

Appendix 20

Comparison of Muslim and Christian Religious Terminology

Concept	Muslim	Western Christian
1. Allah / God	Sovereign. Almighty. (Holy). Merciful. Unpredictable. Unknowable. Indifferent. Distant.	Sovereign. Almighty. Holy. Loving & Merciful. Unchangeable. Concerned. Just. Personal.
2. Jesus	Prophet. Sinless.	God. Perfect Man.
3. Trinity	God, Mary, Jesus (in terms of human relations).	Father, Son, Holy Spirit (in terms of spiritual relationship).
4. Bible	Revelation from God. Changed, corrupted.	Final and complete revelation. Fully inspired and totally infallible.
5. Word of God	Qur'an. Arabic – untranslatable.	Holy Bible. Hebrew & Greek – translatable.
6. Faith	Obedience to God's law. Object of: God, as revealed in the Qur'an (through Mohammed). Expressed in works.	Exercised as gift of God. In Jesus as God. Demonstrated through works.
7. Sin	Shame. Embarrassment – feels guilt when caught out!	Rebellion. Disobedience – guilt is constant reality.
8. Salvation	Requirement: faith by works. Provider: Allah. No assurance.	Requirement: repentance and faith, not works. Provider: God in Christ. Assurance granted.
9. Sanctification	Emphasis on obedience and ritual. A conforming to the will of God by works.	A continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the A gradual conforming to 'be like Christ'.
10. Works	Obedience to the laws of God seeking to win his favour. To obtain merit that will earn acceptance with and approval of God.	The grateful response to grace. The evidence of a changed life as thankful obedience for having received mercy and forgiveness, not to win approval of God.
11. Love	No concept of a God of love (N.B. the 47 th name, 'The All-loving' is not identical as 'being Love' (as 1 John 4:8) – it is more akin to the lower level of 'affection'). In human relationships, considered to be the bond uniting the extended family. Expressed as loyalty.	The motivating factor of the character of God, his nature, to grant mercy and forgiveness. A vital concept of love to God primarily, in response to his love, the motivating principle of life. To be extended in all human relationships epitomised in Christian fellowship. Love in the family is modelled on Christ's love for his people.
12. Supernatural	Belief in the spirit world. Belief in angels. Superstition maintains animistic fears.	Belief based on biblical revelation. Belief in angels who do God's will. Spiritual relationships to be kept within a biblical framework. Love for God dispels all fear.
13. Grace	Inadequate concept. It is understood that Divine favour must be merited. No hope apart from works.	The free, underserved unmerited favour, goodness and mercy of the just and holy God toward sinners. The basis of any meaningful relationship with God.