

ISIS, ISLAM, & JESUS

Week 1: Responding to ISIS
Week 2: Learning about Islam



Week 3: Following Jesus

APPETIZER – History Quickie: Anabaptist Origins

- Early 1500's, the time of the Protestant Reformation, Anabaptists led the "Radical Reformation" (Radical = Latin *radix*, root).
- The first Anabaptists were the twenty-something students of their Protestant professors.
- They noticed infant baptism was absent from the Bible, but believer baptism was always the sign of faith as an individual choice.
- They also challenged the Church, Protestant and Catholic, to return to its non-violent roots, following the teachings and example of Jesus and all of the early Christians.
- This was a time when the "Turks" (Arab Muslims) were expanding their lands through warfare against Christians. To choose not to fight against them was therefore viewed not only as heresy, but as national treason.
- Anabaptists argued that when Muslims use the sword to expand their kingdom, they might be excused because of their ignorance. But when Christians pick up the sword we have no excuse, for Jesus calls us to put down our sword and pick up our cross.

Martyr = "witness" (eg. Acts 1:8). Came to mean witness through dying well, since that became one of the most powerful ways the early Church witnessed.

You have left your first love...do the deeds you did at first.
~ Jesus (Revelation 2:2-5)

DINE IN – The KINGDOM vs. The CALIPHATE

Luke 13:18-19

- Jesus says in **Luke 13:18-19** that THE KINGDOM...
- a) grows slowly, gently, organically,
 - b) to miraculous proportions,
 - c) in order to bless all, including enemies.

THE CALIPHATE OF ALLAH

1. Sword
2. Jihad (Holy War)
3. Physical Land
4. Sharia Law
5. Externally Enforced



THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

- Cross
- Spiritual warfare
- Relational Realm
- Love Ethic
- Internally Inspired



John 12:24; 18:36; 1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 2:14-15;
Ephesians 6:11-12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

THE STATE

Romans 13:1-7

1. Uses "the sword"
2. Takes "revenge" on God's behalf
3. Represents God's wrath & justice
4. Maintains social order
5. Demands taxes and obedience



THE CHURCH

Romans 12:14-21

- Rejects the sword
- Leaves vengeance to God
- Represents God's infinite compassion
- Spreads radical love for all
- Offers taxes and submission



TAKE OUT – Jesus Is Lord

Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?
~ Jesus (Luke 6:46)

Also see Romans 10:9 and John 20:28

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| 1. New to The Meeting House? | ... Come back. |
| 2. On the perimeter of our community? | ... Join a Home Church. |
| 3. Recognize the truth of Christ? | ... Commit to Jesus as Lord. |
| 4. Ready to follow Jesus? | ... Get baptized. |
| 5. Convicted Christian? | ... Repent of your allegiance to the wrong kingdom. |
| 6. Convinced of the importance of this series? | ... Share the podcast. |

Jesus, you are my Lord and my God. The one I worship and obey.
Please grant me the courage to follow you wherever you lead me.
Amen.

For Digging Deeper...

"Inglorious Pastors" – teaching series at themeetinghouse.com/teaching



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Get teaching notes at
"Live" and search "Oakville"



Get our App!
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Home Church Questions...

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. The early Christians learned to follow Jesus while facing terrible persecution by Rome and fellow Jews. The early Anabaptists learned to follow Jesus when being attacked by the Turks (Muslims), and other Christians! As we become increasingly bold about our commitment to Christ, do you foresee any persecution for us? If so, what should be our reaction?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

2. Read **Romans 12:14-13:7**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you? What questions are raised?
 - b. Look over the chart in your notes comparing the roles of the State and the Church. For each point, find the Scriptural backing in this passage.
 - c. Do you think it's possible to work as an agent of the State and an ambassador for Christ and his Church at the same time?
 - A) Sure, why not. We all wear different hats at different times.
 - B) In some instances that avoid governing or participating in violence.
 - C) Not at all. We are ambassadors for Christ TO the State, not ambassadors OF the State. We never take off our "Church hat".
 - D) Other.
 - d. "So, you're saying that our country should just sit there and do nothing while ISIS takes over the world?" How does this passage help you respond to this misguided objection?
 - e. Of course our taxes will always go to support things we don't want to support. They did in Paul's day too. So why should Christians pay tax to the State, even when that State is "Rome"?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

3. Take time to slowly and meditatively re-read **Romans 12:14-21**. What is God saying to you? What do you need pray for in order to live this out? Pray for each other, that we might truly follow Jesus in all things.

November 16/23, 2014

Quotes...

Welcome to week three of our series about the religion of Islam, about the perversion of terrorism, and about how followers of Jesus are called to respond. Today, our focus will be on how the early church applied the radical peace teachings of Jesus, and how the early Anabaptists sought to return the Church to its roots.

The gospel and its adherents are not to be protected by the sword, nor should they protect themselves. True believing Christians are sheep among wolves, sheep for the slaughter. They use neither worldly sword nor war, since killing has ceased with them entirely. In time we too will see persecution come upon us.
~ Conrad Grebel, Anabaptist Leader (1498-1526)

Thereby shall also fall away from us the diabolical weapons of violence – such as sword, armor, and the like, and all of their use.
~ *The Schleitheim Confession* (Anabaptist Confession, 1527)

In the midst of violence, war, and the use of military force, Christians are called to offer peaceful and nonviolent alternatives.
~ Resolution at the Brethren In Christ 1992 General Conference

Even for the most noble causes (like Peter protecting Jesus on the night of His arrest), our Lord vetoes violence. Jesus is not seeking victories that injure and destroy people, but victories in which love overcomes evil.
~ Brethren In Christ, *Accents & Issues: Violence*

If you want to be my disciple, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.
~ Jesus