

GREAT PRINCIPLES: IS CHRISTIANITY THE SAME?

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Great Principles of Christianity

B. The Claim

"There are elements in Islam that can be used to justify violence, just as there are in Christianity and Judaism."

-- Rowan Williams

C. ARE there parts of ISLAM that CAN be used to justify violence?

⇒ Do the **primary documents** of these religions **equally** provide material that can be used to justify violence?

II. THE QUR'AN / KORAN

30.45: That He [Allah] may reward those who believe and work righteous deeds, out of his Bounty. For He loves not those who reject Faith.

9.29: Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.

8.59-60: Let not the unbelievers think that they can get the better (of the godly): they will never frustrate (them). 60 Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies, of Allah and your enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom Allah doth know....

9.13-14: Will ye not fight people who violated their oaths, plotted to expel the Messenger, and took the aggressive by being the first (to assault) you? Do ye fear them? Nay, it is Allah Whom ye should more justly fear, if ye believe! 14 Fight them, and Allah will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you (to victory) over them, heal the breasts of Believers,

33.26-27: And those of the People of the Book who aided them - Allah did take them down from their strongholds and cast terror into their hearts. (So that) some ye slew, and some ye made prisoners. 27 And He made you heirs of their lands, their houses, and their goods, and of a land which ye had not frequented (before). And Allah has power over all things.

8.12: Remember thy Lord inspired the angels (with the message): "I am with you: give firmness to the Believers: I will instil terror into the hearts of the Unbelievers: smite ye above their necks and smite all their finger-tips off them."

4.89: They but wish that ye should reject Faith, as they do, and thus be on the same footing (as they): But take not friends from their ranks until they flee in the way of Allah (From what is forbidden). But if they turn renegades, seize them and slay them wherever ye find them; and (in any case) take no friends or helpers from their ranks;

2.190: Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors. 191 And slay them wherever ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have Turned you out; for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter; but fight them not at the Sacred Mosque, unless they (first) fight you there; but if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who suppress faith.

1. Summary
30.45 Allah NOT love those who reject faith
9.29 fight unbelievers until pay tax with submission
8.60 strike terror into hearts of enemies
9.13-14 fight, punish, cover with shame
33.26-27 slew some, made prisoners some, took lands, houses, goods, news lands
8.12 cut off heads & finger-tips
4.89 kill renegades / rejecters of faith
2.190 Slay wherever you catch them
2. CLEAR:
 “There are elements in Islam that can be used to justify violence...”
3. WHAT ABOUT:
 “... ***just as there are in Christianity and Judaism***”

III. CHRISTIANITY

#1 ARE Verses In OLD TESTAMENT

1. *Destroy Non-Jews In Canaan*
 Deut. 7:2; 12:31; Numbers 33:55-56
2. *Capital Punishment*
 - a. idolatry ⇒ Deuteronomy 13
 - b. murder ⇒ Exodus 21:12
 - c. adultery ⇒ Leviticus 20:10
 - d. relations with near relative ⇒ Lev. 20:11-12
 - e. homosexuality ⇒ Leviticus 20:13
 - f. bestiality ⇒ Leviticus 20:15-16
 - g. smite / curse father / mother ⇒ Ex. 21:15, 17
 - h. not keep sabbath ⇒ Exodus 31:14
 - i. not protect from dangerous ox ⇒ Exo. 21:29
 - j. kidnapping ⇒ Exodus 21:16
 - k. touching things of tabernacle ⇒ Num. 4:15
 - l. others

#2 ARE Verses In NEW TESTAMENT Show GOD Will PUNISH The Unfaithful

Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Hebrews 10:31

#3 BUT is CHRISTIANITY just same as other religions?

IV. **CONSIDER WHAT THE NEW TEST. SAYS**

HOW should Christians TREAT...

A. ...THE WORLD?

1. HOW GOD? ⇒ John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4
2. HOW JESUS? ⇒ John 1:29; 1 John 2:2
3. HOW CHRISTIANS? ⇒ Matthew 22:35-40; 7:12

B. ...UNBELIEVERS?

Colossians 4:5-6; Ephesians 5:11; Matthew 10:13-16

C. ...UNFAITHFUL CHRISTIANS?

2 Peter 2:20-22; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Galatians 6:1-2;
2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

D. ...ENEMIES?

Matthew 5:38-45; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-9; Luke 22:47-51; 23:34-37; 2:8-14

V. **CONCLUSION**

1. CHRISTIANITY = FUNDAMENTALLY & RADICALLY DIFFERENT
2. CHRISTIANITY = FUNDAMENTALLY & RADICALLY BETTER
3. CHRISTIANITY, & ONLY CHRISTIANITY, MAKES THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERYONE