



Throughout the religious traditions of Christianity and Islam the theme and idea of peace is not only reoccurring but is constant. For adherents an understanding of peace is gained largely through the sacred texts of the Bible or the Quran. Peace is commonly interpreted as the absence of war however this isn't necessarily the case as both sacred texts promote the idea of inner peace before the achievement of things such as world peace.

The Christian understanding of peace comes largely from the New Testament and is drawn from the actions and teachings of Jesus Christ. For Christians the life of Jesus was one of peace and although Jesus was strong in his opposition to violence the more significant peace which he possessed was that of inner



peace. In the Gospel of Luke Jesus proclaims "My peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you". Here the sacred text also helps us to understand that for Christians peace is the idea of a strong relationship with those around but also of a strong relationship with God. In his actions and his words Jesus is said to have brought peace a peace that is achievable through following his example. It becomes apparent that through following the example of Jesus inner peace can be attained and on a larger scale world peace can be worked towards.

An understanding of peace is developed even further when one considers the letters of Paul to the various early Christian communities. The context of these letters is perhaps of greater significance. They were written at a time when the Roman Empire was actively persecuting



the followers of Christ. Paul's letters to these communities are letters of encouragement in the face of his distress. The central teaching is one of "agape" which translates to mean selfless love and Paul advises the communities to use agape as a weapon, to fight violence not with violence but with love, believing that "agape never fails". (Corinthians 22).

Islam is greatly similar in its expression of peace through the Quran. Adherents come to understand peace through the Quran's many messages. One common interpretation for the word Islam is often the word "peace". This is fitting considering that most of their faith centres around the concept of the greater Jihad, something that is often purposefully misinterpreted by those with



political motives. In essence the greater Jihad is a struggle of an internal nature. A struggle for inner peace in the face of the many adversities thrown at us through our lives. The Quran also firmly disagrees with the use of violence stating "for he who kills one human being it shall be as if he killed all mankind". This is understood by Muslims as a directive when on the path to inner peace as well as an external peace. For Muslims the path to peace is through a strong relationship and closeness ~~of~~ with ~~god~~ Allah, for this reason the Quran constantly informs adherents of the necessity for prayer and close adherence to the five pillars of faith. Another of the significant directives of the Quran is the order to "greet with peace" all of those whom you meet. This



indicates that peace of extreme importance for Muslims and something to be wished upon everyone.

In conclusion an understanding of Peace is expressed through various way across the sacred text of the Quran and the Bible. Significantly they both promote peace as somewhat of a goal, something to work towards and the path to achieving this is believed to be through God. For Christians it is closely following the words and actions of Christ for Muslims it is the development of a strong relationship with Allah.