CHRISLAM

WHAT IS IT
WHERE DOES IT COME FROM
WHO PROMOTES IT
HOW SHOULD YOU RESPOND

By
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Chrislam

Lately, we hear the words “Chrislam” and “Chrislim” more and more. What is Chrislam exactly and who are the Chrislims? Is this so called religion or way of worship compatible with the Bible? How should the genuine Christians respond to it?

As the name suggests Chrislam is a combination of Islam and Christianity. On the surface level, Christianity and Islam seem to have some similarities such as monotheism, charity, purity and a host of other assumed similarities.

However in essence Islam is the exact opposite of Christianity. Any combination of Islam and Christianity will dilute the Biblical revelation and messages of JAHWEH. Thus Chrislam is a modern day heresy as it intentionally twists and dilutes Biblical truth with the claims of a pagan religion.

Most of the adherents of Chrislam call themselves Christians and Muslim at the same time. However, recently the word “Chrislim” is also being used in reference to them. Although the words “Chrislam” and “Chrislim” have been slowly making their ways into Western Christian societies during the recent years, this so called religion actually has been around since the 1970s. Nevertheless, still the majority of Christians across the world have not yet heard these words. Perhaps, most of
the Western Christians heard about Chrislam for the first time, when Rick Warren, the pastor of Saddleback Church in California, was accused of syncretising Islam and Christianity (Delgado 2012).

Warren has repeatedly denied the accusations that he has been promoting Chrislam (Stetzer 2012) (Surratt 2011). However, his close alliance with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation and his role as a religious advisor for this interfaith movement make it difficult for many Christians to believe him.

In fact, for a long time now, Warren is known to be a man of interfaith movements where religions (especially Islam and Christianity) are syncretised and unified for the common good of mankind (Way of life) (Patel 2008). Some Christians are even convinced that Warren speaks from both sides of his mouth over Chrislam. (Church Watcher 2015).

Nevertheless, in spite of Warren's long and deep involvement in interfaith movements and, possibly, the promotion of Chrislam he is neither the inventor of Chrislam nor is he the only one to import Chrislam into North America. Instead, pastor Robert Schulller, the founder of Crystal Cathedral is recognised as the “father of Chrislam” in America.
(The curses of Chrislam 2011:6). According to the same document, some of other key proponents of Chrislam in America are Bill Hybels, Brian McLaren, Doug Pagitt, Erwin McManus, Tony Jones, Dan Kimbal and Rob Bell.

**Nigerian origin**

Although Chrislam is a new movement in the West, it is actually not that new. Since the beginning of Islam many groups of Muslims and even some Christians tried to merge the two religions to avoid Islamic violence or to create a middle ground where people can peacefully coexist. So the idea and the objectives of Chrislam are as old as Islam itself. However, neither the true Muslims (those who studies and obeys the teachings of Quran and Muhammad) nor the true Christians (those who truly follow Jesus and the teaching of the Bible) never accepted any form of mixing Islam and Christianity. The origins of modern Chrislam movement lies in Nigeria and goes back to the 1970s.

It was introduced by Tela Tella in the Yoruba district of Nigeria under the banner of “Chrislam: the will of God” (Chrislam) (Tela Tella). Later on in 1990 another Nigerian man, a self proclaimed prophet and doctor, Samson Saka also came up with the same idea and established his own version of Chrislam (Light house trails research) (Interview with Saka). In fact, even now there seems to be a power struggle between these two streams of Chrislam. Each one seems to accuse the other for stealing his idea of
Chrislam. Both Tela Tella and Samson Saka regard themselves as Christian and Muslim at the same time. They both claim that their objective is to create a peaceful coexistence for Muslims and Christians and prevent religion related violence (Wikipedia) (The Blaze) (All about religion).

Importing Chrislam into the West

In the recent years, as Islamic violence against Christians increased, more and more Westerners began to talk and think about ways to stop and prevent Islamic violence. In their quest to find a way for peaceful coexistence, many Westerners started showing interest in Chrislam also. Many started to reason that, Chrislam is so much more pleasing and non-confrontational towards Muslims than traditional Christianity. Chrislam does not reject Islam but simply accepts and merges it with Christianity so that Muslims and Christians can live together without confronting and hurting one another.

Additionally, Chrislam suits the global culture of pluralism and equality of all religions and ethics. During the recent decades pluralism and post-modernism has been teaching all of us that all religions are equally valid, all roads lead to Rome, everyone has his own version of truth and there is no absolute truth when it comes to religions and ethics. Thus Chrislam fits perfectly well into the context of our global culture of coexistential pluralism and non-confrontational post-modernism. So much so that nowadays in some Western cultures, it is considered rude and unacceptable to tell Muslims that they will go to hell if they do not repent and accept Jesus as the only God and saviour. This compromising and pluralistic thinking among Western Christians has been paving the way for some heretical theories.
and movements such as seeker sensitive Christianity and the emerging Chrislam. If we want to be modern day people and live by the values and standards of our times then Chrislam and other forms of mixing and diluting Christianity with other religions will be the best thing to do for us. If our main objective is only to coexist and live trouble free lives, then Chrislam is the way to go.

However, if our objective is to know, love and obey the God of the Bible, then Chrislam and other forms of syncretism of religions will be unacceptable to us. If our ultimate desire is to faithfully declare the glory of JAHWEH to the nations around us, then we just cannot accept merging the ways and values of our God with the ways and values of pagan gods (that are indeed not gods at all).

**Ridiculous claims**

The promoters of Chrislam will talk about similarities between Islam and Christianity in order to justify their syncretism.

**Abrahamic lie**

They normally talk about Abraham as the common father of Jews, Christians and Muslims. Using Abraham as a point of unity, they would argue that Islam is an Abrahamic religion just like Judaism and Christianity. However, a responsible study of historical records Abrham and Islam will reveal that Abraham is not the father of Islam. Even if some of the Muslim nations have some biological connections to Abraham, this does not mean that their spiritual choices and decisions are condoned by Abraham and shall be accepted as legitimate ways of worship to the God of the Bible. Besides, this whole idea of Abrahamic unity between Muslims, Jews and Christians is a cheap, groundless argument. It is only as valid and as
accurate as to say “all people worship the same god because all people are the descendent of Adam”. How silly, how ridiculous is it to build theology upon some assumed genealogical connections. Building some spiritual or theological connections between Christianity and Islam based on some assumed ties to Abraham is absolutely unbiblical, irresponsible and even insane. Abrahamic unity of Islam and Christianity is a big lie. Theologian Mark Durie's teaching on “Abrahamic Fallacy” is a good materiel for anyone who would like to learn more on this topic. In his book “Which God” Durie (2006:151-160) proves that Abraham is not a point of unity between Islam and Christianity.

The deception of “Allah is JAHWEH”

The proponents of Chrislam will also claim that Muslims and Christians worship the same god as they deem Allah and JAHWEH as one and the same person. However, in spite of all their efforts they can never provide a Biblically acceptable unification of Allah and JAHWEH. Additionally, historical and archaeological facts clearly indicate that Allah is a pre-Islamic pagan god. He was known and worshipped as the moon god in many parts of the middle east even many centuries before Mohammed (Islam: Truth or Myth) (Allah – the moon god). On the other hand, The Bible, archaeological findings and the historical records reveal that JAHWEH is the God of the Jewish people who brought them into the land of Canaan through seas, rivers and deserts under the leadership of Moses and Joshua. To say the least, the Bible, the history and the archaeological findings do not allow us to think that Allah, the ancient moon god, is the one and the same God that Jews worshipped since the days of Moses. As I have explained in my previous articles, Allah and JAHWEH are not the same and

The fallacy of Islamic Isa

The proponents of Chrislam also claim that Jesus of the Bible and Isa of Islam are the one and the same person. In fact this is a widely accepted and deeply rooted misconception among many Western Christians. However, the truth is Isa of Islam and the Jesus of the Bible are not the same person. To say the least, Biblical Jesus is God, Son of God, was crucified, is resurrected and will come back to fetch us (Christians) and establish His Kingdom. Islamic Isa however, is not God, not the Son of God, never died, never resurrected and will come back to kill all Christians, Jews and other non-Muslims. He will also forcefully (through massacres and torture) make all the people on earth Muslim otherwise he will kill them. Additionally, Jesus of the Bible is an actual historical character whose life on earth has been recorded even in extra Biblical historical documents and confirmed by independent archaeological researches. However Islamic Isa is only a fictional character, a product of the wild imagination of the narrators of the Islamic literature. As theologian Mark Durie puts it Islamic Isa is “a product of fable, imagination and ignorance”. In the light of all this we can safely say that Islamic Isa is not God, not Jesus, not even a real person, but a fake character put in the Islamic writings to deceive many.

All in all, the foundational claims of Chrislam are groundless and they can be even classified as ridiculous.

Biblical Response to Chrislam

Firstly and fore-mostly, our faith and allegiance to the God of
the Bible implies that we shall worship no other God (Exo 34:14). Thus we are not at liberty to flirt with these so-called gods whether they be Allah or Budha or any other thing.

Secondly, God graciously blessed us with His written Word the Bible as His self revelation. All we need to know about God and godly living is given to us in the Bible. The Bible only is God's inspired Word. God also closed and sealed His Word with these final sentences:

“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen” (Rev 22:18-21, ESV).

God's Word is written, completed and sealed until the return of Jesus. No one shall add anything to what God has already revealed or no one shall take out any part of it. Therefore, we Christians shall not heed or give ear to any extra biblical book, sage and so called revelations and claims.

Thirdly, we shall uphold the Biblical truth about God and godliness by teaching and preaching it to our children and our people. Perhaps you will never believe in a silly lie such as Chrislam but if you do not teach the Biblical truth to your children, one day, they might just accept these heretical claims
because of their ignorance. As we read in the book of Hosea (4:6) God's people perish because the lack of knowledge. Jesus also said “and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (Joh 8:32). Thus it is very important that you teach your children, grand children and your other people around you the Biblical truth and caution them against Satan's lies such as Chrislam.

Lastly, pray! Pray for those who are deceived by the lies of Chrislam. Pray that they shall meet Jesus just like Saul the enemy of Christians who met Jesus on the way to Damascus and became Paul the servant of Jesus (Acts 9). Pray that they shall hear the truth, respond to the truth and be saved by the grace of God through Jesus Christ.
Selective Bibliography


Image #1: http://www.nowtheendbegins.com/blog/?p=1366

Image #2: http://churchwatchcentral.com/2015/02/14/rick-warren-speaking-from-both-sides-of-his-mouth-over-chrislam/


________ 2013. 8 reasons why Christians and Muslims do not worship the same God. Online article:


DID YOU KNOW?

Christians and Muslims do not worship the same god! Yahweh and Allah are **not the same**.

- Yahweh is the Father of Jesus but Allah is not.
- Yahweh is one God in trinity but Allah is not part of trinity.
- Yahweh is the God of Jews and Christians but Allah is god of Muslims only.
- Yahweh will send Jesus once again to rapture Christians and judge the world.
- However, Allah will send Islamic Isa to kill Christians and Jews and to Islamise the whole world.
- Allah is almost exactly the opposite of Yahweh.

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