



Peace is explained as harmonious relations between parties, but international peace is often rocked. On a religious scale, many ask themselves about peace, both inner and within a community.

For both Christians & Muslims, messages of peace lie in their sacred texts - the New Testament and the Quran and Hadith.

Christians can essentially learn and reflect on peace by returning to the Gospels within the New Testament - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. Messages of peace are numerous in these Gospels, through parables and prayers, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are the children of God" (Mt 5:9).

Before contemporary Christianity began, Christianity was essentially pacifist until the time of Constantine in 314 BCE. In these early stages, Christians devised a seven point system aimed at creating & maintaining peace, "Pax Christi". This plan generally enveloped rules for war & hostile relations, and was



always problematic. Within the 21<sup>st</sup> century, "Pax Christi" ("peace of Christ") has become obsolete due to the production of weaponry & nuclear arms.

In today's society, Christians generally refer to their bible when seeking peace. The Gospels allow the individual to refer to peace, while the overall bible allows the individual to pray & reflect on their faith, provoking them to contemplate "what would Jesus do?"

Jesus Christ has a very significant role in Christian peace making. His birth, life, death & resurrection along with his words and actions bring a strong message of peace, truth, justice & faith.

Through following Jesus' good will and prayer, Christians can develop a sense of inner-peace, which then, in-turn, allows them to spread their peace like a ripple effect. As an individual finds peace, their families & community will then open to that peace, creating a ripple until peace is reached in the wider community.

\* The sacraments during worship also allow Christians to seek peace as they feel connections with God, for example through the Eucharist. Also, the Jewish term "Shalom" ~~now~~ creates a feel of peace not only within church services, but in the reading of the sacred texts.



In Islam, peace is often stereotyped as an obsolete concept for Muslims, which is largely incorrect.

The term "Islam" comes from the root Arabic word "salam" meaning peace.

Although Islam was essentially founded on social & political conflict, true Muslims of the time fought for peace, establishing their faith around this concept.

The holy text of the Qur'an and the Hadith largely influence Muslim peace.

Peace is mentioned over 100 times in the Qur'an, and strong messages of peace are mentioned - "Do not kill an aged or a child, do not harm a woman... leave [monastic] believers alone", "Peace in the eyes of Allah".

The Muslims also refer to the Hadith, the actions of the prophet Muhammad, as the Christians refer to Jesus.

Peace can also be found in ~~the~~ Islamic practices, such as prayer & Hajj. Prayer 5 times



daily traditionally begins with a sign of peace, "peace be unto Allah" and then continues with passages from the Quran <sup>often</sup> relating to peace.

The pilgrimage of Hajj also symbolises peace, displaying unification, acceptance and purification while the individuals ~~submit~~ submit to Allah.

These two main practices allow Muslims to find inner peace, the core of peace within Islam. Once a Muslim has found inner peace, the individual can begin to seek peace on a larger scale.

~~Both~~ Muslims and Christians share common points of interest in relation to peace. Each need ~~need~~ prayer to achieve inner peace, and each refer to sacred texts when in need of guidance for peace.

The understanding of peace is widened for both the community ~ the individual of both religions through the guidance of their sacred texts. Peace is important in society because, as Pope John Paul II



stated in 1990, war is "unworthy of humanity".