



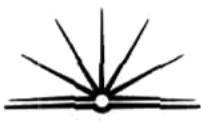
The understanding of peace within the Christian faith and the Islamic faith may seem substantially different at face value, but deep within the two ~~systems of belief~~ ^{belief systems} they share many commonalities. These commonalities and differences are represented to us within the sacred texts of these faiths. In Islam, the Qur'an and the Hadith represent the meaning of peace to us and in Christianity, the New Testament, which holds the Gospels, ^{and Acts of the Apostles,} displays the meaning of peace to us also.

The understanding of peace is expressed to us through the sacred Qur'an and Hadith. These texts express the meaning of peace to us, firstly through the words of Allah as received by Muhammad his Prophet to form the Qur'an, and secondly, through the actions of Muhammad, Allah's divine Prophet, whom Allah makes an example of as documented.



The Qur'an may give Muslims commands to fight ^{and} kill, but these are only ~~in~~ to be fulfilled when absolutely necessary, such as when the faith's representation is at stake. Otherwise the Qur'an speaks only of "loving one's brother" and caring for humanity as it is the will of Allah and a Muslim is only ^{true} a Muslim when they fulfil Allah's wishes.


The Hadith, like the Qur'an, may display negative actions of Muhammad's but, as with the Qur'an, he only did so when necessary, such as in reclaiming Makkah ^{through force,} Allah's Holy City. Otherwise, as Allah identifies to us, Muhammad is the prime example of ~~the way that~~ ^{how} Muslims should live their lives for he is Allah's Divine Prophet. The way that Muhammad lived his life in fulfilling Allah's words was exemplary, and hence, this is why all Muslims aspire to be as he was in their words and in their actions;



Both the Qur'an, Allah's words, and the Hadith, Muhammad's actions, identify to Muslims the ways that they should live their lives in order to be accepted by Allah in his Kingdom. This way is the peaceful way, not the fighting way as this achieves nothing in Allah's Kingdom. As the Qur'an states, the stronger man who goes against his evil will is rewarded by Allah, as is the man who loves his enemies.

Within Christianity, the understanding of peace is expressed to us through the sacred New Testament, and within this collection of Books, the Holy Gospels and Acts of the Apostles are presented to us also. The New Testament, and in particular the Gospels, present to us ~~the~~ God's will and Jesus' will as heard and interpreted by Jesus' ~~the~~ Apostles, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are the words of the Lord and are highly regarded. Within the book of Acts, we are presented with an outline of the Acts of

* An example of this being
the statement that says

"Blessed are the peacemakers." 



Jesus' Apostles in their time on earth. The actions of these Apostles are highly regarded for, like the Hadith, they provide an understanding of the way we are expected to live our lives in order to be accepted by God.

The New Testament, as with the Qur'an, represents us with a dilemma: the dilemma whereby war and fighting achieves a common positive goal. However, as with the Qur'an, it needs to be understood that this sort of activity is ~~only~~ seen as a last resort in any case. Otherwise, the New Testament speaks only of love, compassion and forgiveness. This is identified to us in the Beatitudes which present to us ^{more} a modern outlook of the Ten Commandments. *The Beatitudes attempt to direct Christians ~~in~~ to the Holy path. Peace is seen within the New Testament as a goal to help strive for in order to be rewarded in the Kingdom of Heaven.



Within the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, we see that Jesus' Apostles, in an attempt to live their lives like he did, strive for peace in society. They also contribute to this peace by spreading the word of Jesus and also through their various peace-making activities such as justice and forgiveness.

Therefore we can see that in the Christian New Testament, with the Gospels and Book of Acts being considered, peace is expressed in a multitude of ways so that all readers may understand its meaning in their own way and yet they still receive the same interpretations so that no exemptions are made.

We can see that in pointing out these ~~slight~~ slight differences, both texts are very similar and this may primarily be because they are both faiths that are Fathered by Abraham, but they are never-the-less trying to help their adherents understand that peace



is a goal for an individual, and that once all individuals achieve inner peace, then global peace is reached.

We can ~~see~~ also see that the texts of Islam and Christianity both use the quotes ~~of the~~ or words of their 'supreme being' to help distinguish to the adherents how peace is achieved. This is another way that they help the followers ^{to} understand peace.

The texts of the two faiths also show how the understanding of peace is ~~expressed~~ better found in human life. By this I mean that the texts try to help adherents understand peace by ~~using~~ ^{making} examples of people, such as ~~Paul~~ ^{Paul in the Christian New Testament;} and ^{also by} showing how the way you live your life results in peace.

The understanding of peace is also distinguished to adherents in the moral values and ethical teachings of the faiths which both, incidentally, follow

similar guidelines. Within Islam, peace is identified as being reached if you follow the 5 Pillars of Faith and seen as this is the ultimate aim of the faith, all adherents attempt to do so. In following the Pillars, as identified in the Qur'an, adherents may live better lives. Within Christianity, peace is reached if you follow the Ten Commandments, or the more modern approach of the Beatitudes, as found in the New Testament. Therefore adherents understand peace better as they are living by it as with Islam.

In conclusion, we can see that the understanding of peace is expressed through sacred texts in a multitude of ways and we can also see that the way peace is understood depends upon its interpretation. Finally, ~~it~~ it is not about who is right or wrong in achieving peace with these faiths, it is about



finding meaning within the faith, ^{understanding} ~~making~~
the ~~a~~ purpose ^{of} ~~for~~ life and experiencing
self fulfilment through faith.