

Practices and Rituals



Practices and Rituals



The Five Pillars

- ❖ The ritual practices of Islam are the pillars of their religious system.
- ❖ The objective is to follow Muhammad's pattern (his exact words, motions, and timing) found in the *sunna* as they accomplish the pillars.
- ❖ Beliefs are important, but the substance of Islam is the accomplishment of the five pillars.

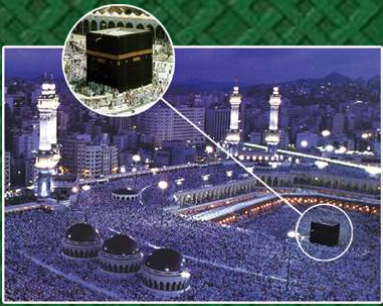
Practices and Rituals



The First Pillar: Confession (*Shahada*)

- ❖ *Shahada* is a public statement said in Arabic which means: “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet.”
- ❖ Making this confession is the first step in becoming a Muslim.
- ❖ Islam requires that everyone say this confession in Arabic.

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The Second Pillar: Prayer (*Salat*)

- ❖ *Salat* is a set ritual to be done five specific times every day (sometimes combined in three sessions).
- ❖ Prayers are memorized in Arabic, with ritual washings before each sequence.

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The Second Pillar: Prayer (*Salat*) continued

- ❖ The head must be covered.
- ❖ The body must be pointed in the direction of Mecca.
- ❖ The motions and prostrations must be followed for the prayers to be valid.



Practices and Rituals



The Third Pillar: Fasting (*Sawm*)

- ❖ *Sawm* is an annual community event for all Muslims (except children, pregnant women, and travelers).
- ❖ The fast lasts the entire lunar month known as Ramadan, and involves abstinence from all food, water, and sex during daylight hours.

Practices and Rituals



The Third Pillar: Fasting (*Sawm*) continued

- ❖ A special meal (*iftar*) is served at sunset when the daily fast ends.
- ❖ Everyone is awakened before sunrise to eat and drink to prepare them for the daylight fasting.
- ❖ In Muslim-dominated countries there is often a shift to a more nocturnal schedule with more sleep during the daytime and feasting at night.

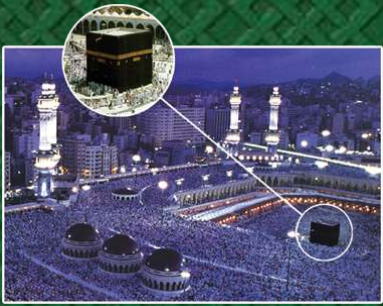
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The Third Pillar: Fasting (*Sawm*) continued

- ❖ Nighttime can be very festive and social during Ramadan, in contrast to the slower daytime.
- ❖ Many Muslims gather together for the recitation of the Qur'an every evening of Ramadan.
- ❖ There is an important three-day holiday (*Eid Al Fitr*) following Ramadan.

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The Fourth Pillar: Giving of Alms (*Zakat*)

- ❖ *Zakat* is obligatory annual giving of 2.5% of a Muslim's wealth, primarily to the poor.
- ❖ There are rules for determining the basis of wealth and how *zakat* is given.
- ❖ Some Muslim governments have a *zakat* tax.

Practices and Rituals



The Fifth Pillar: Pilgrimage to Mecca (*Hajj*)

- ❖ *Hajj* is to be carried out at least once in a lifetime, providing a Muslim can afford it.
- ❖ Uniformity is enforced in the manner of dressing—in a white garment—to shaving the head (for the men).



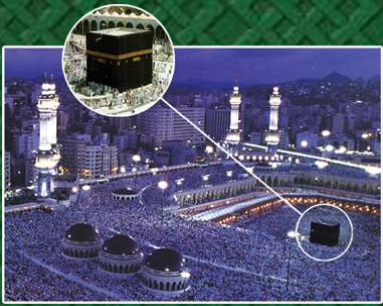
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The Fifth Pillar: Pilgrimage (*Hajj*) continued

- ❖ The objective is to copy the patterns set by Muhammad and do all the various rituals as he did them.
- ❖ The *Hajj* rituals promise Muslims multiplied credits as well as help in removing the weight of sins in preparation for Judgment Day.

Practices and Rituals



Jihad: A Sixth Pillar?

- ❖ Some Muslims would include a sixth pillar, Holy Struggle (*Jihad*).
- ❖ This struggle could be internal (a struggle in the soul to do the right thing) or external (an effort against the enemies of Islam).
- ❖ The interpretation of *jihad* can determine the difference between moderate and radical Muslims.

Jihad

- **Sura 9:5** "And when the sacred months are passed, kill those who join other gods with God wherever ye shall find them; and seize them, besiege them, and lay wait for them with every kind of ambush: but if they shall convert, and observe prayer, and pay the obligatory alms, then let them go their way, for God is gracious, merciful.

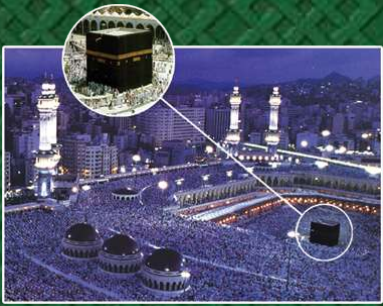
Jihad

6th Pillar

- Striving, exertion in the way of God;
- West--Holy War; one aspect;
- Muslims– greater/lessor
- Muslim– *greater: struggle with oneself; spiritual*

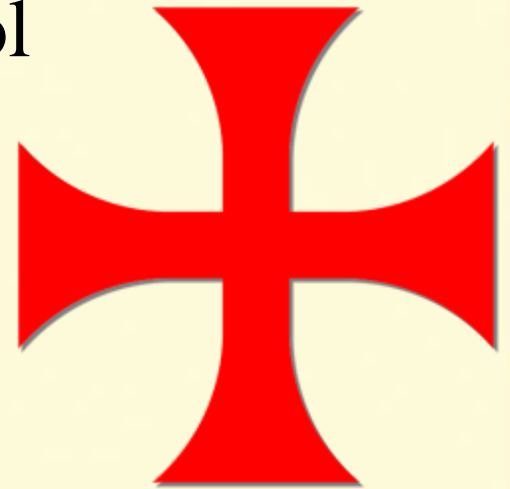
(Denny, pg 126)

Practices and Rituals



Symbols Can Be Confusing

- ❖ A Muslim can be confused by Christian symbols and rituals, such as the cross (considered a military symbol to Muslims) and the Lord's Supper when using wine (alcohol is prohibited in Islam).
- ❖ Christians are confused by some Muslim rituals as well.





Practices and Rituals

How to Correct Misunderstandings

Discover the Correct Meanings

- ❖ If Christians and Muslims can communicate and completely understand the meaning behind these symbols and rituals, meaningful relationships can be built and truth-sharing can take place.
- ❖ Following the “Sermon on the Mount” (Matt. 5–7) is perhaps the best way for Christians to imitate Jesus and share with Muslims.

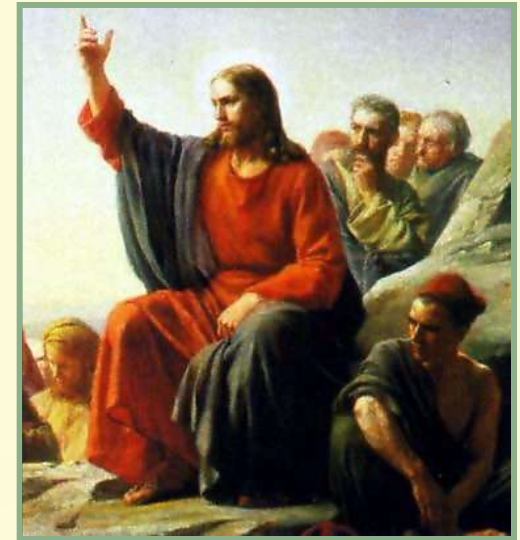
Practices and Rituals

How to Correct Misunderstandings



The Need for a Consistent Lifestyle

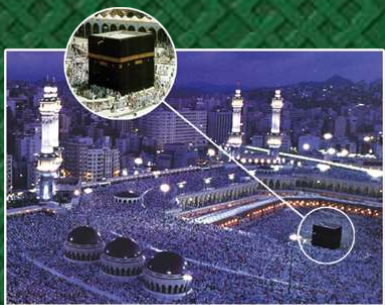
- ❖ The “Sermon on the Mount” challenges all followers of Jesus to live a righteous lifestyle of humility and love.
- ❖ Unfortunately, today in Western culture, Christian practices such as prayer, fasting, and giving are not emphasized.



Sermon on the Mount
Carl Bloch (c. 1890)

Practices and Rituals

How to Correct Misunderstandings



Your Life Speaks Louder than Your Words

- ❖ *Muslims need grace-motivated Christian friends who follow Jesus.*
- ❖ Jesus calls his followers to pray as a lifestyle, frequently and effectively.
- ❖ By confronting evil and bringing healing, believers can introduce Christ to their Muslim friends.

Salvation and Paradise





Salvation and Paradise

What Muslims Believe

Reward and Penalty

- ❖ The Qur'an says, "For those who reject Allah, there is a terrible penalty: but for those who believe and work righteous deeds, there is forgiveness and a magnificent reward" (Surah 35:7).
- ❖ This great reward is *janna*, a garden paradise, an eternal place of sensual and spiritual pleasures.



Salvation and Paradise

What Muslims Believe

No Savior, but Mercy Is Possible

- ❖ In Islam, there is no savior.
- ❖ That is not to say salvation is impossible, for Allah is merciful and compassionate.
- ❖ He can always forgive—for Allah's will is supreme—but He is primarily the judge.
- ❖ There are many descriptive warnings about hellfire and punishment in the Qur'an.



Salvation and Paradise

What Muslims Believe

Judgment Day: Religious Deeds are Best Hope

- ❖ All men should fear Judgment Day, in which each person's deeds will be weighed on a scale.
- ❖ "Recording angels" keep a list of every deed, both good and bad.
- ❖ Islamic teachers assign credits to deeds related to the pillars of Islam; it is unthinkable for many Muslims to abandon their accumulation of credits and trust a Savior.



Salvation and Paradise

What Muslims Believe

Guarantee of Paradise?

- ❖ Muslim terrorists interpret the Qur'an to suggest that paradise is guaranteed for *jihad* martyrs.
- ❖ Most Muslim scholars and leaders reject the terrorists' definitions of *jihad* and martyrdom.



Salvation and Paradise

How to Correct Misunderstandings

Child-like Faith is Needed

- ❖ Thinking about Allah as Abba-Father is difficult for some Muslims.
- ❖ Any negative view of the earthly father role will twist one's view of God.
- ❖ In Western cultures, parenting trends err toward permissiveness (more love than discipline).

Salvation and Paradise

How to Correct Misunderstandings

Allah and Abba are One

- ❖ This view of fatherhood makes it easier to relate to God as Abba and to come to Him as a humble child, ready to be loved and disciplined.
- ❖ Jesus said one must enter God's kingdom as a little child.



Christ Blessing the Children
Niolaes Maes (1652-525)

Role of Women



Role of Women

What Muslims Believe



The Perspective of Muslim Women

- ❖ Muslim women will generally consider themselves protected and satisfied within their culture.
- ❖ Their fulfilling social life is usually gender-separated and happens primarily within extended families and among some close neighbors.

Role of Women

What Muslims Believe



The Protection of Muslim Women

- ❖ Women are valued in Islam, *with exceptions*. In fact, Muhammad brought an end to the practice of female infanticide, widely practiced before his time.
- ❖ The honor of women is a major concern in Muslim societies.
- ❖ The reputation of the family is linked with the women.

Role of Women

What Muslims Believe



The Protection of Muslim Women

- ❖ Islam helps maintain roles and expectations that predate Muhammad.
- ❖ The modest dress code is to protect women.



Role of Women

What Muslims Believe



The Protection of Muslim Women

- ❖ If seen without loose clothing or a veil, men might judge a woman based on her appearance or may try to abuse her.
- ❖ Muslim women do not need to wear a veil or loose clothes at home or when only women are present.



Role of Women

What Muslims Believe



Polygamy

- ❖ Since marriage and child bearing are highly valued in the Middle East, polygamy is allowed and yet controlled.
- ❖ Islam limits a man to four wives and requires equal treatment for each.

Role of Women

How to Correct Misunderstandings



A Clash of Values

- ❖ Western values regarding women conflict with Muslims' in perhaps more than any other category.
- ❖ Christians often focus on Muslim women's lack of freedom.



*Women wearing burkas
in Afghanistan*

Role of Women



How to Correct Misunderstandings

Western Solutions?

- ❖ However, the “Christian” West has several problems as well.
- ❖ Many Christians neglect to consider the privileges and responsibilities that come with freedom.



Role of Women

How to Correct Misunderstandings



Emphasize Positive Values

- ❖ Many Muslims fear and disapprove of Western values that seem to result in isolation, sexual exploitation and materialism.
- ❖ Both Muslims and Christians can focus on values that honor family and morality.
- ❖ Christians need to address their own cultural problems as well.



Role of Women

How to Correct Misunderstandings



Get Rid of Hypocrisy

Jesus said:

“You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

—Matthew 7: 5

Religion and Culture



Religion and Culture

What Muslims Believe

The Muslim Holistic Worldview

- ❖ Muslims understand religion as a whole and integrated way of life.
- ❖ Secular, Christian-influenced cultures can confuse and even anger Muslims who see things through their holistic worldview.

Religion and Culture

What Muslims Believe

The Muslim Holistic Worldview

- ❖ They often view “Hollywood sexuality” as “Christian,” or a military action as a “Crusade.”
- ❖ To them, the cross is a military symbol.



Religion and Culture

What Muslims Believe

The Islamic Community

- ❖ In Islam, brotherhood and consensus is emphasized, and individualism is avoided.
- ❖ The “community of the faithful” is responsible to enforce the moral code.



Religion and Culture

What Muslims Believe

Shame-Honor Culture

- ❖ Avoiding shame and protecting honor are primary motivations of most Muslims.
- ❖ Shame and honor are community related, as contrasted with an individual sense of guilt.
- ❖ Radical Muslims, known as Islamists or Jihadists, use this sense of community honor and shame to recruit and motivate their followers.

What Christians Believe

Religion and Culture

What Christians Believe

Christian Influence Shrinking in the West

- ❖ Throughout history followers of Jesus impacted various cultures by going into all parts of the world with the life-transforming gospel. (Matthew 28:19, 20)
- ❖ But in the West, a division has grown between secular culture and religion.

Religion and Culture

What Christians Believe

Separation of Church and State

- ❖ Religion is separated from government, and some people object to any influence of religion on state institutions and symbols.



**Problematic cross in the
Los Angeles County Seal**

Religion and Culture

What Christians Believe

Community in the West

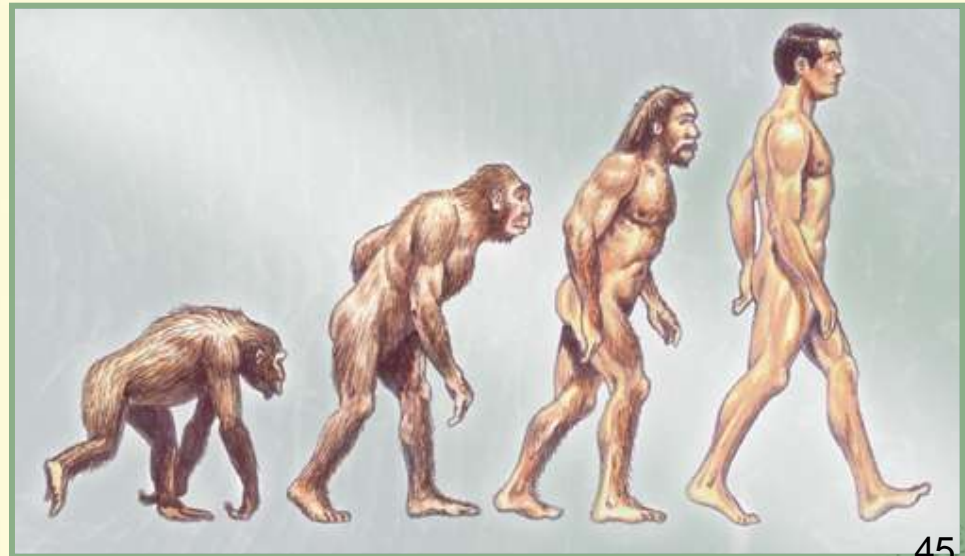
- ❖ Followers of Jesus have influenced Western culture and institutions, but they seem to be a shrinking influence.
- ❖ Western culture affirms individualism and personal freedom.
- ❖ A community sense of responsibility can suffer as a result.

Religion and Culture

What Christians Believe

“Freedom of” or “Freedom from” Religion?

- ❖ Tolerance of sin and unbiblical practices continue to dilute the true Christian message.
- ❖ Evolutionism and atheism also continue to influence the increasingly secular West.



Religion and Culture

What Christians Believe

Is the West a Post-Christian Culture?

- ❖ Only a minority of those in the West consider themselves followers of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Most simply consider themselves Christian by name only, and do not follow the teaching of the Bible, of which they are largely ignorant.
- ❖ Generally, Western culture does not have a sense of the “community of the faithful.”

How to Correct Misunderstandings

Religion and Culture

How to Correct Misunderstandings

To Convert or Compliment?

- ❖ Recently, Time magazine ran a cover article asking the question: “Should Christians Convert Muslims?”
- ❖ The artwork featured a militant-looking clenched fist holding a metal cross reminiscent of a Crusader’s sword.

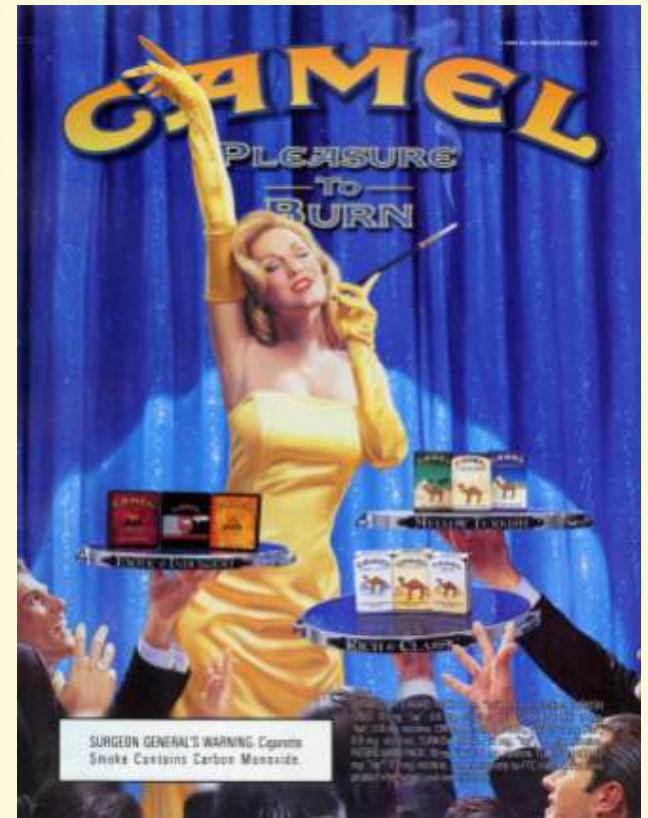


Religion and Culture

How to Correct Misunderstandings

Conversion = Corruption?

- ❖ This imagery correctly symbolizes some typical Muslim misunderstandings, especially when viewed with the cigarette advertisement on the back cover.



Religion and Culture

How to Correct Misunderstandings

Christendom: A Source of Evil?

- ❖ The advertisement features a sensual goddess-like model with men fawning at her feet.
- ❖ These pictures display some fears of Muslims: to be dominated militarily and corrupted morally by “Christianity.”



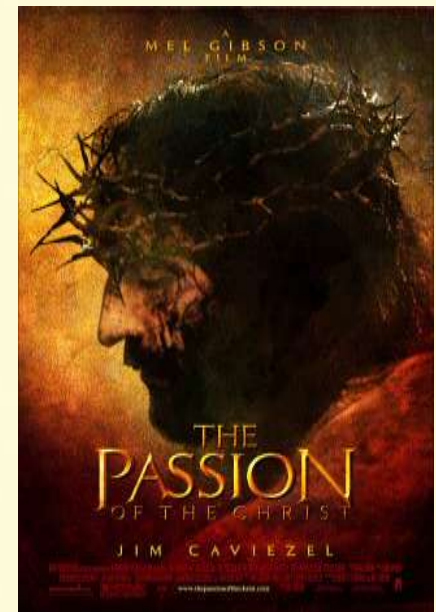
Religion and Culture

How to Correct Misunderstandings



The True Meaning of the Cross

- ❖ The challenge is to present a correct view of the cross.
- ❖ The movie, “The Passion of the Christ,” has been seen by Muslims all over the world.
- ❖ They have seen the cross as a symbol of honorable suffering, not as a military icon.





Religion and Culture

How to Correct Misunderstandings

How Can Christians Make Jesus Attractive?

- ❖ Followers of Jesus are called to show Muslims that God loves all people so much that Jesus died on the cross; He also defeated Satan and death by rising from the grave.
- ❖ Jesus made it possible for all of God's children to live with Him forever. The Bible promises every tribe will be represented in heaven.
- ❖ *We can share this “good news” to*

Muslims!!!!!!

The End

Definitions

Muslim: *Muslim* is an Arabic term derived from the same root as the word for peace (*salam*).

Note that the tri-lateral root **_S_L_M_** is shared by all these related terms: **SALAM, ISLAM, MUSLIM.**

The root and its derivatives are very similar to the Hebrew word “Shalom,” which means peace.

Definitions

“Allah” and “God”: *Allah* is the proper pre-Islamic Arabic name for God, used even today by Arabic-speaking Christians as well as by Muslims. Although all Muslims use the Arabic name “Allah,” only 20% are native Arabic speakers. Muslims with other native languages have still another name for God.

Definitions

Ebrahim (E-brah-HEEM) Literally: “Abraham.”

Musa (MOO-sah) Literally: “Moses.”

Dawud (DAU-ood) Literally: “David.”

Isa Al Masih (EE-saw-all-Mah-SEE) Literally: “Jesus the Mes-si-ah.” The word “Ma-sih” is similar to the Hebrew word. “Isa” for “Jesus” was evidently a sixth century Arabic adaptation from the Hebrew word “Yeshua.”

Definitions

Sunni (SOO-nee): Literally “One on the path”; how the majority of Muslims (90% worldwide) identify themselves as contrasted to Shiite.

Shiite or Shia (SHE-ite or SHE-ah): Literally: “The party of Ali” (10% worldwide) that believes that the proper successor to Muhammad should be his blood relative, beginning with Ali.

The Sunni-Shia split happened shortly after Muhammad’s death in a violent dispute about who should lead the Muslim community.

Definitions

Shaytan (Satan) (Shay-TAAN) The devil. Some Muslims refer to mischievous behavior with this term (like devilish).

Injil (In-JEEL) This term refers to the “book given to Jesus” and is similar to the Greek word “evangel,” meaning “good news.” Muslims do not believe that there is an Injil remaining on the earth that has not been corrupted. Christians often refer to the Gospels or a single Gospel as “the Injil” when conversing with Muslims.

Definitions

Shirk (SHIRK) “Associating.” Idolatry or blasphemy. Making others equal to God.

Insha Allah (In-SHA-al-lah) Meaning “God willing,” this common phrase is often tagged onto a sentence expressing hope or intention, and sometimes resignation to destiny. It is an expression of Allah’s ultimate attribute: His absolute will.

Definitions

Taurat (Tor-AT) Literally: “Torah,” the book given to Moses. The first five books of the Bible.

Zabur (Zah-BOOR) Literally: “Psalms,” the book given to David. The Psalms.

Sunna (SOO-nah) Literally: “Trodden path” of Muhammad and his close companions. The Sunna (Muhammad’s examples) becomes the basis of Sharia law.

Definitions

Hadith (Hah-DEETH) A report of a saying or behavior of Muhammad which sets a precedent for Muslim practice and becomes the basis of Sharia.

Shari'a (shä-rē'ä) law--literally means "*the path to a watering hole.*" A religious code for living, in the same way that the Bible offers a moral system for Christians. Derived from The teachings of the Qur'an & Sunna (Hadith)