

Misconception: All Muslims are the same and hold the same views



Background: Some think that every person called a Muslim has the same view of every other Muslim, so if they find a certain practice in one Muslim country, this means all Muslims hold the same view or the practice must automatically be a part of Islam or The Quran.

Saying the above is like saying all 1.7 billion Christians in the world have the same view on everything. Of course, we can all see the absurdity of this way of thinking.

Within Islam there are different sects who have different beliefs, some of them are minor differences, some of them major. However, even in each sect, views can differ, so not everyone has the same view on everything.

All Muslims however accept The Quran (sometimes called Koran) as the final divine revelation to humanity. Emphasis is placed on unity and what we have in common rather than division:

The people used to be one nation (but then differed), so God sent the prophets as bearers of good news and warners, and He sent down with them the Scripture with the facts so that they may judge between the people in what they were disputing. But after receiving the clarity, the people disputed in it due to animosity between them. And God guided those who believed with His permission regarding what they disputed in of the truth. And God guides whoever He wishes to a straight path. [2:213]

...and do not be of those who set up partners, or like those who split-up their system, and they became sects, each group happy in what they have. [30:31-32]

A good example of differences in view, is when a "fatwa" (religious opinion) is issued by an institution or scholar, it is not actually binding on anyone.

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