

Reflection of 25 years of interacting with non Muslims understand Islam

- We need to understand what's in the mind of those asking about Islam. There are people who understand the framework. If we are in their shoes then we can understand where they come from.
- If take people to mosque and someone explains the nitty gritty - this will confirm people's suspicions that religion is a set of rituals.
 - For example instead of saying the prophet was sent to the arabs 1400 years ago- this would confirm that Islam doesn't relate to me (for the non muslim), but if you were to say that the prophet was the last prophet (this would evoke an interest into who the other prophets were
- All the prophets brought the same religion - the quran says that it is there to confirm what was there before
- Continuity - Islam has no proprietary rights - Muhammed sent as blessing for all worlds - so can't say he is only our prophet.
 - That's what many of us do
 - That's what the jews are reprimanded for in the Qur'an by saying they were the chosen one's
- We see extremism increasing - but it's not non muslim's fault - it's ours for not explaining Islam well. There are some Muslims who give a really bad explanations - and that is what's in the media
 - Polemics are like a cancer that destroys the attacker also. So we need to find another way forward.

- The mere fact that a Christian is explaining about Islam shows there is something - we need to ask why is it like that , shows that there needs to be an improvement in communication of Muslims .
 - The Muslim imams don't really address the questions of youths who are growing up in a society that encourages questions.
- Many mix up cultural practices with religion - question is does the message resonate with ppl - does it make sense.
- If u want to see how prophet preaches islam - its by living it out . good leaders are those that practice what they believe in. Give back to community -Thats practicing Islam .
 - Use words if u really have to - first live out the message.
 - The heart of Islam is living out the integrated spiritual message.

Rumi: never learn patience by being patient with self, you'll learn patience by being patient with people

- Be part of society and live by the principles
- Our job is not to convert people -its god's call