



Peacemaking: Christian-Muslim Relations

Engage in New Peacemaking Initiatives

RECONCILIATION COMMUNITIES

Pray for
Peace

Pursue Peace
With All

Take
Responsibility

Willingly
Reprove

Accept
Reproach

Ask for
Forgiveness

Forgive
Others

Love Your
Enemies

God of Peace

Peace of God

Gospel of Peace

**Blessing upon
Peacemakers**

Reconciling Communities



- **A group of at least three people who:**
- **who have completed the PCI course on peacemaking**
- **signed the PCI manifesto for peacemakers**
- **who meet more than once a month to pray for peace, and who pursue peacemaking initiatives together.**



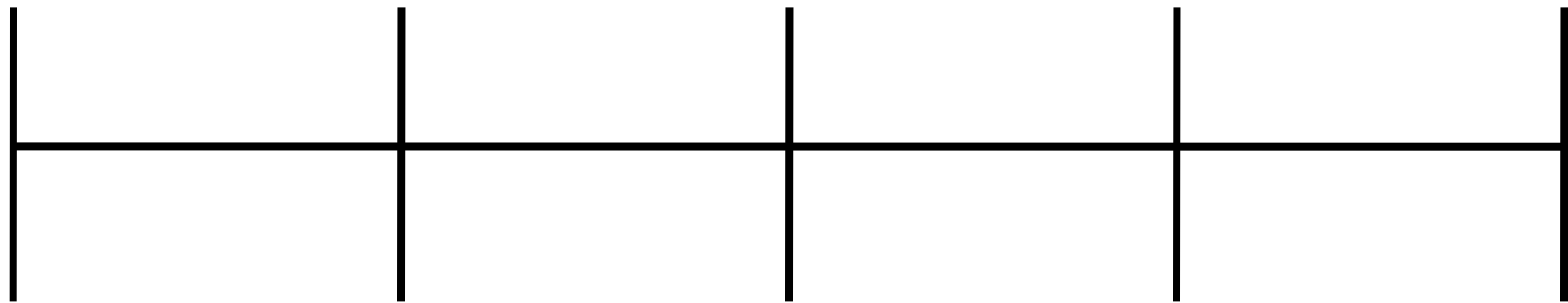
- The church “is the emergence of an alternative society, grounded in peace, spreading peace, and preserving peace”
(Ulrich Mauser 1992, 160)

An accurate understanding of Muslims ...



The Spectrum of Muslims

Secularists Modernists Traditionalists Fundamentalists Terrorists



A Middle Way



- Being realistic about the real intentions of *some* Muslims,
- Recognizing the diversity among Muslims and relating to them as individuals and groups with openness and honesty,
- Taking a firm stand on issues of human rights,
- Working for the common good of the whole society,
- Demonstrating a fundamental respect for Muslims (without agreeing with all the teachings of Islam), and
- Unapologetically commending the Christian faith through word and deed (Colin Chapman 2007:5)

Full of Grace and Truth



- And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)
- We differ on our views of Islam ... but the Bible is clear about how we are to treat the “other”

Grace and Truth Project



- <http://www.peace-catalyst.net/training/grace--truth>
- <http://www.vineyardresources.com/equip/content/grace-and-truth-toward-christlike-relationships-muslims>

1. Be Jesus-Centered in our Approach



- **When I go to India I have to apologize for many things – for Western civilization, for it is only partly Christianised; for the Christian Church, for it too is only partly Christianised; for myself, for I am only a Christian-in-the-making; but when it comes to Jesus, there are no apologies on my lips, for there are none in my heart. He is our one perfect possession (E. Stanley Jones in Roberts 2007:155).**
- **We don't argue about Christianity vs. Islam**

2. Be Truthful and Gracious in our Words and Witness



- Media -- Alarmist and fear-inducing
 - Negative aspects of Islam
 - Threat posed by radical Islam
- Matt 12:36, Ex 20:16, Mat 7:12
- Do not compare the best of Christianity with the worst of Islam!

2. Be Truthful and Gracious in our Words and Witness



- Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear (Eph 4:29 NASB)
- Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone (Col 4:6 NIV)

3. Be Wise in our Words and Witness



- Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity” (Col 4:5).
- The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness (James 3:17-18 NIV).

4. Be Respectful and Bold in our Witness



- But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander (1 Pet 3:15-16)
- Acts 17

5. Be Prudent in our Glocalized World



- **Following Jesus in a Glocalized World:
Bearers of Blessing among Neighbors and Nations (www.ricklove.net)**

6. Be Persistent in our Call for Religious Freedom



- Christians are tolerant of other faiths not because there is no absolute truth or that all faiths are equally valuable, but because the one who is Absolute Truth, Jesus Christ, forbids the spread of his truth by the sword. Christian tolerance is the commitment that keeps lovers of competing faiths from killing each other. Christian tolerance is the principle that puts freedom above forced conversion, because it's rooted in the conviction that forced conversion is no conversion at all. Freedom to preach, to teach, to publish, to assemble for worship—these convictions flow from the essence of the Christian faith. Therefore we protect it for all. John Piper

7. Be Peaceable & Uncompromising in our Dialogue



- Kingdom ministry ... a both/and approach
 - Gospel planting
 - Peacemaking
- See our bibliography: [A Muslim and A Christian in Dialogue](#), by Badru Kateregga and David Shenk.

8. Be Loving toward All



9. Differentiate between the Role of Church and State



10. Support & Challenge the State



- We must obey God rather than men! (Acts 5:29)

Grace and Truth Project



1. Be Jesus-Centered in our Approach
2. Be Truthful and Gracious in our Words and Witness
3. Be Wise in our Words and Witness
4. Be Respectful and Bold in our Witness
5. Be Prudent in our Globalized World
6. Be Persistent in our Call for Religious Freedom
7. Be Peaceable and Uncompromising in our Dialogue
8. Be Loving toward All
9. Differentiate between the Role of Church and State
10. Support and Challenge the State

Peacemaking Initiatives ...



- **7 Resolutions Against Prejudice, Hatred and Discrimination**
- As Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders, we adhere to a common core of ethical standards that compel us to speak out against all forms of prejudice, hatred, and discrimination that our faiths encounter. The following seven resolutions provide common ground for us as “children of Abraham.” We affirm these seven statements and resolve to share them with everyone, everywhere.
- <http://www.interfaithresolutions.info/>
- <http://ricklove.net/?p=713>

Peacemaking Initiatives ...



- Love your neighbor dinner
- Grace and Truth Project
- Visual Peacemakers
- Quick to Listen
- Jesus Dialogues
- Serving Refugees
- <http://www.peace-catalyst.net/>

Vineyard Conferences



- Blessing Muslims Initiative
- 03/25/2011 - 03/26/2011
- Anaheim, CA - Vineyard Anaheim

- Blessing Muslims Initiative
- 10/21/2011 – 10/22/2011
- Houston, Texas – Sugarland Vineyard

Upcoming Peacemaking Seminars



- [February 26 - Columbus, Ohio](#)
- [March 4-5 - Gilbert, AZ](#)



Reconciling Communities

Living as Agents of Peace
in a Broken World

Peace Catalyst Manifesto



- Prayerfully read through the Peace Catalyst manifesto. Take time to read the Scripture references and think through the practical implications for your life.
- Could God be calling you to start or join a PCI program or initiative?
- Could God be calling you to start or join a reconciling community?

Resolve conflict, restore harmony



- What relationship(s) do you need to work on?
- What peacemaking initiative(s) do you need to join or start?
- What practical steps can you take to resolve the conflict or start a new initiative?

Q & A ...



Closing Prayer



- **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27)**
- **"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)**
- **Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21)**

Homework for webinar



Neighbor Dinner

- <http://www.peace-catalyst.net/programs/love-your-neighbor-dinner>
- Please watch Peace Catalyst Manifesto
- <http://www.peace-catalyst.net/training/peacemaking-seminar>
- Please read the Peace Catalyst Manifesto (attached)
- Please read the Grace and Truth Affirmation (attached).
- You can read all about the Grace and Truth Affirmation at
- <http://www.peace-catalyst.net/training/grace--truth>



Christian-Muslim Relations:

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Peacemaking Initiatives**

David Gushee



- Governments have a God-given responsibility to advance peace, promote justice, and protect their citizens (Rom. 13:1-7, etc.). Attempting creative, transformative peacemaking initiatives is therefore part of government's responsibility in international affairs as it is the Christian's responsibility interpersonally. There is much that the United States government can and must do to heal and strengthen relationships with those states that are predominantly or officially Muslim, and with Muslim religious communities around the world.

By the love command a community of love is called into being and summoned to responsible action ... The New Testament word ... which best describes love's work in calling a community of love into being is reconciliation

Victor Paul Furnish

Questions



- Have you watched the LYND video?
- Have you watched the PCI manifesto video?
- Have you read the PCI manifesto?
- Have you read the Grace and Truth affirmation?