



The Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross: Insights from an Arab Christian

Nabeel T. Jabbour

Author Info

Dr. Nabeel Jabbour is from Lebanon and lived with his family in Egypt for fifteen years. They moved to Colorado Springs in 1991. Since 1997, the Jabbours have been U.S. citizens. Although Dr. Jabbour comes from an Arab Christian background, for the first fifty years of his life, Muslims were his neighbors, teachers, friends, roommates, and later his students. While earning a doctorate in Islamics, Dr. Jabbour's method of study was phenomenology. It is a method of study where the phenomenon is allowed to speak for itself resulting in a compassionate understanding of the phenomenon from the adherent's point of view. In the past Dr. Jabbour taught at several seminaries in North America and other parts of the world. Currently he is an adjunct professor at Denver Seminary. Since June 2016, Dr. Jabbour has been teaching free of charge his course on *Islam and Geopolitics of the Middle East* in Colorado Springs and wherever he gets invited to teach. He has visited most of the Islamic countries in the world and has come to understand both the Arab and Muslim world on one hand and the American and Christian world on the other. He has learned to interpret the "strange" phenomena of Islam and Islamic Fundamentalism to people in the West, and especially to Christians.

Publisher, Date & Pages

NavPress, 2008, 271 pages

Cover Description(s)

The Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross unpacks and addresses the issues that describe the worldview of Muslims. It helps the reader to go beyond mere tolerance to developing an understanding and a compassion for Muslims. This book explains what can be done in ways that are sensitive to the Islamic culture and provides suggestions on how to build vital relationships with Muslims.

Endorsements

- DS, NavPress editor - This is a very powerful message, and I can't stop talking to my friends about it. I'm very excited about this project, and feel it is the most important book I've worked on in a long time.

Comments

Eugene H. Peterson, author and translator, *The Message Bible* - This book is both timely and necessary for Western Christians to read and ponder - timely because Muslims are widely perceived as the enemy, necessary because Christians are under command to love the enemy. Jabbour gives faces to Muslims so that we can obey Jesus' command.

J. Dudley Woodberry, Dean Emeritus and Senior Professor of Islamic studies, Fuller Theological Seminary - I am pleased to recommend *The Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross* by Nabeel Jabbour. By stepping into the shoes of Muslims and looking through their eyes, Jabbour helps Christians understand them in these troubled days, love them as God does, and express their witness more relevantly.

Dr. Ralph D. Winter, Chancellor, William Carey International University - I know of no better book that demonstrates the impact of an author's unique background and experiences. Equally important, I know of no book that more insightfully and penetratingly addresses the invisible perversions of understanding that arise when Westerners try to understand the Arabs and the Muslims. Page after page will take your breath away!

Tony Campolo, PhD, Eastern University, St. Davids, PA - What Nabeel Jabbour has written is very important at a time when anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiments run so high in Evangelical circles. What you read here will help you to see things in the Middle East as an Arab Christian does. It is likely to impact you in ways that are unexpected and necessary.

Dr. Philip Zimbardo, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University; author of *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil* - This book offers vitally needed bridges of understanding and compassion between different worldviews, theologies, and historical experiences. As Dr. Jabbour states in his introductory remarks, this is a book intended to help Western Christian readers better comprehend Muslim perspectives and beliefs and thus dispel commonly held misunderstandings and dehumanizing stereotypes.

Chuck Wenger, board member, Middle East Peace Initiative - Awesome, excellent, well written, clear, what a gift! It is a must-read.

Reverend Stephen Sizer, author - Nabeel Jabbour's important book will open your eyes to the real world of Islam, not the one so often caricatured in the media. Deeply biblical with study and discussion questions, the book is based on a lifetime of dialogue and witness to Muslims. This book will warm your heart and fire your soul to reach the other children of Abraham for Jesus.

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Forward by Jim Peterson

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Rating on a scale of 1 to 5

1. Not a good use of your time
2. Okay, but not that useful
3. Satisfactory, not great – but a good read
4. Loved reading it
5. Impactful, highly recommend

This book is rated as: 3-4

“Recommendation” Statement

This book underlies some of Nabeel's other work. It is very apologetic toward Islam and gives an unbalanced view of history in line with Muslim and secular anti-Christian agendas. An Addendum available on request doubles down on “the Crusades, colonialism, Israel’s modern history, eschatology, and the danger we face of a holy world war between Christendom and Islam.” (p. 18) to address “our Western baggage and other issues associated with the history of Christendom and our perceptions of current events.” (p. 246)

Nabeel declares, “One of the biggest assumptions I have is...that we, as Christians, and the governments of the United States, China, Europe, and other powerful countries around the world have a role to play in... empowering the moderate Muslims” (p. 84) “...and thus strengthen the moderates in Islam and let them deal with the fanatics.” (p. 89)

Nabeel endeavors to develop empathy for Muslims by creating fictional Muslim characters based upon statements by Muslims he has known. One reviewer aptly stated, an alternate title for the book might have been *The Cross through the Eyes of the Crescent*.

Nabeel asserts that by Arab Christians using the traditional name Yasou for Jesus instead of Isa; “Christians tend to erect barriers through our ethnocentricity, rather than trying to build bridges” (p. 122). He further states; “Some missiologists are committed to an ‘Insider approach,’ while others are aligning themselves with the critics of that approach...Rather than being committed to an approach, I am committed to God and to what he is doing in the world as long as it is consistent with the parameters of the Scriptures” (pp. 227-8). Ironically, however, in Lecture 7 of *Islam and the Geo Politics of the Middle East* he asserts that Dr. Jay Smith may be a tool of the devil because he uses a polemical approach, and in Lecture 6 disparages those who do not associate Allah with Yahweh as possibly being henotheists. In *The Unseen Reality: A Panoramic View of Spiritual Warfare* Nabeel claims that except for exorcism, “it would be wrong for us to expect that we should have as many signs and miracles as Jesus and the apostles had...It could instead be presumption.”

Reviewer

Steve Krstulovich
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