

# Misconceptions about Islam, Part 5

There are many misunderstandings and misconceptions about Islam, one of which is the belief that women have not played any significant roles in Islamic history. Women have been influential in various aspects of Islamic society, including scholarship, politics, leadership positions, and community leadership.

Nothing could have been more wrong than this claim. Among the early Muslims, women were active participants in the cohesive functioning of society. Women expressed their opinions freely, and their advice was actively sought. Women nursed the wounded during battles, and some even participated on the battlefield. Women traded openly in the marketplace, so much so that the second caliph, Umar, appointed a woman, Shaffa bint Abdullah (bint = the daughter of), as the supervisor of the bazaar. In Islamic history, women participated in government, public affairs, lawmaking, scholarship, and teaching.

**Khadijah:** As a clear example of women’s role in the history of Islam, one remembers Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her, MABPWH) On the very first day (night) when Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him, PBUH) received the first revelation from the

angel Gabriel, women were present through his wife Khadijah (MABPWH). Khadijah was one of the most honorable and wise women of Makkah. She was the one who chose Prophet Muhammad and, through a common friend, hinted that she liked him and wanted to marry him.

Muhammad (PBUH) used to retreat to the cave of Hira for two or three weeks every year. There, he would meditate and contemplate the creation around him. He also worshiped God, Allah, the God of Abraham, his great-grandfather through Ishmael. This practice was known then as “devotion.”

On the night of August 10th, 610 C.E., Muhammad received his first revelation from God, **“(1) Read in the name of your Lord Who created. (2) created man from a clinging clot. (3) Read, and your Lord is the Most Generous. (4) Who taught by the pen. (5) taught man what he did not know.”** [Quran 96: 1-5].

Confused and terrified by what had happened, he ran home immediately. His wife Khadijah received him and tried to soothe and reassure him, saying, “Allah will never disgrace you. You unite uterine relations (i.e., keep contact with your relatives); bear the burden of the weak; help the poor and the needy; entertain guests



Guest Column

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and endure hardships in the path of truthfulness.” These words only come from a loving, wise, and supportive wife. In such a situation, a wife might typically blame her husband for putting himself at risk by being alone in the desert, Or for leaving her and her children alone. However, Khadijah comforted him and tested her husband and what he had seen! When the fear subsided for the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Khadijah said: Oh, husband, let me know when you see the angel you said has come to you. A few minutes later, the Prophet told her, I see him. She uncovered the top of her chest and asked her husband: do you see him? Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, no! She replied, do not worry about anything this is not the devil! She knew angels honor themselves and are absent when a woman exposes part of her body!

Khadijah had suggested that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) visit her cousin Waraqah. Waraqah, who had studied older sacred books, including the Torah and the Bible, recognized the signs Muham-

mad (pbuh) had seen. Waraqah knew that the time for the last Prophet from God had come. After hearing Muhammad’s account of the revelation, Waraqah rejoiced and told him to be strong, for he was to be the last Prophet of God to humanity. Warraqah died a few weeks later.

Khadijah succeeded in establishing a happy home for the Prophet in the period just before his prophethood. She supported him both physically and financially. She was a rich woman and gave her husband all her money to deliver the message he received from God. She bolstered the Prophet and believed him. She was the first human to believe in Muhammad as the final Prophet of God and was the first to embrace Islam. She played an important role in strengthening and supporting him through her powerful intellect, strong personality, and penetrating wisdom. Not only did she believe in him, but she supported his mission, kept him company in times of loneliness, and helped him overcome the many hardships he faced. Her reward was in accord with her deeds, God giving her the good news of a house in Paradise made from a hollow pearl, wherein there is no shouting and no tiredness. Numerous prophetic traditions recounting this have

been recorded in the works of many Muslim scholars.

Khadijah devoted herself and her house to serving the new Muslim community while using her status to defend the Messenger of God from harm. For this reason, the Prophet felt the utmost sadness at her death, for she had been the best help and support he could have had. In Islamic traditions, her death year is called the Year of Sorrow.

**Umm Salamah:** The word “Umm” means “the mother of,” and so Umm Salama means “the mother of Salamah, her first child. Her real name was Hind, and she was among the first to embrace Islam in its early days. Umm Salamah belonged to a strong tribe in Makkah, yet she had her share of the torture that most Muslims endured at the time. She migrated with her husband to Abyssinia and stayed there for a few years. When she came back, thinking the situation had eased a little, she was faced with more torture and hardship that both she and her husband decided to migrate to Madinah (270 miles north of Makkah). When they tried to leave her tribe prevented her from accompanying her husband. In retaliation, her husband’s tribe took her one-year-old son, saying he belonged to them. After almost a year,

she was allowed to leave for Madinah.

Umm Salamah left for Madinah alone with her son. She was not accompanied by anyone else. This incident was great proof that Islam does not forbid women from driving, traveling alone, and managing their affairs. Not only that but after leaving Makkah, she met a non-Muslim (at the time) who knew her and who insisted on not letting her travel alone and kept with her to make sure she would reach Madinah safely. Yet another lesson is that women are free to decide. She described him later as the most honorable man she had ever met.

After her husband was killed, many proposed to her to take care of her and her children, who were still young and needed care. She refused all the great companions of the Prophet (pbuh) until he proposed. She told him she knew he was proposing to take care of her and her children, and he said yes. Then she said, I cannot say no to you, O messenger of Allah. This marriage gave her the chance to narrate many of the hadith (traditions) of the Prophet, and she became a primary source of Islamic teaching for as long as she lived.

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## Church sues Colorado town to be able to shelter homeless in trailers

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. – Behind a church surrounded by rolling prairie on the outskirts of this Colorado town sits a donated RV that Joe Ridenour called home for a year after he lost his job during the pandemic. Being able to live in the RV, he said, allowed him to avoid returning to his native Kansas City, where he was afraid of backsliding into using methamphetamine again. “Without this trailer and this church, I wouldn’t be alive. The

drug use would have consumed me,” said Ridenour, who now has a maintenance job at the county fairgrounds and rents a room from a friend he met at The Rock church. Last year, the town of Castle Rock ordered the non-denominational evangelical church to stop providing shelter in the RV and another camping trailer for violating zoning regulations. The church responded by suing the town, located between Denver and Colorado Springs.

Echoing arguments made by other churches trying to serve the homeless from Oregon to Ohio, the Colorado church argues that helping those in need is religious activity protected by the Constitution. Its lawsuit is studded with references to the Bible’s exhortations to the faithful to take care of those in need. It also notes that surrounding Douglas County, one of the richest in the United States, has no other shelters for the homeless.

The church’s property is not zoned for residential use and regulations forbid anyone from living in an RV anywhere in Castle Rock. On Friday, a federal judge ruled the church can continue to shelter the homeless in the campers temporarily while the lawsuit plays out. The town, which has said it will “rigorously defend the zoning authority of communities,” declined to comment on Friday’s ruling. In court, the town has

argued the church could find other ways to help the homeless, like opening members’ homes to them or buying a property to house them in an area zoned for residential use. Earlier this year, the church had to turn down a request to let a mother and three children under the age of 7 who had been living in a car stay in one of the trailers, pastor Mike Polhemus said.

– AP

# Worship at the church of your choice this week

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Romans 8:38-39

Stillwater Bible

Proclaiming Christ, Training Believers

JB Bond, Senior Pastor

Sundays

Worship Service .....8:30 a.m.

G.R.O.W. Groups .....9:45 a.m.

Worship Service .....11:00 a.m.

Kids' Church .....11:20 a.m.

Tuesdays

Cornerstone @ The Union (RM 297) .....7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Stillwater Bible Institute .....6:30 p.m.

Impact Youth .....6:30 p.m.

Bible Kids .....6:30 p.m.

7617 W. 6th Ave.

Stillwaterbible.org (405) 564-5794

Crosspointe

CHURCH

Sunday School - 9:30

Sunday AM Worship - 10:30

Sunday PM Family Service - 6:00

Wed PM Bible Study - 7:00

1807 N. Jardot

[gocrosspointe.com](http://gocrosspointe.com)

FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH

701 S. DUNCAN • 405-372-5212

SUNDAY

Bible Study • 9:30am

Worship Service • 11:00am

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Begin at 6:00pm

Watch our worship service on Facebook

[www.fbcstillwater.org](http://www.fbcstillwater.org)

FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

[www.fumcstw.org](http://www.fumcstw.org)

400 W. 7th • 372-5854

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship .....8:30am & 11:10am

Sunday School .....10:00am

Closer Walk .....10 am Family Life Center

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

BAPTIST CHURCH

4th & Knoblock • 372-2744

Sunday School

9 am

Worship Service

8 am & 10:30 am

GRACE BAPTIST

CHURCH

Independent Baptist

Expository Preaching

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday .....10:30am

Thursday .....7:30pm

723 E. 17th

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

524 S. Duncan • 405-372-5580

[www.stillwaterfpc.org](http://www.stillwaterfpc.org)

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - in person, online

On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3

and the Stillwater FPC Facebook page

Sunnybrook

Christian Church

421 E. Richmond Rd • 377.0923

[www.sunnybrookccc.org](http://www.sunnybrookccc.org)

SUNDAY SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 am 8:30 am

11:15 am 9:45 am

KIDS CHURCH 9:45 & 11:15 am

GO • GATHER • GROW

Stillwater

Church of Christ

[stillwatercoc.org](http://stillwatercoc.org)

Your place for

"Faith, Family and Friends"

SUNDAY

Meeting Times

Bible Study .....9:30 AM

Worship .....10:30 AM

Bible Study .....5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible study .....7:00 PM

821 N. DUCK • 372-7439

Southside Baptist

Church of Stillwater

1223 S. Perkins Rd.

Perfectly • Purposely • Placed

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM + 6 PM

WEDNESDAY

YOUTH & ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30

Paul Hutchinson - Pastor

Address - 1223 S. Perkins, Rd.

Phone: 408-372-2411

Email: [southsidestillwater@gmail.com](mailto:southsidestillwater@gmail.com)

The Islamic

Society of Stillwater

616 N. Washington St.

Friday (Weekly) Prayers

1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

For Daily Prayer Times

[www.icstillwater.org](http://www.icstillwater.org)

St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Church

711 N. Country Club Rd.

Sunday Mass 8:30 | 11:15 a.m.

1 p.m. (en español)

Tue & Thu Mass 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday Mass 12:10 p.m.

6 p.m. (en español)

Friday Mass 12:10 p.m.

Saturday Mass 9 a.m. | 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Confessions

Tues-Fri | 11:30-12 p.m.

Wednesday | 5 p.m.

Saturday | 9:45-11 a.m.

405-372-6886 [www.sfxstillwater.org](http://www.sfxstillwater.org)

Zion Lutheran

Church - LCMS

Sunday - 8:00, 10:30 AM

[www.zionlutheranstw.org](http://www.zionlutheranstw.org)

John E. Wackler, Pastor

504 S. Knoblock • 372-3703