

## **Humanitarian Teachings of Christianity and Islam**

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### **Abstract**

The aim of this research is to provide insight into the concept of humanitarian teachings in Christianity and Islam as a basis for understanding ethical values, social solidarity and contribution to the development of human welfare. By focusing on the two major religions, Christianity and Islam, it provides a comprehensive overview of the similarities, differences, and potential contributions to humanitarian teachings of the two. In the context of Christianity, it teaches the concepts of love, mercy and social responsibility found in the Bible. Meanwhile, Islam teaches the concept of brotherhood, justice and a caring society. The method used is text analysis, literature studies, and interviews with religious scholars to gain in-depth insight. It is hoped that these results will provide a better understanding of Christianity and Islam.

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### **Abstrak**

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk memberi tahu konsep ajaran kemanusiaan dalam agama Kristen dan Islam sebagai landasan untuk memahami nilai-nilai etika, solidaritas sosial, dan kontribusi terhadap pembangunan kesejahteraan manusia. Dengan berfokus pada dua agama besar, Kristen dan Islam memberikan gambaran yang komprehensif tentang persamaan, perbedaan, dan potensi kontribusi ajaran kemanusiaan dari keduanya. Dalam konteks agama Kristen mengajarkan konsep kasih, belas kasihan, dan tanggung jawab sosial yang terdapat pada alkitab. Sedangkan dengan agama Islam mengajarkan Konsep Ukhuwah, adil, dan caring society. Metode yang digunakan dengan analisis teks kajian literatur, dan wawancara dengan cendekiawan agama untuk mendapatkan wawasan yang mendalam, hasil ini diharapkan dapat memberikan pemahaman yang lebih baik tentang Agama Kristen dan Agama Islam

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Religion in human life is elements that are very important and almost all can be interpreted can be found in the history of the world of human life. Islam is a Samawi religion that was brought last by the Prophet Muhammad SAW, with revelations recorded in the Koran. Based on the emergence of three Semitic religions, Islam is the last of a series of religions brought by God's messengers. Islam is the last religion of the religions that were revealed previously, such as to the Prophets Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob or Israel and their descendants, who came from the Jewish nation.1

Meanwhile, Christianity is a religion adhered to by the followers of Al-Masih (Isa who was rubbed with castor oil) who in Greek is called Jesus Christ. In contrast to the Islamic religion which upholds monotheism in its concept of divinity, the Christian religion believes in the Trinity as the basis of its concept of divinity. The status and concepts of this theology are the main points of thought and debate between Islam and Christianity.

Awareness of human unity and the oneness of God in creating diversity is the main capital for religious adherents in Indonesia to treat humanely one group of religious adherents with adherents of another. Relations between religious communities have become a widespread

concern both in society in general and in the scientific realm. Based on tolerance, mutual understanding, mutual respect, mutual respect and equality in experience. It is also hoped that religious teachings can create harmony between Muslims and Christians.<sup>3</sup> In the 20th century, discussions and debates often found accusations that brought each other down, including Islam and Christianity themselves. One of them is the attitude of Christians towards Muslims stating that everything in Islam is not true, Islam must be replaced with Christianity. On the other hand, Islam also considers that Islam is the only true religion so that other religions are said to be wrong, including Christianity. Therefore, each of them has a mission to invite as many people as possible to become adherents of the part of the religion that they believe is the truest religion.

The rapid increase in the number of Christians in Indonesia in the mid-1960s resulted in anxiety among Muslims. According to Muslims, this development is considered to be using dirty methods from Christians. The methods used include improving Christian schools, building theological schools in Muslim cities, encouraging Christian men to marry Muslim women, building hospitals, building churches near mosques.

The facts of this incident gave rise to various responses from Islamic circles, even triggering open conflict and acts of violence. At the beginning of 1967 difficulties arose regarding the construction of a small Methodist church in Meulaboh (West Aceh), on October 1 1967 Islamic youths in Makasar damaged the furniture of various churches. At the end of the day, a church was also damaged by Muslims, because Christian religious leaders said insulting words to the Prophet Muhammad. Against the background of this problem, an inter-religious meeting was held with the aim of finding a solution, in order to achieve harmony that could be fostered. However, Christian groups rejected the agreement plan on the grounds that Jesus Christ had given orders to spread Christianity throughout the world. In terms of inter-religious issues in Indonesia, the focus of attention was the formulation of a conference concerning inter-religious relations in 1976, which was proven by the 1976 Chambesy conference. Therefore, this is the reason for the author to provide an understanding of inter-religious harmony, that we must respect and protect each other between religions.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

### **A. HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM**

Christianity entered Indonesian territory in 1575 when the Dutch brought it to Maluku. Christianity began in a small city called Jerusalem, which developed into the birth city of Jesus Christ. The birth, death, and ascension of Jesus to heaven became the beginning and essence of Christianity as embraced by Christians. The spread was mostly carried out by colonial nations such as the Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch. The spread of Christian teachings carried out by priests is called a glory mission or expanding the spread of Christianity to new areas, one way is by doing Zending. Zending is a gospel preaching organization run by the Dutch government. The spread of Christianity in the world started from the founding of churches throughout the Eastern Mediterranean to Rome. It is believed that the spread of Christianity in the world began after Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem, who then rose again and ascended to heaven. The first church was founded 50 days after Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The first people to believe in Christianity were the Jews. After that, as time went by, Christian teachings began to be spread to other countries, including Indonesia.

The Islamic religion is a heavenly religion or heavenly religion brought by the Prophet Muhammad on the orders of Allah SWT. The word "Islam" itself comes from

the Arabic word *aslama* which means safe. Prosperity or surrender. Islam also means peace and safety based on surrender to Allah SWT. Islam is also interpreted as wise actions. People who follow the Islamic religion are called Muslims. The period of the arrival of Islam began with the birth of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, the prophet of the end times and then he conveyed Islam to all Arabs after Allah SWT appointed him as an Apostle. Islam was brought by the Prophet of the end times, Prophet Muhammad SAW, who was born into nobility **Quraysh**. He was born an orphan, his father, Abdullah bin Abu Muttalib, died while trading and his mother, Aminah bint Wahab. It is known that the Prophet Muhammad was a descendant of the prophet Ismail. Muhammad saw was born on 12 Rabi'ul Awal in the Year of the Elephant, or on April 20, 571 (read **the priority of the birthday month**). When he was 40 years old he was appointed an Apostle with the revelation of the first revelation of the Koran which was spoken by Allah and conveyed by the angel Gabriel, namely Surah al-Alaq verses 1-5. The Prophet Muhammad SAW first preached to the Quraysh people who lived in Mecca and introduced them to Allah SWT as the one and only God. He said that Allah is the creator of the entire universe, the creator of life, death, the giver of sustenance and so on. This da'wah was initially carried out secretly in friends' homes, then gradually the da'wah was conveyed openly. There were those who accepted the preaching and there were those who openly rejected it and even wanted to harm the prophet Muhammad and expel him from Mecca. When the religion of Islam was introduced, there were only 10 people who adhered to it, including Khadijah, the wife of the prophet, Abu Bakar, the prophet's uncle, and Ali bin Abi Talib, the son of the prophet's uncle. Some of the da'wah strategies implemented by the Prophet Muhammad SAW at that time were:

### **I. Instill faith in friends**

The Prophet Muhammad SAW introduced monotheism to his friends and people as the basis of human life. Rasulullah SAW taught creationism to worship Allah SWT (read human nature according to Islam). This means that if someone has faith in Allah SWT then he is obliged to apply it in everyday life, including to defend religious interests and defend Islam (read function of faith in Allah). This is what made the Prophet's friends willing to fight and sacrifice everything for the sake of the Islamic religion (read purpose of life according to Islam)

### **II. Da'wah in stages**

In preaching the apostle used clear strategies and stages, he started preaching to his own family and then spread it to the closest environment and then the community. **outsidelittle by little by inviting friends who had previously converted to Islam.**

The Prophet also invited friends who were respected by the Quraysh nation to help spread the religion of Islam and use its influence. The Apostle gradually also taught Islamic values and ways **operate worship** such as good prayer obligatory nor prayer, Ramadan (read Ramadan), zakat (read zakat recipient and conditions for receiving zakat), alms (read the priority of giving charity), Hajj (read mandatory conditions for Hajj) and so forth.

### **III. Utilize existing potential**

In his preaching, the Prophet Muhammad utilized all existing human potential in an effective way. He married Khadijah and invited his uncle who had more wealth to fund his da'wah (read 13 wives of the Prophet Muhammad SAW and their characteristics). Apostle **Also had friends who had great influence in the Quraish tribe who would help and protect him in war, such as Umar bin Khatab and Hamzah.** The Prophet also utilized the intellectual potential of friends such as Ali bin Abi Talib, Zaid bin Thabit and Abdullah bin Mas'ud for the benefit of spreading Islam (read friends

### **IV. Khulafaur-Rasyidin period**

After the Prophet Muhammad SAW died, he was replaced by a leader who was not a prophet but a caliph. There were four first caliphs who succeeded Rasulullah SAW who were called Khulafaur rasyidin. They were the closest friends of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, namely Abu Bakar Ash Shidiq, Umar bin Khatab, Ustman bin Affan and Ali bin Abi Talib. The duties of the four caliphs **theis**

to ensure that Muslims continue to carry out the commandments of the Islamic religion taught by the Prophet Muhammad.

After time when the caliphate ended, dynasties emerged in Saudi Arabia, such as the era of Umayyads and the Abasiyah and the dynasty's power strengthened in line with the strengthening influence of Islam in Europe and Africa. Islam then spread throughout the world at da'wah efforts that did not stop and were interrupted after the death of the prophet Muhammad SAW.

## **B. THE ROOTS OF CHRISTIAN AND ISLAMIC CONFLICTS IN INDONESIA**

The diversity in Indonesia means that people have different understandings of what their respective religions teach. These differences arise because of the doctrines of religions, ethnicities, races, cultural differences, and minority and majority groups. Religious conflict in Indonesia is only part of the general atmosphere of violence, there are 2 characters that have a general tendency towards violence, namely: First, divisions, misunderstandings, or small disagreements easily trigger violent reactions, physical fights. The two fights that occur in communities have character, which can lead to war between residents and villages. Even though these conflicts are between communities who are limited by their respective religions, they do not use the teachings or other special characteristics of Christianity and Islam as an excuse for conflict, therefore after this bloody conflict occurs in society, religion easily becomes a unifying element. .

During the New Order, tensions between Muslims and Christians spread as Muslims accused Christians of benefiting more from the government and the spirit of Christianization which was marked by a significant increase in Christians. This tension flared after a number of Islamic figures accused the church and mission institutions of carrying out evangelization in an unhealthy way, which strained relations between them. The progress of the Indonesian nation was disrupted by disharmony between Christians and Muslims, which was caused by the abuse of diakonia (community service) in Indonesia, and the intolerant attitude of Christians towards Muslims.

At the theological level, Islam and Christianity have a dividing wall which is limited by different paradigms. Then a number of misunderstandings arose, which exacerbated differences and riots erupted. Apart from being triggered by economic, political and social factors, the conflict between the two religions is also caused by exclusive attitudes between the followers of the two religions, even though Islam and Christianity are monotheistic religions, because they all worship the same god from both religions.

The conflict between Christianity and Islam is very ironic because previously, in the New Order era, when Tarmizi Taher was minister of religion, people competed to declare themselves as defenders of harmony. Living with religious respect does not mean underestimating the Christian faith. Being aware of various religions means recognizing, respecting, and even appreciating the values found in those of other religions.

## **3. CLOSING**

### **A. Conclusion**

Islam is a religion revealed by God to humans, Islam was brought by the prophet Muhammad SAW with the revelation recorded in the Koran. Christianity is adhered to by the followers of the Messiah (Isa who was rubbed with castor oil) who in Greek is called Jesus Christ. In contrast to the Islamic religion which highly upholds monotheism in its concept of divinity, Christianity believes in the Trinity as the basis of its concept of divinity.

Indonesia faces extraordinary problems in the social and economic fields. Islam showed a friendly attitude towards Christianity, but then became hostile towards it. Islam rejects the belief that Jesus was the son of God, died on the cross and the doctrine of the Trinity. To reject Christianity is the essence of Islam itself.

The relationship between Islam and Christianity in Indonesia is very disappointing, because religious harmony is not Indonesia's idea, it is the idea of the zending party. However, this situation cannot be allowed to continue, because in national life we are obliged to recognize the necessity of tolerance and mutual respect. What is meant by tolerance here is not following a religion other than the religion one adheres to.

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