

WORLD RELIGIONS: SESSION SIX UNDERSTANDING ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

To watch this lecture online, go to <http://www.tlc.org/tuesday-morning-bible-study/>

I. Introduction

A. Confusing _____

B. Confusing _____

Islamism, Radical Islam, Political Islam, Fundamentalism, Millitant Islam, Jihadism, Islamic Terrorism, Wahabism, Salafism, Takfiris, Extremism, Islamofascists

1. Salafism
 - a. Strive to imitate the pious forefathers (Muhammad and his companions)
 - b. Literal, narrow interpretation of Qur'an and Hadith
 - c. Focus on purity of Islam and rejection of innovations
 - d. Ibn Taymiyyah (1263-1328)
2. Wahabism
 - a. Muhammad Ibn Abd al-Wahab (1703-1792)
 - b. Arab, Salafi scholar
 - c. Reformer; promoted extremely rigid form of Islam
 - d. Pact made with the Al-Saud family.
 - e. Wahabist Islam is the state religion of Saudi Arabia.
3. Takfiris
 - a. In Islam, taking the life of another Muslim is the worst of sins.
 - b. *Takfir*: Declaring other Muslims to be apostates or not true Muslims
 - b. Apostates from Islam are under a death penalty, and non-Muslims are to be fought (according to extremists)—so killing them is no longer a sin.
 - c. A *Takfiri* is an extremists who uses this as a way to silence moderate Muslims, "purify" the faith, and get rid of opposition.

C. Confusing _____

1. Not all extremists are violent.
2. Extremists do not all agree on methods, timing, authority, interpretation of Islamic law, immediate goals, etc.
3. Extremists are not unified (thankfully!); sometimes they fight each other.

II. 1979: _____

- A. Islamic Revolution in Iran
Result: Powerful Shi'a extremist government; new enemy of Israel; oil prices doubled in one year
- B. Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan
Result: Jihadi movement; Taliban; Al Qaeda
- C. Grand Mosque in Mecca seized by Sunni Extremists
Result: Saudi royal family gives more power to fundamentalists; oil wealth used to spread narrow, Wahabi form of Islam around the world.

III. The Extremist _____

A. The Extremist Ideology

1. Allah is the universal lawgiver
2. When men make laws they are usurping Allah's authority
3. It is "oppression" to require people to obey man-made laws
4. Furthermore—many cultures, religions and governments do not teach the truth about Allah and Muhammad

5. When cultures, religions and governments *reject* the message of Islam, they are in a state of rebellion and aggression against Allah.
6. It is the duty of Muslims to wage *jihad* to remove all obstacles in the way of Islam so that Allah's law can be established.

B. The Extremist Method of Interpreting the Qur'an

1. Doctrine of Abrogation
 - a. Earlier verses in the Qur'an (Meccan surahs) were "provisional", based on the weak circumstances of the Muslim community.

Some earlier verses:

"Say, 'O atheists, I don't serve what you serve, and you don't serve what I serve . . . You have your way and I have my way.'" Qur'an 109:1-6

"Fight for the cause of Allah those who wage war against you, but do not commit aggression. Indeed, Allah does not love aggressors." Qur'an 2:190

- b. The final rulings of the Qur'an (late Medinan surahs) supersede (or abrogate) the earlier verses.

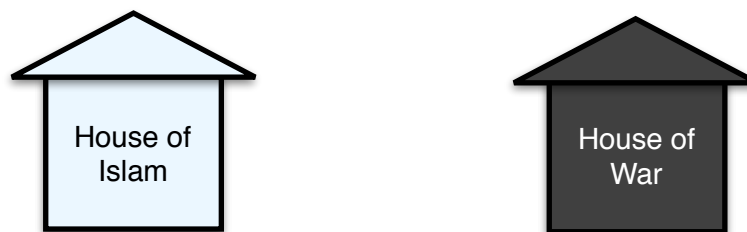
Some final verses:

"A call from Allah and Allah's messenger. . . announce a painful penalty for those who disbelieve...when the sacred months [of warning] are past then kill the idolators wherever you find them and capture them and blockade them...But if they repent and practice prayer and give alms [accept Islam], let them go their way." Qur'an 9:3-5

"Fight the ones among those to whom scripture has been given [Jews & Christians] who . . . do not profess the religion of truth [Islam], until they pay the jizya (tax) willingly, and feel themselves subdued." Qur'an 9:29

2. Narrow, rigid and literal interpretation of Qur'an and Hadith; acceptance of "weak" Hadith

C. The Extremist Worldview



"Islam means submission, and so the House of Islam includes those nations ruled by Sharia law. The rest of the world, which has not accepted Sharia law and so is not in a state of submission, exists in a state of rebellion or war with the will of Allah. It is incumbent on dar al-Islam [the house of Islam] to make war upon dar al-harb [the house of war] until such time that all nations submit to the will of Allah and accept Sharia law."

Hasan Al-Banna, Founder of the Muslim Brotherhood

D. The Extremist Goals

1. Purify Islam
2. Terrorize the enemies of Islam
3. (Sunni) Establish an Islamic state
4. Usher in coming of the Mahdi (Messiah-type figure)
5. Bring the whole world under Islam

NOW WHAT? WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

1. Resist _____

- a. Just because Islamic terrorism makes headline news doesn't mean it represents all Muslims.
- b. Islam is not a monolith: there are widely varied interpretations, practices and attitudes. Millions and millions of Muslims reject the extremist ideology, their method of interpreting the Qur'an, their worldview and their goals.
- c. Most Muslims are normal people who just want to live their lives in peace.
- d. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims are also suffering at the hands of extremists.

2. Reject _____

- a. Over 100 times the Scriptures tell us to "fear not" or "do not be afraid"!
- b. I Peter 3:15-16

3. Remember _____

Ultimately, we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against forces of evil in the world.
Ephesians 6:12

4. Really practice _____

- a. Love Matthew 5:43-45
- b. Light Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Matthew 5:14

5. Raise _____

- a. In prayer 2 Thessalonians 3:2
- b. In advocacy

6. Re-ignite _____

God is on the move in our world!