

Understanding Radical Islam

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March 1, 2015

Understanding Radical Islam — understanding the foundations

Islam means “submission”

- The word “Islam” does not mean “peace” but “submission”
- The Great Commission in Islam means spreading a message and religion and lifestyle, and then taking over the society and bringing everyone under Islamic law

No separation of church and state

- Muhammad was a spiritual leader, a political leader, and a military leader
- It has been said that in Islam, religion is not part of life — but life is part of religion
- Islam has no problem expanding at the edge of the sword

Dar al-Islam and Dar al-Harb

- The world is divided into two parts, Dar al-Islam — the world of Islam — meaning that which is under Islamic control
- Dar al-Harb — the world of war (or, the sword) — meaning that which is not yet under Islamic control
- It is a special affront to Islam to lose any of its territory, and so it is unthinkable that a region that was under Islamic control is now under the control of unbelievers — worst of all, the Jews!

Allah is not Father or Savior

- Of the 99 titles of Allah, “Father” is not one of them, let alone “Abba”
- Although Allah is called the Merciful and the Compassionate, and although he is said to be “often-relenting,” he is not Father and he does not save and transform sinners
- Even the most devout Muslim in the world has no assurance of salvation and forgiveness — unless he or she dies in the field of battle

The Mindset of Radical Islam

“By life or by death”

- The power of martyrdom — this is the one way to assure your fate in the world to come
- Radical Muslims say, “You love life — we love death”

The Islamic texts of terror

- According to The Religion of Peace website, “The Quran contains at least 109 verses that call Muslims to war with nonbelievers for the sake of Islamic rule. Some are quite graphic, with commands to chop off heads and fingers and kill infidels wherever they may be hiding. Muslims who do not join the fight are called ‘hypocrites’ and warned that Allah will send them to Hell if they do not join the slaughter.” (www.religionofpeace.com)

The example of Muhammad

- After the Jewish, Banu Qurayza tribe surrendered to Muhammad, he beheaded as many as 800 men and boys.
- Muslims who behead their prisoners today are following Muhammad’s example

How the West is viewed

- Why America is the “Great Satan”
 - First, our export of immorality worldwide
 - Second, our military presence and our wars in Muslim lands
 - Third, our support of Israel, called the “Little Satan”

Being radical Jesus followers

We should be no less radically committed to our sacred calling — but with massive differences between us and radical Muslims

- We bring life, not take it
- We sacrifice our lives, not the lives of others
- We overcome evil with good
- We overcome hatred with love
- We put down the sword and take up the cross
- We serve and influence rather than take over and intimidate
- We engage in violent warfare, but it is spiritual in nature

We are moved by love

- Having been forgiven much, we love much (Luke 7:47)
- Since He laid down His life for us, we lay our lives down for others (1 John 3:16)

The words of Jesus

- "If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23)
- "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)
- "... any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33)
- "Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

The words of Paul

- "I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:20-21)
- "I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." (Acts 20:24)

We live by dying

- "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it." (Matthew 16:25)
- "I assure you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces a large crop. The one who loves his life will lose it, and the one who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." (John 12:24-25)
- "They triumphed over [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." (Revelation 12:11)

Discussion Questions

1. What is your understanding about the commonality in core religious beliefs of all sects and types of Muslims?
2. Why is it so hard for those brought up in the western culture to grasp the concepts embraced by Islam?
3. It has been said in Islam, “religion is not part of life, but life is part of religion.” What does this mean?
4. What is the difference between the words “Islam” and “Muslim”?
5. What is the only sure way for a Muslim to enter heaven after death? What are the expectations of the “normal” Muslim?
6. In the 99 titles of “Allah,” there is none for “Father.” How does that change your appreciation of Your Father?
7. What prevents you from being a Radical Jesus Follower?

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We will pray for requests for one month at our weekly prayer meetings —
come this Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m.