

Hard Questions About Islam

• What does Islam say about women?

Some people quote the Qur'an to " _____ " that Islam does not teach respect for women. For example:

- Daughters and Sons

"God directs you as regards your children's inheritance: **To the male, give portion equal to that of two females.**" (4:11)

Not fair!! I would only inherit **half** as much as my brothers **just because I'm a girl!!**



The Qur'an was written in the **7th Century**. Fathers didn't have to leave _____ to their daughters. It was tough for women everywhere. For example, in _____, women couldn't own property unless they were widows.

In Muhammad's day, families preferred sons. And in Arabia, female babies were often _____, especially if there was a food shortage. The Qur'an says this was "evil." Muhammad taught that God expected families to love their girls _____ their boys.



- Violence Against Women

"...the **righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard their purity in their husband's absence as God would have them do. As to those women on whose part you fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them first. Next, refuse to share their beds. _____ beat them.**" (4:34)

In the **7th Century**, women and children were _____ – kind of like cattle or goats. **They existed only to please the _____ and to take care of the household.** A lot of Arab men were MAD because **Muhammad said they had to _____ with their wives FIRST** to try to clear things up. Beating them was only a **last resort**. They were used to beating them _____ they wanted!

In **our** day, most Muslims view violence against women as _____. BUT it also depends on their _____ (more than on their religion).

- Multiple Wives

Many non-Muslims also say Islam disrespects women since men are allowed to have _____ wives.

"**Marry women of your choice, Two or three or _____; but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then only one.**" (4:3)



Most marry only _____ wife. But in Muhammad's day, rich men _____ wives like some rich men today collect cars! **Muhammad put a stop to that.** He _____ the **number** of wives a man can have. He also told men that **if** they chose to have more than one wife, they had to treat each wife _____ and care for the children of each wife. **Women** were **not** to be **status symbols**. They were **life** _____.

By 7th Century Arabia's standards, he was a protector of women. **Muhammad was definitely a reformer.** And he was about _____ rights, not just women. He was about bringing **God's law and justice** to a **corrupt society**.



- Clothing

Islam requires women – and men – to **dress** _____. In early Islam, like early Christianity, modest women covered their heads. Today, the _____ of “modest” clothing a Muslim woman wears also reflects her own nation's (and family's) _____.

• Islam, Peace, and Violence

In the U.S., we've had some terrifying experiences. The _____ attackers claimed to be good Muslims. **Some** Muslims are definitely violent. **Some** Muslims are definitely violent. But well-educated Muslims know the Qur'an does _____ encourage violence. However, there _____ verses in the Qur'an that sound very violent.

"As to those who reject faith, I will punish them with terrible agony in this world and in the Hereafter, nor will they have anyone to help." - Qur'an 3:56

"The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His messenger is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned." Qur'an 5:33



"Soon shall We cast terror into the hearts of the Unbelievers" – Qur'an 3:151

Muhammad's followers **were** told to “kill the unbelievers.” BUT they were **not** told to just go around just killing _____ unbelievers. They were to kill **specific** unbelievers – the ones from Makkah who had been trying to _____ the Muslims and their _____ for the several years. After years of persecution, they were **given permission to _____ themselves.**

In today's world, **radical** Muslims **love** to take those verses _____ of _____ and use them as _____ in their own political battles and terrorist acts.

While our _____ does pay **some** attention to Muslim voices for peace, the more dramatic threats and acts of violence by **extremist** Muslims get a lot **more** _____ in the media. Regular Muslims are put in the difficult position of trying to speak _____ the LOUD voices of extremist Muslims. Sometimes this means advertising their peaceful view of Islam. It also means that Muslim leaders and Muslim organizations around the world **speak out** _____ **violence** and _____ **peace.**

Islam is the _____ largest religion on earth. In our modern world, it is important that Muslims and non-Muslims learn more about each other.