

Islam and Mormonism: An Introduction Handout

Preliminary Thoughts:

ISLAM

Origin/History:

- Mohammad – 570-632AD
 - Revelation from Gabriel (Age 40)
 - Fled to Yathrib (618AD)
 - Conquest of Mecca (629AD)
 - Died 632
- Caliphate (*caliph*- “successor”)
 - Abu Bakr (632-634)
 - Umar (634-644)
 - Uthman (644-656)
 - Ali (656-661)
- Arab conquest of 7th-8th Century

Main Doctrines:

- Monotheism
- Prophets of God
 - Abraham, Noah, Moses, Jesus, Mohammad
- Qur’an (Koran)
 - 114 Surah’s (Chapters) arranged by length
 - Given to Mohammad by Gabriel
- Al-Qadar (predestination)
- Hadith (The sayings of Mohammad)
- Day of Judgment

Modern Practices:

- 5 Pillars:
 - Shahada (Testimony)
 - “There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his prophet.”
 - [Salat \(Prayer\)](#)
 - 5 times a day facing Mecca following the proper form.
 - Zakat (Almsgiving)
 - Giving generously to those in need.
 - [Sawm \(Fasting\)](#)
 - Fasting from food from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan.
 - [Haji \(Pilgrimage\)](#)
 - Making a journey to Mecca and following the rituals associated with it. ([circling Kaaba](#) and going between the hillocks of Safa and Marwa.)



Sunni and Shia:

Sunni

- followers of the first three Caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman)
- ~85% of Muslims
- Concentrated in South East Asia, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey

Shia (Shiite)

- followers of Ali (Shait Ali)
- ~13% of Muslims
- Concentrated in Iraq and Iran



Both

- Both Sunni and Shia contribute to Radical Islam Terrorism
 - ISIS and Al Qaeda are Sunni Salafist (conservative/fundamentalist) movements
 - Hezbollah is a Shia group
- Sunni and Shia are analogous to denominations in Christianity
- Sunni and Shia Muslims can be either liberal or conservative in their theology
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FAQ's:

- Do Muslims and Christians worship the same God?
 - No. Islam teaches that Jesus is not God.
- What does Islam teach about Jesus?
 - Born of a virgin Mary
 - Prophet of God
 - Corrupted accounts in New Testament
 - Raised from dead by Allah
 - Ascended and will return to judge the world
- What is ISIS?
 - Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (Sometimes ISIL "...and Levant")
 - Sunni fundamentalist group within Islam
 - motivated by the goal of converting the earth to Islam or killing those who don't

- What about women in Islam?
 - The Qur'an and many Hadiths seem to devalue women
 - “the majority of the dwellers in hell are women” (6.8.301)
 - “Men are in charge of women by [right of] what Allah has given one over the other and what they spend [for maintenance] from their wealth... But those [wives] from whom you fear arrogance - [first] advise them; [then if they persist], forsake them in bed; and [finally], strike them. But if they obey you [once more], seek no means against them.(Surah 4:34)
 - Sexual assault, polygamy, adultery, sexual manipulation, and sexual slavery seem allowable in many Hadiths
 - 34.113.436; 62.54.82; 63.7.190; 54.6.640; 74.12.260
 - Plausible deniability
 - Muslim apologists all have sufficient answers for many of these critiques
 - the majority of modern Muslims deny gender inequality within Islam
 - Many women are treated poorly in Muslim practice in certain parts of the world
 - 1/2 worth legal testimony
 - bought for marriage
 - effectual house arrest
 - Are these due to Islam, Culture, or Sin nature?

- What is Sharia Law?
 - Sharia (“the path”, or “the way”) is the set of legal, social, sexual, and economic laws derived by application from the Qur’an and the Hadiths.
 - It is analogous to the Jewish law of the 1st century, based on the Mosaic law, but widely expanded.

MORMONISM (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints...or... LDS)

Origins/History:

- Joseph Smith
 - Vision of Father and son (1820)
 - Vision of Angel Moroni (1823)
 - told him where to find the gold tablets
 - Urim and Thummin (Stones for translating)
 - Translated the book of Mormon (1829)
 - Returned plates to Angel Moroni in Cumorah cave (lost)
- Brigham Young
 - Led pioneer movement of LDS to Utah (1847)
 - Became separatist society until around 20th century

Main Doctrines:

- [13 Articles of Mormon Faith](#)
- Words of Wisdom
- The Book of Mormon and the King James Bible
- Modern day Prophets and Apostles
- Priesthood
- 5 Steps of the Gospel (Faith, Repent, Baptism, Holy Ghost, Enduring until the End)
- Bodily resurrection with family

Modern Practice:

- Tithe
- Two year mission
- Following the “Words of Wisdom” (abstaining from tobacco, caffeine, alcohol, practicing chastity, etc)
- Wearing the temple under garment at all time when possible
- Submission to elders and prophets
- Temple worship procedures

FAQ's:

- Are Mormon's polygamous?
 - [Not anymore. They did until 1890, according to a revelation to Wilford Woodruff](#)
- What goes on in a Mormon Temple?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leKK2YAzLWE>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VngM80qCOJw>
- Do Mormon's believe Jesus is God?
 - No. Mormons believe the Godhead is “3 beings” with “1 Purpose.” By Christian definitions they are tri-theists.
 - Mormons believe Jesus is the firstborn son of God. They do not believe he is the same “essence” as God, nor do they believe he existed in eternity past with the Father.

- Do Mormons believe they'll get their own planet?
 - Not that I've seen. Their official public doctrines state: "There are three kingdoms of glory: the celestial kingdom, the terrestrial kingdom, and the telestial kingdom (see 1 Corinthians 15:40–42). Those who are valiant in the testimony of Jesus and obedient to the principles of the gospel will dwell in the celestial kingdom in the presence of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and with their righteous family members."
 - Mormons do believe they can only be saved by obedience, baptism, and receiving the "gift of the Spirit"
 - Mormons believe which Kingdom you end up in is a direct result of how well you followed the "the narrow path" in this life

- Do Mormons believe Jesus and Satan were brothers?
 - Yes. Their [mastery of core doctrine](#) states: "Those who followed Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ were permitted to come to the earth to experience mortality and progress toward eternal life. Lucifer, another spirit son of God, rebelled against the plan. He became Satan, and he and his followers were cast out of heaven and denied the privileges of receiving a physical body and experiencing mortality."

- Will Mormons be saved?
 - If they knowingly reject the gospel that they are saved by grace through faith, and instead believe a gospel based on works, then no.
 - It is possible that some Mormons will be saved, though if they have progressed far in the Mormon church, it is highly unlikely.

Are Mormons Christians?

- Definition of Christian: "Those who have believed the gospel that they are saved by grace alone through faith alone, in the finished work of Christ on the cross, and that by believing have the hope of resurrection, life, in his name."
- By this definition, Mormons are not Christians.
- By looser definitions, they are Christians.
- Telling Mormons that they aren't Christians is unhelpful, clarifying the definition of Christian for Mormons from the scriptures, is.