

Evangelism with Muslims

2018

(Dr Jay Smith)

Why should we do Evangelism?

(Romans 10:13-15)

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

- Bishop Leslie Newbigin: *“The Church which is not involved in evangelism is a heretical church”*

Are all called to be Evangelists?

- (Eph. 4:11-12)

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”

- School of World Mission estimates a healthy church should have 25% of members involved in evangelism.

Responses to Evangelism:

“Who me...certainly not; I do not have the gift!” (‘couch potato’)

- “I feel so **guilty** when I don’t share my faith with everyone I meet” (‘rambo evangelist’)
- “I must find a **better technique** to make people come to Christ” (‘professional student’)
- “I **give up!** None of those I talk to has followed Christ” (‘whipped dog’)
- “If **God is in control**, there is no point in me doing anything” (i.e. elder vs. William Carey)
(i.e. Reformed vs. Arminian debate)

God’s Sovereignty in Evangelism:

Ultimately it is God’s work, but he uses each of us to carry it out (i.e. Jonah & Ninevah)

- He **opens doors** so we can proclaim (Acts 14:27; Col.4:3)
 - He gives us the **courage** to speak
(2 Tim.4:17; Acts 4:29; Eph.6:19-20)
 - He **gives** us the **words** to proclaim (Rom.1:1, 16; 1 Cor. 2:1-5)
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- He enables those **listening** to understand
(Acts 16:14; 1Cor.2:10-13)
 - He **convicts** people of their **sin** (John 16:8)
 - He enables sinners to **repent** (Acts 5:31, 11:18; Eph.2:8)
 - He brings about **rebirth** (Acts 2:38; Rom.8:9; John 3:3-8)

Takes an enormous burden off our shoulders.

Still our work, but in His strength.

PRESENT DAY CHRISTIAN METHODOLOGIES

There are a number of strategies, or models of evangelism in Islamic work which have been, and are being employed today. Let’s look at the primary models:

Proclamation:

- To proclaim Christ and the gospel by speaking and/or preaching publicly.
- Storying the gospel, using cultural models.
- On campuses, using media, tracts, internet, etc...

- Problems: One-way communication, no responses, or rebuttals, & no relationships.

Irenic/Friendship evangelism:

- Coming together through shared relationships.
- Attending their meetings (campus)
- Mosque visits
- Home visits
- Problems: Time and energy, difficult to get beyond friendships, due to fear of losing the contact.

Contextual Model:

- Breaking down any social barriers to the Gospel, by incarnating oneself in the local context.
- Became popular in the 1970s (Phil Parshall & Frontiers)
- ‘Walking, eating, dressing, living incarnationally, etc...
- Problems: Syncretism, perception of deceit, & miscommunication

Dialogue:

- The art of learning how to talk or carry on effective discussions with people of other faiths.
- Presenting one’s own views and positions with the intention of coming to some sort of mutual understanding.
- Problems: No room for confrontation, doesn’t allow introduction of polemical material.

Difficulty with Dialogue

- Does Dialogue go far enough?
- Do Radical Muslims pay attention?
- Do Radical Muslims understand it?
- Is there not a need now to move beyond its strictures, post 911?

Confrontational / Debate:

- Openly challenging the beliefs of another person, using literature, media, etc...
 - Using the conventional format of public debate.
 - Problems: Creates tensions, not many good models today, goes against our cultural proclivities.
- #### Criticism of Debate (Colin Chapman)
- Attacks against Islam sometimes degenerate into polemics, resulting in nothing more than a ‘tit-for-tat’ criticism of Christianity by Muslims, and vice versa.
 - Debates appealed too much to the reason and the intellect, and not enough to the heart
 - Christian debaters are not aware of the latest Biblical critical research ongoing in the West, and so become helpless when Muslim opponents use them.
 - Debates are conditioned by the social and political context in which we work in the West, i.e. freedom to be critical.
 - We should question the validity of public debates which concentrate entirely on theological issues at the expense of the many social and political issues which both Muslims and Christians share in common
 - Responding in a polemical fashion merely mimics the agenda of the Muslim protagonist, which merely forces the Christian on to the defensive, and we fall into a scriptural paradigm we probably don’t even accept ourselves.
 - Chapman argues for a complete cessation of polemics itself, believing it to be not only disrespectful, but unloving.

MAY WE USE CONFRONTATION?

- Must look at: Model of Jesus, Paul, or the early church in the **1st Century**.
- Early Christian/Muslim polemics from the 7th-9th centuries
- 19th century Model: Dr. Carl Pfanders

- 20th-21st century Models: **Revisionists...**
- Post 911 Model: **HPCF, Pfander, i2, ...or SWAD?**

1ST CENTURY CHURCH:

- **Steven**, when challenged by members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen, the Jews of Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia and Asia, held his ground and returned their arguments; so much so that *'they could not stand up against his wisdom'* (Acts 6:9-10), and finally decided to execute him (Acts 7:57-8:1)

➤ 1ST CENTURY CHURCH: Jesus

- **Irenic:**
 - Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to Jesus at night (John 3)
- **Mild Opposition:**
 - rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16)
 - Pharisees and Herodians (Mark 12:13)
 - Pharisee host at a dinner party (Luke 7:36-50)
 - Samaritan woman (John 4)
- **Confrontation:**
 - Moneychangers at the temple (Matthew 21:12-13; Luke 19:45)
 - Confrontational Pharisees (Matthew 23:13-33)

➤ 1ST CENTURY CHURCH: Paul

- **Irenic:**
 - **Diaspora Jews: Read Scriptures with them on their territory** (Acts 13:13-15)
 - **Areopagus of Athens: Dialogued with the Stoics and Epicureans** (Acts 17:22-31)
- **Mild Opposition:**
 - **Reasoned with the Greeks, from within their traditions** (Acts 17:1-2, 17)

But, did he use confrontation? Certainly!

Before he was Paul, he was first **Saul**, a 'Shamaite'...on his way to Damascus to arrest & even **KILL Christians!**

Then God met him in a dynamic way, and made him **Paul**

Yet, he retained all his qualities as Saul...his passion, his intellect, and his knowledge of the Scriptures!

What do we say? (UCCF example)

God - Man - God - What if I do? - What if I don't?

- **God Rules:** he exists, he created everything, thus he is the ruler, the Bible tells us so.
(Gen.1:1; Matt.28:18; Phil.2:9-11)
- **Man Rebels:** we live by our own autonomy, consciously, by ignorance or indifference.
(Mark 7:21-23; Rom.3:12; 1Jn.3:4)
- **God demands Repentance:** stop & live in His kingdom as he designed it, His way.
(Matt.7:21; Mark 1:14-15; Acts 17:30)
- **What if I do?:** we are Forgiven, due to the cross, we are treated as if we never sinned.
(John 3:16; Rom.6:23, 8:1,15; Col.2:14)
- **What if I don't?:** we are Unforgiven, as rebels will be overthrown, to die eternally.
(Matt.7:23,26,27; Rom.1:18; 2Thess.1:8-9)

Popular Models:

- **Read scripture to people** (i.e. 7th Day Adventist, β singer)
- **Love them into the Kingdom** (i.e. 'Cargo cult believers', 'rice Christians')
- **Let them see by your example** (i.e. 'ghoti' on the back of cars)
- **Throw the Book at em!** (i.e. 'Hell-fire' preacher)
- **We should never ARGUE, we must DIALOGUE** (i.e. post-modern model)

i.e. SPEAKER'S CORNER:

Four Areas of Emphasis:

- **-Discussions** on the ground (most important for an exchange of ideas 'one-to-one', & learning apologetics/polemics)
- **-Speaking** from the ladder (important for creating a crowd, 'getting the ball going' - confronting ideas publically)
- **-Heckling** Muslim speakers (important whenever the Lord's name or our scriptures are vilified - confronting heresies)
- **-Praying** (important for eradicating all evil influences, 'gaining the ground', and creating a favourable ambiance)

PURPOSE FOR EVANGLISM:

1) Public:

Purpose is to Define what you believe, Defend it, then Reverse the challenge publicly.

- -You are usually in a **hostile** arena (new arrivals, professionals hecklers, radicals, etc...)
- -You are in a **public** arena (unique, the epitome of Freedom of Speech, putting 'head above the parapet')
- -See this as an opportunity to learn your **apologetics/polemics** adequately, before applying it elsewhere.
- -"If you can do it here, you can do it anywhere"

2) Laboratory:

Remember this is a place for trial and error.

- A place to **practice** what you have learned in class, in your research, in your discussions, etc...
- Expect to make **mistakes**.
- Don't be upset when you do.
- Simply **learn** from them, then 'get back up on the horse', and try again, or move on.
- You are a 'sojourner' here, thus you won't be held **accountable** for the mistakes you make here.
- Learn from those mistakes, and make sure you **don't repeat** them.
- This is ideal **preparation** for your chosen field.

3) Mosaic:

Muslims are not monolithic, but multi-faceted.
Every sort of Muslim can be found in the West.

- **Allows you to 'dovetail' (apply) responses for each culture, and/or personality.**
- **Forces you to meet the need of whoever is standing in front of you.**
- **"What is good for Abdul may not be good for Ahmed"**

4) Focus:

The Audience is your primary goal, not necessarily the one you're speaking to

- So, concentrate on them, and not on the **detractors**.
- By focusing on them, you **neutralize** the detractors, some of whom are professionals.
- Use the **crowd** to substantiate your view.
- **Look** at them when you talk, **speak** to them, **question** them, **involve** them, and **employ** their support.
- Your larger audience are the ones you are trying to **convince**.

METHODOLOGY OF EVANGELISM:

1) Pray:

- **Always have a prayer covering.**
- Remember this is a **battle** you are in, and thus requires '**weapons not of this world**'.
- **Prayer** is to be employed: **before**, **during**, and **after** the time you are 'in battle'
- While **one** talks, the **other** prays.

2) Pairs:

- Try always to go in twos, or more.
- One person to **speak**, the other to **pray**.
- Preferably, one should be a **veteran**, with experience.
- Roles can be **flipped**, depending on the need, or time.

3) Rule of Thumb 1

- ‘**Scratch where they itch**’
- To know them, you will need to first listen to them.
- Yet, maintain **control** at all times.
- Don’t let them set the **agenda**.
- Stay away from ‘**shopping list** questions’

4) Rule of Thumb 2:

- ‘**Scratch where they don’t itch**’
- You must go beyond friendship, to introduce the **Gospel**, which will confront!
- Assume a heated **response**.
- The Person-hood of Jesus will **confront**, a worthy battleground.

5) Response:

- ‘**3 C’s**’ = ‘**Quick**’, ‘**Concise**’, yet ‘**Comprehensive**’
- We tend to **take our time**, so learn to give ‘**2 minute sound-bites**’ (usual attention time)
- We tend to be **verbose**, so be **succinct**.
- We seek **erudition**, so seek **simplicity** (remember ‘8th grade educational level’)
- We tend to be ‘**fuzzy thinkers**’, so learn to be **logical**.

6) Praxis:

There is a need to be multi-faceted in your response.

- We must use both **Apologetics** and **Polemics**.
- We must be both **Irenical** and **Confrontational**
- So that the **onus** is not always on us, but back where it belongs...on them.
- Not ‘either’ - ‘or’; but ‘**both**’ - ‘**and**’

7) Mannerism:

- **Be Gentle, yet Passionate, Be Considerate, yet Forthright.**
- **How** you say it is almost as important as **what** you say.
- Show **confidence** in your material, and in your decisions.
- Do not employ ‘**Character Assassination**’.
- Our material is too good, and our testimony too precious.
- Don’t waste time on **innocuous argumentation** (i.e. “Don’t throw pearls before swine”)

8) End-game:

- **Bring discussions around to the Gospel**
- (i.e. ‘How could God have a Son’, ‘Is Islam or Christianity peaceful and tolerant’)
- Remind yourself who is in charge, and for whom you are there [**the Lord**]!

EXTERNAL LOGICAL FALLACIES:

Typical arguments afforded by Muslims (with help from Robert Morey)

1. "B B" Paradigm:

Make any claim, without sourcing it in scripture.

- You become your own highest authority
- (i.e. Benazir Bhutto: 'Islam is relevant to 20th c.')

2. Imposition Paradigm:

Take your premise and impose it on another

- (i.e. 'Tanzil' revelation, Where does Jesus claim 'I am God', Jesus' seeming inferiority, Paradigm of a 'dualistic' God)

3. Smokescreen/Red Herring:

Tactic to divert attention from the weakness of one's own premise, with the intention of putting us on the defensive

- (i.e. trinity, Crusades)

4. Historical Precedent:

The new may test the old, and takes precedent over it

- applying 'law of abrogation' [S.2:106; 16:101] to scripture
- (i.e. Scriptural corruption, Jesus of faith vs. Jesus of history)

5. Cyclical Argument:

Assume in your premise what you are going to state in your conclusion

- (i.e. Muhammad gives authority to the Qur'an, and vice versa)

6. False Analogy/Equivocation:

Comparing two things as if they are parallel when they are not

- (i.e. revelation, Jesus, Allah)

7. The Fallacy of Irrelevance:

Introducing issues with no logical bearing on the subject, as a proof of credibility

- (i.e. 'Sura like it', Qur'anic science, Celebrity conversions, Islamic growth)

8. Phonic Fallacies:

The phonetic sound of a word should not be used to twist its meaning

- (i.e. Allah = Allelujah, Muhammad = Machmad, Mecca = Bacca)

9. Straw Man Arguments:

Put false arguments into mouth of your opponent, then knock them down

- (i.e. S. 5:116, Catholicism)

10. 'Might is Right' Fallacy:

Loudest and most long-winded supposedly wins the argument...having the last say...

- (i.e. 'Poke, Punch & Pinch')

INTERNAL LOGICAL FALLACIES: (typical arguments afforded by Christians)

➤ **Losing Friends:**

It's a risk, but with gentleness & respect (1 Pet.3:15-16) they will stay

➤ **Appearing judgmental:**

Being Good = Being Christian, thus non-Christians are not good?

➤ **We must use only Dialogue, never stoop to confrontation:**

- **Dialogue:** We cannot talk to non-Christians about the Gospel unless we **first talk with them, & so earn the right to be heard.**
- **Confronting:** *>demolishing arguments and taking captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ' (2 Cor.10:4-5).*
- showing the holes in peoples thinking (in Lk.20:20-39; Acts 17:28-29)
- i.e. lead out on a current topic, and go on into >deeper things = (news, sports etc...)
- Start with their ideas & lead them 'to their logical conclusions'
 - **Don't know the answers to the questions:**
 - Learn them, and assimilate them, then introduce the Gospel thru them!!

MUSLIM STUDENT EVANGELISM

How do Muslims operate on campus?

- Islamic activity on campus is increasingly well contextualised to the British/Western scene

5 main areas of Activity:

- Talks and Debates (For Muslim Students, until Student Unions shut many debates down)

Usually on issues that are:

- Social (unemployment, economics, Hijab)
- Moral (Western corruption, the family, women)
- Political (Israel, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Rohingya/Myanmar)
- Theological (Scriptures, Jesus, Science, Cultural Mandate)

50% of UK ISOCS now radical!

- Proselytising Meetings (For all-comers). Addresses by (Western) Muslim converts, debates with other groups, open meetings on topics similar to those mentioned earlier
- Islamic Awareness Weeks Modelled on CU strategy with bookstalls and literature distribution and proselytising meetings
- Literature Tracts & books specifically polemical, attacking Christianity, and the Bible & Jesus' divinity, etc...
- Training Days (For Muslim students). Islamic Students are taken on weekends to learn how to dialogue with Christians through books, videos, tapes and training conferences (i.e. IERA book-tables and T-shirts)

Primary Agendas: ...Using lectures, book tables, debates etc...

- Cultural mandate (Muhammad Abduh, Khurram Murad, Abd al-Mawdudi, Hamza Tzortzis)
- Scientific Exegesis (Maurice Bucaille, Dr. Jamal Badawi)
- Pagan Sources of the Bible (Abdul Rahman Green)
- Polemics: the Trinity & Sonship of Jesus, authority of Scripture (Shabir Ali, Zakir Naik, Mansur Ahmed, Adnan Rashid)
 - Student societies are hesitant to allow debates between Muslims and Christians for fear of hostility
 - Fear seems to debilitate free speech
 - Belief that the 'Islamicists' will dominate

FAQs (APOLOGETICS AND POLEMICS)

HAS THE BIBLE BEEN CORRUPTED?

- **When/Where? Before Muhammad?**
- Qur'an disagrees:
- "God's word does not change"
(Suras 3:2,78; 4:135; 6:34; 10:64; 18:26; 35:42; 50:28-29).
- "No difference between Bible & Qur'an"
(Suras 2:136; 3:2-3).
- "Muslims must ask Christians" (Suras 10:94; 21:7)
- "Dispute not with the Christians" (Sura 29:46)
- "Muslims are to believe in the Bible" (Sura 4:136)
- "Christians are to believe in the Bible" (Suras 5:46-47, 68)
- **No warning against its corruption.** In fact the argument did not exist until Ibn Hazam (1064), showing that it is a **11th century Muslim polemic.**

After Muhammad?

- If the Bible was changed **after** Muhammad's life, what do we do with:
- (1) **24,000 Manuscripts:** in Greek, Latin and other languages, **230** MSS before 6th century.

- (2) **15,000 translations**: Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic, Georgian, Ethiopic, Nubian,
- (3) **2,135 lectionaries** from the 6th century,
- (4) **86,489 quotations** of N.T. in **early church father's letters** 36,000 before 325AD (recreating John, but for 11 verses)
- **Who** did it, Jews or Christians? **How** do they have identical scriptures?
- **Why** no record of corruption, and why authentic ones not hidden?
- If changed then why not expunge embarrassing stories
(i.e. Peter's denial of Christ Matt.26:69-75; Paul's disputes with Barnabas = Acts 15:39)?

HOW CAN WE ACCEPT NON ARABIC HUMAN AUTHORSHIP?

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul are not prophets...neither are Zaid ibn Thabit, Ibn Musa, Ubai ibn Ka'ab, Ibn Masu'd.
- Only 17% understand Arabic, suggesting Allah only speaks to them...while Bible is translated in over 2,000 = Universal
- New Testament similar to Hadith, Sira, Tafsir & Tahrikh

HOW CAN JESUS BE THE SON OF GOD?

- **S. 6:101; 5:17 = biological** vs. **inheritance** birth - Lk.2:49 = '**begotten**' = monogenes = one & only (unique), not 'genao' = birth
- In Qur'an **Sura 2:177 'Ibn ul-sabeeli'** means '**son of the road**' = traveller
- **Qur'an** allows possibility of God's son (**Sura 39:4**)
- **Revelation! Divine titles for the Son:**
Gen.1:26-27; Deut.6:4; John 1:1,18; 5:18, 8:58-59, 10:30-33, Is.44:6 & Rev.1:8,17-18

HOW CAN GOD BECOME A MAN?

- Not man becoming God ↑, but God becoming man ↓ (Phil.2:6-8)
- **Can God do anything, in his omnipotence? Thus, can he become a man?** Yes! So not how, but why! To Erradicate **SIN**
- Must remind them of **theophanies** (burning bush, Angel with Abraham, Jacob wrestling etc...)
- Mk 14:61-62 = Son of the Blessed One, and 'Son of Man' = Dan.7:13-14 = **authority, glory, sovereign power, worship, dominion**
- Issa - Jesus = God's Word (S. 4:171; John 1:1) God's Word = uncreated: Sura 85:22 (uncreated eternal tablets = mother of books S.43:4)
- Jesus = 'Spirit proceeding from God' (S. 4:171), '**supported** by the Holy Spirit' (S. 12:87; 58:22), **Spirit** = Essence of God (S.2:253)
- Jesus = unique: Sinless (S. 19:19), **born of virgin** (S. 21:91), gave **life** to birds & the **dead, healed,** miraculous **knowledge** (S.3:49)



HOW CAN GOD BE ONE OF A TRINITY?

- **Don't initiate the discussion on the trinity.**
- **Don't trust your opinion, nor your experience, but what the Bible says, in both the Old Testament and New Testament (see Blackham's paper)**
- **The word 'Trinity' is not in the Bible, nor 'Tawhid' in the Qur'an?**
- **Tri-unity** (coined by Tertullian 125 A.D.). **Not mathematical** (1+1+1, or 1x1x1, or 4x4x4) but **organic**: (i.e.: son, father, husband, brother, pen, water, sun, author, egg, body mind and spirit); not **Sabellian** (3 consecutive 'gods') nor **Arian** ('man becomes God')
- **Qur'an stands against 'Christian' polytheism (S.4:17;5:73), but has a mistaken trinity, as it includes Mary (S. 5:116)**
- **Qur'an = Jesus = God's word, both eternal (S.85:22) ≠ 'Tawhid' since if Qur'an was created (Mutazilites) then at one time God was without his word**
- Many mysteries we can't explain (i.e. God's **omnipresence, eternity, virgin birth, or electricity** etc...), yet we accept them
- Allah's **names** include **Love, Mercy & Compassion**: yet all 3 require objects, so these names only exist due to Man's creation, & not found or exemplified in a 1-dimensional monad Allah, but found & exemplified in a trinitarian context!
- So Allah requires Man's existence, while Yahweh chooses Man's existence
- Personal man isn't from impersonal God - except as *Imago Dei* (Gen.1:26-27)

- The Tawhid of Allah breeds totalitarian Ummah (many swallowed into the 1), exemplified in Muslim family, community...
- The Trinity of Yahweh breeds individuals relating in community, exemplified in Christian families, communities...
- **Islamic trinity = Allah (S.13:16; 14:10), Ruh (S.50:16; 56:83), & Eternal tablets (S.85:22)**
- **Baptism of Christ** (Luke 3:22)=**voice of God** the father, **dove as spirit** of God, and **Son as Jesus**. (Matt.6:11-13 = **Lord's Prayer**)

DID JESUS REALLY DIE ON THE CROSS?

- **Eye-Witnesses** needed to corroborate what happened. **Three eye-witnesses** vs. one supposition 700-900 years later (4 gospels vs. 1 Quran), who do you believe? Eyewitnesses
- **Extra-Biblical evidence:**(**Thallus** = 50AD, **Josephus** 80-90AD, **Tacitus** 80AD, **Pliny the Younger** 112AD)
- **Qur'anic Confusion: Sura 19:33,15** "Blessed be on me, the day I was born, the day I Die, and the day I rise again" (Jesus & Yaxya)
- **Moral Confusion:** (Sura 4:157-158) Is God **deceitful**, since he uses another man to die in Jesus' place?
- **Theological Confusion:** (S.6:164; 53:38)? Can one pay for another's sin, since this goes against the Qur'anic objection on **atonement**

WHO IS THE REAL JESUS?

- **Jesus fits 1st c. (O.T.- Dead Sea Scr.- Gospels- Josephus) – Pharisees** (Hillel & Shamai), not **Saducees** or **Essenes**, & confronts **Law, Temple, & Kingdom of God**.
- **'Issa'** fits **5-8th c.** (Sectarian writings, Syriac mss.) [progression of **Mary**, Digression of Joseph]
- **Nestorians (5th C.): Jesus = God-chosen human** (sura 3:42-48, 51, 59; 4:171; 5:116-117; 19:30, 34-35)
- **Monarchists: God has no children** (sura 4:171; 19:34)
- **Docetists (1st C.): Jesus didn't die** (sura 4:156-158)
- **Monophysites - Cholloridian (4th C.) Maryolatry:** Mary in the Trinity (sura 5:116)

HOW CAN WE KNOW WHO IS A TRUE PROPHET?

Four Criteria for Prophethood in the Bible:

- 1) Does his **message** conforms to previous revelation?
- 2) Are his **predictions** verifiable?
- 3) Is he in **Isaac's race**?
- 4) Does he use God's personal name?:
 Adonai (descriptive) = 340 times
 Elohim (generic) = 2,000 times
 Yahweh (personal) = 6,823 times



HYPOCRASY OF CHURCH/LEADERS

- The fact that you call it hypocritical proves you believe Christianity has an absolute code...based on Jesus Christ
- Look at the example of the Crusades, Inquisition, and ask if they follow the example of Jesus...or if the conquests follow the example of Muhammad?

ISN'T SIN THE SAME IN ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY?

- Muslim **Sin = horizontal**, (Satan at fault) easily forgivable (note the consequence of Adam & Eve's sin in Eden – S.2:30-39; 7:19-25; 20:116-123).
- Adam's disobedience, was forgiven, yet they were banished to earth-Why? No relationship existed/God, so none lost.
- Sin = breaking God's law - no corruption, just weakness to Satan's seduction
- Islam = Good works balance out sin, then conversely bad works balance out good. So if a wife has done 300 good days then is she allowed to do one bad day of adultery?
- Christian **Sin = vertical**, our fault (Rom.3:23), deserves death, to have justice (Rom.6:23).
- Adam was sinless (perfect) = in relationship with God.
- He sinned->(imperfect) knew right & wrong, broke trust, hid, evicted from Eden, lost relationship with God (Men & nature)
- God = pure & holy (Ps.77:13; 99:9) & can have no sin in His presence (Hab.1:13)
- Thus, sin separates us (Is.59:1-2)

FINALLY:

The real reason for not following Christ is not always an intellectual one, but a cultural, as well as a moral one. People are not prepared to repent, because they will then have to change their lifestyle, maybe their culture, even at the risk of their lives, or they will have to give up their autonomy. However, before they can do this, the intellectual debris must be cleared away effectively. This, with Muslims, may require a new paradigm, or a new methodology, in our missiology.

A PUBLIC APPROACH:**HPCF (Hyde Park Christian Fellowship)**

“A boat in the harbour is safe, but that is not what boats were made for”

- **SPEAKER’S CORNER**
- **PUBLIC DEBATES**

Even Women can preach!!

What weapons will we use?

“For though we live in the world, *we do not wage war as the world does.* The weapons we fight with are *not the weapons of the world.* On the contrary, they are *divine power to demolish strongholds.* *We demolish arguments* and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we *take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ*”

(II Corinthians 10:3-5)