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muslimmisconception.wordpress.com

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1. 2015

1.1 September

About (2015-09-29 23:00)

This is an example of a page. Unlike posts, which are displayed on your blog's front page in the order they're published, pages are better suited for more timeless content that you want to be easily accessible, like your About or Contact information. Click the Edit link to make changes to this page or add another page.

1.2 October

The Problem of Stereotypes (2015-10-19 20:17)

If I had the ability to choose one problem in America today that I could fix, it would be the deep rooted inequality and prejudice that still exists. We do not always view each other as people, we view each other as the labels we want to see each other as. So some might see why I have a problem with a man running to become the leader of our country who recently said he would never elect a Muslim as president. Does not care about their policies. Does not care about their character. Does not care about their leadership. Ben Carson says he would not elect a Muslim because he does not think that their beliefs fit with the United States Constitution (You can view that interview here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4ts2SMTJhI>). The irony of this is that the Constitution clearly states that religion will not be used as a qualification for any office in the United States government.

So Ben Carson has not encouraged me to vote for him, he has encouraged me to write. I want to discuss common misconceptions that many of our people believe to be true about the religion of Islam. I want to show what makes them untrue. And if even one person learns something or feels more comfortable about Islam, I would consider this blog a success.

No one deserves to be written off because of their faith. No one deserves to feel uncomfortable expressing themselves in the United States because of clouded judgement and hurtful stereotypes believed to be true by others. It is shocking to me that this is still a problem in 2015. We live in a country that some will say is the epitome of freedom, but I think this freedom is restricted. Freedom of expression is restricted by the closed-mindedness of others.

Muslims are not terrorists (2015-10-30 03:01)

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The word Islam actually translates directly to "submission" as in submission to God and living a life devoted to God. Muslims are not terrorists.

Sure, some Muslims have done bad things. Just as Christian, Jews, and Hindus have all done bad things. It is a very small minority of Muslims who are carrying out terrorist attacks.

According to an FBI Report describing terrorist attacks that occurred on United States Soil between 1980 and 2005, only 6 % of those were by Muslims. This obviously means that 94 % are coming from elsewhere.

On September 11th, 2001 our country was struck with tragedy. People lost their lives, families lost their loved ones, our country lost its sense of security. I, of course, think that these are awful things. But no one ever thinks about the impact this day had on Muslim Americans. There has been a sharp incline in anti-Muslim sentiment since then, opposition to the building of mosques, and hateful stereotypes have become commonplace. I am sure Muslims were killed in those towers, I am sure Muslims were part of the police force or firefighters trying to save people. And yet for some reason, followers of Islam are treated like this did not affect them to the same degree. The perpetrators of this attack did associate themselves with Islam. But it is not fair for you to associate Muslims with these terrorists. The terrorists directly went against what the tenets of Islam stand for.

Groups like ISIL or Al-Qaeda are not the norm for Islam. They are not even following the word of their holy book. The majority of Muslims are trying to peacefully go about their daily lives while worshiping their God.

The Quran states:

"...If any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people"

The holy text of Islam tells its followers that to kill an innocent person is equivalent to killing all of mankind. Muslims are not terrorists.

1.3 November

Muslims worship the same God as Christians and Jews (2015-11-17 01:45)

Many people believe followers of Islam worship a completely different God than Christians and Jews. This is false. I think this misunderstanding stems from Muslim's use of the word Allah. This is simply the Arabic word for God. Islam

is a monotheistic religion. They only believe in that same God.

There are Five Pillars of Islam. These make up the foundation of the faith. The first, and arguably most important, pillar is referred to as the shahadah. This simply means that to be a follower of Islam, you must accept that Allah is the god and only god, and that Muhammad is his messenger.

Another misconception that goes along with this is the idea that Muslims worship Muhammad. As clearly stated above, Muslims worship God, not Muhammad. Muhammad is simply the perfect example of how a Muslim should live. He also delivered God's message to the followers and established the first Muslim community in the city of Medina.

I think that in the United States we try so hard to isolate any belief that does not exactly align with Judeo-Christian beliefs. Ben Carson is the perfect example of this. Thinking that the views of Muslims are completely separate and share nothing with Judeo-Christian thinking makes it easier to dissociate and ostracize them. This is a shame. If people only did a little research or opened their minds, they could see that Islam is a rich, peaceful tradition that is much more similar to other more familiar monotheistic religions than many think (this is not to say that polytheistic or non-theistic religions are inferior).

Muslims do believe in Jesus (2015-11-30 06:10)

Many think that Muslims do not believe in Jesus or that he is not even a factor in the religion. This is very far from the truth. He is mentioned many times in the Quran, the holy book of Islam.

According to Islam, Jesus was born of a virgin mother and performed many of the same miracles as stated in the New Testament. He fed the hungry and healed the sick. He even was noted for bringing a man back to life. Jesus is viewed by Muslims as a miracle and a prophet. Especially during a time of Greek enlightened thinking, he was evidence that God is even more powerful than we can comprehend.

The key difference between Christianity and Islam in regards to Jesus is that Muslims do not believe him to be the son of God. The Quran rejects this tenet. He is messenger, not a divine being.

The Quran says in Chapter 61 Verse 6:

"And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad [Muhammad]."

In Islam, the belief in Jesus is similar to the belief in Muhammad. It is essential and a core value to Muslims. Just as the shahadah states that believing Muhammad to be the messenger of God's word is a requirement, Islam expects its followers to believe that Jesus is a prophet. Jesus is revered rather than worshiped (unlike in Christianity).

1.4 December

Muslim women have rights (2015-12-01 19:19)

A hot topic in today's society is the misconception that Islam restricts women and their rights. Some may think it is Islam that does not allow them to have jobs, isolates them from men, forbids them from owning property, does not allow driving, or forces them to cover up. These issues are not issues of Islam, but issues of certain majority-Muslim countries and their cultures imposing unfair laws that do not even align with the teachings of the Quran.

For the most part, Islam has traits of equality. Women are encouraged to seek education and make their own choices regarding marriage and divorce. The Quran is not for female infanticide. Men and women have the same spiritual expectations and duties in Islam.

Some people think that women wearing the hijab is a practice that limits their rights. However, this practice is a choice. The Quran states that women should dress modestly, but it also says the men should, as well. The veil is not a bad thing, but a part of their Muslim identity.



I think that Chapter 33 Verse 35 of the Quran best exemplifies the message that Islam spreads about men and women in the religion:

"Verily for all men and women who have surrendered themselves unto God, and all believing men and believing women, and all truly devout men and truly devout women, and all men and women who are true to their word, and all men and women who are patient in adversity, and all men and women who humble themselves before God, and all men and women who give in charity, and all self-denying men and self-denying women, and all men and women who are mindful of their chastity, and all men and women who remember God unceasingly: for all of them has God

readied forgiveness of sins and a mighty reward”

It is a common theme to apply the messages to both male and female. Islam as a religion is not restricting the progression of women. It is certain countries that are contradicting the teachings of Islam.

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