



Discussing Other Religions with Teens

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- The Church and the Umma
- Catholics & Muslims in the US
- Islamic Da`wa
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"Is—is he a man?" asked Lucy.

"Aslan a man!" said Mr. Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea. Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion—the lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh!" said Susan, "I'd thought he was a man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, and no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver; "if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver; "don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

The Church and the Umma

The church and the umma

* Baptism as unity with Christ: Romans 5:3-4

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

* Christ founded a missionary Church

When Jesus, who had suffered the death of the cross for mankind, had risen, He appeared as the one constituted as Lord, Christ and eternal Priest, and He poured out on His disciples the Spirit promised by the Father. From this source the Church, equipped with the gifts of its Founder and faithfully guarding His precepts of charity, humility and self-sacrifice, receives the mission to proclaim and to spread among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God and to be, on earth, the initial budding forth of that kingdom. While it slowly grows, the Church strains toward the completed Kingdom and, with all its strength, hopes and desires to be united in glory with its King. – Lumen Gentium 5



“You are the best community (*umma*) that ever emerged for humanity: you advocate what is moral, and forbid what is immoral, and believe in Allah. Had the People of the Scripture believed, it would have been better for them. Among them are the believers, but most of them are sinners.”

Catholics and Muslims in the US

New evangelization

- The Church “exists in order to evangelize, that is to say in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of his death and glorious Resurrection.” – Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi (1975)

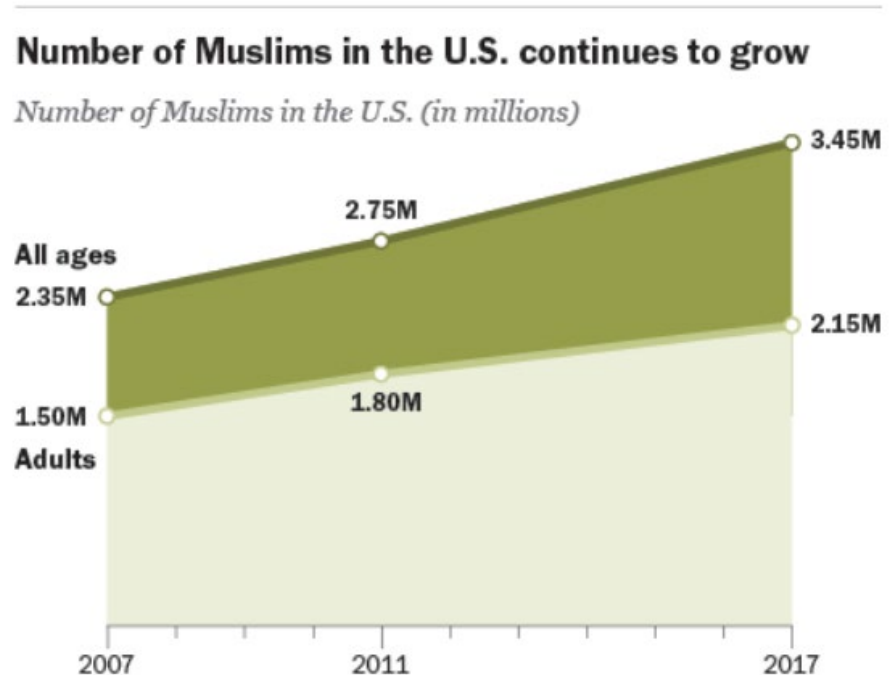
* How has the Church done in the US?
* 2014 Pew religious landscape survey:
2007 Catholics 23.9% Nones 16.7%
2014 Catholics 20.8% Nones 22.8%
Ex-Catholics 13%, the second largest
“denomination” in the US
6.5 ex-Catholics for every new Catholic

2007 Muslims .4%

2014 Muslims .9%

(2017 1.1% or 3.5 million)

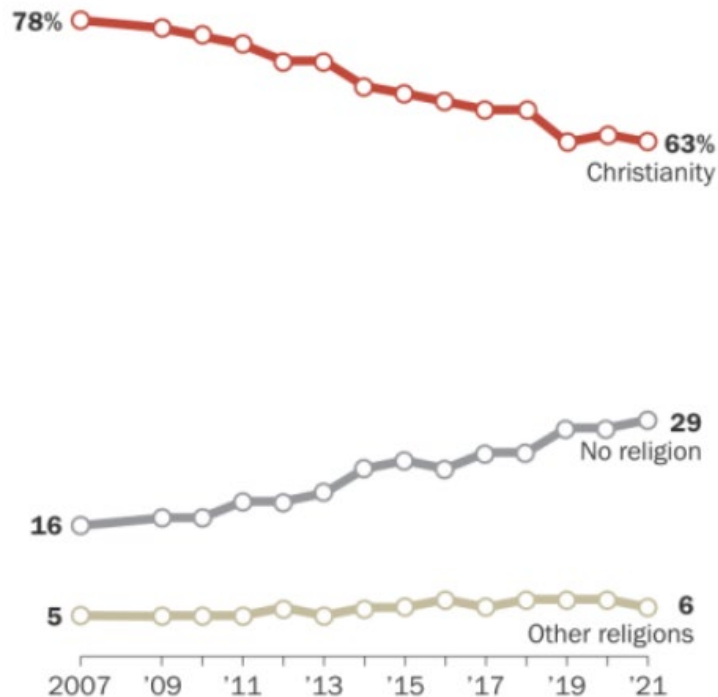
23% of Muslims are converts (10% of these are former Catholics, or roughly 100,000)



More on religious belonging

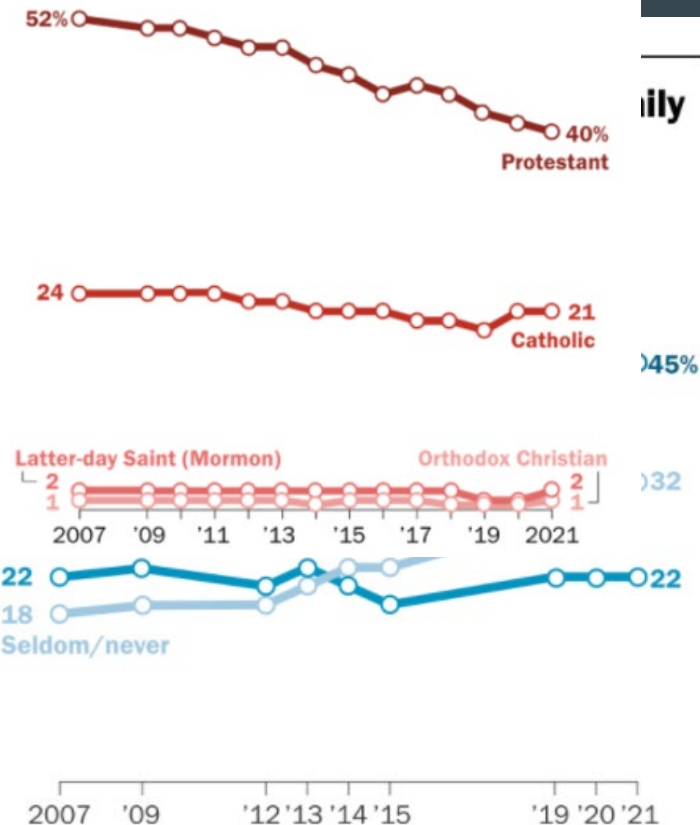
In U.S., roughly three-in-ten adults now religiously unaffiliated

% of U.S. adults who identify with ...



Within Christianity, recent declines concentrated in Protestantism

% of U.S. adults who identify as ...



2020 US Mosque Survey - Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, Dalia Mogahed

Number of US Mosques

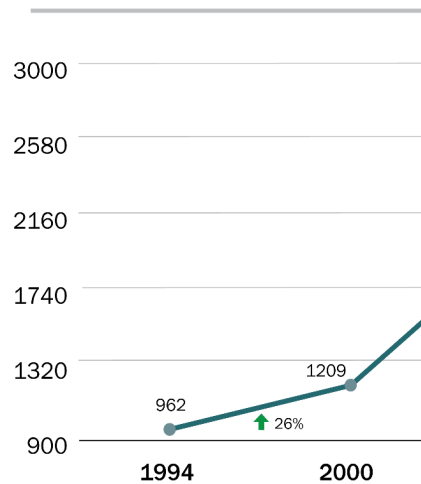


Figure 1: Number of mosques based on mosque count methodology. See Methodology section in reports for details.

Average Number of Mosque Participants

Year	Avg Participants	Total Mosqued Muslims
2000	1625	2,000,000
2010	1248	2,600,000
2020	1445	4,000,000

Table 5

2010 2020

At American Mosques over Past 20 Years

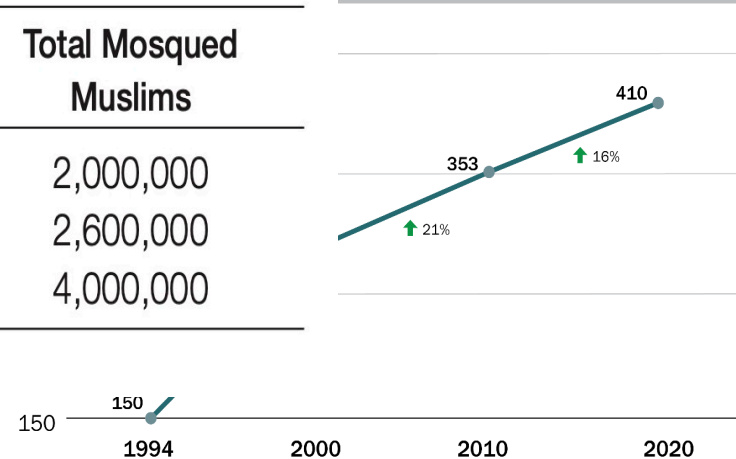


Figure 10: At a typical Jum'ah Prayer, what is the total attendance including men, women and children? If more than one Jum'ah Prayer is held, give the total attendance of all Jum'ah Prayers. Include also satellite Jum'ahs that are held by the masjid.

Young Muslims

Mosques Fare Better Than Churches on Young Adult Participation

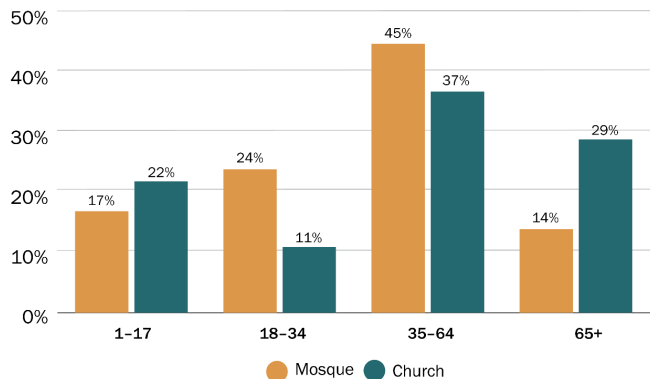


Figure 18: Of the above regular participants, what percentage of the masjid are in each of the following age groups?

Young Muslims Make Up Majority of Community but Less Than a Third of Regular Mosque Attendees

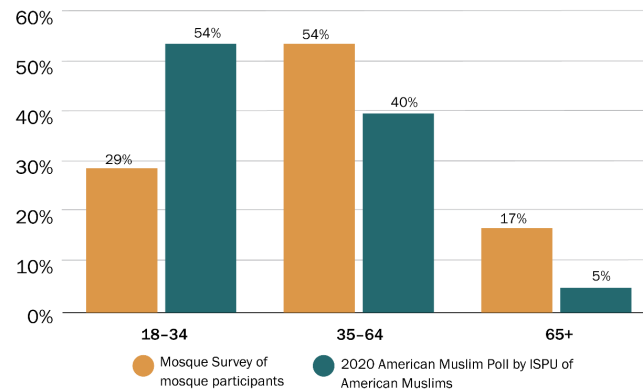


Figure 19: Of the above regular participants, what percentage of the masjid are in each of the following age groups? Questions from ISPU American Muslim Poll 2020: What is your age? Aside from weddings and funerals how often do you attend religious services? Please think about your general religious attendance prior to any coronavirus related religious service closures.

Islamic Da`wa

Da`wa in the USA

“We love Jesus *because* we are Muslims!”



Theology and Belonging

Converts (“Reverts”) to Islam and belonging...

Sonya Schryer Norris:

"I remember so clearly that sense of otherworldly lightness during communal prayer. God's comfort. God's grace. I felt like I was really getting it right, like my questions about how to live had all been answered."

(<https://theotherjournal.com>)

Sarah Price:

"When I first stepped into a mosque, I felt an immediate sense of calm and peace... The strong yet humble cry of the call to prayer invoked feelings in me I had never felt before."

(<https://www.newmuslim.net/why-i-converted-to-islam-part-1>)



Religion is Serious

Final Thoughts



Engagement with another religion can lead to relativism (“It really doesn’t matter what you call God”) or inspire one towards apologetics or polemics. A third way is learn from others.

What can Islam teach us?

First: “Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong” (1Co 16:13)

Second, to take religion seriously. As TA tells us: “For if man has such a great dignity ...that God wanted to become man, it is unworthy of man to subject himself improperly to things inferior to God.”

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.” (1Co 9:24)