

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
(FAQs)
& EXTERNAL / INTERNAL LOGICAL
FALLACIES
Sopron 2005
Jay Smith**

EXTERNAL LOGICAL FALLACIES:

-typical arguments afforded by Muslims

(with help from Robert Morey)

1. “B B” Paradigm:

Make any claim, without sourcing it in scripture.

- You become your own highest authority
- (i.e. Benazir Bhutto: ‘Islam is relevant to 20th c.’)

2. Imposition Paradigm:

Take your premise and impose it on another

- (i.e. ‘Tanzil’ revelation, Where does Jesus claim ‘I am God’, Jesus’ seeming inferiority, Paradigm of a ‘dualistic’ God)

3. Smokescreen/Red Herring:

Tactic to divert attention from the weakness of one’s own premise, with the intention of putting us on the defensive

- (i.e. trinity, Crusades)

4. Historical Precedent:

The new may test the old, and takes precedent over it

- applying ‘law of abrogation’ [S.2:106; 16:101] to scripture
- (i.e. Scriptural corruption, Jesus of faith vs. Jesus of history)

5. Cyclical Argument:

Assume in your premise what you are going to state in your conclusion

- (i.e. Muhammad gives authority to the Qur'an, and vice versa)

6. False Analogy/Equivocation:

Comparing two things as if they are parallel when they are not

- (i.e. revelation, Jesus, Allah)

7. The Fallacy of Irrelevance:

Introducing issues with no logical bearing on the subject, as a proof of credibility

- (i.e. 'Sura like it', Qur'anic science, Celebrity conversions, Islamic growth)

8. Phonic Fallacies:

The phonetic sound of a word should not be used to twist its meaning

- (i.e. Allah = Allelujah, Muhammad = Machmad, Mecca = Bacca)

9. Straw Man Arguments:

Put false arguments into mouth of your opponent, then knock them down

- (i.e. S. 5:116, Catholicism)

10. 'Might is Right' Fallacy:

Loudest and most long-winded supposedly wins the argument

- (i.e. 'Poke, Punch & Pinch')

INTERNAL LOGICAL FALLACIES: (typical arguments afforded by Christians)

1. Losing Friends:

- It's a **risk**, but with gentleness & respect (1 Pet.3:15-16) they will stay

2. Appearing judgmental:

- **Being Good = Being Christian**, thus non-Christians are not good?

3. We must use only Dialogue, never stoop to confrontation:

- **Dialogue:** We cannot talk to non-Christians about the Gospel unless we **first talk with them, & so earn the right to be heard.**
 - **Confronting:** >*demolishing arguments and taking captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ* (2 Cor.10:4-5).
 - showing the holes in peoples thinking (in Lk.20:20-39; Acts 17:28-29)
 - i.e. lead out on a current topic, and go on into >deeper things = (news, sports etc...)
 - Start with their ideas & lead them 'to their logical conclusions'
- 4. Don't know the answers to the questions:**
- **Learn them, and assimilate them, then introduce the Gospel thru them!!**

Examples of FAQs

HAS THE BIBLE BEEN CORRUPTED?

• **When/Where? Before Muhammad?**

- Qur'an disagrees:
- "God's word does not change"
(Suras 3:2,78; 4:135; 6:34; 10:64; 18:26; 35:42; 50:28-29).
- "No difference between Bible & Qur'an"
(Suras 2:136; 3:2-3).
- "Muslims must ask Christians" (Suras 10:94; 21:7)
- "Dispute not with the Christians" (Sura 29:46)
- "Muslims are to believe in the Bible" (Sura 4:136)
- "Christians are to believe in the Bible" (Suras 5:46-47, 68)
- **No warning against its corruption.** In fact the argument did not exist until Ibn Hazam (1064), showing that it is a **11th century Muslim polemic.**

After Muhammad?

- If the Bible was changed **after** Muhammad's life, what do we do with:
- (1) **24,000 Manuscripts:** in Greek, Latin and other languages, **230** MSS before 6th century.
- (2) **15,000 translations:** Latin, Syriac, Coptic, Armenian, Gothic, Georgian, Ethiopic, Nubian,
- (3) **2,135 lectionaries** from the 6th century,
- (4) **86,489 quotations** of N.T. in **early church father's letters** 32,000 before 325AD (recreating all the N. Test. but 11 verses)
- **Who** did it, Jews or Christians? **How** do they have identical scriptures?
- **Why** no record of corruption, and why authentic ones not hidden?
- If changed then why not expunge embarrassing stories
(i.e. Peter's denial of Christ Matt.26:69-75; Paul's disputes with Barnabas = Acts 15:39)?

HOW CAN JESUS BE THE SON OF GOD?

- In Qur'an **Sura 2:177** 'Ibn ul-sabeeli' means 'son of the road' = traveller
- Qur'an allows possibility of God's son (**Sura 39:4**)
- **S. 6:101; 5:17** = biological vs. inheritance birth - Lk.2:49 = 'begotten' = monogenes = one & only (unique), not 'genao' = birth
- **Revelation! Divine titles for the Son:**
Gen.1:26-27; Deut.6:4; John 1:1,18; 5:18, 8:58-59, 10:30-33, Is.44:6 & Rev.1:8,17-18

HOW CAN GOD BECOME A MAN?

- Not man becoming God ↑, but God becoming man ↓ (Phil.2:6-8)
- **Can God do anything, in his omnipotence? Thus, can he become a man?** Yes! So not how, but why! To Erradicate **SIN**
- Must remind them of **theophanies** (burning bush, Angel with Abraham, Jacob wrestling etc...)
- Mk 14:61-62 = Son of the Blessed One, and 'Son of Man' = Dan.7:13-14 = **authority, glory, sovereign power, worship, dominion**
- Issa - Jesus = **God's Word** (S. 4:171; John 1:1) God's Word = uncreated: Sura 85:22 (uncreated eternal tablets = mother of books S.43:4)
- Jesus = '**Spirit proceeding from God**' (S. 4:171), '**supported** by the Holy Spirit' (S. 12:87; 58:22), **Spirit** = Essence of God (S.2:253)
- Jesus= **unique: Sinless** (S. 19:19), **born of virgin** (S. 21:91), gave **life** to birds & the **dead, healed, miraculous knowledge** (S.3:49)

HOW CAN GOD BE ONE OF A TRINITY?

- **Quran has mistaken trinity, including Mary (Sura 5:116)**
- Many mysteries we can't explain (i.e. God's **omnipresence, eternity, virgin birth, or electricity** etc...), yet we accept them
- Trinity is a theological term to explain what we read in scripture, coined by Tertullian (2nd cent.)
- **Tri-unity** (Tertullian 125 A.D.). **Not mathematical** (1+1+1, or 1x1x1, or ∞x∞x∞) but **organic**: (i.e.: son, father, husband, brother, pen, water, sun, author, egg, body mind and spirit); not **Sabellian** (3 consecutive 'gods') nor **Arian** ('man becomes God')
- Explains **love, Compassionate, Merciful** (requiring an object), not found in a one-dimensional monad Allah!
- **Islamic trinity = Allah (S.13:16; 14:10), 'Ruh' (S.50:16; 56:83), & Eternal tablets (S.85:22)**
- **Baptism of Christ** (Luke 3:22)=**voice of God** the father, **dove as spirit** of God, and **Son as Jesus**. (Matt.6:11-13 = **Lord's Prayer**)

DID JESUS REALLY DIE ON THE CROSS?

- **Eye-Witnesses** needed to corroborate what happened. **Three eye-witnesses** vs. one supposition 700-900 years later (4 gospels vs. 1 Quran), who do you believe? Eyewitnesses
- **Extra-Biblical evidence:**(**Thallus** = 50AD, **Josephus** 80-90AD, **Tacitus** 80AD, **Pliny the Younger** 112AD)
- **Qur'anic Confusion: Sura 19:33,15** "Blessed be on me, the day I was born, the day I Die, and the day I rise again" (Jesus & Yaxya), also S.3:52
- **Moral Confusion:** (Sura 4:157-158) Is God **deceitful**, since he uses another man to die in Jesus' place?
- **Theological Confusion:** (S.6:164; 53:38)? Can one pay for another's sin, since this goes against the Qur'anic objection on **atonement**

HOW TO COMPARE CHRIST WITH MUHAMMAD?

- **Jesus fits 1st c. (O.T.- Dead Sea Scr.- Gospels- Josephus) – Pharisees** (Hillel & Shamai), not **Saducees** or **Essenes**, & confronts **Law & Temple**
- **Muhammad fits 5-8th c.** (Sectarian writings, Syriac mss.) [progression of **Mary**, Digression of Joseph]
- **Nestorians (5th C.): Jesus** = God-chosen **human** (sura 3:42-48, 51, 59; 4:171; 5:116-117; 19:30, 34-35)
- **Monarchists: God** has **no children** (sura 4:171; 19:34)
- **Docetists (1st C.): Jesus didn't die** (sura 4:156-158)
- **Monophysites - Cholloridian (4th C.) Maryolatry:** Mary in the Trinity (sura 5:116)
- **Christ = Qur'an** as primary revelation, while **Muhammad = Gospel writers** as secondary (like Hadith, Sira, Tariq, Tafsir)
- Acts 10:43 = only **Jesus' name gives forgiveness**, not Muhammad's, Deut.18:18 shows who Moses thought a **true prophet** was = John 1:45; 5:46; 6:14; Acts 3:21-23 verifies this 'prophet like me' was Jesus.

HOW CAN WE KNOW WHO IS A TRUE PROPHET?

Four Criteria for Prophethood in the Bible:

- 1) Does he use God's personal name?:
Adonai (descriptive) = 340 times
Elohim (generic) = 2,000 times
Yahweh (personal) = 6,823 times
- 2) Does his **message** conform to previous revelation?
- 3) Are his **predictions** verifiable?
- 4) Is he in **Isaac's race**?

ISN'T SIN THE SAME IN ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY?

- Muslim **Sin** = **horizontal**, (Satan at fault) easily forgivable (note the consequence of Adam & Eve's sin in Eden – S.2:30-39; 7:19-25; 20:116-123).

- Adam's disobedience, was forgiven, yet they were banished to earth-Why? No relationship existed/God, so none lost.
- Sin = breaking God's law - no corruption, just weakness to Satan's seduction
- Islam = Good works balance out sin, then conversely bad works balance out good. So if a wife has done 300 good days then is she allowed to do one bad day of adultery?
- Christian **Sin = vertical**, our fault (Rom.3:23), deserves death, to have justice (Rom.6:23).
- Adam was sinless (perfect) = in relationship with God.
- He sinned->(imperfect) knew right & wrong, broke trust, hid, evicted from Eden, lost relationship with God (Men & nature)
- God = pure & holy (Ps.77:13; 99:9) & can have no sin in His presence (Hab.1:13)
- Thus, sin separates us (Is.59:1-2)

(1Pe.3:15-16)

- 15 But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess.
- 16 Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience, so that those who slander your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame when they accuse you.