

By **Kedric Clevenson-McCree, Ph.D.**
Illustrated by Gotthard Eichelhagen

How to Witness to a Muslim

Due to the Islamic death-penalty deterring Muslims from becoming Christians, the best way I've found to reach Muslims for Christ is through Friendship Evangelism. So if you really want to lead a Muslim to Christ, you need to become his friend with the ulterior motive of slowly chipping away at the foundation of his false religion till you reach critical mass and he feels his spiritual need, gets saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, and white-hot-on-fire for Jesus. Though getting him saved may result in his execution for apostatizing, it is well worth it since the fate of his eternal soul is at stake from the human perspective,

though from God's perspective, there are no stakes since there is neither fate nor chance and God has already predestined to salvation those whom He chose before the foundation of the world.
 God, in His sovereignty,

are men devoted to learning and men who have renounced the world, and they are not arrogant.

Here the Quran lists three qualities which God can use to persuade Muslims to get saved: 1) being devoted to learning, 2) renunciation of the world, and 3) humility. These three qualities coupled with the fact that you're a Christian will help open the Muslim heart to the Gospel.

In order to show yourself as being devoted to learning, you will need to get yourself a translation of the Quran and read it. Taking classes in Arabic would also help reveal your devotion to learning. Your learning to read the

Quran in Arabic would assist you even more in the evangelistic endeavor, but learning Arabic is not absolutely essential. Knowing a few words in Arabic is enough, since many Muslims speak English.

The following words are key terms which will be useful to you in witnessing to a Muslim:



overrode Muhammad's anti-Christian will and caused him to write into the Quran, the Muslim "holy" book, the basis for the friendship-evangelization of Muslims in Surah 5:82:

...nearest in affection to the Believers [i.e., Muslims] wilt thou find those who say, "We are Christians," because among them

Allah=God
Hadith=Tradition about Muhammad
Hajj=Pilgrimage
Injil=Gospel
Isa=Jesus
Islam=Submission to God
Jihad=Struggle against Evil
Maryam=Mary
Muhammad=the prophet of Islam
Muslim=a Submitter to God
Surah=a chapter of the Quran

You should memorize these terms so that you can use them when needed in order to communicate the Gospel in terms that are familiar to the Muslim. In the initial phases of talking with a Muslim, you will probably feel the need to ask a lot of questions about the Muslim's culture, language, and religion. All this knowledge will come in handy sooner or later as you try to win him to the Lord.

In the initial phases of talking with the Muslim, avoid discussions of the so-called "Trinity" or the Incarnation. Instead, limit your discussions to finding common ground between your beliefs about the Bible and the Muslim's beliefs about the Quran. As you familiarize yourself with passages in the Quran, you will be able to use the Quran the way you use the Bible, quoting passages to communicate the very things you want to say to the Muslim. Explain to the Muslim that, unlike the Quran which requires the *Hadith* in order to be understood, the Bible stands on its own and requires no outside interpreters. Tell him that the Bible can stand on its own without a community of interpreters or any kind of formalized tradition. Encourage the Muslim to reject the *Hadith* just as you reject Catholic and Orthodox traditionalism. Show him how the rejection of

traditionalism allows God to open his heart and mind to newer, fresher, and more individualized and applicable interpretations of the Quran and also of the Bible. Encourage him to quit listening to tradition and listen to the Holy Spirit as he reads the Bible and the Quran.

Show him how Surah 2, verses 40-41 says that the Quran, rather than contradicting the Scriptures of the Jews, claims to confirm their Scriptures: "O Children of Israel! ...believe in that which I reveal, confirming that which ye possess already..." According to the Quran, Muslims should "believe in that which was revealed unto *thee* [*Muhammad*] and that which was revealed before *thee* [*Muhammad*]" (Surah 2:4). The same verse ends by saying that the true believers should "depend on guidance from their Lord." Explain to your Muslim friend that if the Quran confirms the Scriptures of the Jews and the Christians, then the Quran must be interpreted in a way which confirms the Old and New Testaments rather than contradicting them. To do otherwise is to go against the Quran. According to the Quran itself, when the Quran is understood to disprove a passage from the Bible, the Quran has been misinterpreted and must be reinterpreted in a manner which confirms the Bible of both Christians and Jews.

When witnessing to a Muslim, it is always unwise to point out any glaring, irreconcilable discrepancies between the Quran and the Bible because the Muslim will always resort to accusing the Jews and Christians of having changed their Scriptures despite the abundant manuscript evidence to the contrary. If the Book of the

People of the Book, Jews and Christians, was not the extant Bible of the 6th century, then what Book was Muhammad referring to? And what other "People of the Book" was he addressing if not the Christians and Jews using the 6th-century Bible? Don't bring this up with the Muslim you are befriending, but the fact of the matter is that Muhammad, an intelligent, but illiterate man, perhaps thought he was reiterating what the Books of the Jews and Christians taught or, perhaps, he thought he was offering a conciliatory compromise between Jewish and Christian beliefs in order to gain the military support of both. Either way, when his followers later saw discrepancies between his teachings and the teachings of the Bible, they accused the Jews and Christians of having perverted their Scriptures.

Muhammad got Miriam, Moses and Aaron's sister, confused with the Virgin Maryam (Mary), calling the Virgin Maryam the "sister of Aaron" (Surah 19:27-28). In Surah 66:12, Muhammad identifies the Virgin Maryam as the daughter of *Imran* which is Arabic for Amran, the father of Miriam, Aaron, and Moses (Numbers 26:59), despite the fact that the Book of the Christians identifies Isa al Masih (Jesus Christ) as being not of the tribe of Levi as was Aaron and his sister Miriam, but rather of the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Furthermore the Virgin Maryam and Miriam the sister of Aaron are separated in time by more than a millenium.

According to the unlearned, illiterate Muhammad, the Virgin Maryam, mother of Jesus, was Aaron's sister, and the daughter of Amran. How do these statements of the Quran

“confirm” the Old and New Testament’s witness regarding “Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron’s sister” (Exodus 15:20) and Maryam the Virgin? It seems they don’t confirm what came before and Muhammad appears to have been both confused and sincerely wrong. Muhammad was also confused about other Bible stories, exchanging Ishmael for Isaac, despite the fact that the whole of the Bible is the story of the Jewish people and their Messiah who are of the seed of Isaac, “the son of promise”—not Ishmael. As both Jewish and Christian Scriptures testify, “In Isaac shall *thy* [Abraham’s] seed be called” (Genesis 17:19; 21:12; Romans 9:7; Hebrews 11:18).

Despite these discrepancies between the Quran and the Bible, it is best not to mention them to your Muslim friend, but rather to point out how the Quran claims to confirm the Scriptures of the Jews and Christians—that is, the Bible. Always associate the Bible with its people, the People of the Book—both Jews and Christians, and point out the continuities between Judaism and Christianity and the identity of the Bible as the Book containing the Scriptures of the Jewish and Christian communities of Muhammad’s day. Explain to your Muslim friend how that Christianity had gone astray by the time Muhammad came along and that the most ancient churches—the Assyrian, Eastern Orthodox, and Roman Catholic Churches—are apostate forms of Christianity, “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (II Tim 3:5). Inform him that the Bible was preserved for many centuries through the sinful hands of idolatrous, Mary-

worshipping Catholic and Orthodox monks but that the truth of Christianity was partially restored in the Protestant Reformation beginning in the 16th century through the invention of the printing press, in the 17th century through the Enlightenment, and was more fully restored in the 20th century through Pentecostal radio and TV evangelists. Explain how that all the various splinter groups of evangelical Christianity are uncorrupted forms of Christianity just as the Sunni, Shiite, and Sufi forms of Islam are all legitimate forms of Islam, while Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Assyrian Christianity, Mormonism, and the Jehovah’s Witnesses are all corrupted forms of Christianity. Of these forms of religion, the one closest to the Muslim sentiment is the religion of the Watchtower, the Jehovah’s Witnesses, since they don’t believe Christ is God, though they refer to him in his pre-incarnate existence as “a god,” like a lesser god, but not identical with God. Nevertheless, they are probably still considered heretical “associators” by the Muslims since they admit Christ as a partner of God, though inferior to God.

Another similarity you will want to share with your friend is the way women are dealt with in the Quran and the Bible. According to Surah 4:34,

Men are in charge of women, because Allah hath made the one to surpass the other... So righteous women are the obedient... As for those women from whom you fear rebellion, admonish them and banish them to separate beds and beat them.

So just as children are to be beaten with a rod so as not to spoil them according to the Word of God

(Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:14), the Quran encourages husbands to beat their wives when they suspect that they may be rebellious. Thus, both the Bible and the Quran advise wives to submit to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18; I Peter 3:1). Like the Word of God (Romans 1:27), the Quran encourages the natural use of a woman by her husband in Surah 2:223: “Your wives are as soil for sowing your seed, so approach your soil when or how ye will...” Just as in the Word, the Quran also identifies women as the property of their husbands (or fathers, in the case of single women).

It’s really powerful to milk the fact that both you and your Muslim friend are iconoclasts, rejecting the veneration of images or anything other than God. Showing him that you, like he, reject graven images and Catholic or Eastern Orthodox idols will increase his trust in you. Reassure him that Christians praise only God, no one else. Help him to understand that Christians only worship God and God alone. The fact that you reject icons and so-called “sacred” images will be a clear “sign” to your Muslim friend that you have renounced the world and worship only God in the humility and worldly renunciation so endearing to a Muslim.

The only kind of veneration which you must show is a veneration of the Bible. Never place your Bible on the floor or in a place of uncleanness or disorder. Never place anything on top of the Bible. Muslims are notorious for showing respect for their holy book and they are shocked at the irreverent treatment of Bibles by Evangelical Christians. They don’t understand

underlining and writing in Bibles. They are flabbergasted at Sister Marilyn Suckleby's faith-contact practice of literally "standing on the Word." Never do this in public lest you offend a Muslim. Even though they believe the text of the Bible has been severely corrupted by Christians and Jews, they nevertheless respect it. Sister Suckleby's usage of the Word for spiritual undergirding is best practiced only in the privacy of one's prayer closet.

During the initial stages of friendship, it is important to express a lot of empathy concerning the Muslim cause and methods of world domination. Tell him that you can empathize with the desire to kill unbelievers for God and that you would like to do the same, but you have to obey the laws of the land according to the Word and trust God to kill them eternally in the fires of Gehenna. Let him know how much you appreciate Surah 9:29:

Fight against those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor maintain as forbidden that which has been forbidden by Allah and His messenger, nor acknowledge the Religion of Truth from among the People of the Book, and take them, and besiege them, and prepare every ambush for them until they pay the *Jizya* with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.

Explain how that you would like to impose a mandatory tax like the *Jizya* upon him as long as he rejects Christianity in order to influence him to become a Christian and escape Hellfire, but that so far, your country's legislature and judicial system have not agreed to impose and enforce such a tax due to some of its Baptist tendencies toward the complete and total separation of church and state. Let him

know that you understand the incentive to behead unbelievers who refuse the obligatory tax and that you also would be willing to compel them toward Christ through such means that you might "by all means save some" (I Corinthians 9:22).

As you empathize with the Muslim zeal for Allah and for Islam, you must by all means disabuse your Muslim friend of the idea that you are against *Jihad*. Put him at ease by informing him that you are aware that *Jihad* does not mean "Fight," but rather "Struggle," as in the famous Hitlerian work entitled "*Mein Kampf*," meaning, "My Struggle." Tell him that you too are struggling to establish the rule of God on the earth through the transformation of democracy into a higher, theocratic form of government based on the principles of the Word of God, especially those in the book of Leviticus. Tell him about great men and women of faith who are devoted to this cause—people like Sister Serintha Gwendolyn Rashonda Wendolyn Jackson who sleeps with a photocopy of Leviticus under her pillow. Such stories of devotion will inspire and impress your Muslim friend. Point out the commonalities between the Word and the Quran. Show him the precious accord between Deuteronomy 13:6-10 and Surah 4:89: "if they turn back to idolatry, then seize them and slay them wherever you find them..." Let him know that you, as a Christian, like your Muslim friend believe in the prevention of apostasy by imposing a death penalty upon defectors from the faith because salvation is by Divine compulsion against the hell-bent, rebellious will of fallen man.

Point out how you both share belief not only in capital punishment but also in eternal punishment. You, like he, wholeheartedly believe in God as the Divine Terrorist who threatens to punish unbelievers in the fires of Hell. Let him know how much you love Surah 4:56:

Those who reject Our signs, We shall soon cast into the fire: as often as their skins are roasted through, We shall change them for fresh skins, that they may taste the chastisement: for Allah is exalted in Power, Wise.

Lovingly, let him know that you are concerned that he does not end up in that horrific fire of torment prepared for the Devil and His angels.

Once you have established common ground between you and your Muslim friend and are fairly certain that he respects you as someone devoted to learning and opposed to idolatry, it will be time to begin pointing out one important difference between Christianity and Islam. Begin by pointing him to his own Quran in Surah 3:144: "Muhammad is but a messenger, messengers (the like of whom) have passed away before him." Though Muhammad is but the messenger of Islam, Jesus is not simply the messenger of Christianity. Rather Jesus is actually the *message* of Christianity. According to Surah 2:34, Allah commanded the angels to prostrate themselves before Adam—a strange command indeed. Would not this prostration before a created thing—a human being—be akin to idolatry? In a similar way, there is coming a day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, the God of Israel and the Creator of all things. Those who currently refuse to fall

prostrate before Jesus Christ, the Last Adam, are partners with Iblis who "refused and was haughty, being of those who reject Faith" (Surah 2:34). Surah 3:59 tells us that "the likeness of Isa with Allah is as the likeness of Adam..." So also the angels and all of creation shall prostrate themselves before Isa al Masih, the New Adam and progenitor of the New Humanity.

Unlike Muhammad the Beheader who points to a bodiless Word of God tangibly inscripturate, Jesus the All-Compassionate is the Word of God incarnate and Head of the Invisible Church to whom the visible Scriptures point. Most of the early "martyrs" of Islam died with a sword in their hand for, as Jesus said, "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matthew 26:52). Muhammad beheaded over 600 Jews who opposed him in Medina. Isa al Masih pointed out the hypocrisy of some Jewish leaders who opposed him and prayed for God to forgive those who crucified him. Christ commands his disciples to "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44) while the Quran commands that unbelievers be treated as follows: "Smite ye above their necks and smite all their fingertips off them" (Surah 8:12). The Bible commands husbands to "Love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25), while the Quran says, "Your wives are as soil for sowing your seed, so approach your soil when or how ye will..." (Surah 2:223). The Bible says,

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16),

while the Quran says,

...the Christians say, "Christ is the Son of Allah." That is a saying from their own mouth. They imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. The curse of Allah be upon them (Surah 9:30).

This is an irreconcilable difference: in Christianity, Christ is revealed as the Son of God demonstrating his love for the world through his own submission to death on a cross. In Islam, Christ is said to be a messenger of God only and the curse of Allah will be upon anyone who says that Christ is anything more than simply another messenger similar to Muhammad.

Another difference between the Quran the Bible has to do with the way the after-life is described for believers. The heaven promised in the Bible is superior to the paradise promised to Muslims in the Quran. Instead of believers having "virgins for companions" (Surah 78:33) and "servant-boys of their own going roundabout, servicing them" (Surah 52:24), the Bible promises streets of gold, the River of Life, and at least one crown with a potential for more.

Steering clear of any discussion of the Trinity hypothesis, you will want to disabuse your Muslim friend of the notion that Christians believe that the humanity of Jesus was God. God cannot be a physical body, otherwise, we Christians would be saying that the Virgin Mary gave birth to God and that she is the mother of God which is the heresy of the Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox. Flesh gives birth to flesh (John 3:6), not to spirit, and God is a Spirit according to John 4:24. What

that means is that no physical body can be God and God can never be a physical body. The physical body of Isa is not Allah. Rather, Allah was in Christ, dwelling fully in Isa, but the body of Isa is not Allah, but only flesh. What that means is that, according to the Bible, Nestorius was correct and the Council of Ephesus in 431 was wrong. After all, Mary gave birth only to a body of flesh, not to a Person. That which came forth from her was simply human nature, not a Divine Person. Explain to your Muslim friend that most forms of Christianity unfortunately follow the Council of Ephesus rather than the Word of God, but that you believe the Word of God and understand that the Virgin Maryam was the mother of the physical nature of Jesus, but not of Jesus himself, let alone of Allah. Your Muslim friend will appreciate this truth and find it most agreeable to his Quranic sentiments. He will also find palatable the fact that the physical nature of Jesus is not the Son of Allah, but rather the son of Mary. Otherwise, Mary would be the Mother of God, but she is not because what she passed was the flesh-vehicle, not the Person which later entered the flesh-vehicle once the flesh-vehicle was clear of her fleshly womb. She was simply the fallen sluice by which the flesh-body made its appearance to be inhabited by God. She was never the mother of Allah according to the Word.

Once you have convinced him that you, like he, believe that the body of Isa was simply human and not God, remind him that you, like he, also believe that Jesus's body was born of the Virgin, being created in the womb of Maryam. Show him the

passage in Isaiah 7:14 which prophesies the virgin birth hundreds of years before it happened. Show him how the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Quran all testify to the fact of the virgin birth of the flesh of Christ. Then also show him how the passage in Isaiah 7:14 also calls the babe born of the Virgin "Immanuel," meaning "Allah with us," once the flesh-body of the babe was inhabited by Christ. Explain to him that even though the babe born of the Virgin is referred to as "Allah with us," that does not mean that the body of Jesus was Allah, but rather the Person which later inhabited the flesh-body. Help him understand that Allah was inside of the flesh-body, but that the humanity of Jesus was not Allah. You must show him that the following verse of the Quran does not apply to you as a believer:

...the Christians say, "Christ is the Son of Allah." That is a saying from their own mouth. They imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. The curse of Allah be upon them. They are so diverted away from the Truth (Surah 9:30).

Help him understand that saying "Christ is the Son of God" is not the same thing as saying that the human nature of Jesus is God—which is a heresy. One refers to the Spirit and the other refers to the flesh and flesh and Spirit are not the same thing, but are rather at enmity with one another according to Galatians 5:17.

Once you have convinced your friend of the distinction between the humanity of Jesus and Allah Who indwelt him, you can begin to introduce him to the fact of the crucifixion of Jesus—a fact most Muslims have a real tough time with due more to their

traditionalistic interpretation of the Quran rather than to the actual words of the Quran itself. I believe part of the reason why Muslims have such a hard time with the idea that God would allow Jesus to suffer a painful death on the cross is because Allah supposedly tells them to utilize crucifixion as a means of torturing those who combat against Islam in Surah 5:33:

The only reward of those who make war upon Allah and His messenger...will be that they will be killed or crucified, or have their hands and feet on alternate sides cut off, or will be expelled out of the land. Such will be their degradation in the world, and in the Hereafter theirs will be an awful doom.

Why would God allow Jesus to suffer the death of crucifixion when the Jewish Scriptures indicate that anyone hung on a tree is accursed (Deuteronomy 21:23)? Even though Paul's argument in Galatians 3:13 making sense of the crucifixion of Jesus is part of the Christian Scriptures, Muslims reject it outright. Apparently, they are under the mistaken impression that Allah only allows the wicked to suffer an ignoble death. Yet, Allah permitted the Islamic martyr Ali ibn Abi Talib to suffer for two days after being wounded with a poison-dipped sword while praying. For the next sixty years following Ali's death, Kufi Muslims included an official public cursing of Ali in their congregational prayers. So, if Allah allowed the Muslim martyr Ali to suffer prolonged pain and public cursing why would he not allow the same to happen to Jesus?

Why do modern Muslims reject the crucifixion of Jesus so adamantly? Most modern Muslims

would point to Surah 4:156-158 in support of the doctrine of an uncrucified Isa:

...[the Jews] said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah," but they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him. Only a similitude of that was shown to them. And those who differ about this are full of doubts, having no knowledge, but only conjecture to pursue. For of a surety they killed him not—nay, rather Allah raised him up unto Himself.

Nevertheless, these particular verses can be understood in a multitude of ways. If we were to read these verses in a way which actually "confirms that which came before" (i.e. the Bible), as the Quran is supposedly intended to do, we would arrive at a quite different interpretation from those sundry interpretations among Muslims which contradict the Scriptures of the Jews and Christians rather than confirming them.

Much conjecture exists among modern Muslims about what actually happened with respect to Jesus and crucifixion. The disunity of thought among Muslims would indicate that it is they who "are full of doubts, having no knowledge, but only conjecture to pursue." Some Quranic interpreters say that someone else was substituted in for Jesus and crucified, though there is no consensus regarding who this substitute was and how this substitution took place. Other Quranic interpreters believe that Jesus was crucified, but that he didn't actually die, but only appeared to die and was later revived and either was taken alive up to heaven by Allah or later died a natural death. While still others teach that the whole idea of any crucifixion at all in

relation to Jesus was an invention of the Jews which Christians later came to adopt. The earliest Muslims, however, made no commentary on the subject of the crucifixion of Jesus which the Apostle Paul, writing less than 20 years after the crucifixion, took as an unquestioned fact (Galatians 2:20-3:14). Thus the modern Muslim interpretation of Surah 4:156-159 resulting in an uncrucified Jesus is most likely a later development of Islamic attempts to undermine Christianity, mushrooming into divisive opinions in the House of Islam regarding the truth of what actually happened.

Of course, all of these Muslim interpretations resulting in an uncrucified Jesus actually contradict not only the Scriptures peculiar to the Christians, but also contradict the pre-Massoretic, Pre-Muhammadan, Jewish Scriptures in which are found prophetic descriptions of the sufferings of Messiah the Son of David (Genesis 3:15; Numbers 21:9; Leviticus 16:15-19; Psalm 22:1, 6-8, 14-18, 24-31; Isaiah 53:1-12; Daniel 9:26; Zechariah 12:10-13:1; cf. John 3:14-15; 19:1-42). In the sixth century, the Massoretic Jews added vowel points to the original Hebrew text, concretizing the variable meanings of the text according to an unsympathetic, post-Christian bias. This anti-Christian manipulation of the text is evident in a comparison between the Greek Septuagint translation of Psalm 22:16 and its original Hebrew text without the added, Massoretic vowel points. The translators of the Septuagint understood the Hebrew to mean “*they pierced* my hands and my feet,” while the Massoretic added vowel points to render it

as “*like a lion* my hands and my feet”—a phrase seemingly lacking proper syntax and meaning. Furthermore, the *Psalms Scroll* of the *Dead Sea Scrolls* yields the meaning “*They have pierced* my hands and my feet.” So your Muslim friend may be right when he says the Jews altered the Scriptures. Indeed, it appears that Muhammad’s Jewish contemporaries did in this particular case in order to boost their anti-Christian polemics.

Consequently, if the Quranic interpretations which contradict the prediction and fulfillment of the crucifixion of Messiah found in both Pre-Massoretic, Jewish and Christian Scriptures are true, then it appears that the Pre-Massoretic Jews and Christians colluded to change their respective Scriptures in a concordant manner in order to defy the not-as-yet-existent Quran which claims to confirm them. If such Quranic interpretations be true, they disconfirm the Jewish and Christian Scriptures rather than confirming them and the Quran is found thusly to contradict itself in its claim to confirm the Scriptures of the People of the Book preceding Muhammad.

There may, however, be another interpretation of the Quranic passages which confirms the crucifixion of Jesus. Rather than disconfirm the Christian Scriptures with erroneous Quranic interpretation, let us consider the following passage found in the Injil:

As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it

again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings. And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

Accepting the light from this passage of the Gospel of John 10:15-21, we must then interpret Surah 4:156-158 not as a denial of the fact of the crucifixion, but rather a denial of the fact that the Jews had any power over Christ. He who, according to the Quran was able to raise the dead (5:110), was also able to lay down his own life and take it up again by the will of God. If, as Matthew writes, Christ could have called upon twelve legions of angels to defend him (Matthew 26:53), how could the Jews or any other human group have any power against him? If Jesus was crucified it was solely by the will of God. If Jesus died, it was not that he was killed simply by the will of boastful men, but rather that he delivered himself over to death and yielded up his Spirit as we are told in the Christian Scriptures (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:46; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:2, 25; I Peter 2:23). Also, if we interpret Surah 4:156-158 in light of Surah 19:154, we need not take 4:156-158 to mean that Jesus was not really slain for 19:154 says, “Say not of those who are slain in the way of Allah, ‘They are dead.’ Nay, they are living, though ye perceive (it) not.” Furthermore, according to the Quran, even as an infant in the cradle Christ spoke of the order of three great events in his life, saying, “Peace is on me the

day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)” (Surah 19:33). According to the Bible, these events have already taken place, but this claim in no way contradicts the text of the Quran.

By interpreting the Quran in accord with the Bible it can be seen that, though Christ indeed died by his own will and the will of God, God raised Him alive up to Himself by resurrecting him from the dead and translating him bodily into the heavenly, spiritual realm in an ineffable manner as recorded in the Bible. To interpret the Quran in any other way is to deny its confirmatory claim and the result is that there are no “People of the Book” to be addressed by the Quran because there is no “Book” of the People since the Bible so disagrees with the “official” interpretation of the Quran that either the Quran is a lie or the Bible is a lie and there are no Jews and no Christians, but only pretenders possessing grotesquely perverted documents which are somehow “confirmed” by the Quran. The entirety of such an “official,” Islamic hermeneutical system is composed of circular nonsense which is to say that modern Islamic exegetes are nonsensical in this regard.

When Jesus surrendered his physical life to death on the cross, he did so by the will of God as a demonstration of the love of God for the salvation of the world. When Isa died, Allah Who was in him did not die because Allah is not the flesh-body. Allah raised Isa from the dead and lifted him from the earth into the spiritual dimension of heaven, making him both Lord and Christ, giving him all power and authority in heaven and earth so

that on the Last Day he will have power over all to raise them from the dead and to judge them. To believe that Isa was born of the Virgin is not enough to constitute one a believer. A true believer believes in Allah who works supernatural wonders, not only bringing about the virgin birth of Isa’s flesh-body, but also resurrecting the body of Isa from the dead and seating him in the position of highest authority over all of creation as the coming judge of the living and the dead.

Now, of course, what I’m presenting here is my own personal interpretation of the Word based on my own study of Scripture. I’m not following any tradition or the teachings of some particular religious group. What I’m following is the leading of the Holy Spirit which requires that I tune out traditionalism and organized religion to hear what God is saying. It also happens to accord with the teachings of many anointed men of God like Brother Dwight Thompson, Evangelist Ezekiel T. Abernathy III, Dr. Frederick K.C. Price, and Apostle Bob W. Dinkins, among others. If you want to influence a Muslim for Christ, you need to encourage your Muslim friend to let go of religious ideology and “depend on guidance from his Lord” (Surah 2:4). If he’ll let go of his religiosity and fully trust the All-Wise for guidance that he may faithfully adhere to it, he will receive it.

Now the biggest hurdle you’ll face with a Muslim is the Word-based belief that Jesus is God in the flesh. Though he believes Isa could raise the dead, heal the blind and leper, and create a live bird out of clay (Surah 5:110), the Muslim believes God is unable to become a human being

with a human soul. The Muslim thinks that God would have to cease to be God to do this. So, according to Muslims, God is able to do just about anything except become a human being while remaining God without change. Even if God were to become a human being, the angels could not bow to God as a human being as they bowed to Adam because that would be idolatry (Surah 2:34).

Now, please note that when I’m saying Jesus is God, I’m not saying that the flesh-body of Jesus is God. The flesh-body is human. In fact even the soul of Jesus is human according to the Word. But the Person of Jesus is God. What the Virgin Mary gave birth to was the *humanity* of Jesus, not his Divinity. She did not give birth to Jesus who is God, else we would be parroting what the Catholics and Orthodox say and calling her the “Mother of God.” Heresy! Mary did not give birth to Jesus, our God. She gave birth to a nature, but a Person. She only gave birth to his flesh-body. Furthermore, when Jesus died on the Cross, it was not Jesus that died, but rather only his flesh-body, otherwise we would have to say that Jesus, who is God, died—that is, that God died on the Cross. Heresy! God cannot die! Likewise, when someone burns a Bible, he is not burning the indestructible Word of God, he is simply burning paper and ink. Ask your Muslim friend if the Quran is destroyed if you burn it. Surely, what burns is only ink and paper. Thus, it is possible to spit on the Bible or the Quran or use it to wipe with and not commit blasphemy because one is only spitting on or wiping with ink and paper. Make sure you clarify this reality for the

Muslim. Otherwise, he will automatically reject the Gospel and be lost for all eternity in a fiery nightmare that never ends. The Quran calls Jesus “Word from Allah,” because unlike Muhammad, Jesus Himself—the very Person of Jesus—is the Message from God, but that doesn’t mean that the Flesh of Jesus is the message, even though the Hebrew words for Flesh and Gospel are practically identical, being בָּשָׂר and בְּשִׁיר, and, in fact, are identical when written as they would have been in the original, without the vowel points.

If the questionable doctrine of the Trinity comes up, keep in mind that Mohammed thought Christians believed in a Trinity of God, Jesus, and Mary due to their contact with the heretical, pre-Protestant, Catholicized Nestorians. (See Surah 5:116.) Just tell your Muslim friend that you worship the same Allah as he does. Assure him you do not believe in Three Gods. Muslims are sticklers about this. They are adamant about the terminology of “one God” just as they are adamant about referring to Allah as a “He” rather than a “She.”

Avoid the subject of the Trinity as long as you can. If you personally have chosen, based on your own study of the Word, to believe that Jesus is the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit into which we are baptized, then you have one less hurdle to jump with your Muslim friend. If, however, you are one of those believers who happens to believe in the Trinity, you will have a greater challenge. Personally, I believe that the doctrine of the Trinity is simply a stubborn remnant of Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox, paganized churchianity. I encourage you to steer away from

talking about the Trinity since it’s not clearly delineated in the Word, there’s no passage in the Word which is intended to teach the Trinity doctrine, and it’s better to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent along with our “Church-of-Christ” brethren.

If, however, you, as a Trinitarian, feel that you must bring up this secondary issue with your Muslim friend, begin by asking your Muslim friend if Allah is male. When he says, “No,” ask him why the male pronoun is used in the Quran to refer to God. When he says that it is due to the limitations of human language, tell him that Allah is no more “One” than Allah is a “He,” but that Allah transcends the categories of both gender and number. Explain to him that according to the Bible, Allah is Love and there has never been a time when Allah did not love Someone. Even before Allah created anything He loved Someone. Explain to your friend that Allah, from all eternity, is Eternal Lover, Eternal Beloved, and Eternal Gift of Self-Transcending, Personal Love. If any of these Three is lacking, there can be no such thing as an Eternal Love or Eternal Lover. In other words, Allah is Father (Lover), Son (Beloved), and Holy Spirit (Personified Love). In other words, through the coming of Isa al Masih as recorded in the New Testament, Allah has revealed Himself as Unoriginate Father, eternally-Begotten Son, and eternally-Proceeding Holy Spirit, One Allah, Three Persons sharing One Being, One Will, One Power, and One Glory. There has never been a time when Allah lacked either Word/Logic or Spirit/Life. The *Logos* of Allah is Allah and the Spirit of Allah is

Allah and Allah is Allah. Allah cannot be separated from His Word and His Spirit. They are One with Him. That is why, when Allah speaks using the first-person-singular “I” and the first-person-plural “We,” you, as a Trinitarian, can accept Allah’s self-description as not simply a conventional use of the “royal We,” but rather a mystical, self-revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God and that Allah is not an Eternal, Impersonal, Solitary Monad void of Logic, Life, and Love.

If you’re not a Trinitarian and you believe that Jesus is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you will most likely need to explain to your Muslim friend some of the passages in the Bible wherein Jesus addresses the Father in prayer. The best way I’ve found to do this is to explain that the human nature of Jesus was addressing his Divine Nature as one nature speaks to Another. In other words, he was talking nature to Nature while the “I”-part of him was present in both. Likewise, at the baptism of Jesus, the I-part of Jesus was throwing his voice from the heavens and embodying itself in both the flesh-body of Jesus and the flesh-body of the Dove. How could he do this? Because the fulness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Jesus and he is Omnipresent—present in every place, in every time, and in every possibility and alternate reality.

When you start getting into the real difficult argumentation of the Word with your Muslim friend you will feel frustrated at times and will probably think to yourself, “I need to show him the power of God and lay hands on him for him to be slain in the Spirit.” The problem is, due to cultural conditioning, Muslims

don't have the faith to be slain in the Spirit. Even if he were slain, he would simply see it as some kind of hypnotism, mind control, or magic and would not see it for what it really is—a clear sign and mighty display of the power of God.

When you find that all the talk about Jesus being Allah or One Allah being Three Persons is getting nowhere, you should begin to divert the conversation toward making your friend feel guilty. Tell him there is a difference between a submitter (Muslim) and a believer. Tell him that many people submit to the idea of God, but that doesn't mean they believe God and trust Him. Tell your friend that he may be an Allah-fearing Muslim, but that does not make him a believer.

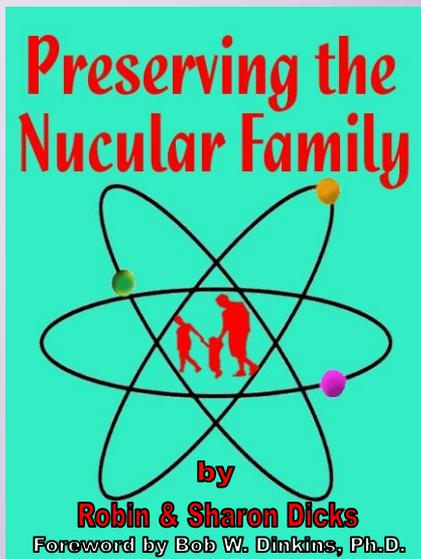
Next, you need to make your friend feel so guilty so that he begins to feel the need for a Savior. Tell him that right doctrine, ritual prayer, fasting, almsgiving, pilgrimage and reading the Quran or even the Bible are as filthy rags before Allah. Only after he realizes that he has a spiritual problem can you then offer him the Solution by leading him down *The Romans Road* or explaining to him *The Four Spiritual Laws*.

Finally, when the moment is right, you need to give him the opportunity to be saved by leading him in the Sinner's Prayer. Only after he has fully bought into the truth of the Word should you tell him the real source of the Quran. The Quran says that Allah spoke directly to Moses and to Jesus, but the same is never said of Muhammad. Rather Muhammad received his revelation directly from an inferior mediary being—an "angel" named "Jabber-

eel" who was actually a demonic Jinn. In fact, if you're friend is really saved, you won't have to point any of this out to him. If he is truly one of God's elect, the Holy Ghost will guide him into all truth, despite himself or his Quranic brainwashing, without any intervention from you or any other human mediary, tradition, or church. Just put a Bible in his hand and send him on his way, rejoicing in Jesus. In fact, if he is one of the elect, he will find the Bible on his own and will come to believe the same things as you

if your beliefs are truly Biblical. As the Lord leads, God will ultimately open your Muslim friend's eyes to the fact that Muhammad was a confused, illiterate, camel-driving, epileptic, false prophet possessed by a Jinn. ▣

Dr. Kedric Clevenson-McCree is a former, undercover missionary to Indonesia. He currently teaches classes on Cross-Cultural Evangelism and Biblical Apologetics at the University of Errol Rothberts in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



Preserving the Nucular Family by Robin and Sharon Dicks is a great achievement in helping struggling nucular families endure. The Dicks get to the bottom of what's troubling today's nucular family and stand firm against the tides of debauchery crashing against the fragile walls of the nucular household.

The Dicks stress the importance of establishing clearly set, traditional roles within the nucular family and then present the tragic consequences of transgressing the clear-cut boundaries of each of the various nucular family roles.

Never has there been such a time when the nucular family needs this timely message of Robin and Sharon Dicks. If you are struggling to fend off the omnipresent threats from the anti-nucular-family forces of adultery, booze, contraceptive abortion, divorce, euthanasia, feminism, governmental control, homosexual onslaught, Illuminati subliminal messaging, jealousy, kabbalah, lesbianism, marijuana, narcotics, orgies, pedophilia, quarrelsomeness, rape, sexual deviance, tantrism, urbanization, venereal disease, whoredom, x-rated materials, yuppification, zoocopulation, you need the help of the Dicks.

"Brother and Sister Dicks'll bless your socks off with all the pearls of wisdom from their study of the Word. If you wanna turn your home into an enclave of spiritual safety, I strongly urge you to read their book."--Dr. Brother Bob Dinkins

"Robin & Sharon Dicks will bring joy to your own nucular family. You will learn to dis-extend your family to reach the kind of nucular reaction necessary for a healthy-functioning, self-contained, fortress of nucular familiarity."--Tom LaShaye

Feema Press, 192 pages, \$9.95