

What is Motivating People to Turn to Islam?

It is a fact that Islam is growing rapidly in the West and around the world. In the U.S. alone, the number of Muslims has risen dramatically, from about 10,000 in 1900 to at least several million people today. Here are four main reasons that attracted non-Muslims to become Muslims:

1. Islam teaches that all believers are equal in the eyes of God, and it forbids any form of racism or discrimination due to colour, land of origin, tribe, etc.
2. Islam does not have a religious hierarchy; there is no priesthood in Islam, so individuals have a direct relationship with God without intermediaries. All Muslims are taught to do good and avoid evil and to educate themselves about their religion, and they go to reputable scholars for knowledge and advice.
3. Islam teaches that all its followers are considered normal human beings. No one is allowed to exalt himself or herself over others by claiming divinity, or to deceive the community by claiming to have a direct message and/or direct alliance with God, or to have spoken with God. No one can make the false allegation that God has taken him as a son and that as a result of that, people should follow this person blindly!

Unfortunately, some members of the clergy utilize this concept to deceive their followers for their own personal benefit. An example is when they convince their followers that they cannot be questioned and are beyond approach; some even solicit sexual relations from vulnerable individuals who come to ask them questions and/or seek forgiveness from sins through them.

I spoke to one young woman who turned to Islam after waking up from her sleep and discovering this huge lie and deceit... finally realizing that she had squandered her modesty and decency in the bed of a drunk clergyman!

4. Islam teaches its adherents to establish and strengthen their own direct relationship with Allah, where no intercession on the part of another person is needed. In Islam, there is no church to act as intermediary between an individual and Allah. It rejects the concept of seeking forgiveness of sins by confessing to a priest, an ordinary human being, who has no authority to absolve anyone of sin.

Muslims must follow the guidance of God's law as it has been revealed, and this will lead them to success. If individuals err, they only have to turn to Allah, because He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. Islam frees the mind from barriers and roadblocks, granting its followers unobstructed access to Allah. It teaches that Allah is the only One from Whom people should seek forgiveness. He does not need intermediaries (in any form) standing in between, presenting themselves as the gatekeepers to Allah and contending that only through them may people have access to Him. Islam strictly rejects the man-made concept of confessing one's sin to a human being such as a "priest", and it rejects the act of seeking salvation through this person. Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing, Most Merciful and Most Knowledgeable. He is All-Rich. He does not need intermediaries to convey the needs of people to Him. People only need to raise their hands and say, "Allah, please forgive me; I promise to repent," and Allah will forgive them. That's it!

In general, this direct relationship is a means of accessing Allah's mercy and forgiveness. This concept is logical and straightforward; anyone would naturally be pleased to hear and believe it.

However, Allah (God) warns humankind that He refuses to forgive those who associate partners with Him.

{Indeed, Allah does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills. And he who associates others with Allah has certainly gone far astray.} (Quran 4:116)

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