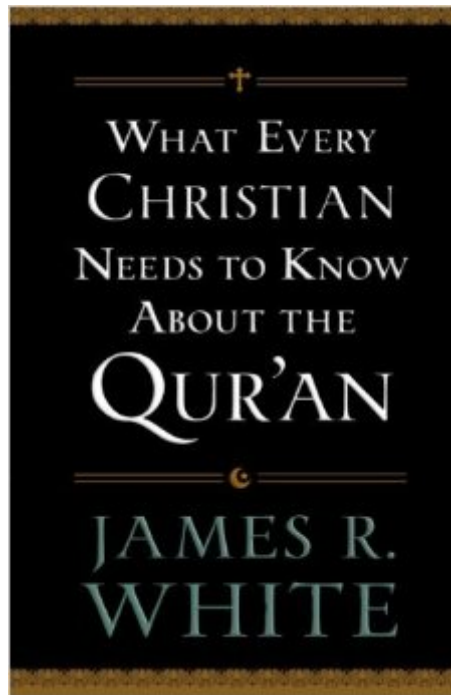


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# What Every Christian Needs To Know About The Qur'an



## Synopsis

A Look Inside the Sacred Book of One of the World's Fastest-Growing Religions What used to be an exotic religion of people halfway around the world is now the belief system of people living across the street. Through fair, contextual use of the Qur'an as the primary source text, apologist James R. White presents Islamic beliefs about Christ, salvation, the Trinity, the afterlife, and other important topics. White shows how the sacred text of Islam differs from the teachings of the Bible in order to help Christians engage in open, honest discussions with Muslims.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been involved in Christian-Muslim dialogue and debate for about four years at this point. I've heard a lot debates, read a lot of books, listened to a lot of speakers and engaged in a lot of firsthand conversations with Muslims about the issues that divide us, and what the truth really is. The quest for truth leads us to listen ever more closely to what the other side has to say, try to read their literature, understand their language and get into their mindset to see what they really think and how to formulate a proper response to them. With that regard, I think Dr. James White has exemplified how Christians should speak to Muslims in accordance with their respective worldviews. What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Qur'an is not just another in a long line of polemical works designed to aid Christian evangelists and missionaries in reaching out to Muslims. Granted, it is that, but at the same time, it is so much more than that. This new book lays out many of the pertinent issues concerning the Qur'an. White has gone out of his way in learning Arabic, studying secondary Islamic sources such as the ahadith and tafaasir (if you don't know what those words

mean, don't worry, the book comes with a glossary), and listening to lectures by Islamic scholars in order to figure out how Muslims regard their own holy text, as well as how they interact with the Christian Bible. White expands upon many of the arguments that Muslims and Christians have long thrown at each other in their polemic discussions from as far back as the earliest encounters between the two faiths. In addition, he also utilizes new information, based on academic works that have come out in the past few years, in order to update our knowledge of Islam, and bring new arguments and evidence onto the table.

It's been 10 days since the terrorist bombing in Boston Massachusetts and as many people know, the two men who perpetrated this crime are Muslims and for a lot of people just simply being a Muslim means you're a terrorist. We have flashbacks to 911 and other terrorist attacks performed by Islamic fundamentalists but most Christians know little to nothing about Islam or the Qur'an. Many of us get our information on this subject from the news media which isn't a very reliable source of accurate information. So what are Christians to do? Well, there have been a few good books and resources for Christians but they've been few and far between, at least that's been my experience, but James White has recently written a book that will certainly help in our understanding Islam. His new book is called "What Every Christian Needs To Know About The Qur'an" and is a scholarly, well balanced and truthful look at Muhammad, the Qur'an, and some of the important issues related to the Christian. The book is well organized and well written. There are tones of end notes which make it a treasure chest for deeper study. It even has a small glossary in the back along with a wonderful bibliography. It should be noted this book isn't intended to discuss everything you could ever want to know about the Qur'an as Mr. White clearly states "It is not my intention to write an exhaustive compendium of Qur'anic knowledge. Almost no one could, and certainly I could not, even if I wished to do so. My aims are far more focused and modest." His aim is to deal with the major issues that relate to the Christian. Let me say plainly, the title is "What Every Christian Needs To Know About The Qur'an" not "An Idiots Guide To The Qur'an".

What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Qur'an presents an introduction to and a critique of Islamic scripture (Qur'an) and tradition (ahadith) as they touch on matters pertaining to orthodox Christianity. Author James R. White is a Christian theologian who has engaged in debates with Islamic scholars. As befits a scholar, White's tone throughout is measured and reasonable, and his arguments are nuanced and fair-minded. The first three chapters introduce readers to Muhammad, the Qur'an, and Islamic monotheism (tawhid). In these chapters, and throughout the

book, White's presentation hews closely to Islamic beliefs that are shared by all Muslims (Sunni and Shia). He bases his description of Muhammad's life and early Islamic history in the Qur'an and ahadith. In other words, he utilizes the same sources that Islamic theologians utilize. This leads Christian readers directly to the textual sources of the Muslim faith and assures them that White's critiques are based on authoritative texts Muslims themselves acknowledge. The next four chapters focus on areas where the Qur'an and ahadith either misinterpret or contradict orthodox Christianity or both. Chapter 4 demonstrates that the Qur'an critiques a Trinitarian doctrine that no orthodox Christian holds. Chapter 5 demonstrates the fundamental contradictions between what the Bible and the Qur'an say about Jesus. Chapters 6 and 7 turn to the doctrine of salvation, showing that Muslims deny that Christ died on the cross to graciously atone for people's sins. When Christians point out these misinterpretations and contradictions to Muslims, Muslims respond by claiming that Christians have "corrupted" their Bible, either by misinterpreting or rewriting the New Testament.

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