

The Christian Worldview Compared With Other Worldviews

FCBC Bible Institute

Week 11 – November 25, 2008

Islam [Eckman, pp. 75 – 84]

I. Overview of Islam

A. History

B. The Sunni Sect

C. The Shiite Sect

II. How Islam Addresses Basic Worldview Issues

1. What is the prime reality – the really real? *The prime reality is God, or Allah. Unlike the Christian God, Allah is so wholly other that he cannot be known. His character is unknown, despite the fact he has set standards for men. He is not bound by those standards. He may show mercy, but does appear to love.*

2. What is the nature of external reality, that is, the world around us? *All that is has been created by Allah. This creation is ever-present: Allah creates every isolated thing at every moment. The spirit world is very important in the Muslim worldview: both good and evil spirit beings (jinn) are active at every moment.*

3. What is a human being? *Human beings are created by Allah, but are not created in his image. They are beings that are more intelligent and capable than the rest of Allah's creation, and are expected to live by the rules Allah has set and within the society Allah's rules establish.*

4. What happens to a person at death? *After death, those whose obedience to the laws of Islam (the Sharia) and to the five pillars of Islam outweighs their sins will spend eternity in a state of bliss or paradise. Those whose sins outweigh their obedience to the Sharia and infidels (non-Muslims) will suffer eternal torment after death.*

5. Why is it possible to know anything at all? *All knowledge emanates from Allah, particularly through the prophet Muhammad.*

6. How do we know what is right and wrong? *Right and wrong actions are embodied in Islamic law, the Sharia. The Sharia springs primarily from the Quran and in the stories about Muhammad and his associates (the hadith). There are several different legal schools within Islam. There is no recognized separation between religious and civil law or ethics within Islam.*

7. What is the meaning of human history? *History is linear. To Sunnis, the spread of Islam (by military action, if necessary) will continue until the Khilafa is established (the entire world is under Muslim rule and law). To Shiites, the Twelfth Imam will appear and establish a worldwide Islamic kingdom.*

III. Contrasts Between Christian Theism and the Islamic Worldview