

Witnessing to People of Other Religions

The Four Spiritual Laws

- **Law # 1: God loves you and offers to you abundant and eternal life.**
 - “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).
 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

- **Law # 2: But people are sinful and are separated from God and from the life He offers.**
 - “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
 - “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

- **Law # 3: Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for sin, through Him you can come to God and have the life He offers.**
 - “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).
 - “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18).

- **Law # 4: You must receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord through personal invitation.**
 - “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12).
 - “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

Witnessing to People of Other Religions

Witnessing to Muslims

➤ Doctrinal Differences:

- Do not believe in the Trinity (Jesus was a prophet just as Mohammed was a prophet).
- Original sin applied only to Adam – i.e. no spiritual curse upon all of mankind - each person comes into the world capable of doing right or wrong.
- Work based religion - i.e. compliance with the five pillars of Islam:
 1. Confession of Faith – “There is no God but God, and Mohammed is the apostle of God”
 2. Ritual Prayer (5 times every day)
 3. Obligatory Alms (given once a year)
 4. The Fast of Ramadan (30 days from sunrise to sunset)
 5. The Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Salvation is based on good works outweighing evil works on judgment day.
- Holy books = Torat (Gen.-Deut.), Zabur (Psalms), Injil (Matt.-John), Koran (God’s revelation to Mohammed via the angel Gabriel), and the Haddith (the teachings of the prophet Mohammed).
- No concept of having a personal relationship with God – He is seen as a sovereign Judge, not as a loving Father.

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Conversation Starter: *I have discovered an amazing truth in the Koran that gives hope of eternal life in heaven. Would you read Surah Al-Imran 3:42-55 so that we can talk about it?*

1. Isa is holy - 3:45-47

45. [And mention] when the angels said, “O Mary, indeed Allah gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary - distinguished in this world and the Hereafter and among those brought near [to Allah].

46. He will speak to the people in the cradle and in maturity and will be of the righteous.”

47. She said, “My Lord, how will I have a child when no man has touched me?” [The angel] said, “Such is Allah; He creates what He wills. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it, ‘Be,’ and it is.

- Point out that this verse says that Isa holds the same quality of holiness as Allah.
- Does this say that Isa came directly from Allah and that he did not have a father?
 - Are there any other prophets who did not have a father? Discuss Adam’s bloodline and how his sin affected humanity.
 - Why did Allah have Isa born without a father? By not being in Adam’s bloodline, Isa lived without sin.

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2. Isa has power over death - 3:49

49. And [make him] a messenger to the Children of Israel, [who will say], 'Indeed I have come to you with a sign from your Lord in that I design for you from clay [that which is] like the form of a bird, then I breathe into it and it becomes a bird by permission of Allah . And I cure the blind and the leper, and I give life to the dead - by permission of Allah . And I inform you of what you eat and what you store in your houses. Indeed in that is a sign for you, if you are believers.

- Point out that the miracles display the power of Allah, especially over death.
- Do you think that one of people's greatest fears is death?
- Do you know of any other prophet who was given the power over death? Tell the story of Lazarus.

Surah 19:33. And peace is on me the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive."
34. That is Jesus, the son of Mary - the word of truth about which they are in dispute.

- Do these verses say that Isa would die and then be raised from the dead?
- Why did Isa have to die? Share the story of Abraham and Isaac (i.e. the korbani – the substitute sacrifice).
- What does Isa's resurrection prove?

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3. Isa knows the way to heaven - 3:55

55. [Mention] when Allah said, "O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you [in submission to Allah alone] superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.

- Point out that Isa himself has traveled the straight path directly to Allah and is with Him now.
- If you wanted to come to my house and you needed help in doing so, who is best suited to help you?
- I am a sinful person. I have done many good things in my life, but still I have Adam's blood in me. I know that I can never become holy on my own and get to be with Allah in heaven. Out of all the prophets, which one do you think is best capable of helping me get to heaven?
 - If they answer Isa, ask them why he can help me.
 - If they answer Mohammad, ask them to read Surah "The Chambers" 46:9.
CAREFULLY SAY, Does this mean that he did not know where he was going after death? If not, then how can he help us get to heaven?
- Remember - Surah 5:65-66 states that the Taurat and Injil are Scripture and Surah 6:115-116 states that nothing can change His words.

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- **Who do you say Mohammed is? I say Mohammed is who he said he was in the Koran.**

Surah 46:9. Say, “I am not something original among the messengers, nor do I know what will be done with me or with you. I only follow that which is revealed to me, and I am not but a clear warner.”

- By his own testimony, Mohammed is not the greatest of prophets.
- By his own testimony, Mohammed doesn't know where he or his followers are going after death.
- By his own testimony, Mohammed is only a warner.
- However, Jesus, by his own testimony, states:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3).

“I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). The Trinity is not a triplex (i.e. by addition) but rather a triunity (i.e. by multiplication) – not $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$, but rather $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$ (Caner and Caner, *More Than a Prophet*).

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Witnessing to Catholics

➤ **Doctrinal Differences:**

- Baptismal regeneration (infant baptism washes away original sin).
- Sacerdotalism: belief that the priest is the dispenser of heavenly/holy gifts – i.e. grace; the priest is a necessary intermediary between God and humanity.
- Salvation by grace through seven sacraments (work based religion – must work to acquire enough grace to go to heaven instead of purgatory when one dies):
 1. Baptism
 2. Confirmation
 3. Confession
 4. Communion usually via the Mass = the re-sacrifice of Christ upon the altar.
 5. Marriage
 6. Last Rights
 7. Holy Orders
- Supererogation – extra works beyond what you need to please God are stored in a heavenly account and are able to be dispensed by the Pope. Provides basis for selling of indulgences.
- Mary is treated as deity.
- The teachings of the Catholic Church take precedence over Scripture.

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Witnessing to Catholics

- **They have no assurance of salvation.**
- **Help them to put their faith and trust in Christ alone, not in the Catholic Church.**
(Ask questions that cause the person to admit that he or she is depending on his or her own good works and the sacraments of the Catholic Church to go to heaven and that he or she has been taught this by the Catholic Church. (E.g., what will happen to you if you die with un-confessed sin?) Then have the person read Eph 2:8-9. Since contradictory teachings can't both be right, ask the person to choose which one he or she is going to follow. Lead the person in a prayer of repentance in which he or she repents for trusting in anyone or anything other than Jesus Christ and Him alone for his or her salvation and positional sanctification.)
- **Religion vs. Relationship.**
- **Positional Sanctification vs. Progressive Sanctification.**
- **Doing works because you are saved vs. doing works to be or stay saved (Eph 2:10).**
- **Key Verses: Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, 1 Pet. 1:5, 1 John 5:13, John 19:30 – “tetelestai” – “paid in full, ” 1 John 1:9.**

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Witnessing to Mormons

➤ **Doctrinal Differences:**

- Do not believe in the Trinity, but rather a plurality of gods headed up by their version of God the Father.
- Jesus was a man who became a god, not God who became a man.
- Work based religion – i.e., faith in the Mormon Jesus + good works determine the level of one's future exaltation.
- Three levels in heaven – the third or highest is reserved for those will be become gods and be given their own planet to rule.
- President of church is considered a modern day prophet who is able to receive new prophecy from God at any time.
- Believe in baptismal regeneration - even for the dead.
- Believe in the KJV as long as it is interpreted correctly.
- Holy books – Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and KJV.
- Through divine revelation, Joseph Smith received the true gospel – i.e. the Book of Mormon – because the previous gospel had become corrupted.

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Witnessing to Mormons

➤ **There is only one true God:**

- Deut. 6:4.
- Isa. 40:25; 42:8; 43:10-11; 44:6; 45:5, 21; 46:5, 9.

➤ **The one true God is a triune God:**

- “Elohim,” used by Moses over 500 times in the OT, is a plural noun:
 - Genesis 1:26: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”
 - Man is a tripartite being (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

- “echad” or composite unity vs. “yachad” or inseparable unity:
 - Which of these two words is used in Deuteronomy 6:4?
 - God is a tripartite being (Matthew 3:16-17).

- Jesus and the Father are one: John 4:25-26, 5:17-18, 8:58-59, and 10:30-33.

- Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one: John 14:15-17 and 2 Cor. 3:17.

➤ **There can be no other Gospel than the one delivered by Jesus and preached by Paul – Gal. 1:6-9.**

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Witnessing to Jehovah Witnesses

➤ **Doctrinal Differences:**

- Do not believe in the Trinity.
- Jesus was not deity, but rather was a good man, prophet and miracle worker.
- Work based religion.
- Do not believe in the existence of Hell.

➤ **In Witnessing to Them:**

- Focus on the deity of Christ – Matt. 1:23; John 1:1, 14, 17; 1 Tim. 3:16, Titus 1:3-4; Heb. 1:8, and 1 John 5:7.
- Focus on salvation by grace through faith alone – Eph 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5.