

My Neighbor Said:

“Am I Anti-Jesus If I Love Allah?”

This is a more complex question than it might first appear. We must take it step by step to answer it properly.

First, both followers of Islam and Arabic Christians use the term “Allah” to speak of the one, true God. But do they have the same understanding of God and His nature?

“Moslems... adore the one God, living and subsisting in Himself” and link themselves to the faith of Abraham (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 841). But as Pope St. John Paul II noted, there are many differences between the Christian and Islamic understanding of the one God:

In Islam all the richness of God’s self-revelation, which constitutes the heritage of the Old and New Testaments, has definitely been set aside. The God of the Koran... is ultimately a God outside of the World, a God who is only Majesty, never Emmanuel, God-with-us. Islam is not a religion of redemption. There is no room for the Cross and the Resurrection. (John Paul II, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, p. 92)

Does this leave room for agreement on Jesus? Christians and Moslems can agree that Jesus was a prophet and worker of miracles who was sent by God. But Moslems specifically deny that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We cannot minimize this critical difference, even in the name of tolerance, cooperation, or ecumenism. This one thing—the divine sonship and nature of Jesus Christ—is everything.

- If you follow the tenets of Islam, you can love Jesus as prophet and miracle worker.
- If you are a Christian, you can love the Jesus who is revealed in Scripture, tradition, and the teachings of the Church: The Son of God who saved us by His death and resurrection.
- You cannot do both.

Our response to Jesus is where we become for or against him. It is that response that decides whether we are “anti-Jesus.”

For further reading: [*Catechism of the Catholic Church*](#), 841; [“Do Muslims Worship the Same God Catholics Do?”](#) (Tim Staples); [“Regarding the Muslim Jesus”](#) (Ali Ibn Hassan); [“Exposing the Muslim Jesus”](#) (Trent Horn).

Do you have questions about God, faith, life, the Church, or other related topics? Drop them into the Question Box next to the Parish Bulletin Board. We will answer them ASAP and post them in FlockNotes and on the Bulletin Board each week.