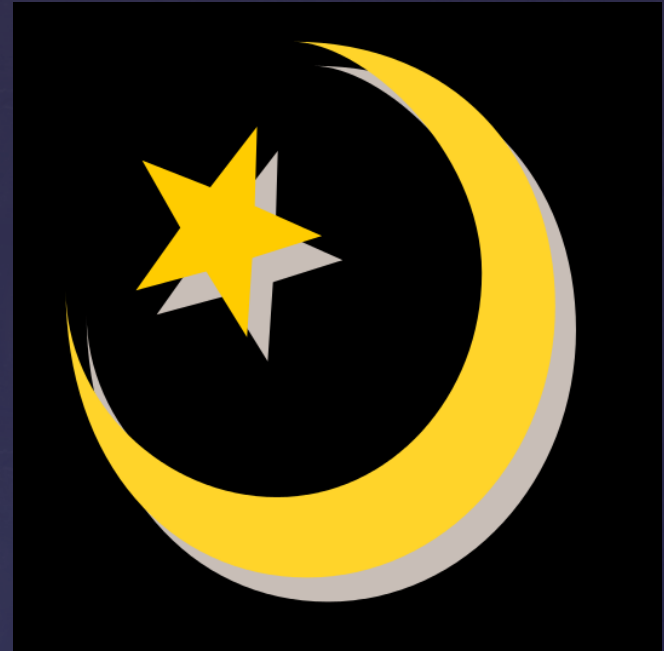


What Divides and What Unites

{ What Christians can Learn from Islam

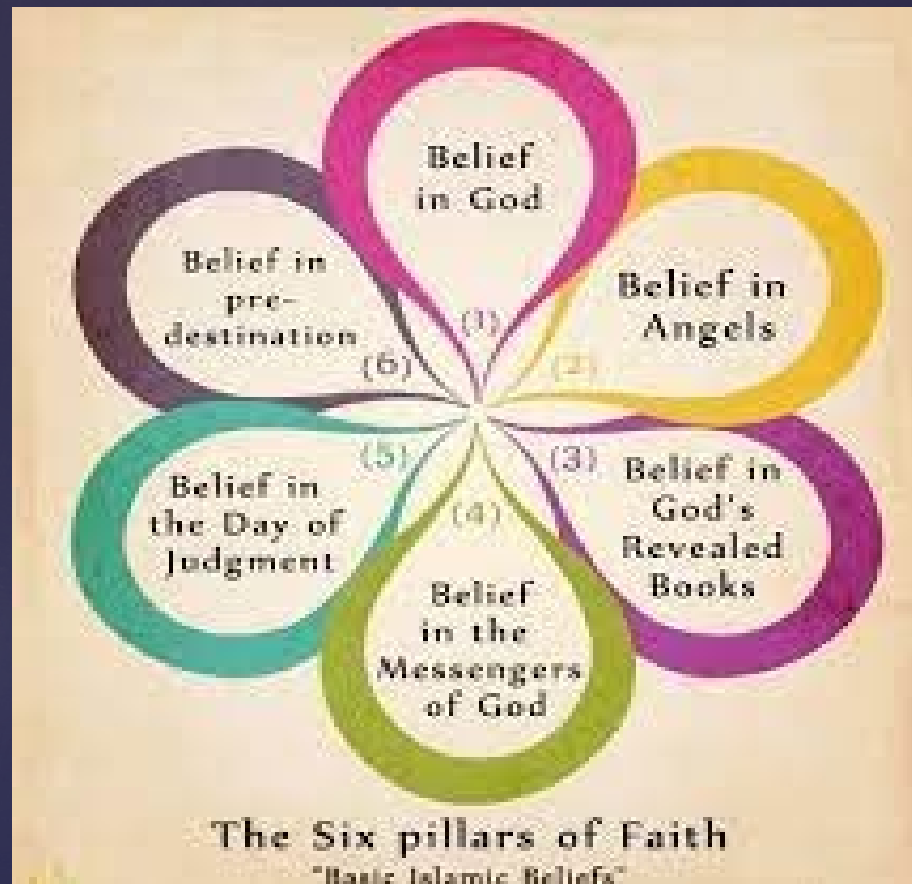
- & Movements in Islam
- & How larger Islamic community has responded
- & What we can learn



Introduction

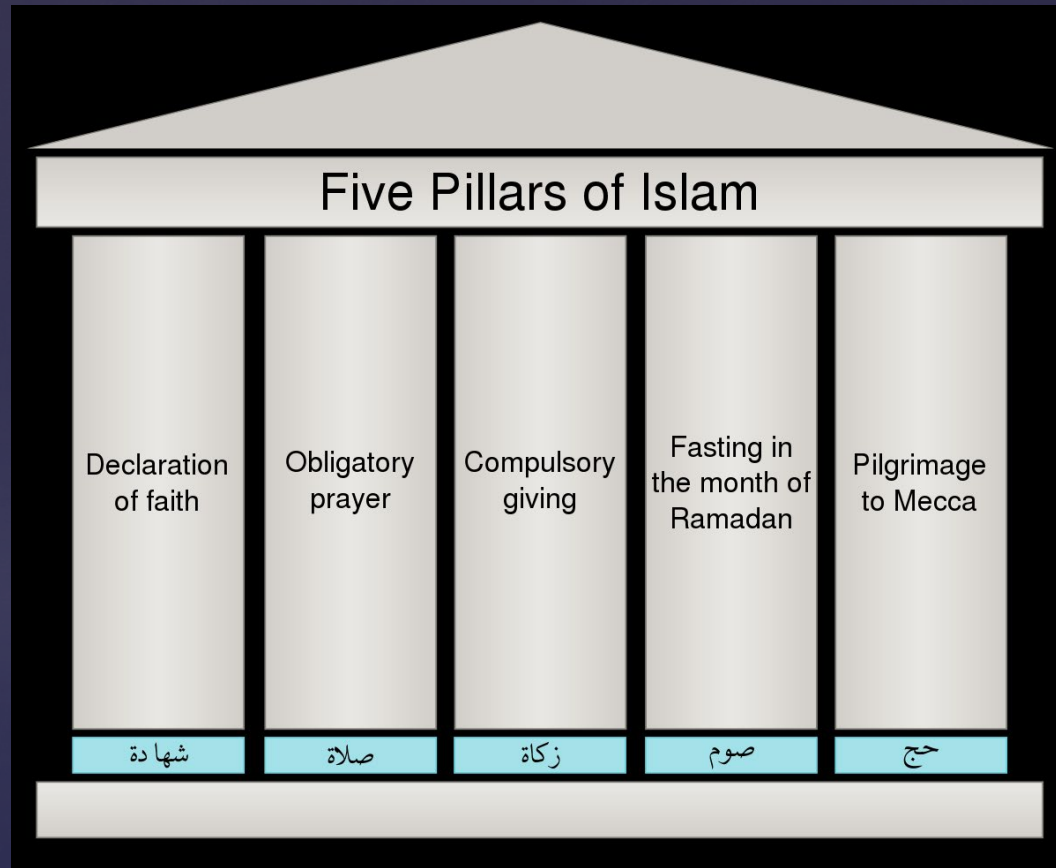
Islam





Six Basic Beliefs

Image from <https://muslimstudents.org.wvu.edu/learn-about-islam>



Five Pillars

Caliph = Sunni



Relative = Shia



Who leads?



Authority



Islamic Law

- & Class of people known as *'alim* or *ulama* (pl), *faqih* or *fugaha* (pl), *mullah*, *shaykh* (*sheik*), or *imam*
- & Reference is to their historic role as jurists or lawyers
- & Required great scholarship



Jurists

Painting of a Mullah by an Indian artist circa 19th century



Everyone is an Authority

Bernard Trebacz *Argument of the scholars*

"The best jihad [struggle] is (by) the one who strives against his own self for Allah, The Mighty and Majestic,"

Hadith (sayings of the Prophet Muhammed)

Also the fight against unbelief or against heresy or blasphemy

Jihad

Surely, those who believe, those who are Jewish, the Christians, and the converts; anyone who (1) believes in God, and (2) believes in the Last Day, and (3) leads a righteous life, will receive their recompense from their Lord. They have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.

Quran 2:62



Infidels

Who Decides?



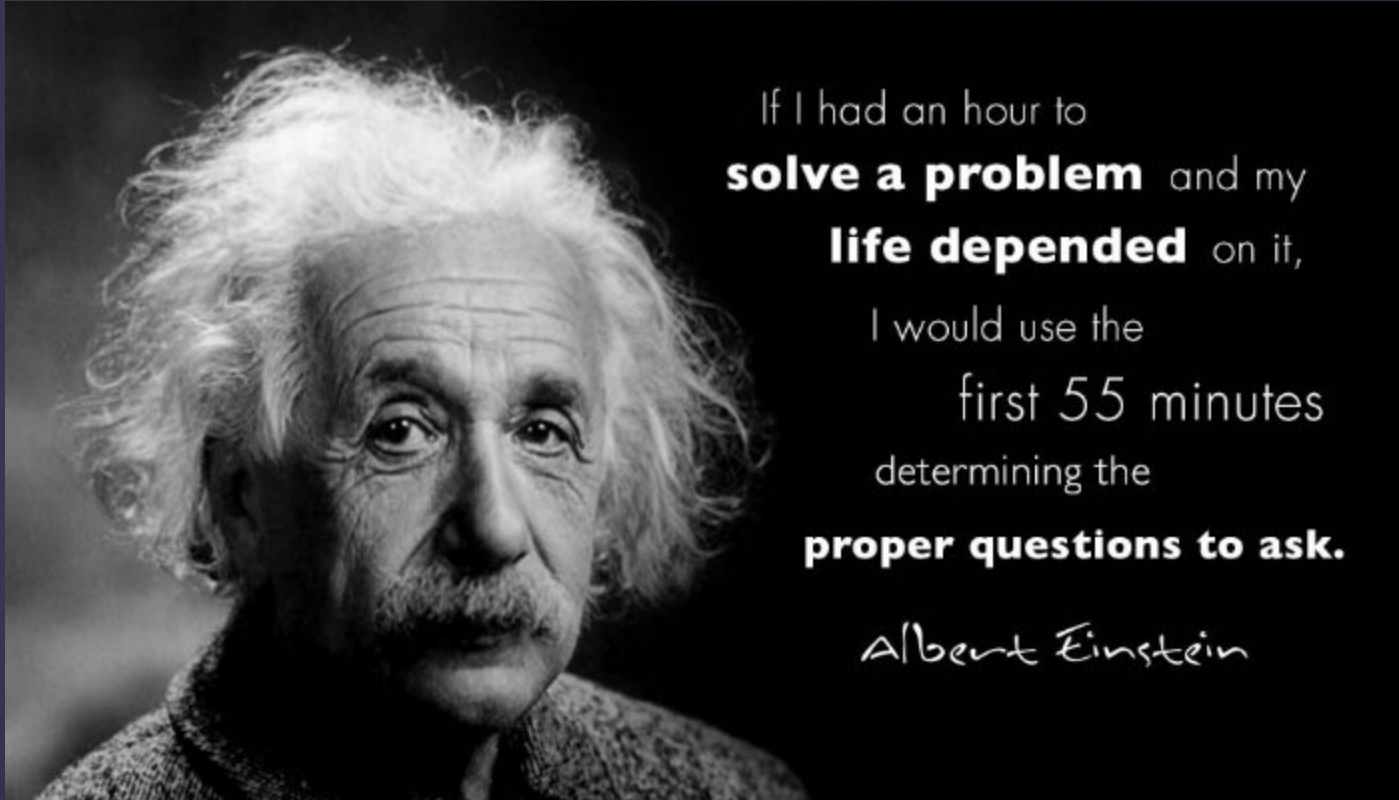
Takfir = Heretic

- ⌘ Simple and easy to follow
- ⌘ Clear
- ⌘ Sunni in origin
- ⌘ Thought Shia Islam was heresy
- ⌘ Sufi Mysticism also heresy
- ⌘ No separate schools of thought
- ⌘ Muslims should be separate and self-sufficient
- ⌘ Distrusted rational thought in Islam
- ⌘ Anyone who did not accept this was *takfir*

Wahhabism



Puritans and Moderates



What can we learn?



Movements that appeal to the zealous need attachment to reflection, prayer, and study.

Young Nun at Prayer by Sergei Gribkov 1852



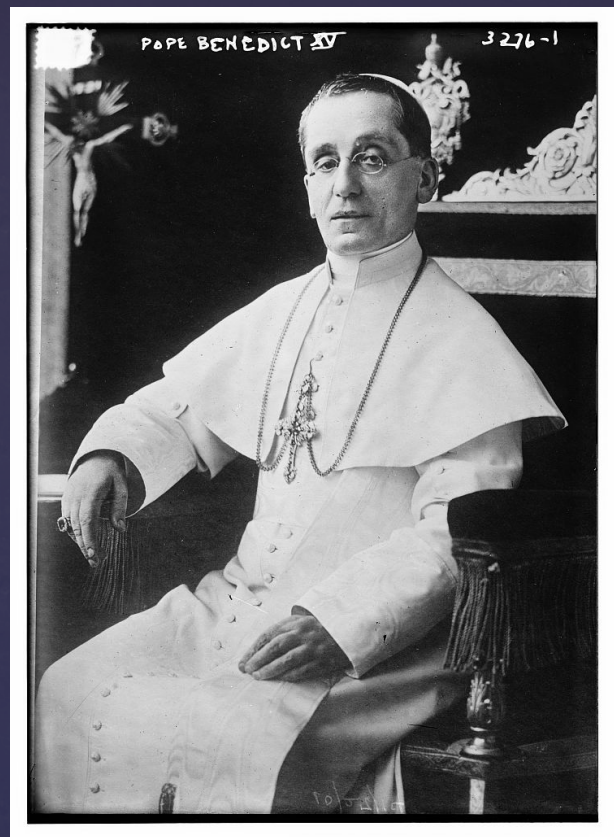
Leaders have great power.

Pope Leo XIII and Queen Elizabeth II



Words have great power

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and Pope John XXIII



....let each one freely defend his own opinion, but let it be done with due moderation, so that no one should consider himself entitled to affix on those who merely do not agree with his ideas the stigma of disloyalty to faith or to discipline. (#23)

Pope Benedict XV - Ad Beatissimi Apostolorum

Faithful living can look different for different people.



New York City Hall Stair
Case

Remember the Hierarchy of Truths
and Harmony of Doctrines



Questions