

Do you know and understand the Islamic Religion?

My knowledge of the Islamic religion was limited so I started reading the Quran and doing research on and about the Muslims and the Islamic religion. I decided maybe you might want to know more about the Islamic religion since they represent one of the largest religious groups in the world. In addition the fundamental or radical Muslims are trying to convert, by any means, the world's population to the Islamic religion.

In the next few days I'll share with you on my Facebook account (Doc Strong) and email what I've found. It will give you the basic knowledge about the religion? Much of my information came from a book written by Mark A. Gabriel, Ph.D. (not his real name as he had to hide his identity). I found it was hard to follow the Quran so I decided to depend on scholars of the Islamic and Muslim religion to help me. Professor Gabriel was a former Professor at Al-Azhar University, (Egypt's oldest degree-granting university and is renowned as "Sunni Islam's most prestigious university) where he taught Islamic history literature.

I have studied his work and others to understand the thinking and actions of the Muslims. In the articles I'll present key elements of the Islam Religion and other

things you should know. These will be presented over a period of days so you will have time to digest the material. If any of you want to understand more about Islam and how it affects us read his book “Islam and Terrorism”. If you find any of the information incorrect please let me know and give me the correct information and source. Send it to: strongoneducation@sbcglobal.net

2. What is Islam?

Islam is a religion based on the writing and actions of Muhammad which was recorded in the Quran and hadith.

The Quran was started in 610 AD when the Muhammad said the angel Gabriel spoke to him and gave him a message from Allah. The revelations came at different times in Muhammad’s life.

Islam means submission “one who submits to Allah”. The Quran says you cannot be a true Muslima unless you submit. Surah 4, the Noble Quran.

The book of hadith is a book of holy writings that records verified account of things the prophet Muhammad said and did during his life.

All Muslims accept the Quran but the Sunnis and Shiites differ on the writings in the hadith. The Sunni Muslims accept all of them while the Shiite Muslims accept most but reject the thousands of hadith recorded by the second wife of Muhammad.

3. Why is it important to do what Allah wants?

Islam is a religion of works where one must earn the right to enter Paradise (Heaven). A Muslim is never assured of salvation. When they die they must go to a grave and wait for their judgement by Allah at resurrection day.

4. Is Islam a religion of peace or war?

The Quran has many contradictions just as the Christian Bible. In the early part there are verses where Christians are complemented and where they are condemned to hell. One revelation told the Arabs to stop drinking alcohol when going to a mosque for prayer and a later one prohibited alcohol all the time. (Compare Surah 2:219 and Surah5:90)

Some verses say that Muslims can have good relations with Christians while others say Muslims must require Christian to convert to Islam. In the beginning women were not required to wear

hijab , but later women were required to stay in the house and be covered. There are other contradictions you can find.

Islamic scholars determined that the reason for these contradictions was due to the fact that the Quran was revealed at different time periods. To reconcile these contradictions the scholars used a process called naskh. If a verse is a naskh or over ridden it is that verse doesn't exist.

The first part was revealed to Muhammad while he was in Mecca. In this section of the Quran there are 114 verses that speak of love, peace and forgiveness especially in the surah (Surah 2:62,109) which it titled "The Heifer". However in the Surah 9:5 which was revealed later cancelled out those previous verses. This verse is known as "The sword", and it explains that the Muslims must fight anyone who does not choose to convert to Islam, whether they are inside or outside of Arabia. It is considered to be the final development of jihad in Islam.

In the beginning when Muhammad in Mecca the messages revealed to him were peaceful and kind in order to attract followers. Muhammad faced much opposition in Mecca so in 622 he went to Yathrih (now Medina) where he built up a military force and many followers. He then conquered Mecca and defeated the strongest tribe in Arabia. The Islamic order changed from one of peace to one of war.

More to follow later.