

ENCOUNTERING
THE WORLD OF
ISLAM





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Understanding Islam
Lesson Four



Understanding Islam

1. Worldview Dimension
2. Leadership-Historical Dimension
3. Theological Dimension
4. Psychological Dimension

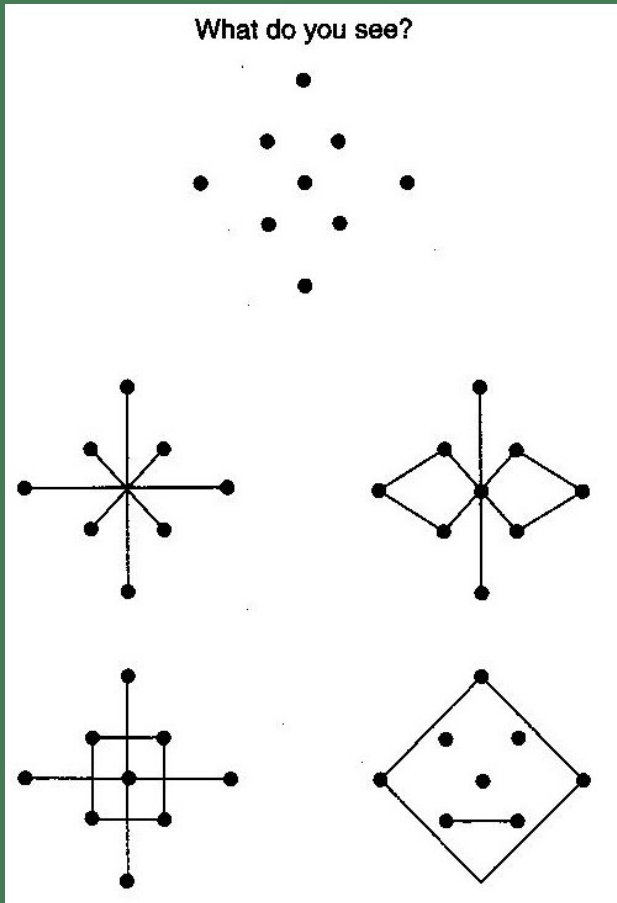


What's worldview?

- “A Worldview is a set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously) about the basic make-up of world” James Sire.
- Anthropologists often say that *people of different cultures live in different worlds.*
- I say, “count every person as an individual planet with its specific atmosphere, dynamic life and view”



What's Worldview?



- People are reluctant to change their worldview unless it proves *totally inadequate* to help them cope with their current situation (*breaking of rope*)
Fantastic place to be!
- You only become aware of it when you come *in contact with someone* who is different from yourself.
- Everybody does not need to know philosophy but everybody *must* have a worldview.
- Because we are limited cultural beings we cannot comprehend all reality so, we *must construct* mental models (paradigms) in an attempt *to cope* with the life which we know and experience.



My Testimony as a former Muslim

- Intro to family background
- Animism/Traditional Worldview – Early ages until Elementary School
- Islamic Worldview – Middle School
- Marxist-Humanist Worldview – High School
- Christian Worldview – University and Online Evangelism Ministry



How to detect a worldview?

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption



Christian Worldview

1. **CREATION:** Every worldviews has to have an origin: Where did it all come from? Who are we, and how did we get here?
2. **FALL:** Every worldview also offers a counterpart of the source of evil and suffering. What has gone wrong with the world? Where is there warfare and conflict?
3. **REDEMPTION:** Finally, people would need hope by the Redemption of the Gospel and Reconciliation



Marxist Worldview

- Applying Creation, Fall and Redemption to Marxism.
- **CREATION:** Ultimate origin of everything is, ‘self-creating, self-generating matter’. V.I.Lenin said, “*We may regard the material and cosmic world as the supreme being, the cause of all causes, the creator of heaven and earth*”
- **FALL:** How did humanity fall from the state of innocence into slavery and oppression?
 - Marxism says, Through creation of private property. The fall was economic, evils of exploitation and class struggle. Rise of private property.
- **REDEMPTION:** What is hope or restoration to restore the world?
Revolution! Destroying private ownership of property.
Redeemer is “proletariat”, the urban factory workers, who will rise up in revolution against their capitalist oppressors.



Islamic Worldview

- CREATION:
 - Q: What is Islam's ultimate origin of everything?
 - A: Impersonal, holy Allah
- FALL
 - Q: What went wrong according Islam which brought evil and suffering to the world?
 - A: Mankind is lack of guidance and knowledge of Allah. Man is weak and forgetful. Man is born Muslim but does not know it.
- REDEMPTION:
 - Q: What's Islam's solution to *restore* the world?
 - A: Submission to Quran and Sunnah traditions. Caliph religious leader will unite the world through submission of people to Islam and will bring *peace* to the world.



LEADERSHIP-HISTORICAL DIMENSION

MUHAMMAD

- Flee persecution
- Suffering abnormal
- Seek statehood
- Bring reform through Law
- Need power
- Deny cross
 - Suggests weakness & vulnerability

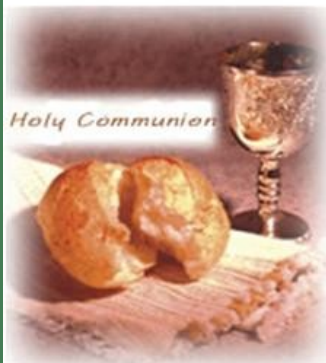
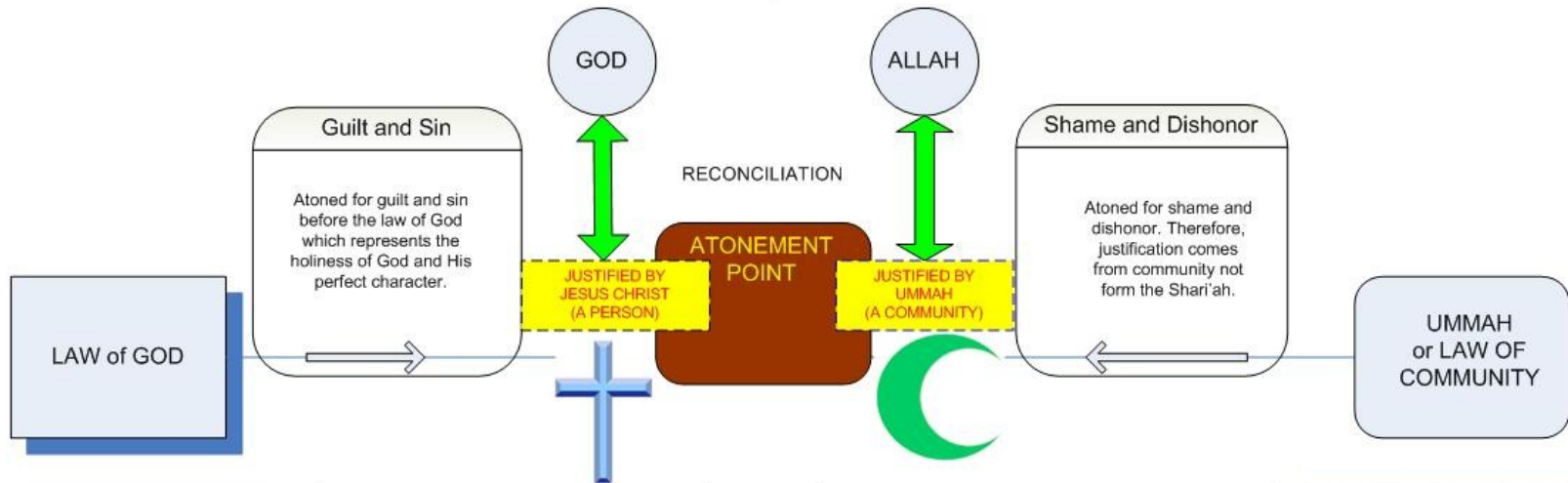
JESUS

Suffering normal.

- Persevere
- Reject statehood.
- Bring reform through leaven, salt and light.
- Need a Savior.
- Deny self.

THEOLOGICAL DIMENSION

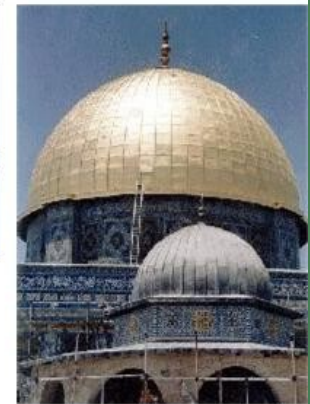
Concept of Atonement between Christianity and Islam



Christ has taken the wrath of God
 Transferred his righteousness to us
 Our sins were transferred to Christ.
 We are justified through sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

An evil act is against the law of God which is called sin. It is personal conviction of heart, Therefore, the sinner is need of justification and Freed from his sin and guilt of conscience.

Muslim is justified through a group people or Ummah (community) from shame & dishonor. Islam has no concept of guilt because it is foundations are not based on the law of God but Ummah/Community. Ummah or Community justifies or condemns the guilty person. An evil act is understood in relation to a community. An evil act that can't be hidden before the community of Muslims must be condemned. A Muslim seeks cleansing of his shame and guilt of conscience before a community.





PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSION

Purpose Driven Life of a Muslim:

Pleasing Allah and Appeasing Ummah/Islamic Community:

- The way to please Allah must go through pleasing Ummah or community of Muslims. Once he gets approvals of others, he is the happiest person and most honored among others. Losing his honor is a great displeasure, disgrace or shame.
- Shame is directly related to identity not behavior only. Hence, it is Islam is ethnical i.e. being a Christian for a Turk means, he became a foreigner i.e. American etc. His identity has changed.
- Pleasing Ummah from a Secular culture's view called "Co-dependency", "Peer Pressure" or Christian version of word is "Fear of Man" as in Saul's, *"Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice."* 1 Sa 15:24



PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSION

- Muslims are created in the image of an impersonal Allah, one God for Ummah's happiness:
 - no ultimate source of reference for relationship/bonding, creativity, logic, love
 - How you view reality changes your reaction to it.
 - Mom's calling me after dreaming me
 - Bonding (relationship) issue among Muslims & MBBs.
 - *Boundary/relationship problems*
 - A national missionary couple deciding not getting closer to foreign missionaries
 - *Death of logic*
 - By faith alone – no space for logic/reason to enter life & world view
 - *Suppression of creativity/personality*
 - Ummah is more valuable than a Muslim. Happiness of Ummah & Allah is your purpose driven life.
 - *Loyalty versus Love:*
 - Man showing his emotions considered weakness. It belongs to woman.