

The Muslim God is also the true God
(there IS only ONE TRUE GOD, right?)
but worshipping [worshipped] in an inadequate way.

The words above (from a Feb. 18, 2003 email) were written by and, to date, continue to be maintained by Rev. David Benke, President of the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (whose ecclesiastical supervisor is Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, President of the LC–MS).

Read and ponder what the experts write and maintain.

From *Unveiling Islam* by Ergun Mehmet Caner, ThD & Emir Fethi Caner, PhD (The authors/brothers are both converts from Islam to Christianity.)

A few days after the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, a memorial service was held in a baseball stadium. Thousands gathered to mourn and pray. On a large platform at the center of the infield, leaders of the gathering huddled around the microphone. At center stage stood Oprah Winfrey, the American talk show host and ubiquitous media mogul. In a variety of high-visibility media settings, Ms. Winfrey was becoming the teacher of America. All of her instruction centered in the doctrine that Islam is a peaceful and loving religion.

That day in the stadium a Christian minister stood at the microphone and began the invocation: "We pray in the name of our God – the God of Christianity, Judaism and Islam"

Were all the people gathered in that stadium--Christian, Jew, Muslim, and others--in fact speaking to the same "God," who just happens to have different "divine nicknames" that are invoked among adherents to the different religions? Are the progeny of the Oprah-style spirituality correct that every person has "inner light," which equalizes every faith system, since each person's journey of discovery is a search for the "inner light of meaning and purpose?"

Oprah's message regarding the benevolence of Islam and its similarity to other faiths is now assumed in media coverage of terrorism and the Middle East crises. Yet strangely absent from the discussion at this point have been orthodox, evangelical Christians, or for that matter, orthodox Muslim *aulema* (scholars)

Is postmodernism correct? Are all religions saying the same spiritual truths using different words? (pp. 102-103) [over] →

Also from *Unveiling Islam*

In discussions with well-intentioned but imprecise Christians, we, the authors, often use a series of rhetorical questions to show how ridiculous it is to identify Allah with Yahweh:

- ♦ Is Allah triune? If not, then we are not talking about the same God.
- ♦ Does Allah have a Son? If not (see surah 19:88-92), then we are not discussing the same God.
- ♦ Is Allah the vicarious Redeemer and atoning Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world? If not, then we are not talking about the same God.

In a politically correct, politically charged, postmodern culture, these principles are neither popular nor welcome. But they are essential to an effective witness (see Phil. 2:5-11). (p. 108)

From *The Great Divide – The Failure of Islam and the Triumph of the West* by Alvin J. Schmidt

That many Muslims know Allah is not the same as God in the Bible is usually evident when an imam offers a public prayer. For instance, following the Muslim terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001, an interreligious gathering took place a few days later in the Washington Cathedral in Washington, DC. At this gathering the Muslim imam, who offered a prayer, did not invoke God, but rather he called upon Allah. When an informed Muslim uses the name God, he most likely does so deliberately to give the impression that God and Allah are the same, and thereby he deceives non-Muslims, especially Christians, so that they would not see Islam as a radically different religion. The names of God and Allah are not synonymous or interchangeable. This also means that Muslims and Christians do not pray to the same God, as is often said erroneously today. (pages 26-27)

From *The Large Catechism* by Martin Luther

Concerning the 1st Commandment – *Thou shalt have no other gods*, true Lutherans confess what the blessed reformer wrote: “If your faith and trust are right, then your God is the true God. On the other hand, if your trust is false and wrong, then you have not the true God.”