

What can American Christians learn from Muslims?

There is a saying; *Anything truly good found in any religion has a place in the Catholic Church.* God the Holy Spirit loves all people. He can and does inspire all with good insights. In spite of all the evil going on in the Islamic world, there are good things happening among the Muslim people that we Catholics would do well to learn from.

Muslims, in general, seem to be able to accept modern technology without accepting the neo-pagan culture that tries to ride with it. Religion, to them, is more out in the open. It is not the private affair that our culture tries to keep in the closet. They kneel down for prayer times no matter where they happen to be. Many Catholics are ashamed to make the sign of the cross in a restaurant. Muslims tend to dress in a way that shows their religious identity. We are afraid to wear a religious medal out in the open lest someone might disagree with us.

Muslim culture insists on modesty in dress. Sexiness and anything related to sex is strictly a private affair. Modern Americans have forgotten that public sexiness is sinful. As Christians we need to reserve our God-given sexual attractiveness for the privacy of Holy Marriage.

The full coverage of former Catholic religious habits reflects an earlier sense of modesty in Christendom. Rather than being critical of some extreme Muslim clothing standards, we Catholics might do well to reflect more positively about this.

We Catholics need badly to let our faith show in our everyday life. We need times of prayer throughout our day. We need to vote Christian values. With the Muslims, we need to resist the neo-pagan social trends that make religion private and sexuality public. Catholic tradition agrees with Islam on many of these matters, and our one God agrees with both of us about this. Now it's up to modern Catholics to agree with our own moral tradition. Perhaps Muslims can show us something.

This, of course, is not meant to praise everything Islam but to reflect on our own lifestyle trends.