

What About...the Muslim view of God?

By DR. DAVID A. DEWITT

According to the Religion Facts web site:

“Although the God of Islam has revealed his will through the prophets, his actual nature remains ultimately unknowable. According to one Islamic scholar, God’s will ‘is all we have, and we have it in perfection in the Qur’an. But Islam does not equate the Qur’an with the nature or essence of God. It is the Word of God, the Commandment of God, the Will of God. But God does not reveal Himself to anyone.’ In the words of another writer, ‘only adjectival descriptions are attributed to the divine being, and these merely as they bear on the revelation of God’s will for man. The rest remains mysterious.’ (www.religionfacts.com/islam/beliefs/god.htm)



The Muslim View of God	The Christian View of God
This is the view (in theological discussions) called voluntarism . Some Christians also hold this view.	This is the view (in theological discussions) called essentialism . Most Christians, but no Muslims, hold this view.
1. Good is what God wills. Good is whatever God (seemingly arbitrarily) decides to do. Something is good because God willed it.	1. Good is what God is. Good is defined by the character of God. God willed something because it is good.
2. Good is what God wills at that moment, independent of what He willed in the past.	2. What God wills at any moment is never independent from His unchanging nature.
3. Sin is anything contrary to what God commands. Example: if God said stealing was right, then the Ten commandments would say, “Thou shalt steal.”	3. Sin is anything contrary to the character of God. Example: God could not (not just “would not”) say stealing is right, because stealing is contrary to His nature.
4. God’s essence does not (necessarily) match His will.	4. God’s essence always (necessarily) matches His will.
5. God is composed of separated parts. God’s justice is not connected to His love, which is not connected to His holiness, which is not connected to His grace, etc.	5. God is unified, not separated into different parts. His attributes are connected in one united Person. Like looking at the same ball game through different holes in the fence.
6. God has no limitations or restrictions. He is not restricted by His attributes. His will, commands, or decisions may be contradictory because He is not limited to consistency.	6. God has restrictions but not limitations. He is restricted to His attributes. He cannot sin, be unjust, unloving, untruthful, inconsistent, etc. But such restrictions are not limitations.
7. God chooses to save people (or not) depending solely upon His will/choice, without any other conditions. If you are not born in a Muslim country, it may be because it’s not God’s will for you to be saved.	7. God chose to save people in His eternal plan. Those people will all be saved because they will choose to believe. They are elected by God to be saved, but they are saved by faith (choosing to receive Christ).
8. Sin violates the will of God as given in a command of God.	8. Sin violates the character of God, which is illustrated by the commands of God.
9. Miracles are logical/rational inconsistencies in the will of God.	9. Miracles are supernatural interventions of God which penetrate the natural world.
10. “Faith” and “hope” are based in God deciding favorably toward us.	10. “Faith” and “hope” are in trusting a God who keeps His Word (Jeremiah 1:12).