

Most Americans Don't Understand What Islam Actually Is

by Randy Bright <http://www.tulsabeacon.com/?p=4599>

Mark Twain once said that man was the only creature on earth with true religion - several of them.

America has always been proud of its freedom of religion, and has always been diligent to protect it, regardless of how strange someone's religion seemed.

Therefore, it may seem a ridiculous notion to say that Islam is not a religion. I believe that is it an ideology disguised as a religion and I am one of a growing number who have come to see it that way. Americans are coming to realize that Islam is not like any other religion in the world, because the fact is, it isn't.

Before going any further, I want to stress that we should not hate Muslims. Jesus died so that every one of them, even the likes of Osama bin Laden, could have a chance to spend eternity with Him. I find it sickening to think that the 1.5 billion Muslims living today, not to mention the millions who have died since Islam began, are going to spend their eternity apart from God. Not only that, their lives are lived under the oppression of Sharia law. So I do not make this argument that Islam is not a religion lightly.

I would not argue that most Muslims practice Islam as a religion, nor would I argue with any Muslim that he or she is not sincere in their beliefs. But we make a big mistake when we look at Islam through the same prism as we look at Christianity. They live under a law, but we live under grace. They believe that they must do everything they can to please Allah, knowing that they may still lose their souls. The only guarantee of salvation they have is to die in a jihad. We know that our salvation is assured, regardless of how much we accomplish for Him. Muslims live under a vastly different mindset. It is very difficult for them to grasp the simplicity of the Gospel, and it is very difficult for us Christians and Westerners to understand how they think and what motivates them.

We hear from Muslims and others that Islam is a religion of peace, and it is true that there are scriptures in the Quran that preach peace. But that is not the entire story.

When Mohammad started Islam in the city of Mecca, he was relatively peaceful, and as such his revelations were peaceful. But when Mecca rejected him, he moved to Medina where he built an army, then returned to Mecca to conquer it. It was at that time that his revelations changed from peaceful to violent, and his older peaceful writings were superseded by the newer, more violent revelations.

According to Dr. Mark A. Gabriel in his book, *Islam and Terrorism*, "This move changed Islam from a spiritual religion to a political revolution ...in Medina, Muhammad became a military

leader and invader, so the revelations in Medina talk about military power and invasion in the name of Islam (jihad)...Sixty percent of the Quranic verses talk about jihad, which stands to reason because Muhammad received most of the Quran after he left Mecca. Jihad became the basic power and driving force of Islam.”

We hear so much from Muslims and from the politically correct that most Muslims who come to America come here for the same freedoms, privileges, and opportunities that we enjoy and I am certain that that is true for some. We also know that there are many others who have come here to conquer us and place us under Sharia law. But how can we sort them out?

The answer is, it is impossible to do so because deceit is an acceptable practice in Islam if it is done to further the cause of Islam. As such, even the most honest, sincere, peaceful Muslim can never be fully trusted not to become “radical,” not because he or she isn’t truly trustworthy, but because their belief system isn’t trustworthy. And because of the systemic pressure of fear placed by adherents of Islam on other adherents of Islam, we cannot know when they might be convinced or compelled to become “radical.”

Even those non-Muslims who believe that Islam is, or can be, a peaceful religion, are afraid of Muslims, because they know that there are Muslims who are already violent. While virtually no one in America is afraid of Christians, Jews, Hindus or Buddhists, almost everyone in America is afraid of Muslims to some degree. America has done powerful things over the last two hundred years to maintain its freedoms, but we are afraid to do anything about a “religion” whose real intent, as stated in the Quran, is to force Sharia law on all of us.

We may not be able to constitutionally define what religion is, but I certainly think that we can define what it is not; but the greatest defense against Islam is for America to completely reject it, so that it would be futile for Islamists to make the attempt. That means that Americans must be honest about what Islam really is.

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Randy W. Bright, AIA, NCARB, is an architect who specializes in church and church-related projects. You may contact him at 918-582-3972, rwbrightchurcharch@sbcglobal.net or www.churcharchitect.net.

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