serge Trifkovic summarizes this well when he writes: “The alleged distinction between the ‘extremists’ and ‘moderates’ among them reflects a Europecentric mindset rooted in the liberal tradition alien to the Islamic world. The divide between mere Islam ‘conservatives’ (supposedly good) and ‘fundamentalist’ (bad) is equally artificial. The difference between them may concern the methods to be applied but not the final objective: to rekindle the ‘glory that was Islam’ under the Prophet and his early successors. In both cases the myth of the complete and perfect homo Islamicus is divorced from history. ‘It is with this mystical conception of knowledge that the (Muslim) intellectual completes his homemade construction.’”
Fregosi, Paul. *Jihad in the West*. Prometheus Books, 1998 p. 50

Why have we heard so much about the Crusades and the sins connected with it but virtually nothing about this Islamic invasion?

The majority of western historians have ignored the Islamic causes of the Crusades and focused primarily on the sins of the Church. In the last century it has become popular among the liberal scholars to attack the Roman Catholic Church and Christianity in general. The result has been so called historical revisionists who have intentionally ignored reliable historical truths in order to push their own agenda. The outcome has been both a people and a church that are largely ignorant of the past. This ignorance is both dangerous and foolish. With modern day Islamic terrorism, Christians need to be lovingly bold and historically accurate when speaking to the culture around them. Failure to know the truth of the past will only result in being doomed to relive its mistakes. Christians must be willing to admit the mistakes and sins of the Crusades, but we must be abundantly clear as to the causes that moved men and women of faith to take such a course of action.

Contrast between Jesus and Mohammed

Mohammed: Slay them wherever ye find them and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out, for persecution is worse than slaughter. - 2:191

JESUS: "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34. (said while dying on the cross at Calvary after being betrayed and sentenced to die for no legitimate reason).

Mohammed: O believers, take not Jews and Christians as friends; they are friends of each other. Those of you who make them his friends is one of them. God does not guide an unjust people. - 5:54

Jesus: He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46**If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Matthew 5:

Mohammed: Muslims are harsh against the unbelievers, merciful to one another. - 48:25

Jesus: 43“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor^h and hate your enemy.’ **44**But I tell you: Love your enemiesⁱ and pray for those who persecute you, **45**that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:43-45

Muhammad: Muhammad is Allah's apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless to the unbelievers but merciful to one another. Through them, Allah seeks to enrage the unbelievers. -48:29

Jesus: But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Luke 6:35

Mohammed: Prophet! Make war on the unbelievers and the hypocrites and deal sternly with them. Hell shall be their home, evil their fate. - 66:9

Jesus: 9Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

How Ought Christians Witness to Muslims?

I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. I Corinthians 9:22b-23

DON'TS

- Don't** argue with Muslims. Their culture does not permit them to lose face or lose an argument! Once the dialogue moves in argument, smile, thank them for their time and end the discussion offering to meet again at another time.

- Don't** be confrontational or provoked to anger. Keep calm, smile, use active listening: reflecting back both the feeling and content of what they say.

- Don't** use a marked Quran or marked Bible. This is a sign of desecration to them. Muslims never hold their Quran below their waist. They try to hold it high and place it in the highest position on the shelf. Do the same with the Bible and speak of Jesus with as much reverence as a Muslim would speak of Allah.

- Don't** speak to them in groups. Peer pressure is a negative factor. Attempt to arrange a private meeting. Street evangelism rarely works. If you work with a

Muslim invite him to meet you after work in a private setting.

- Don't** shake hands with a Muslim woman or touch her.

- Don't** offer to shake hands with a Muslim man or touch him if you are a woman. Even engaging a Muslim man in conversation, unless he initiates the conversation, is deemed disrespectful.

- Don't** arrange a meeting during one of the five times of Muslim prayers. Muslims observe the formal prayers at the following times:

DOS

- Do** make genuine friendship with Muslims.

- Do** share the genuine love of God in Jesus Christ.

- Do** understand his/her belief and point of view.

- Do** share and tell the prophecies about Jesus in the Bible

- Do** share and tell the miracles Jesus did in the Bible.*

- Do** share and tell the Sermon On The Mount.

- Do** share and tell the parables of Jesus.*

- Do** share with them your personal assurance of eternal life based on knowing Jesus.*

- Do** pray and let the Spirit change hearts.

- Do** offer hospitality - a very powerful and tested method.

- Do** ask beforehand about any dietary restrictions. Assume that your Muslim visitors will not eat pork nor use alcoholic beverages.

- Do** be sensitive to Muslim moral values. In Muslim cultures, friendship between a man and woman who are not related is rare. Your witness will be more effective with Muslim friends of your gender. Also, modest dress and behavior will go a long way in helping your new friend see that the behaviors they see in American media, which they often consider shocking and immoral, are not typical of all Christians.

- Do** listen and seek to understand. Ask about their homeland, their customs and their religion-and listen with the same openness that you want from them. Remember that Muslims, as Christians, may vary in their individual beliefs and faithfulness to Muslim practices. Ask your new friend what his or her religion means personally.

- Do** welcome open and honest discussion of your different religions. Many Muslims enjoy discussing their beliefs and how they differ from other religions. But remember that tearing down Islam is not your goal. Instead, share the basic doctrines of your Christian faith, especially Jesus' role in assuring your salvation and enabling you to establish a personal relationship with God.