
History EE Sample

TOPIC:

WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN CHRISTIANITY (CATHOLICISM) AND THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM (SUNNI)?



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Topic: What are the similarities and differences between the ten commandments in Christianity (Catholicism) and the five pillars of Islam (Sunni), and how are their religious value systems practiced and applied today?’

1. Introduction

Religion significantly determines moral and ethical norms and values, which determine people’s behaviors, practices, and beliefs¹. Two of the most prominent religious traditions, Christianity and Islam, offer distinct guiding principles: The former is the Ten Commandments, while the latter is the Five Pillars of Islam. The Ten Commandments² are part of the Old Testament from the Judeo-Christian tradition. They are God’s commands given to Moses on Mount Sinai and the core of ethical values for Catholics and other Christians³. On the other hand, the Five Pillars – core to the Sunni Muslim⁴ practice – are religious duties encompassing devotion and obedience that characterize the Muslim’s covenant to God and his fellow beings.

Therefore, this extended essay compares and contrasts these two religious code groups and analyzes their value systems’ role and function in today’s society. By studying the content, context, and concerns of the Ten Commandments and the Five Pillars of Islam, this paper will give insights into their roles on the moral-spiritual map of their faithful.

The first procedure in the investigation will be to give a brief account of the historical backgrounds and contents of the Ten Commandments and the Five Pillars, followed by comparing the two traditions, where one will find similarities such as monotheism, ethics, and social responsibilities. Still, the uniqueness of each tradition will also be discussed. This essay will also examine how these religious principles are applied in today’s society in acculturation, legal jurisdiction, and communal practices. Thus, in exemplifying the comparative analysis of

¹ Cherry, K. (2023, May 26). Religion and health: What are the links? *Verywell Mind*. <https://www.verywellmind.com/religion-improves-health-2224007>

² What are the Ten Commandments, why are they important, and how are they relevant to my life?. (n.d.). *Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. <https://www.archspm.org/faith-and-discipleship/catholic-faith/what-are-the-ten-commandments-why-are-they-important-how-are-they-relevant-to-my-life/#:~:text=The%20Ten%20Commandments%20are%20laws,through%20us%20by%20that%20grace>

³ Catholicism: Beliefs and traditions. (n.d.). American Humanist Association. <https://americanhumanist.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/catholicism.pdf>

⁴ Sunni Islam. (n.d.). Jewish Virtual Library. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/sunni-islam>

these two religious orders, the essay will help raise public awareness and understanding of the ethical influence of these archaic religious imperatives in modern Christian and Muslim societies.

1.1 Introduction to Religion

Religion as a discipline in the hematologic structure aims to understand existence, the world, and its people. Millions of religions are present worldwide, delivering numerous stories and beliefs and becoming the guide to morality, values, and spirituality for a large population⁵. This journey into the subject of religion looks into the nature of religion, its role in people's existence, its relevance, and the factors influencing its progression in societies.

The position of religion lies in the response to life's issues, including its significance and meaning, the presence of a higher power or gods, and future life⁶. Such queries tend to result in the creation of scriptures, prayers, histories, and laws that followers adhere to daily. There are the monotheistic religions, where people worship one God, for example, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism; the polytheistic where people preach many gods, for example, Hinduism; and the atheistic religions, where people do not worship any god but seek spiritual knowledge and good behavior, such as Buddhism.

Another purpose of religion is to guide people's conduct or as a prescription for behavior⁷. Such ethical direction is sometimes put into written and oral documents like holy scriptures and advice to pursue the righteous way of life. For instance, a fundamental principle of the Christian and Jewish religions is given out in the Ten Commandments, which are the primary guidelines of ethical conduct. These principles affect not only people's conduct but also the standards of societies and laws.

However depressing it may be, religion is a source of unity but equally a cause of war⁸. Engagers of violence saw the formers of the contemporary world's historical and present-day

⁵ Zayat, C. (2022, July 11). The importance of interreligious exposure. Hartford International University for Religion and Peace. <https://blog.hartfordinternational.edu/2022/07/11/importance-of-interreligious-exposure/#:~:text=These%20are%20values%20that%20can,faith%2C%20beliefs%2C%20and%20values>

⁶ Ward, C. (2016). Religion is multi-faceted: Understanding the complexity of its impact on culture, personality, and society. *Journal of Religious Studies*. 45(3), 215-230. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2016.1249930>

⁷ 2. Durkheim, É. (1912). *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life.

⁸ Mac Donald, H. (2023, July 6). A return to the wars of religion. *City Journal*. <https://www.city-journal.org/article/a-return-to-the-wars-of-religion>

traditions in religious differences. However, instances of what is sometimes described as dialogue amongst the religions⁹ – or mainly aptly termed, in today's pluralistic world, endeavors of religious harmony – have proven that living together with others and tolerating them is possible.

This means that religion in the modern world is not static; it still changes and responds equally to sociological contexts. Globalization, technological development, and cultural changes shape different practices, religions, and perceptions. Whereas some practices are relatively resistant to change, others adapt over time – religion is not a static phenomenon that is rigid in dealing with present issues and problems.

1.2 Methodology

Even though there is a large variety of different branches of Christianity and Islam, this essay only addresses the Catholic sect of Christianity and the Sunni sect of Islam¹⁰ to make the research and conclusions specific and focused. Also, primary and secondary sources were utilized to answer this research question thoroughly and draw meaningful insights and ideas. Primary sources, such as direct quotes from the Quran and the Bible, were used as concrete evidence to support points and claims. Other forms of primary sources were also used, such as interviews with priests, imams, and other religious teachers, which were conducted for this essay as a form of research and evidence as their knowledge and experiences provided a new perspective to the investigation. To make the interview fairer and maintain the consistency of the investigation, both the Priest and the Imam were asked very similar questions, as demonstrated in the transcript that is present in the appendix of this essay. The main issue with the evidence collected from the interviews was the fact that it consists of such a limited sample size and a massive lack of representational generalisability as only one Priest and one Imam were interviewed, which could have potentially led to biased, skewed, and unreliable information which could have tampered with the essay's overall authenticity.

⁹ Media portrayals of religion: Introduction. (n.d.). MediaSmarts. <https://mediasmarts.ca/diversity-media/religion/media-portrayals-religion-introduction>

¹⁰ Sunna and Hadith. (n.d.). *Oxford Bibliographies*. <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780195390155/obo-9780195390155-0083.xml#:~:text=%E2%80%9CSunna%E2%80%9D%20is%20the%20Arabic%20term,%20an%203%3A137>

Secondary research in the form of articles and research journals also provides valuable information and analysis regarding the intricate details of each religion. These sources were carefully selected to ensure credibility and reliability, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the core foundations of both religions¹¹. Furthermore, including scholarly articles and academic papers further enriched the research by providing in-depth analysis and critical insights into each religion's historical and cultural contexts. These sources offered a nuanced understanding of the complexities within each belief system, allowing for a more comprehensive exploration of their similarities and differences. By incorporating both primary and secondary sources, a well-rounded perspective was achieved, enhancing the depth and validity of the research findings.

2. Introduction to Christianity (Catholicism) and the Bible

Christianity is one of the largest religions, and it has a firm impact on cultures, societies, and the ethical standards of human societies today. It is the second largest religion in the world after Islam¹², with over two billion followers. It is a monotheistic faith that revolves around the personality of Jesus Christ, who the followers of this faith regard as the Son of God and the world's Savior. Out of all the religions of the Christian category, catholicism remains the biggest one, with more than a billion people who are its followers. Catholicism, with its elaborate history, transparent system of governance, and other tenets about theology and worship, is one of the most significant branches of Christianity.

Catholicism originated from establishing new Christian communities by the apostles and mainly by Saint Peter, who was widely considered the first pope by the Catholics. The Church¹³, which has its territorial base in Vatican City, comprises the Roman Catholic world, with the Pope as the leader and viewed as the apostle of Peter¹⁴. The Pope and the bishops and clergy disburse Sacraments, the explanation of scriptural passages, and the direction of Christians.

¹¹ How religion shapes cultures, values, and social structures in different societies. (2023, June 25). Multi-Faith Education Australia. <https://www.multifaitheducation.com.au/2023/06/25/how-religion-shapes-cultures-values-and-social-structures-in-different-societies/>

¹² Islam. (n.d.). History.com. <https://www.history.com/topics/religion/islam>

¹³ What is the origin of the Roman Catholic Church?. (n.d.). GotQuestions.org. <https://www.gotquestions.org/origin-Catholic-church.html>

¹⁴ Roman Catholicism. (n.d.). Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Roman-Catholicism>

The Holy Bible, divided into the Old and New Testaments, is the religious text of the Christian religion. The Bible is also accompanied by sacred traditions for Roman Catholics¹⁵, which are the teachings and practices passed on for generations¹⁶. Like Judaism, the Old Testament denotes books of laws, history, prophets, and poets, which detail the contractual relationship between God and His chosen pair, Israel. The New Testament is all about Jesus Christ from His life, death, and even resurrection, and it is comprised of the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles, and Revelation. Central to Catholic belief is the doctrine of the Trinity, which professes that God exists as three persons in one essence: also referred to as the Trinity, which includes God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. Catholics also believe in our virgin Lady Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the saints are supposed to appeal to God's mercy and to be good representatives to emulate.

3. Introduction to Islam (Sunni) and the Quran

Islam is one of the dominant religions in the world today that has its roots in monotheism and expects devout compliance with the will of Allah (God). It is an all-embracing system of living that determines the ethical, religious, and communal behavior of its followers, referred to as Muslims. Of all the subdivisions in Islam, Sunni Muslims¹⁷ are the most abundant and constitute 85-90% of all Muslims today. The largest branch of Islam is based on the recognition of the teachings and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad, who the Sunni considers the last messenger that Allah sent.

The Quran is the actual direct message of Allah in Arabic as received by the holy personality of the Prophet Muhammad through the archangel Gabriel for 23 years. The Quran is a sacred book written in Arabic; it is a collection of one hundred and fourteen chapters called surahs that deal with many aspects of life, law, and spirit. For Sunni Muslims, al-Quran is the primary source of guidance on how they should lead their lives; second in importance is Hadith¹⁸, the act of the

¹⁵ Origins and history of the Catholic Church. (n.d.). Catholic Faith Store. <https://www.catholicfaithstore.com/daily-bread/origins-and-history-of-the-catholic-church/>

¹⁶ Sacred Texts. (2022). In *World Religions: The Spirit Searching. <https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/worldreligionsthespiritsearching/chapter/chapter-2-sacred-texts/>

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23. Islam: Sunnism. (n.d.). Encyclopedia.com. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/islam-sunnism>

¹⁸ The Sunnah and Hadith. (n.d.). Rossing Center. <https://rossingcenter.org/islams/the-sunnah-and-hadith/>

Prophet Muhammad and his statements, and acceptance as pleasing in the Sight of Allah. These Hadiths give details and interpretation to the texts of the Quran and are indispensable to the study of Islamic jurisprudence.

4. The 10 Commandments in the Bible

4.1 What are the 10 Commandments and their Religious Value System According to the Catholic Christians' Interpretation of the Bible

According to Exodus in the Old Testament, the Decalogue, also known as the Ten Commandments, is a set of moral guidelines God gave Moses on Mount Sinai¹⁹. God summoned Moses to the summit of Mount Sinai, where the Israelites were stationed, fifty days after they left Egypt's servitude and started their journey to the Promised Land. There, God sent Moses instructions on morality and revealed the Ten Commandments to him under a cloud that produced lightning and thunder, which the Israelites could witness at the foot of the mountain. These commandments are foundational to the Catholic Christian faith and guide living a righteous life²⁰.

According to the Catholic Christian bible²¹, the 10 Catholic commandments that form the divine positive laws apply to the family as a whole as well as its members, and it is a crucial part of the moral teachings of the Church and for maintaining a strong moral foundation within the community. Obeying or disobeying the Ten Commandments can affect one's relationship with God in several ways, as the commandments serve as guidelines for how to treat others and behave in various aspects of life, such as morality, ethics, and spirituality. By following these commandments, individuals show their respect and obedience to God, which can strengthen their relationship with Him. On the other hand, disobeying the commandments can strain their relationship with God, as it goes against His teachings and principles. Additionally, the Commandments provide a moral framework for individuals to live by, and by adhering to them, individuals can experience a sense of purpose, meaning, and fulfillment in their relationship with God. The first commandment states, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not

¹⁹ Moral compass: A common theme across all religions. (2020, May 8). United Earth Fund. <https://uef.medium.com/moral-compass-a-common-theme-across-all-religions-fce4a6132205>

²⁰ Lewis, J. J. (2020, August 28). Catholicism: Beliefs and practices. Learn Religions. <https://www.learnreligions.com/catholicism-beliefs-and-practices-3897877>

²¹ Origins of the Roman Catholic Church. (n.d.). Real Christianity. <https://realchristianity.com/origins-of-the-roman-catholic-church/>

make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.’ (Exodus 20:1–17). This commandment emphasizes the importance of monotheism and loyalty to God as the ultimate authority in one's life. It also serves as a reminder to prioritize spiritual connection and devotion above all other worldly pursuits, distractions, and influences, guiding individuals to seek fulfillment through faith rather than material possessions or power. It also lays the foundation for a life centered on spiritual growth and moral integrity, encouraging believers to cultivate a deep relationship with God as the source of true guidance and purpose. The second commandment states, ‘You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.’ (Exodus 20:1–17). This highlights the importance of showing respect and reverence towards God's name in the Catholic tradition. It serves as a reminder to use language that honors and uplifts rather than demeans or disrespects. The third commandment says, ‘Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.’ (Exodus 20:1–17). This commandment reiterates the significance of the Sabbath day as a time for spiritual rejuvenation and worship, amplifying the importance of honoring God’s creation and reflecting on His blessings. The observance of the Sabbath serves as a way for believers to demonstrate their gratitude and promotes a healthy balance between worldly matters and spiritual connection. The fourth commandment states, ‘Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.’ (Exodus 20:1–17). This portrays the importance of respecting authority figures, particularly parents, to receive blessings from God. It also highlights how healthy family values are crucial for a stable and harmonious society to prosper. The fifth commandment says, ‘You shall not murder.’ (Exodus 20:1–17). This direct order is slightly different from the other commandments as it is particular regarding the act of taking another person's life, which is considered to be a major sin. This commandment serves as a clear boundary against the action of taking one’s life, and it is a moral compass that provides a firm guideline for respecting the

sanctity of human life. It also emphasizes the value and importance of each individual's existence and promotes a society based on mutual respect and compassion. The sixth commandment states, 'You shall not commit adultery.' (Exodus 20:1–17). This commandment is similar to the fifth commandment in that it is another direct instruction against this heinous crime, which benefits society by promoting safety and security for all community members. The seventh commandment says, 'You shall not steal.' (Exodus 20:1–17). This direct command also instills morally correct ideologies, which aid society as a whole as it discourages the concept of dishonesty. Additionally, it fosters a sense of trust and community within society, which is extremely important. The eighth commandment states, 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.' (Exodus 20:1–17). Like the last commandment, the eighth commandment encourages honesty and trust in familial relationships and the wider community. The ninth and tenth commandments state, ' You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.' (Exodus 20:1–17). These two commandments remind one to focus on one's blessings and be content with what God has given rather than desiring what belongs to others and staying in constant dissatisfaction. It encourages believers to practice gratitude and avoid jealousy or envy towards those around them.

4.2 How are the 10 Commandments and their Religious Value System Implemented and Honoured in Modern-Day Life

In today's society, keeping the Ten Commandments is somewhat different in the context of other Christian churches, Jewish synagogues, and Rites. Still, it is understood that some of its precepts are either sacred or unbreakable today²². First, the commandments concerning monotheism and idol worship may affect the faith and worship of a single deity, personal values, and significant religious principles. These values can also be evidenced through prayers, worshipping, and obeying the teachings of a particular religion.

Rules and regulations such as; 'thou shall not kill' and 'thou shall not steal' are foundations of many societies' legal and moral standards. They uphold the sanctity of human life, property, rights, and the justice systems that inform society's etiquette and morality. Respect, which results from the commandment to honor parents, enhances family values and intergenerational

²² Walker, A. (2014, April 13). The Ten Commandments in today's society. *Deseret News*. <https://www.deseret.com/2014/4/13/20539326/the-ten-commandments-in-today-s-society/>

relationships. Likewise, the taboos on covetousness, adultery, and bearing false witness encourage honesty, reliability, and loyalty in interpersonal and business relations.

Though the case on the Sabbath's observation could differ, setting a particular time apart for worship and rest remains relevant in enhancing the balance between work and other aspects of life besides enhancing psychological well-being.

5. The 5 Pillars of Islam in the Quran

5.1 What are the 5 Pillars of Islam and their Religious Value System According to the Sunni Muslims' Interpretation of the Quran

Sunni Islam has its base set in the Five Pillars, namely Shahada or the confession of faith; Salat, the ritual prayer; Zakat, the almsgiving; Sawm, fasting; and Hajj, the pilgrimage. These are the Five Pillars of Islam which are Shahada (a declaration of faith in Allah and his Prophet Muhammad), Salat (Prayers), Zakat (giving of alms), Sawm (fasting during the month of Ramadhan), and Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca. In the Shahada, the belief that it is a monotheistic religion is manifested and restated in the Islamic faith that there is only one God and that Muhammad is his prophet. Salat is performed five times daily, thus constantly keeping the believers mindful of Allah and His dominion. Of all the Islamic practices, Zakat, or the giving of alms, is a way of paying attention to social justice and the duties performed for the needy individual. Sawm is another method to practice admonishment and is implemented during the Islamic month of Ramadan, when people fast, pray, read more Quran, and devote more time to their worship. Hajj, an obligation for physically and financially capable people, unites Muslims worldwide in a profound spiritual experience.

Sunni Muslims also adhere to Sharia, a comprehensive system of Islamic law derived from the Quran and Hadith. Sharia governs all aspects of a Muslim's life, including worship, family relations, business transactions, and ethical conduct. Scholars interpret it and ensure that its principles are applied in a manner that is just and relevant to contemporary issues.

5.2 How are the 5 Pillars of Islam and their Religious Value System Implemented and Honoured in Modern Day Life

The 5 Pillars of Islam are fundamental to Sunni Muslim's belief system as they are the foundations for all of their rituals and practices, which are still prevalent today. These value systems are honored through the continued practice of the 5 Pillars of Islam, such as the Hajj, a significant pilgrimage that every Sunni Muslim aims to achieve in their life, which occurs once a

year. During this time, approximately 2.5 million Sunni Muslims congregate to cleanse themselves spiritually and devote themselves to worship and praise God through this religious practice, which portrays that these practices are still essential in modern-day society. Zakat is also practiced annually, and the Refugee Zakat Fund received approximately \$23.6 million in Zakat funds, demonstrating how widespread this practice is. Moreover, fasting is also practiced by millions of Sunni Muslims worldwide during the holy month of Ramadan, which shows how these pillars are still held in high regard and are valued. Sunni Muslims also pray five times daily, emphasizing religion's significance in their daily lives. Moreover, the Shahadah is mandatory for any person who wants to convert to Islam, which emphasizes its importance as the foundational declaration of faith in Islam, and it is recited daily by Sunni Muslims during prayer as a reminder of their commitment to Allah and their belief in the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. This highlights how Sunni Muslims practice these rituals regularly and utilize them daily.

6. The Comparison Between the Core Ideologies of Each Religion, their Value Systems, and How they are Practiced and Applied Today

The Christian (Catholic) Ten Commandments and the Sunni Five Pillars are the Bibles of their respective religions, giving followers direction on how to live a pious life in society.

The Ten Commandments of the Jewish/Israeli people and the Old World Judeo-Christian religion are based on the principles of monotheism, moral conduct, and ethical behavior. They are to pray to one God, honor parents, observe things that do not support the culture, embrace values such as integrity and loyalty, and refrain from murdering or stealing. They become the guide to the acceptable ethical standards that Christians must practice.

The Five Pillars of Islam also reveal monotheism, including guidelines for worship and moral behavior. These are the Shahada (profession of faith), Salat (prayer), Zakat (alms), Sawm (fasting), and Hajj (pilgrimage). These pillars help Muslims follow their practice pattern in their daily lives and religious and social activities and also remind them to believe in Allah, obey His instructions, practice discipline, and be good social beings.

In the modern Christian experience, the Ten Commandments are a source of ethical behavior for individuals and societies, providing a focus on charity, truthfulness, and decency prevalent in society. They appear in laws and norms, as well as religious education, that form the moral outlook of believers. For the Muslims, they are living acts that are responded to and incorporated into their daily dwellings. The Shahada is said daily, Salat is observed five times

daily, and Zakat is paid yearly. Muslims, when in the holy month of Ramadan, practice Sawm by fasting while many, if they have the resources, perform the pilgrimage to Makkah, known as the Hajj. All these practices contribute to Generating discipline, unity, and a sense of social responsibility among the students.

The Ten Commandments remain an essential part of the Christian ethical system and play a rather large part in the legal and moral systems of the Western world. Such legal taboos as the prohibition of stealing, killing, and lying bear evident resemblance to modern legislation prohibitions, which protect life, property, and truth. In the day-to-day activities of the Christians, the above commandments can be followed through worship and other practices, including church service²³, receiving of sacraments, and prayers, among others. The principles derived from commandments depict another aspect of ethics, which entails benevolence and compassion; hence, Christians are urged to volunteer and undertake charitable, humanitarian, and social causes for the needy.

In the same way, the Five Pillars of Islam²⁴ dictate the behavior of an individual Muslim and the pattern of interactions among societies in the region. This ensures that Muslims adhere to discipline while offering prayers at the correct times, referred to as Salat, and also ensures that the society is equally balanced by giving back to the needy or the less fortunate in society, known as Zakat. The fasting during the Islamic month of Ramadan is meant to detoxify the soul and help Muslims reflect on the sufferings of the poor and other disadvantaged in society, hence encouraging the members of the society to give to the needy and support them. This process, through which millions of Muslims from all over the world perform the Hajj, not only strengthens the sense of oneness among the Muslim global community but also helps renew one's spirituality regardless of cultural or national differences.

Thus, both religions share the values of unity and responsibility for the community's welfare and organization. The Ten Commandments²⁵ are moral principles based on society's desire to be fair and people's value of other people's rights and dignity. The Five Pillars stress unity and helping each other as members of Muslim culture, encouraging people to benefit everyone.

²³ Timeline of the Catholic Church. (n.d.). Catholic World Mission. <https://catholicworldmission.org/catholic-church-timeline/>

²⁴ Introduction to Islam. (n.d.). Middle East Institute*. <https://www.mei.edu/bassiouni/intro-to-islam>

²⁵ Lewis, J. J. (2020, August 27). The Catholic commandments. Learn Religions. <https://www.learnreligions.com/catholic-commandments-4137756#:~:text=The%20Ten%20Commandments%20are%20the,where%20the%20Israelites%20were%20camped>

Conclusion

Thus, the Ten Commandments in Christianity (Catholicism) and the Five Pillars of Islam (Sunni) are at the core of the religious values in the given faiths and help to determine people's moral, spiritual, and social behavior²⁶. Both of these principles revolve around ideas like monotheism and an appealing model of ethical conduct that strengthens the sense of faith and collective identity.

The fundamental law and norms of conduct that form the foundation of social and religious conduct of the people of the Old Testament are also known as the Ten Commandments²⁷ today, which embody the values related to worship, respect, and moral model in the contemporary Christian's life and the western legal framework²⁸. These affect people's ethical values and behavior, how people within communities and societies treat one another, and support truthfulness, reverence for life, and social justice. Christians observe these commandments through weekly remembrance of the sacrament in sacramental meetings, worship services, charity donations, and following appropriate ethics in worldly activities.

The five pillars of Islam are the primary outline of expectations for Sunni Muslims, incorporating religion into one's daily life. Shahada, Salat, Zakat, Sawm, and Hajj are the five central pillars of the Islamic faith²⁹, which help Muslims to develop religious devotion, social justice, and international synergy. These pillars compel Muslims to pray five times a week, contribute towards charity, fast to attain spiritual and hall over a sense of empathy, and go for hajj to share the belief in God's oneness.

Both religions also stress the importance of a robust unitary sense within the society and various practices of moral and ethical codes in engaging in charitable and rewarding practices for the needy. Although there are distinctions in the concrete procedures and ceremonies, the

²⁶ The Ten Commandments versus the Five Pillars of Islam. (2022). IvyPanda. <https://ivypanda.com/essays/the-ten-commandments-versus-the-five-pillars-of-islam/#:~:text=Both%20the%20Ten%20Commandments%20and,discouraged%20in%20their%20respective%20religions>

²⁷ Catholicism and the Ten Commandments. (n.d.). Dummies.com. <https://www.dummies.com/article/body-mind-spirit/religion-spirituality/christianity/catholicism/catholicism-and-the-ten-commandments-192630/>

²⁸ When did the Roman Catholic Church begin? (n.d.). Ligonier Ministries. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/qas/when-did-the-roman-catholic-church-begin>

²⁹ Timeline: The rise of Islam. (n.d.). PBS. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/muslims/timeline.html#:~:text=on%20our%20current%20website.&text=The%20start%20of%20Islam%20is,Islam%20throughout%20the%20Arabian%20peninsula>

philosophical base can still be considered the same: monotheism, ethics, and social justice, proving that people worldwide seek meaning, justice, and spiritual sense.

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History EE Sample

TOPIC:

WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN CHRISTIANITY (CATHOLICISM) AND THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM (SUNNI)?



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