

# DO CHRISTIANS , MUSLIMS AND JEWS WORSHIP THE SAME GOD?

By [John Edmiston](#) (Creative Commons copyright, feel free to share/reprint for non-profit purposes)



In the past few weeks there has been intense controversy about a professor at Wheaton college who was disciplined for saying that Christians and Muslims worship the same God. This raises the important question of: Do Christians, Muslims and Jews worship the same God?

Notice there are two parts to this question: a) worship and b) same God.

The Devil knows God is One but does not *worship* Him. On the other hand devotees of Baal indeed worship, but they worship *a false God*.

First let's compare the various faiths with Christianity to see if a) they have the same god and b) if they have the same worship:

## Not The Same God

1. Christians worship a Trinity, one God in three Persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Muslims and Jews refuse the idea of the Trinity and just worship "one Almighty God".
2. Christians worship Jesus Christ as Son of God, Lord and Savior. Neither Jews nor Muslims do this. They do not worship Jesus. Therefore their god is a different deity. (More on this later).
3. Christians worship a God whose primary attribute is love and who calls us to forsake revenge and to love our enemies and to forgive the sins of others. Jews and Muslims worship a god whose primary attribute is power, honor and purity and who does not call upon them to love their enemies or forgive the sins of others and where punitive revenge is a religious duty.
4. Christians worship a God who became incarnate in human flesh and who died for their sins on the Cross. This idea is considered blasphemy (shirk) in Islam and is denied in Judaism. In both religions their god remains in Heaven. Christianity has a down-to-earth God.

## Not The Same Worship

5. Christians worship in spirit and truth and not in any particular sacred location (John 4:4) while Judaism and Islam have sacred cities such as Jerusalem, Mecca and Medina and they will even pray toward them.
6. Christianity has no sacred language, the Bible can be freely translated into any language. Judaism teaches its converts Hebrew while Islam says that the Koran is only truly the Koran when it is in Arabic.
7. Genetic descent from Abraham is important in the worship and doctrine of Judaism and Islam the first being through Isaac, the second being through Ishmael. In Christian worship and doctrine we are all sons of Abraham spiritually, through faith in Christ Jesus.
8. Christians worship according to the Spirit and not according to the letter, we have died to the Law. Judaism and Islam place literal obedience to written religious laws at the very center of their religions.
9. Christian worship is free from the rule of the elemental principles of religion such as New Moons, Sabbaths, matters of food and drink, and categories clean and unclean. Judaism and Islam in their worship place a great deal of emphasis on new moons, Sabbaths, halal or kosher food, and categories of clean and unclean.
10. Christian worship consist of people who are already saved, and who already possess eternal life going from glory to glory through beholding the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:16-18). For Christians worship is not a means to salvation but rather a celebration of a salvation that is already secure. Worship in Judaism and Islam is necessary for salvation, which is partly attained via worship. Neither Jews nor Muslims worship by being transformed by beholding the face of Christ. To repeat, Christian worship is AFTER salvation, while Jewish and Islamic worship is PRIOR TO or PART OF salvation. Thus it is NOT the same worship!

## The Jesus Issue: The Worship of the Son of God

The following article says that the answer is a plain "no" because he who denies the Son does not have the Father:

**1 John 2:22-24 ESV** *Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. (23) No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (24) Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

**1 John 4:1-3 ESV** *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2) By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, (3) and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.*

**2 John 1:9-11 ESV** *Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (10) If anyone comes to you*

*and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, (11) for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*

Judaism and Islam both persecute or ostracize converts to Christianity. If we all are worshiping the same Father why then do they do this? They deny the Son, and then persecute all who worship Him!

If you deny the Son then you do not *have the Father*, so then obviously you are NOT worshiping the Father (even if you think you are). Now the God of Judaism is the same God as the God of Christianity but the Jews of the current era do not “have the Father”, so they are not truly worshiping the Father, because worship of the Father requires glorifying the Son.

The apostle John says that if you don't confess Jesus as the incarnate Son of God then your spirit is "not from God". The religions that deny the incarnation of Jesus Christ are out of the right spirit, they are of the wrong spirit, which is why they are opposed to the gospel.

If you don't abide in the teaching of Christ (and neither Judaism or Islam does) then you don't abide in God. Jews abide in Moses and Islam abides in the teaching of Mohammed. So then they do not have God.

## Deceived

So Judaism and Islam are in deception. They are NOT truly worshiping the Father. Instead they are setting up their own standards of righteousness:

**Romans 10:1-4** *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. (2) For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (3) For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. (4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

Now Jews and Muslims may be ATTEMPTING to worship the same God. But they are NOT worshiping the same God! They have a zeal for God but *not according to knowledge* (Romans 1:2 above)

So Paul tells us that the Jews of his day were in fact NOT saved. In fact he was praying that they would be saved. However they would never get there by following the Jewish laws. By seeking their own righteousness the Jews had ignored God's righteousness in Christ. They had come to a dead end. They were finished spiritually. As Galatians 5:1-11 says the legalists were “cut off from Christ” and “had fallen from grace”.

**Galatians 5:4** *You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.*

You simply CANNOT be saved by following rules, which is what both Judaism and Islam advocate. If that were the case then Christ died for nothing!

**Galatians 2:18-21** *For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. (19) For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. (20) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (21) I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.*

If you could get to Heaven by following rules then there was no need for the humiliation of the Incarnation, the suffering of the Cross or the three days in the depths of the earth prior to the Resurrection. God could have just sent a book with more rules or a prophet.

## God's Testimony To The Son

Instead God sent Jesus and He alone is the way to salvation and He alone is the way to eternal life:

**1 John 5:9-13** *If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. (10) Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. (11) And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) **Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.** (13) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Let's look at all of the above verses for a moment. God has a spiritual testimony about His Son. This testimony is an inward testimony. People have it "in themselves". It is the testimony the Holy Spirit gives to Christ in the human conscience.

The Holy Spirit exalts Christ and teaches people about Christ, that is His nature and His task (John chapters 14 and 16). So if you *are* listening to the Holy Spirit, who is God's testimony, then you *will* believe in Jesus!

Now if you refuse to believe in Jesus, then you are refusing the testimony of God and telling the Holy Spirit that He is a liar. Since the Holy Spirit is God you are "making God a liar".

What is the Holy Spirit's message? This testimony is: *that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. And it is nowhere else except in the Son.* That logically leads to the apostle John's statement that: *Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Since both Judaism and Islam deny the Son, they do not have life. On top of which they are refusing the testimony of God and thus calling God a liar. Now you simply cannot be worshiping God if you are also calling Him a liar!

## Just One Way To Salvation

**John 3:36** *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

**Mark 16:16** *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

**John 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

**Acts 4:12** *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (the apostle Peter speaking to the Jews)*

So we see that there is no salvation, and no eternal life in either Judaism or in Islam. There is only salvation through Christ.

If they were worshiping the right God in the right way then they would certainly be saved. Therefore they are either:

1. Worshiping the wrong God or
2. Worshiping God in the wrong way.

If it was 2, if their intentions were good, and they were merely worshiping the right God in the wrong way, then they would be open to the testimony of God in their hearts via the Holy Spirit. They would believe in Jesus and receive eternal life and all Muslims and Jews would be saved. They would rejoice in the gospel as soon as they heard it! But very few are saved.

However even if some believe, then as soon as they do so they are persecuted! Their testimony is not received! Messianic Jews face discrimination in Israel, and converts to Christianity are killed in Islamic nations. Judaism and Islam are seriously committed to NOT believing the Father's testimony about Jesus through the Holy Spirit!

They are not just ignorant, they are defiant. They are of the wrong spirit. They are of the anti-Christ spirit (1 John 2:22 and 4:3 above).

If in fact they are of an anti-Christ spirit then Jews and Muslims are under deep spiritual deception and are even worshipping the **wrong** God!

Pauls' response was to pray for them! His heart's desire and prayer was that they should be saved. Paul wants their spiritual eyes and ears opened so that they listen to the testimony of God and believe the gospel:

**2 Corinthians 3:14-18** *But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. (15) Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. (16) But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. (17) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (18) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. (4) In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

So our response to Jews and Muslims should be to pray for the removal of the veil and for the salvation for all who are trying to justify themselves by works, so that they may come into the freedom that is in the Holy Spirit!

They are blinded by the god of this world. Unwittingly they are sons and daughters of disobedience. They think they are serving God, But in fact they are serving the Devil! (Ephesians 2:1-4).

We will not help the lost by identifying with them and telling them that their God is the same as ours. We need to help the lost by opening their eyes to the differences and to Christ. Being nice does not help blindness. Light helps blindness. If they continue in Islam they are lost. If they abide in Moses they are not saved.

### To Summarize:

1. Christians, Jews and Muslims do not worship the same God. The Christian God is a Trinity, the Jewish and Islamic God is not a Trinity.
2. Christians have an entirely different mode of worship, we worship in the Spirit, after salvation while Jews and Muslims worship by the letter as a means to salvation.
3. He who denies the Son denies the Father also.
4. Denying the Son is calling God a liar.
5. Denying the Son is of the anti-Christ spirit, a demonic spirit.
6. Denying the Son is denying the Holy Spirit
7. There is absolutely no salvation to anyone who continually denies the Son.
8. Islam and Judaism persecute those who confess the Son.
9. The true God would not persecute those who confess the Son, therefore they are worshipping an anti-Christ spirit and not the true God.
10. They are blinded and their eyes are veiled.
11. They are under God's wrath and will go into condemnation.
12. We should pray for their eyes to be opened and for them to be saved.



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