

The Crisis with ISIS and a Christian Response

Everyone is patently aware of the sudden rise of ISIS in Iraq, Syria and Libya, not only because it is in our news almost every day, but because so many young Muslim men and women have left from our own countries to join it since June of last year. There is a huge confusion in the West concerning who this group is, where they came from, where they gain their authority, and whether they are truly Islamic. Jay will unpack these questions, suggesting that in order to understand this group we will first have to understand the very foundations of Islam itself, something he will attempt in this workshop, followed by what he believes our responsibility is as Christians with this most ‘radical’ of groups.

Jay Smith has worked with Muslims since 1983, and especially with ‘radical Muslims’ for the past 23 years. He has two masters’ degrees in apologetics and Islamics, and will complete his PhD in ‘Apologetics and Polemics to Islam’ by the summer of 2015. Jay is one of Christianity’s principal public evangelists and debaters to the Muslim world. He travels extensively teaching Apologetics for those exploring ministry to Muslims and engages the movers and thinkers of Islam on a weekly basis. He is the founding member of the ‘Hyde Park Christian Fellowship’, a weekly evangelism ministry to Muslims in London’s public places, as well as a co-founder for the ‘Pfander Centre for Apologetics’.

I. Introduction: Is ISIS Islamic?

A. Two Suppositions concerning Radical Islam

1. Radical Islam is New
2. Radical Islam is Old
 - a. An overview of Radical Islam from the 7th – 21st centuries

II. Where is the Authority for Radical Islam?

A. The Qur’an

1. Assessing the ‘Peaceful Verses’
2. Assessing the ‘Violent Verses’

B. Muhammad

1. How did Muhammad treat the Jews in Medina?
2. How did Muhammad treat those who criticized him?

III. Applying the Radical Criteria to ISIS

A. Where did they go?

B. What did they do?

1. Tikrit
 - a. Against the Shi'ites
2. Mosul
 - a. Against the Christians
3. Nimrud
 - a. Against the Yaziris

IV. Who must confront them?

A. The State

1. USA attacks

2. ISIS retaliates
 - a. The 2014 beheadings
 - b. The 2015 beheadings

B. The Limitations of the State

1. It can't deal with ideology
2. Christians separate Church and State
3. The State seeks unanimity

C. So who can confront radical Islam?

1. RADICAL CHRISTIANS!
 - a. We have the tools!
 - b. We hold the truth!
 - c. We have the antidote!
 - d. His name is 'Jesus'!

Suggested Readings:

'What ISIS Really Wants', by Graeme Woods (PDF attached)

'Crisis with ISIS' by Jay Smith - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hevPwIMMhm8>