

The picture you have up here as it's noted is the Dome of the Rock. It's the golden dome structure there on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The structure was finished somewhere around 692, A.D., approximately 60 years after Mohammed had passed from the earth. On the inside of this structure are etched several quotations from the Quran in several sayings relevant to the Muslim faith. One of them is "Praise be to God, who begets no son, and has no partner." In another "He is God, one, eternal. He does not beget, He is not begotten, and He has no peer." I think that these two statements sum up what is the Muslim perception of Jesus Christ because that's who they're talking about. God has no son. He has no partner. He does not beget, he is not begotten, and he has no peer. In Islam, there is a doctrine known as Tawhid, and Tawhid is essentially the oneness of Allah. This is the central doctrine of the Muslim faith. They assert there is one God and one only.

Now that might sound like common ground to you and I because that's what we believe, and that's certainly what Scripture states, but as we learn from the pages of both the Old and the New Testament, God's oneness is complex. He is a plurality that is united together into one, so that when the Muslim says there is one God, and the Christian says there is one God they mean by those two statements two completely different things. This doctrine of Tawhid, the oneness of Allah, is best summed up by the Shahada, and the Shahada is the confession that all believers make when they decide that they will become a Muslim and it must be quoted in Arabic. It goes something like this, or at least this is how it's rendered in the English. "There is only one God, worthy of worship, and Mohammed is his prophet." I think that this best sums up the perception of both God in Islam, and by extension Jesus Christ.

Now Islam is a Unitarian view of God. It essentially rejects the divinity of Jesus. They believe that he possessed moral authority as far as being a prophet from God, that his teachings were from God, but they reject his divine origin. Now there are Unitarian denominations within Christendom, and I'm going to use that very broad term. For instance, there's the Unitarian Church of England. They believe in just Jehovah and Jehovah alone, and that is a Unitarian belief. They reject the divinity of both Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Anyone who holds a belief or opinion otherwise is guilty of what the Muslims call Shirk. Shirk is a sin that is committed when one associates anyone or anything with God. So by me stating today that I believe Jesus is of divine origin, that He is not a created being, that He has always been and always will be--those statements make me guilty of Shirk. In the Muslim faith, this is the one unforgivable sin. Anyone who is guilty of Shirk cannot be forgiven for this sin. If we go over to Surah 4, Ayat 48, I think that this short little verse captures the idea of the essence of Shirk: "Surely, Allah will not forgive those who assign partners to him. He forgives all but that to whom he pleases. Whoever ascribes partners to Allah is guilty of a monstrous sin." Now while it's not stated here that to commit Shirk is an unforgivable sin, we do find in the Hadith, which are the acts and the sayings of Mohammed--it's sort of like the Babylonian Talmud-- it's the oral traditions of the Muslim faith, and the Hadith are

considered by the Sunni Muslims to be of great authority, not equal to the Quran but of great authority. And in the Hadith, we get more of a sense of how Shirk is taught and understood. For instance, in the Hadith the Muslims are taught the believers are told not to pray for those who are guilty of Shirk. In other words, don't ask Allah for forgiveness for them. There is no intercession you can make for someone who is guilty of Shirk. Mohammed was even forbidden to intercede for his own mother because she died guilty of Shirk. She was a pagan; for that reason Allah prevented Mohammed from praying for his own mother. _____ has this to say about Shirk. This is a long quotation, I don't have it up here, so I'm just going to read it out loud and trust you can stay along here with me. This is what he has to say about Shirk. I think that this summarizes the fundamental idea of Shirk. "The Shirk involves believing in a partner along with Allah." You probably noticed the word partner quite a bit. What that means is making a being equal with God. "The Shirk involves believing in a partner along with Allah. Such a partner could be a partner in Lordship or in worship or in attributes . In other words, the essence of Shirk involves giving Allah's rights to other than he. Therefore, to claim that a certain object or deity has the power to bless one with one's needs is Shirk. Likewise to prostrate or to make duan [duan is just prayer or to make supplication] to one other than Allah is also Shirk . And the claim that any created object knows everything or can hear any plea directed to it, it is Shirk. Whenever any specific right of Allah's is given to any other object, whether that object be a living being, or an inanimate object, real or imagined, Shirk has occurred. " That is the common perception of Shirk among Muslims.

So to teach that Jesus is divine, that he's deity makes one guilty of Shirk. In Surah 41:6, Mohammed is told to say to these people, " I am only a human being like you. It is revealed to me that your God is only One God. So be up right before him and ask him to forgive you and woe to those who **associate others with him.**" This is a Unitarian view of God. Notice that Mohammed is warned against associating others with God besides him. So don't assign anyone else divine status. Now we could agree with this statement; there is truth in this statement. No one should be promoted to godhood by man. Obviously, we would agree with it from that extent, but notice that first sentence: I am only a human being like you. I'm only a human being like you. This alludes to the belief among Muslims that Mohammed is the last in line of a string of prophets that stretches clear back to antiquity. In that line of human prophets toward the end is the man we know as Jesus Christ. He is called the Messiah in the Quran. He is acknowledged to be a prophet from God. But it is clear from the Quran that even though Jesus brought a revelation from God, the people to whom he was sent would not listen to what he had to say. Therefore, his prophetic ministry was ineffective or in other words, Mohammed was able to do what Jesus Christ himself could not. The emphasis being that Mohammed is just a man just like these other prophets, and to associate any others with Allah is to be guilty of a monstrous sin.

Over in Surah 5:72-73, this is where we get into what to me was completely new material when I started going through this a few weeks ago. "They have disbelieved who say: ' Allah is the Messiah, the son of Mary.' The Messiah (himself) said: [and notice, this is talking about Jesus and acknowledges that Jesus is the Messiah] The

Messiah (himself) said: 'O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Whoever ascribes partners to Allah, for him Allah has forbidden Paradise. His abode is the Fire. For the unjust, there will be no helpers.'" Let's just pause for a second . Notice that these are words that are placed in the mouth of Jesus. Now we have no historical record of this at all and yet this is attributed to the Messiah. In verse 72 there, it begins, "Allah is the Messiah." Those who disbelieve say that that Jesus is God's son, son of Mary. Verse 73, "They have disbelieved who say: 'Allah is the third of three' when there is no god save One God. If they cease not what they say, a painful torment will fall upon those of them who disbelieve." Did you catch the third of three there? Allah is the third of three and those who disbelieve are accused of saying such things. Let's just break this down for a moment.

So the sin identified as calling Allah, the Messiah, or in other words describing divinity to Jesus. Notice that he is called the son of Mary, that is he, keep that in mind. Jesus is depicted as a prophet that is calling God's people back to him, but they are resisting his message. Notice once again, it is a sin to ascribe partners to Allah similar to what we saw over in Surah 41:62 associate others with Allah in verse 73 makes it clear what that means. To promote anyone to godhood or to say that Allah is one of three gods is Shirk. Paradise will be withheld from those who say such things, and what we get from this passage is that the Muslim perception of the Christian triune God is not three in one, but rather three separate un-unified gods, Allah being one of them, Jesus being the second, and you'll find it interesting who the third is. Those who do this are guilty of Shirk; they will perish in hell. Surah 21 verses 24 through 26: "Or have they taken other gods besides Him? Say: 'Bring your proofs! This is the Reminder of those who are with me and [this is] the Reminder of those before me.' But most of them do not know the truth, and they turn away. We sent no messenger before you, but that We revealed to him, that ' there is no god but I, do worship Me!' They say: 'The All-Merciful has taken a son!' Transcendent is Allah! No, but only honored servants." This again fits within the Muslim narrative that prophet after prophet after prophet was sent to God's people. They would not accept that there is only one God but Allah; they resisted the message, they adopted other gods, other partners, alongside God alongside Allah to the point where they claim in Ayat 26, "the all merciful has taken a Son," which takes us back to those etchings on the inside of the Dome of the Rock. I can just go on and on with this.

I think I have another slide--yeah! But this is where things to me make it kind of interesting because you would think, based upon all we've read up to this point, that anyone who asserts that Jesus is deity is going to Hell, but it's interesting how Mohammed chooses to couch Jews and Christians, in particular Christians, within the Quran. He begins in 171-- this is Surah 4:171: "O People of the Book!" That's a key phrase. Whenever in the Quran you run across the phrase People of the Book that's referring to Jews and Christians. What's the book? Well, it's the Bible, and Jews and Christians under Quranic law under Muslim jurisprudence could live in lands conquered and ruled by Muslims as long as they paid their poll tax and didn't engage in any evangelism. That's something that is a little foreign to us today because that's not the way radical Islam today treats Jews and Christians. They're to be beheaded for all the

reasons that we read about earlier, but anyway this is an appeal to the People of the Book, the Jews and Christians: "Commit **no excess** in your religion [Did you catch commit no excess in your religion?] nor say anything but the truth about Allah. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was **only a Messenger of Allah**, and His word which he conveyed to Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His Messengers, and say not 'three.' Cease. [It is] better for you! Allah is only One God. Far is it removed from his transcendence that He should have a son, when His is all that the heavens and all that the earth contain. And Allah is sufficient as [their] Custodian." Now I just want to pause at 171 and just notice how the Quran is couching Christians. Christians in the view of Mohammed were committing an excess. In other words, they were taking the concept of a single God, and they were going a little too far by saying that God has a son. Here we begin to see some of the internal inconsistencies in the Quran, and there are a lot of these contradictions, and one of the reasons why is because the Quran was revealed over a period of a couple of decades to Mohammed and as he conquered and as he began to rule, things change later on that were stated earlier. It's a very interesting book in that respect. Christians are urged to consider Jesus nothing but another messenger from Allah. Don't commit excess; don't go past that point. In 172 it says: "The Messiah will **never be too proud** to be a slave to Allah, nor will the nearest angels. Those **who are too proud** to worship Him and are **arrogant**, all such will He assemble to Him." What's the problem with the world according to Islam? Pride. Jesus would not lift himself up into this position. Therefore, anyone who does is suffering from pride. Pride is your problem. Those who elevate Jesus to this status are arrogant. Say not three; say not three.

Now as I mentioned earlier, Muslims view the tri-unity of God that we see in the Bible differently. They do not see it as three united into one but rather three separate and distinct divine beings. That's how they see Christian theology. We see that they equate Allah with God the father. We see that they accuse Christians of an excess in their religion by elevating Jesus to the position of deity. So who's the third? It's not the Holy Spirit. In Surah 5:116, we have a rhetorical question posed to Jesus: "And when Allah said: 'O Jesus son of Mary! Did you say to mankind: 'Take me and my mother for two gods other than Allah?' He (Jesus) said: 'Transcendent are You! It was not mine to say that of which I had no right. If I said it, then You knew it. You know what is in myself, but I know not what is in Your self. It is You, only You, Who know well all hidden things.'" Who is the third member? The third deity in Christian theology according to the Muslim faith? It's not the Holy Spirit. It's who? Mary. It's Mary. This is one of the pieces of evidence that we can point to that demonstrates that the Christianity with which Mohammed was familiar was **not** a biblical Christianity. In fact, in the next slide I'm going to quote from a medieval Muslim scholar who describes the Quranic doctrine of the Christian Trinity, and he describes it from the perspective of the Muslim, but it's interesting in the previous paragraph in that same work, he describes the biblical doctrine of the Trinity, composed of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is what the Bible teaches, but this is what the Quran says that Christians believe. The reason for this is because Mohammed was exposed to an apostate form of Christianity. Just think about where he was living. He's living in Saudi Arabia between Mecca and Medina, splitting time between both, eventually ruling over both. What was likely the form of Christianity

that he was exposed to? Well, maybe what we would call the Syrian Orthodox, the Antiochian Orthodox what became that church later on, but certainly it can be said that it was Mohammed's understanding that the three persons of God were not Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but rather Father, Son and Mary. Now the Quran we're told has always existed. It is eternal and it has always existed in the Arabic. It is the most correct book ever written, and yet the Quran fails to accurately describe the biblical doctrine of the tri-unity of God. Now how can that possibly be? How can you have the most accurate book ever written, a book that transcends all humankind, that has always existed, and yet have this major error within it ?

Just to confirm, as I mentioned earlier --I'll not even try to butcher this man's name. Well okay I will. Abu al-Qasim Mahmud ibn Umar az-Zamakhshari, a medieval muslim scholar, just to confirm that this is their understanding: " According to the evidence of the Qu'ran, the Christians maintain that God, Christ and Mary are three gods, and that Christ is the child of God by Mary; as God says (in the Qu'ran): 'O Jesus son of Mary; didst thou say unto men--'Take me and my mother as gods, apart from God'? (Surah 5:116),: or 'The Christians say: The Messiah is the Son of God. (Surah 9:30). Moreover, it is well-known that the Christians maintain that in Jesus are (combined) a divine nature derived from the Father and a human nature derived from his mother. . . At the same time these words (Surah 4:171) exclude (the Christian view) that Jesus had with God the usual relationship between sons and (their) fathers. . ." Now as I said earlier in a previous section, he goes to great pains to describe what is the biblical doctrine of the tri-unity and yet he acknowledges that the Quran's testimony contradicts it! This is what the Bible says, but this is what the Quran says, and this is what Christians believe, that Mary is divine. The reason why I believe that this is such a huge issue is because of what Alex read for us a few minutes ago, Galatians chapter 1:7-9. In that passage, Paul makes it clear that any tampering with the gospel, any tampering with the good news of Jesus Christ, places one in imminent danger of destruction. " I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed." This is why I made the statement that I did this morning when I ended my lesson with I John chapter 2 verses 18 through 23 and I made the statement that the Muslim faith is both a lie and it is an Anti-Christ. That sounds like wild talk in our day of political correctness, but it is the truth. It is the truth. This is a document that is trying to convince me that Jesus is not divine, and trying to tell me that I believe that Mary is divine. You don't get that sense anywhere from the New Testament. Nowhere do you find that! And anyone who tempers with the gospel and obviously the identity of Jesus has to be at the very heart of the gospel. He is the Son of God! He is the propitiation for our sins, and he is the risen Lord! Either he is that or the Christian faith is nothing! And anyone who tampers with that identity, Paul says they are accursed. The Greek is *anathema* and there is no stronger condemnation than this. Mohammed is an accursed man because he tampered with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I realize it's a strong statement, but what other conclusion can we draw? What other

conclusion? It is a lie. He is an Anti-Christ. He is an accursed man, and so I'll leave you with this this afternoon. Kind of a downer, I realize, but this to me is a critical issue, especially for those who are under the age of 30. Do you realize just a couple of years ago in Britain, the number one name for newly born boys was Mohammed? We need to get acquainted with the basic tenets of this faith system because it is quite likely in the next couple of decades that we're going to find more and more young people who are open to reading the Quran and even following the faith of Mohammed and I think I've underscored how dangerous I perceive this to be.