


ARE YOU READY?



Daniel Janosik, PhD
Faith Bible College
Apologetics Conference
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Lecture 7
 Dr. Daniel Janosik

APOLOGETICS TO ISLAM

Core Doctrine deals with the following beliefs

- Nature of God
- Nature of Jesus Christ
- Nature of the Holy Spirit
- Nature of Man
- Nature of Sin
- Nature of Salvation
- The Bible
- Nature of Heaven
- Nature of Hell
- The Future (nature of eternity)


Nature of	Christianity	Islam
God	One God Personal Triune	One God Impersonal Monad
Jesus Christ	Son of God; God himself	Prophet; Only a man
Holy Spirit	Third person of Trinity	Spirit of God
Man	Created in image of God; Fallen	Created; Not fallen, only forgetful
Sin	Rebellion against God; separates man from God; "original sin" inherited from Adam – tendency towards evil	Action against God; Can be forgiven; Man is born "good" without "original sin;" Equal ability to do good and evil
Salvation	Only in Christ; Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins against God; (some would include correct belief and good deeds as fruit of true conversion)	Submitting to will of Allah; Works; Correct belief; God's mercy;

Nature of	Christianity	Islam
Bible	Inspired Word of God Complete and without error (in original) (2 Timothy 3:16); OT and NT; 66 books; over 40 authors	Accept the Tauret (Pentateuch of Moses), Zabur (psalms of David), and the Injil (gospel of Jesus) in as far as they agree with the Qur'an; Muslims believe the Bible has been "corrupted"
Heaven	Being in the presence of Jesus Christ; No marriage; A place of light	Paradise; Allah will not be present any more than he is present on earth; A fulfillment of all earthly pleasures
Hell	Eternal separation from God; A place of darkness	A place of torment and fire; Not necessarily the final place for Muslims;
Future	Jesus Christ is coming again; There will be a bodily resurrection, final judgment and eternal destination; only those who trust in Christ as their Savior will go to heaven	Jesus is coming again --So is the Imam Mahdi and the Dajjal (false messiah); bodily resurrection, final judgment and eternal destination; all Muslims will eventually go to heaven, though some must be purged of their sins first; all infidels (Jews and Christians included) are destined for hell

Belief	Christianity	Islam
Are Yahweh and Allah the same?	Can the God of Muhammad be the Father of Jesus?	Muslims worship the God and creator of Jesus, and whom Jesus himself worshipped
Is God a Trinity?	God is One essence and Three persons, a Tri-unity; co-equal, co- eternal	God is a monad, a singularity; How can 1+1+1=1? The Trinity defies the laws of nature and mathematics
Is Jesus Christ the Son of God?	Jesus is "true God from true God," Jesus is God the Son, second person of the Trinity	Jesus was just a servant of Allah; a prophet, but not the Son of God (Q. 5:17); It is the greatest of all sins to associate another with God
Did Jesus die by crucifixion?	Jesus died on a cross for our sins, was buried and rose on the third day; after 40 days he ascended into heaven	Jesus did not die on the cross (Q. 4:147), but was raised to heaven by Allah (Q. 4:158); How could someone else's death pay for your sins?
Is the Bible inerrant or has it been corrupted?	The Bible is the inspired Word of God transmitted through men. (2 Timothy 3:16)	The original Scriptures given to the Jews and Christians were corrupted; this is why they contradict the Qur'an, which is the only accurate word of God today.

Apologetics to Islam
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1. ARE YAHWEH AND ALLAH THE SAME?



One God, Two Names?

- Are the terms Allah and Yahweh just two names for the same God, or are they names referring to different Gods?

The Meaning of Allah

- The meaning of Allah
 - Probably from the term “*al illah*”
- Allah in the Qur’an – different from Yahweh
 - Distant
 - Unity, not Trinity
 - Love is not emphasized
 - Cannot have any associates
 - Can deceive the people, especially unbelievers
 - Does not guarantee salvation

The Meaning of Yahweh

- The meaning of Yahweh
- Gen 3: Burning bush definition and relationship to Jesus Christ (John 8:58)
- Different than Allah:
 - Loving, personal
 - Unchanging
 - Guarantees salvation of faithful
 - Trinity and unity
 - Father of Jesus

Allah and Yahweh are not the same God

- Explanation as to why Allah and Yahweh cannot be referring to the same God
 - Attributes of God
 - God is a Trinity (Father, Son and Spirit)
 - Jesus, as the second person of the Trinity had to die on the cross to pay for our sins and his resurrection from the dead supported his claim to deity
 - This is something that Islam cannot accept
 - Yahweh is personal, Allah is not
 - Which God is more appealing?

THE NATURE OF GOD	CHRISTIANITY: Yahweh	ISLAM: Allah
Does God Change?	God does not change. James 1: 17: <i>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no varying, neither shadow of turning.</i>	Allah of Islam changes. Surah 2: 106: <i>If We supersede any verse or cause it to be forgotten, We bring a better one or one similar. Do you not know that Allah has power over all things!</i>
Is God Loving?	God loves everyone. John 3: 16: <i>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...</i>	Allah is tempermental. Surah 32: 13: <i>If we so willed, we could have brought every soul its true guidance, but the word from me will come true: 'I will fill Hell with demons and men all together.'</i>
Is God Deceptive?	God cannot lie. Titus 1: 2 <i>In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;</i>	Allah deceives. Surah 8: 30: <i>They plot and plan, and Allah, too plans, but the best of planners (deceivers) is Allah.</i>

THE NATURE OF GOD	CHRISTIANITY: Yahweh	ISLAM: Allah
Is God a Trinity ?	God is Triune. Father is God: John 6:27 Son is God: Col. 2:9 Spirit is God: Acts 5: 3-9	Trinity is blasphemy. Surah 5: 73: <i>They do blaspheme who say God is one of three...for there is no Allah except one Allah.</i>
Who is in the Trinity ?	Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:	Some Muslims believe the Christian trinity is God the Father, God the Mother (Mary) and God the Son (Jesus). Surah 5: 116: "And behold! God will say: O Jesus the son of Mary didst say unto men, 'worship me and my mother as gods' in derogation of Allah?"


*Chart from Ergun Caner's web site

Conclusion

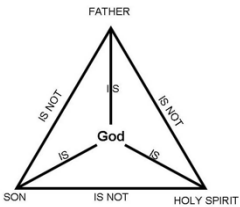
- ♦ What about Arabic Christians who use "Allah" in their Bibles?
- ♦ Denotation vs Connotation
 - This solves the confusion of Arabic Christians using the term "Allah" in their Christian Bibles
 - "Allah" for the Arabic Christians the Father of Jesus, while "Allah" for Muslims cannot be a father!
 - After comparing Allah and Yahweh it should be apparent that they cannot be the same

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Did Jesus die by crucifixion?	Jesus died on a cross for our sins, was buried and rose on the third day; after 40 days he ascended into heaven	Jesus did not die on the cross (Q. 4:147), but was raised to heaven by Allah (Q. 4:158); How could someone else's death pay for your sins?
Is the Bible inerrant or has it been corrupted?	The Bible is the inspired Word of God transmitted through men. (2 Timothy 3:16)	The original Scriptures given to the Jews and Christians were corrupted; this is why they contradict the Qur'an, which is the only accurate word of God today.

HOW CAN ONE GOD BE A TRINITY?



The Trinity is not easy to understand, and many have turned away from Christianity because they could not understand how there could be "one and three."



The Muslim Challenge:

- ♦ The "mathematics" of the Trinity seems to baffle Muslims! How can

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 1??$$

Ahmed Deedat

"to say that Jesus is God or Son of God is not only a mockery of Godhood, but blasphemy of the lowest order and an insult to the intelligence of man."²



²Ahmed Deedat, *The God that Never Was*, pg.1..

Ahmed Deedat

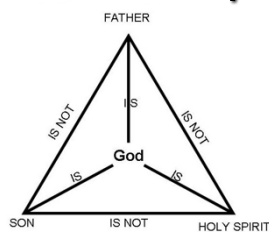
- ◆ In his examples he talks about the “birth of ‘God’ ” (How can God give birth to God?),
- ◆ the “family of ‘God’ ” (How can God have brothers and sisters?),
- ◆ the “development of ‘God’ ” (How can God improve?),
- ◆ the “tempting of ‘God’ ” (How can God be tempted?),

Ahmed Deedat

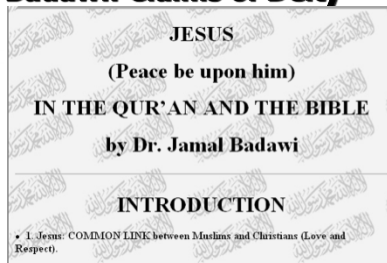
- ◆ the “capture of ‘God’ ” (How can God be humiliated and defenseless?),
- ◆ and the “death of ‘God’ ” (How can God die?).
- ◆ His conclusion is that Jesus could not be God because, primarily, He could not **share** the same nature as God.

The Athanasian Creed:

“one essence and three persons.”



Jamal Badawi: Claims of Deity



Jamal Badawi

- ◆ “They do blaspheme who say; ‘God is Christ the son of Mary’ ” (5:75);
- ◆ “They do blaspheme who say: God is one of three in a Trinity” (5:76); and
- ◆ Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) an apostle of god, and His Word Say not “Trinity”[actually “three”] (4:171)

Jamal Badawi: Deity



"many were deified without claim on their part ... many of the claims were simply the allegorical use of spiritual language or simply of allegory itself."³

- ³Jamal Badawi, Jesus in the Qur'an and the Bible, pg.3.

Jamal Badawi: Deity

- "the Way, the Truth" (John 14:6): applies to every prophet in his time.
- "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30): oneness in purpose, not in essence (John 17:11, 20-23).
- "Before Abraham I Am" (John 8:58): All existed in the foreknowledge of Allah.
- "Was called Son of God": so was Adam, Jacob, David, Solomon. Others were called "Sons of God" (Gen. 6:2), Deut. 14:1, Hos. 1:10).

Jamal Badawi: Deity

- Called Messiah: Means anointed. So was David (Ps. 2;2).
- Said that all authority was given to him: He who gave authority is Greater (i.e., His God).
- Jews tried to stone him for blasphemy (John 10:29-33): Jews were to indict him. "by hook or by crook" regardless of what he said. They may have considered him a "false Messiah."⁴
 - ⁴.Ibid, pgs. 3,4.

Jamal Badawi

- Jesus did nothing on his own authority (Jn. 5:30, 14:31, Matt. 20:23)
- Jesus spoke not on his own authority (Jn. 14:10, 8:28-29)
- Jesus said that the Father is greater than him (Jn. 14:28)
- Jesus was tempted (Matt. 4:1-11): but God can not be tempted (James 1:13)

- He denied knowledge of the unseen (Mk. 13:32, Matt. 24:36)
- He prayed to God (Mk. 14:32, Lk 5:16)
- Made a distinction between himself and the Father (Matt. 23:8-10)⁵
 - ⁵.Ibid, pg. 4.

Badawi's Misunderstanding

- Badawi's approach begins with an improper understanding of the unique relationship that Jesus has with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

The Misinterpretation

- ♦ Dr. Badawi's viewpoints reveal a deep misunderstanding as to the uniqueness that Jesus Christ was claiming.
- ♦ For example, He was not just **another** "anointed one," but rather He was **the** "messiah" prophesied throughout the Old Testament and the one for whom all the other "anointed ones" were a shadow.

The Misinterpretation

- ♦ The use of "Son of God."
- ♦ "Sons" because of adoption
- ♦ Jesus is **the** Son because of his **nature**.
- ♦ He is the only human who could share the **same** nature as God, and this is what made him the **unique** son of God (John 3:16).

Muslim view:

One essence
and three persons?

"Gibberish"



* The greatest sin in Islam

Phil Parshall



"if you mention the subject of the Trinity to a Muslim you are assured of a most emotional response."

As many Muslims argue,

"How can God have a Son? God is one. You Christians worship three gods. You have perverted the pure monotheism of the Jews into a corrupt polytheism. The wrath of Allah be upon you and all your generations!"⁶

⁶ Phil Parshall, *The Fortress and the Fire*, pg. 11



The Problem

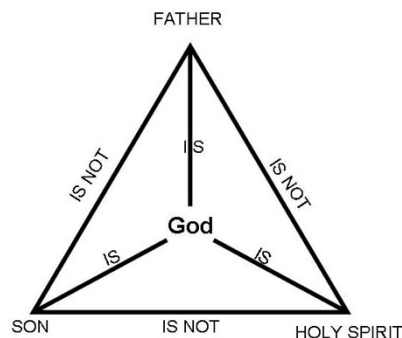
- ♦ How can we make much progress in explaining this concept to Muslims?
- ♦ The Muslim misconceptions about Jesus often stem from an inadequate understanding of how Jesus relates to the Father and how they both then relate to the Holy Spirit.

The Challenge

- ♦ In his book, *Facing the Muslim Challenge*, John Gilchrist states that
 - ♦ “In witness with Muslims you will soon find that, on the one hand, Muslims will strenuously deny any possibility of God being Triune while, on the other, they will vociferously attack the doctrine which they presume to be the weakest point of Christian belief. After all, how can three persons exist in one God? When Christ died, did God die? Did all three persons expire on the cross? They must have if they were one, Muslims will argue. They will also ... claim in any event that the Trinity is not found in the Bible.”⁷
- ⁷John Gilchrist, *Facing the Muslim Challenge*, pg. 71.

The Challenge

- ♦ The challenge is as follows:
- ♦ If the Bible states that there is only One God, and yet at the same time also affirms that this One God is manifest as three different persons, would you then agree that the Bible teaches a Three-in-one God?



The Biblical Basis for the Trinity

- ♦ I would first use a verse that demonstrates the oneness of God since the Muslims would heartily agree with this.
- ♦ Deuteronomy 6:4 (“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One Lord”) since Muslims would readily affirm the existence of only one God.
- ♦ I would stress that Christians also believe in only one God.

God is our “Father”

- ♦ Matt. 6:9 (The Lord’s Prayer: “Our Father...”) to demonstrate that the Bible refers to God as Father.
- ♦ Remind them that the same revelation that affirms that there is one God also calls Him Father.

God is the “Holy Spirit”

- ♦ The Holy Spirit is called God and is referred to as a “person,” not just some mystical force from God.
- ♦ In Acts 5:3-4 the Holy Spirit is called God and in Eph. 4:30 the Holy Spirit is said to grieve. A thing cannot grieve, only a personality can do that.

God is the “Holy Spirit”

- ♦ One with God in essence but different in person
- ♦ In other words, the Bible calls the Holy Spirit God, but it also is clear that the Holy Spirit is not the Father.
- ♦ They have to be two, distinct persons.

The Third Person of the Trinity: Jesus

~~"I AM GOD"~~

"I AM"
John 6
Ex. 3:14

"I and the Father are ONE!"
John 10:30

"Are you the
Messiah, the
Son of the Most
High?"

"Yes,
I AM!"

Matt. 26:64

Revelation shows the difference

- ♦ What if they say, “The Bible has been corrupted!”
- ♦ Or, “Jesus really did not claim these things.”
- ♦ Rev. 1:8 -- “I am the Alpha and the Omega... who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation shows the difference

- ♦ Revelation 22:12 – “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”
- ♦ Revelation 22:13 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”
- ♦ There cannot be two “firsts”!

- The word “Trinity” may not be used in the Bible, but the concept of one God in Three persons is definitely there from the first to the last.

The “Mathematics” of the Trinity:

- Hopefully more people will take up the “challenge” presented here and demonstrate that it is possible to not only believe in the Trinity but also to defend it and make sense of it.
- 1 Peter 3:15

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Qur’an, Sura 5:17

- “They disbelieved indeed those that say that Allah is Christ the son of Mary.”
- To associate another being with Allah is “Shirk.”

Sura 4:171

- “O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not “Three (Trinity)” : desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is One God. Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth.”

Deity of Christ

<h3>Claims</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimed to have power to forgive sins • Claimed to be sinless • Claimed to fulfill OT messianic prophecies • Claimed that He would rise from the dead and raise all men • Claimed that He would come again and judge the world • Claimed to be the exclusive way to salvation 	<h3>Credentials</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His sinless life (even His enemies had to acknowledge this) • His miracles • His unique character and teaching • His fulfillment of hundreds of messianic prophecies • His power to change lives • His resurrection from the dead
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DID JESUS DIE BY CRUCIFIXION? (OR WAS IT ONLY CRUCI—FICTION?)

Surah 4:157-158

♦ "... they [the Jews] said (in boast), 'We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah' – But they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not – Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself"

Christian Defense

- ♦ Trinity
- ♦ Deity of Christ
- ♦ Accuracy of the Bible
- ♦ The Evidence is on our side!