

Is Islam Really a Religion of Peace?

We hear it all the time: "Islam is a religion of peace." But is it really?

Below is a direct look at what the Qur'an and Hadith—organized by category with short explanations.

Violent Commands in the Qur'an

1. Kill the unbelievers wherever you find them.

Surah 2:191

"And kill them wherever you overtake them and expel them from wherever they have expelled you, and fitnah [disbelief] is worse than killing..."

Explanation: Used to justify violence against non-Muslims and apostates.

2. Strike their necks and smite their fingertips.

Surah 8:12

"I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. So strike [them] upon the necks and strike from them every fingertip."

Explanation: Frequently cited to encourage brutality in jihadist movements.

3. Fight until religion belongs to Allah alone.

Surah 8:39

"And fight them until there is no fitnah and [until] the religion, all of it, is for Allah."

Explanation: Implies forced conversion and total dominance of Islamic belief.

4. Kill the polytheists—which includes Christians.

Surah 9:5

"And when the sacred months have passed, then kill the polytheists wherever you find them and capture them and besiege them and sit in wait for them at every place of ambush."

Explanation: Overrides peaceful verses and targets Christians and others.

5. Fight the Jews and Christians until they submit.

Surah 9:29

"Fight those who do not believe in Allah or the Last Day... until they pay the jizya with willing submission and feel themselves subdued."

Explanation: Mandates submission of Jews and Christians through violence or taxation.

6. Execute those who wage war against Allah.

Surah 5:33

"Indeed, the penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger and strive upon earth [to cause] corruption is none but that they be killed or crucified..."

Explanation: Allows broad punishment for those labeled as corrupt—often including Christians.

7. Death for Apostasy

Surah 4:89 & Sahih Bukhari 9:84:57

"If they turn away, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them..."

Hadith: "Whoever changes his religion, kill him.""

Explanation: Basis for the death penalty for those who leave Islam.

The Qur'an on Women

1. Rape of female captives is allowed.

Surah 4:24

"And [also prohibited are] married women except those your right hands possess. [This is] the decree of Allah upon you..."

Explanation: Allows sexual slavery, even if the woman is married.

8. Beating your wife is permitted.

Surah 4:34

"But those [wives] from whom you fear arrogance—[first] advise them; [then if they persist], forsake them in bed; and [finally], strike them."

Explanation: Permits physical violence against women in marriage.

9. Women inherit half as much as men.

Surah 4:11

"For the male, what is equal to the share of two females."

Explanation: Women are legally worth half of men in inheritance law.

10. Muhammad married a six-year-old.

Sahih Bukhari 7:62:64

"The Prophet married her when she was six years old and consummated the marriage when she was nine years old."

Explanation: Recorded in Hadith: Muhammad married a child, consummated at 9. He was 54-years-old.

11. Men may have up to four wives.

Surah 4:3

"Marry those that please you of [other] women, two or three or four..."

Explanation: Men are allowed multiple wives; women are not.

12. Majority of Hell's inhabitants are women.

Sahih Bukhari 1:6:301

"I was shown the Hell-fire and that the majority of its dwellers were women who were ungrateful."

Explanation: Depicts women as spiritually inferior.

The Qur'an on Heaven

13. Men get beautiful virgins.

Surah 56:22-24, 55:56, 78:33

"And [there will be] companions with beautiful, big eyes... full-breasted [companions] of equal age."

Explanation: Men are rewarded with eternal virgins with big, dark eyes. They stay young forever. They are created for pleasure.

14. Alcohol flows freely.

Surah 47:15

"...rivers of wine delicious to those who drink..."

Explanation: Heaven includes free-flowing alcohol, despite earthly ban.

15. Young servant boys serve men.

Surah 76:19

"And there will circulate among them [servant] boys... as if they were pearls well-protected."

Explanation: Describes boys serving men in paradise, with unclear meaning. Not all scholars agree on interpretation, but considering that women are for pleasure, why not boys—if men want them?

16. What do women get?

Qur'anic silence

"No promises of beauty or pleasure. A woman may be reunited with her husband—if he wants her—and may have to share him with dozens of virgins."

Explanation: No clear rewards for women