The Islamic View of Christianity

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Abstract

This paper aims at clarifying the traditional Islamic views of Christianity based on Qur’an and Hadith and the interpretations of these twin primary sources of Islam by Muslim religious authorities over the centuries. In light of the Qur’anic Christology, the paper presents a critical review of the Muslim understanding of Christian theology as well as its ethnic and religious practices. In particular, the paper discusses the traditional Islamic view of the Christian doctrine of Trinity and of Incarnation. A special reference is made to the view of Ibn ‘Arabi in the subject. The paper also discusses what the absence in Christianity of a divine law, the *shari’ah*, as understood in both Judaism and Islam, means to that religion particularly in terms of its capability to offer a life of equilibrium between the spiritual and the temporal for its ordinary believers. Also touched is the Muslim belief of abrogation of one divine revelation by a subsequent revelation. This belief has implications for the Muslim attitudes toward other religions, including Christianity. Finally, the paper discusses the major factors that have brought about changes, more often negative, in the Muslim-Christian relations in the modern world.

Downloads
An analysis of Christian and Islamic sources will form the basis of the study. On the face of it, few notice how much Christianity and Islam are alike in basic beliefs. On the five pillars of Islamic belief: the belief in God, angels, the prophets, the sacred books, and the Day of Judgement, there is no basic
disagreement. Christians also believe in all of these, although they would define the one God in three persons and take one prophet and one sacred
book fewer than in Islam. But all agree on the principles. Rather, it is to provide a factual but selective view of Christian doctrine as it can be related
to Islamic belief, for the purpose of helping Muslims to situate and understand Christian beliefs as a whole, as they relate to Islamic beliefs, with
minimal effort. 1. The Torah (Tawrat) Sources. Christianity and Islam are the two largest religions in the world and share a historical traditional
connection, with some major theological differences. The two faiths share a common place of origin in the Middle East, and consider themselves to
be monotheistic. Muslims have a range of views on Christianity, from viewing Christians to be People of the Book to regarding them as kafirs
(infidels) that commit shirk (polytheism) because of Trinitarianism and as dhimmis (religious taxpayers) under Sharia. The belief in Jesus is a
fundamental part of Islamic theology, and Muslims view the Injeel as tahrif (distorted or altered), while Christians consider their Gospels to be
authoritative and the Quran to be a later, fabricated or apocryphal work.