

# CHRISTIAN LEADERS BUY INTO MUSLIM VISION

A group of 138 Muslim leaders recently issued an “invitation” to Christian leaders to “make peace” with Islam. The letter, titled *A Common Word Between Us and You*, claims that the fundamental tenets of Islam and Christianity are identical: Love of one (and the same) God, and love of one’s neighbor.

A group of 300 Christian leaders responded in a piece called *Loving God and Neighbor Together*, which, as the title indicates, basically agrees that the fundamentals of Islam and Christianity are the same.

Among the Christian group are prominent Lutherans, including Dr. Mark Edwards of Harvard and Rev. Donald McCoid, head of ecumenism for the ELCA.

Islam and Christianity, however, are radically different, as the following comparison shows:

**1. We hold to one God together? No.** The Muslim letter quotes verses from the Koran that the Christians wrongly assume is a call to dialogue:

*Say: O People of the Scripture! Come to a common word between us and you: that we shall worship none but God, and that we shall ascribe no partner unto Him, and that none of us shall take others for lords beside God. And if they turn away, then say: Bear witness that we are they who have surrendered (unto Him) – Aal ‘Imran 3:64.*

Muslims have in the past used these very verses as a call to reject the Trinity and the deity of Christ.

The Christian leaders seem unaware of this history. Rather, they gush agreement with the Muslims that we all believe in one and the same God.

As Christian leaders they should have responded by quoting 1 Corinthians 8:5-6:

*For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’ – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.*

Jesus is parallel and equal “Lord” with the Father. His Lordship means a break with the first commandment of the Old Testament. It means that even Christians and Jews differ on the first commandment. For Christians the Old Testament is always interpreted in light of the New Testament.

Despite these serious differences there is no Christian jihad against Jews. Just as there is no Christian jihad against Islam.

Christians are free to drop out or change religions

without fear of being killed by other Christians. The same is true for Jews.

But in Islam conversion is a one-way street. To leave is regarded as high treason punishable by death.

If the Muslim “peace” leaders truly wanted peace, their letter would have rejected the Islamic law that mandates the death penalty for any Muslim who leaves Islam, in accordance with Mohammed’s command: “Whoever changes his Islamic religion, then kill him.” Indeed, Muslims who convert to Christianity suffer vicious persecution and are often killed – all over the Islamic world.

**2. We love the neighbor together? No.** The Muslim concept for loving your neighbor only operates within the Muslim community. In Muslim countries Christians and Jews are treated at best as second class citizens. Infidels and apostates are killed. Thus “neighbor” is a limited concept in Islam, i.e., limited to fellow Muslims of the same tradition.

Few Westerners realize how completely the Koran, the Hadith (authoritative tradition), and the Sira (authoritative life of Mohammed) portray Muslims as “the best of peoples” and Christians and Jews as unclean, deluded, and inferior: “the worst of peoples.”

Why doesn’t the Muslim letter denounce those many portions of Islamic holy books which regard unbelievers as innately inferior? Why doesn’t the Muslim “peace” letter condemn the widespread brutal persecution of Jews and Christians in Islamic lands? Why doesn’t the Muslim letter denounce the imperative in Islam to subjugate the world under the rule of Islamic law?

Muslims waging jihad against the West perpetually justify their acts on the basis of what they read in the Koran. If Islam and Christianity are to exist peacefully, isn’t it vital for “moderate” Muslims to publicly reject the hate-filled portions of their holy books and the jihadists who act on them?

And what about those 300 Christian “leaders”? They do not even mention how in Islamic countries Muslims are driving Christians from their homes and businesses. They do not mention how Christians are subject to second-class status that mandates that they pay a special tax. They do not mention how Christians are not allowed to build new churches or repair old ones.

Jihad bells, Jihad bells, Jihad all the way. . . .