
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT ISLAM AND ISIS



PREPARED BY MAJED EL SHAFIE
ON BEHALF OF ONE FREE WORLD INTERNATIONAL
ANSWERS KEY QUESTIONS POSED BY
THE AMERICAN PASTORS NETWORK

A WORD FROM PASTOR GARY G. DULL

With the growth of Islam and ISIS these days all Christians must understand more about the culture that comes from this godless philosophy. And remember that Islam and ISIS is much more than a religion. It is indeed a culture and philosophy, which means it is a way of life. As a culture and philosophy one thing to be recognized is that Islam and ISIS is totally anti-God, anti-Bible and anti-Christian.

The questions you will see in this paper originated with the American Pastors Network as an effort to understand Islam and ISIS a bit more so that the Network may be able to further inform pastors, churches and individual Christians about those who are enemies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Certainly there are many in the world today who are enemies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but the paper before you speaks expressly about Islam and ISIS.

The questions below were prepared specifically by Sam Rohrer who is President of The American Pastors Network and addressed to Majed El Shafie who is a Canadian and former Egyptian Muslim, who is now trying to alert the western world to the plight of the persecuted Christians. What he says is authentic and every Christian and every concerned American would do well to take heed to what he is saying to us.

Please read the questions and answers carefully. Then pray that Christians around the world will be burdened to reach Muslims with the Word of God. The more that happens, the more converted Muslims will go to Heaven and the greater potential there is for fewer Christians around the world to be persecuted and even killed by such an evil philosophy.

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1) How real/imminent is the ISIS threat to the United States and American and/or Western Christians?

This is not simply about ISIS. There were other organizations before ISIS, there are others operating as we speak, and if ISIS is defeated others will rise up to take its place. The issue is an extremist ideology that manifests in a multitude of organizations with varied methods but one common goal. Individually ISIS and the others may or may not be a threat. Together they most certainly are and therefore must be treated as such individually and collectively. Each attack by these groups against Americans abroad or groups actually or symbolically perceived as representing American interests and ideology, such as local Christians, without a credible response from the U.S., diminishes American stature in their eyes and consequently its ability to counteract future attacks. As a result, ISIS and its likes are a very real and imminent threat to the U.S. and American interests at home and abroad.

2) What practical distinction is there between a moderate Muslim and ISIS/fundamentalist Muslim of which some say there are 300 million?

There are various estimates of the numbers of fundamentalist Muslims and one must be cautious because the numbers experts use depend on how one defines a moderate or fundamentalist Muslim. Some people only consider the number of active or potentially active terrorists relevant, which limits the number by age and demographics to a finite maximum depending on the metrics used. On the other hand, if one counts the percentage of the population who support the activities of such terrorists either through active logistical and other operational support or through promoting or simply espousing an extremist interpretation of Islam, the number is much larger. At the same time, polls, as I'm sure you are aware, can be misleading because of the way questions are phrased and/or the willingness or unwillingness of respondents to be candid with their answers. In this case, such polls are all over the map, indicating anything from 20% to 80% support among Muslims for extremist ideologies and activities. Having said this, a conservative view of 20% or even 10% of an estimated 1.5 billion Muslims in the world, amounts to 150-300 million people which is a significant number capable of almost anything.

Having said that, in OFWI's view a moderate Muslim who does not stand up and denounce the actions or teachings of the extremists is actually a greater problem than the extremists, who are only acting consistently with their beliefs. On the other hand, by their silence, so called moderate Muslims fail to stand up for their claimed beliefs and consequently condone and perpetuate the activities of the extremists. They prove only that they either agree with the extremists ends, if not the means, which begs the question does a moderate Muslim exist at all, or that they are too cowardly to stand up for their beliefs. In fact, if up to 80-90% of Muslims truly are so-called moderate Muslims in a sense that we would understand as moderate and if they stood up for what they claim to be the proper interpretation of Islam, then we should not even be talking about Islamic extremism today.

3) Other than pray, what can American Christians do to help the persecuted Christians in the Middle East in particular; around the world generally?

American Christians must become interested in the lives and circumstances of their brothers and sisters around the world and educate themselves about the persecution that is taking place, not only in Muslim countries, but elsewhere as well. They must educate themselves about Islam generally speaking and about Islamic extremists in particular and about the U.S. government's policies and actions in this regard, going behind the headlines and the reporting by the liberal mainstream media to seek the truth. Finally, they must get involved, both on the inside and outside, to influence their government to take effective and credible action against this threat.

4) What should the American church/Christians do to help prevent persecution in the America?

American Christians must vote for and promote a strong and determined policy overseas and at home that puts the freedoms for which our ancestors died first, and clearly and directly, from a position of strength, confronts all ideologies and actions that are not compatible with those freedoms. They should get involved and educate themselves and their neighbors to take a respectful but strong and uncompromising stand against any threat to our freedoms.

5) What should be the American Christians position be toward the Muslim neighbor next door; the infiltration of the Muslim Brotherhood throughout the US government; and the increasing linking of ISIS and US Muslims?

American Christians must love their Muslim neighbors and pray for them, taking every opportunity to share Christ's love and treat them as we would want others to treat us. We must not, however, be naive. Loving your neighbor does not mean standing by as they steal your home and freedoms.

As mentioned above, American Christians must educate themselves about Islam, but most importantly they must know their Bible inside-out so that they are secure in the authority of God's Word and not trusting in the wisdom of man. Then they must be vigilant to expose and combat the schemes of the enemy in all quarters.

6) What would be the most important message we (American Pastors Network) give to the Christians of America? To the secular press of America?

To the Christians of America: Our brothers and sisters in Muslim countries have been on the frontlines of this spiritual war for hundreds of years.

We must not leave them without our support nor expect that this war will not touch us. If we manage to escape without being persecuted we should be grateful, but we should also know that we will be judged for how we use the freedom that we have been granted. If persecution does come our way, we must remember that we are in this world but not of it. They can kill the dreamer but they cannot kill the dream, or paraphrasing our Lord, they can kill the body but they cannot kill our soul.

To the secular press: the press needs to wake up. They have, for far too long, excused and condoned these extremists in the name of political correctness and ignorance. Yet, if and when the extremists can have their way, the first thing they will do is to destroy all the rights and freedoms the secular press holds dear; while they may not see the importance of freedom of religion, all the other rights: freedom of expression, freedom of the press, women's and children's rights, every aspect of modern society that the secular press takes for granted, will be abolished. If they truly believe in those values, if they care about their own rights and freedoms, they must take this threat seriously and seek the truth, not the propaganda put forward by Muslim extremists or their apologists.

7) I believe that we need three developed messages of Truth on the above to the following three groups. I pick these three groups because they are the institutions established by God and Truth must be spoken into all three. We believe that Pastors are the ones commanded by God to Preach the Word, to be Watchmen on the Wall, etc. Therefore, what focused message should we/ and pastors speak into these groups?

a. Message to the Family: the average person in the pew, the average American Christian, the average patriotic, freedom loving American. What should be the practical attitude of the average citizen and balancing the march toward imposing Sharia with the total destruction of our Constitutional freedoms.

Most of this question is answered above, but regarding Sharia, we would add that we must strenuously oppose any attempt to recognize any form of Sharia on American soil and work toward preventing and eliminating its use elsewhere in the world.

b. Message to the Church: What can/should the Church say about the dangers of Islam toward Christianity and balance this with wanting to share the Gospel and win these people to Christ; We can and must share the love of Christ while at the same time we must be clear about the fact that we will not stand for intimidation, threats, or any stealth or other attack on our freedoms. There can be no compromise of either message.

c. Message to those in Government: What should those in the US government be saying/doing regarding the current threat; how to distinguish between the mutually exclusive positions of Islam and the US Constitution and self-government, etc.

The government must respect our concern for religious freedom and for the rise of extremist groups and take an effective, credible stand on these issues. This includes active measures against religious extremists and supporting and promoting human rights by connecting U.S. aid and trade to a country's human rights record. We must make it clear that if the government does not take this issue seriously we will vote for a government that does.

8) If we speak out boldly and are successful, how much of a threat do we or our families face? (I know the threat will increase over time, but this consideration should have an answer.)

It is ultimately only by speaking out boldly and being successful that we can ensure the safety of our families. In the meantime, however, we must be aware of any threats our actions may have on our families. These threats are real and we have seen them realized against families speaking out even in the United States, but we should not let these threats deter us. This is

what the enemy counts on and when we allow them to intimidate us we have already admitted defeat. Rather we should continue to speak out boldly and with wisdom knowing that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

We hope that this provides you with an understanding of our position and helps to clarify your thinking on these issues.

Yours truly,
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