



## Moderation in Islamic Da'wah and Christian Mission

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**Abstract:** This research aims to comprehend the concept of moderation in Islamic preaching and Christian missions. The research has three objectives: firstly, to uncover the practice of moderation in Islamic preaching; secondly, to elucidate the manifestation of moderation in Christian missions; and thirdly, to analyze the similarities and differences between moderation in Islamic preaching and Christian missions. Employing a qualitative text-based research method with a literature review approach, the study is conducted on social media platforms by searching for articles from relevant journals. The data sources consist of secondary data collected from literature obtained from journals related to the research problem. Data collection involves searching for journals browsed on portals such as Garuda, Moraref, DOAJ, Google Scholar, and the National Library. Data analysis encompasses data reduction, data classification, data presentation, and data interpretation. The results reveal that the concept of moderation in Islamic preaching facilitates the peaceful and tolerant delivery of preaching invitations with openness to all religious differences. Essentially, moderation in Christian missions aims to prevent extreme, radical, and excessive attitudes in practicing Christian teachings. Additionally, it embraces all religious diversity within Christianity. This research concludes that moderation in Islamic preaching promotes balanced preaching delivery, fostering mutual respect among Muslims. Meanwhile, moderation in Christian missions requires an open-minded approach that embraces all religious differences within Christianity.

**Keywords:** mission; moderation; openness; religion; religious diversity; teachings.

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### 1. Introduction

A moderate attitude toward religion is a good thing in a global context because it promotes peace, understanding and cooperation between different religious groups. This attitude is important to maintain social harmony and stability (Setia & Rahman, 2022). Moderate religious groups tend to be more open to interfaith dialogue and collaboration, which can help build bridges between different religious communities and foster mutual respect and understanding (Klarsfeld et al., 2021). In addition, moderate religious groups are less likely to engage in extremist or radical behavior, which could trigger conflict and violence. Extremist religious groups often reject interreligious dialogue and label other religious groups as sinners or even infidels, which can cause tension and hostility between groups (Wibisono et al., 2019). In contrast, moderate religious groups tend to be more tolerant and accepting of other religious practices, which can help reduce inter-religious tensions and encourage peaceful coexistence (Dodego & Witro, 2020; Labobar, 2020). Likewise, moderate religious groups are more likely to adapt to changing societal values and norms, thereby helping to ensure that religious practices and beliefs remain relevant and in line with broader societal expectations. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out religious preaching by moderates in order to bring about social harmony (Rosyad et al., 2021).

In the Indonesian sense of the word, “*moderation*” means temperance (neither excessive nor deficient) (Nasir, 2021). Generally, moderation implies maintaining a balanced approach to beliefs. In Arabic, moderation is known as “*wasat*” and “*wasatiyah*,” which carries the same meaning as “*tawassut*” (middle), “*Itidal*” (justice), and “*tawazun*” (balance) (Cholil, 2022). In Arabic, “*wasatiyah*” can also be interpreted as the best choice. All these terms convey the same meaning, which is fairness (Nabhani et al., 2023). Moderation can be understood as a religious attitude that balances the exclusivity of one's religious experience and respecting the religious practices of others, different from our own beliefs (inclusive). Balance or the middle path in religious practices can avoid extreme attitudes.

In the context of Islamic da'wah (preaching), moderation can also be understood as Islam not leaning towards extreme left or right positions (Pajarianto, 2023). Indeed, moderation in Islamic da'wah can embrace all Muslims with different religious understandings by prioritizing a universal mission of humanity. Moderation in Islamic da'wah is an effort to uphold humanity, as depicted throughout Islamic history from Mecca to the time of the Rashidun Caliphs. The Quran, in Surah An-Nahal 16:125, clearly outlines the guidelines for preaching, emphasizing wisdom, good advice, and respectful discourse. It acknowledges Allah as the one who knows best, who strays from His path and who receives guidance (Mulyana, 2023).

In essence, moderation in the Christian mission exists as a fellowship of Christians, where the church serves in the midst of the community to fulfill God's mission by offering salvation through Jesus Christ (Sukarna & Okoi, 2023, p. 459). The Bible outlines various relationships between humans and God, such as between a child and the Father and between the Lord and His servants, as seen in John 15:12-15 and Matthew 22:37-40, which form the basis of moderation in Christianity (Lumintang, 2022, p. 58).

In Christianity, the church is established with the purpose of serving as the primary venue for spreading the teachings brought by Jesus. The Christian mission endeavors to transform everyone into disciples of Jesus by emulating His life (Salvador et al., 2014). Thus, all church activities are oriented towards fulfilling Jesus' mission as the foremost objective of Christians. One of the objectives of implementing moderation in the Christian mission is to promote peace. Christianity, known as a religion of peace, actively advocates for behavior aligned with the Word, both in speech and action. The Christian mission seeks to adhere to Jesus' commandments while adapting to changing circumstances. Through the mission, Christians receive the peace of prosperity from Jesus (Sukarna & Okoi, 2023). Peace is a mission undertaken by Christians in collaboration with God. In fulfilling their mission, Christians are called upon to be peacemakers. Being peacemakers is one of the missions within Christianity, according to Jesus' will, as it entails discipleship to Jesus and the embodiment of one of His traits.

Several previous studies have addressed moderation in Islamic da'wah and the Christian mission. Fauziah Nurdin's (2021) study discusses how the Qur'an and Hadith promote balance and moderation, advocating kindness and compassion over violence and extremism. Fitri Rahmawati (2021) explores moderation in Islam as a means to prevent misunderstandings and intolerant attitudes, emphasizing the importance of correct preaching in fostering a peaceful Islamic consciousness. Carolina Etnasari Anjaya and Yonatan Alex Afrianto (2021) discuss religious moderation within the context of the church's mission, advocating for bold expressions of Christian identity amidst diverse communities. Additionally, Listari and Yonatan Alex Arifianto (2020) examine how contemporary churches implement the Great Commission's principles, highlighting the shared goal of bringing souls to salvation and understanding God's mission in all aspects of life. While previous studies have provided valuable insights into moderation in Islamic da'wah and the Christian mission, there are notable distinctions between these studies and the current research. Past research, such as that conducted by Fauziah Nurdin, Fitri Rahmawati, Carolina Etnasari Anjaya and Yonatan Alex Afrianto, and Listari and Yonatan Alex Arifianto, primarily focused on specific aspects of moderation within each religious context. For instance, Nurdin and Rahmawati delved into the Quranic and Hadith perspectives on moderation in Islamic preaching, while Anjaya and Afrianto

examined the manifestation of religious moderation in Christian missions. Conversely, this research aims to provide a comparative analysis of moderation in both Islamic da'wah and Christian missions, shedding light on the similarities and differences between the two religious practices. By adopting a comparative approach, this study seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of moderation across different religious contexts, contributing to the broader discourse on religious tolerance and interfaith dialogue.

Therefore, the main issue in this research is the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah and the concept of moderation in the Christian mission. The research questions analyze the similarities and differences between them. Hence, this research can provide knowledge to the wider community about moderation in Islam and Christianity.

## 2. Method

This research employs a qualitative research method based on text analysis, specifically literature review (Lune & Berg, 2017). The location of this research is in social media, where relevant journal articles are sought to address the research problem. The reason for choosing journals as the research location is because many of them discuss moderation in Islam and Christianity. The data sources for this research are secondary data collected by gathering literature from journals relevant to the research problem. The data collection technique involves a literature review by searching for journals related to the research problem (Snyder, 2019). These journals are browsed through platforms such as Garuda, Moraref, DOAJ, Google Scholar, and the *National Library*. The data analysis technique in this research includes data reduction, data classification, data presentation, and concluding the data.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### a. Concept of Moderation in Islamic Da'wah

#### *Moderation in Islamic Da'wah*

Moderation is defined as maintaining an attitude that consistently avoids extreme behavior. Extreme behavior manifests as being very harsh and passionate. In Arabic, moderation can be aligned with the word "*al-tawasuth*," which means occupying the middle ground (Nurdin et al., 2019). The attitude of *al-tawasuth* can also be represented in religious terms as refraining from taking sides with either the left or right groups (Agama, 2019). Moderation in Islamic da'wah represents a middle path in spreading Islamic teachings amidst differing religious understandings. By employing moderation in Islamic da'wah, believers can foster harmonious relationships among Muslims with diverse religious beliefs. Furthermore, moderation in Islamic da'wah allows Islam to serve as a mediator between all the sects within Islam (Rahmawati, 2021).

Moderation originates from the Latin word "*moderation*," which means temperance (not exaggerated and not diminished). In English, moderation retains the term "*moderation*." Generally, moderation implies maintaining a balance in one's beliefs. Meanwhile, in Arabic, moderation can also be known as "*wasat*" and "*wasatiyah*," which carries the same meaning as "*tawathiyah*" (in the middle), "*Itidal*" (fair), and "*tawazun*" (balanced). Someone who adheres to the principle of "*wasatiyah*" can be referred to as "*wasith*." In Arabic, the term "*wasatiyah*" can be interpreted as the best choice (Saifuddin, 2019).

Moderation in Islam entails avoiding extreme left or right positions. This concept originates from the Quranic term "*ummatan wasatan*" (a community in the middle) (Misrawi, 2010). Throughout Islamic history, from Mecca to the time of the Rashidun Caliphs, moderation has been emphasized as an essential aspect of upholding humanity. Establishing da'wah within the framework of moderate Islam is crucial. The Holy Quran, Surah An-Nahl, verse 125, explicitly states: "Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction and argue with them in the best way. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided." (Nawawi, 2019).

In Islamic da'wah, moderation advocates for a balanced attitude without condemning beliefs different from our own. It serves as a middle ground to prevent conflicts among Muslims with varying beliefs. Through moderation in Islamic da'wah, Muslims can foster respect for differences and practice mutual tolerance. Therefore, valuing mutual respect for differences is essential in Islamic da'wah. This concept is realized by avoiding attitudes that claim our beliefs as the sole truth (Hidayat, 2022, p. 57).

In the holy Quran, many verses explain the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah, including Surah Al-Baqarah verse 143, Surah Al-Maidah verse 89, and Surah Al-Qalam verse 28. All these verses discuss the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah. Muslims can implement the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah through peaceful and tolerant means. Essentially, the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah not only exists now but also existed during the time of Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet also taught this concept to his followers at that time (Syarif, 2021).

The concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah always emphasizes an open attitude towards all differences in religious understanding (Thaib, 2020, p. 150). This concept entails not being too excessive in practicing Islamic teachings and not blaming others for their religious beliefs. Understanding Islamic teachings must be balanced and reasonable. In the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah, discrimination against the religious beliefs of others is not allowed, but rather, all differences must be accepted. Islamic moderation can unify all differences within Islam.

The concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah will always embrace all differences in beliefs. Despite the variations within Islam, it will not obstruct Muslims from maintaining harmonious relationships, enabling them to practice tolerance (Abdullah et al., 2022). The concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah must embody fairness during the delivery of Islamic teachings to avoid provoking conflicts among Muslims. In the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah, one must maintain an open-minded attitude when preaching to Muslims with different religious understandings so that the preached da'wah can be well-received (Muhyiddin, 2022).

#### *Background of Moderation in Islamic Preaching*

Muslims tend to adopt a moderate attitude in da'wah to facilitate a better understanding of the comprehensive teachings of Islam. By promoting an open-minded attitude in accordance with the injunctions found in the Quran, it should be realized that in today's era, the application of moderation has become a guiding principle in thinking and acting for Muslims. Religious communities worldwide began to recognize moderation in Islamic da'wah in the early 20th century. The concept of moderation in da'wah actually exists in the Holy Book of Islam, the Quran (Thaib, 2020).

Moderation in Islamic da'wah entails a balance in beliefs expressed by all streams of Islam. It prioritizes tolerance in dealing with differences in belief issues, ensuring that variations in beliefs within Islam do not hinder harmony. Islam itself inherently holds values of balance, enabling Muslims to comprehend Islam comprehensively. Moderate Islamic da'wah exhibits a tolerant attitude, respecting all differences and beliefs. Therefore, preachers should refrain from force their will on listeners to follow their beliefs. Such principles of moderation play a crucial role in delivering da'wah (Muhyiddin, 2022).

The Quran also contains numerous verses addressing moderation in Islamic da'wah. One such verse is found in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 143, which states, "And thus we have made you a median [just] community that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you." It emphasizes that Muslims are essentially a moderate community positioned in the middle. A balanced and moderate community can act justly towards all streams within Islam when engaging in da'wah. Surah Al-Qasas, verse 77, also speaks of a moderate community's ability to maintain balance in occupying a position. Thus, moderation in da'wah fosters an attitude of accepting differences. The Quran also affirms the importance of moderation, regulating it within its sacred text (Muhtifah, 2021).

#### *Model of Moderation in Islamic Preaching*

By employing the model of moderation in Islamic da'wah, preachers significantly facilitate interactions with Muslims of varying religious understandings, thus fostering harmonious relationships among different groups within Islam. Moderation in Islamic da'wah essentially serves as a middle path to prevent disputes among communities with different interpretations within Islam (Abdullah et al., 2022). Therefore, moderation becomes crucial in the realm of Islamic da'wah, as it has become an indispensable quality for a preacher to possess. In the pursuit of realizing harmonious relationships among different groups within Islam, the attitude of moderation is essential, which entails accepting all differences embraced by various Islamic streams (Hidayat, 2022).

In the teachings of Islam brought by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), he has already taught about moderation (Musyarrafah, 2023). Essentially, the model of preaching with moderation has been introduced by the Prophet since ancient times to the Muslim community, and it has even been exemplified by the Prophet, serving as a model for Muslims today in preaching with moderation. With the presence of moderation in preaching taught by the Prophet, Muslims can appreciate the beliefs held by others when preaching. With the model of da'wah taught by the Prophet, preachers are less likely to disrupt the beliefs of Muslims with different religious understandings.

Fundamentally, Islam teaches Muslims to do good to everyone, even if their religious understandings differ greatly. Islam does not instruct its followers to wage war against those with different religious understandings; rather, it teaches them to interact positively with those who hold differing beliefs, thereby fostering an atmosphere of peace, mutual respect, and honor (As'ad, 2021). Essentially, moderation in da'wah can build interactions with a heterogeneous community with differing understandings. Moderate da'wah emerges as a means to resolve disputes or conflicts among groups within Islam. Through moderation in da'wah, the creation of a harmonious life is possible despite differences in religious understanding.

#### *Strategies for Moderating in Islamic Preaching*

The strategies employed by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) during his mission can also serve as examples for Muslims today in preaching with moderation. The moderation strategy in Islamic da'wah taught by the Prophet can be utilized by Muslims today. The moderation strategy in preaching will not offend the religious beliefs of those we are preaching to, even if we have different beliefs (Izuddin et al., 2023, p. 114). With the moderation strategy in preaching, preachers can easily spread their message peacefully without resorting to violence, thereby fostering harmonious relationships among different groups within Islam.

To prevent conflicts among groups within Islam, it is essential to employ moderation strategies in preaching. The strategies used must embody a spirit of moderation to maintain balance. Implementing these strategies takes work; there must first be an agreement among different Islamic groups regarding the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah. Therefore, before employing moderation strategies in preaching, it is crucial to first socialize the concept of moderation in Islamic da'wah among Islamic groups. Consistent socialization is vital to ensure that all parties can accept the preaching being delivered. Efforts must be made collaboratively to plan moderation strategies in Islamic da'wah effectively, thereby fostering harmonious relationships among groups within Islam with differing religious understandings (Saifuddin, 2019).

Moderation strategies in preaching are crucial in the realm of da'wah as they can uphold the dignity and honor of Islam as a religion. Preaching with moderation principles is essential for preachers today. Without moderation in preaching, there is a high risk of division among different groups within Islam with varying beliefs (Yasmin, 2023, p. 8). Thus, with moderation in Islamic da'wah, Muslims can understand and practice the teachings of Islam comprehensively and in balance. Conflicts in da'wah among different groups within Islam can be resolved through moderation in preaching. Moderation in Islamic da'wah can also nurture and respect all differing beliefs within Islam, fostering mutual respect among all.

Islamic moderation can serve as a dividing line between opposing Islamic factions. Therefore, the moderate stance in Islamic da'wah tends to be tolerant and not rigid in interpreting Islamic teachings. In the context of balance in moderation, the Prophet prohibited Muslims from being excessive in practicing Islam. In the effort to realize moderation values in preaching, it is imperative to have an attitude of openness when interacting with Muslims of different beliefs to avoid offending. Such an attitude must be instilled in preachers so that they can consistently employ moderation in delivering their message. In moderation strategy in preaching, it must adhere to the principles of Islamic teachings and refrain from imposing beliefs on others with different faiths (Hendri et al., 2023).

## **b. Concept of Moderation in Christian Mission**

### *Definition of Moderation in Christian Mission*

Generally, moderation in the Christian mission involves avoiding extremism and emphasizing balanced morality when interacting with fellow Christians of different beliefs. The term moderation in Christianity is evident in the New Testament Bible, particularly in Hebrews 5:2, where the Greek translation "*metriopathein*" conveys gentleness and restraint from anger. Moderation in Christianity involves self-awareness and understanding of human weaknesses. It is considered a fundamental principle that all members of the Christian community must uphold. The mission of moderation within Christianity is a collective responsibility among Christian believers. In Christianity, moderation in the mission is regarded as a means to realize the teachings of Christianity in accordance with the Word of God (Triposa & Yulianto, 2022).

The presence of moderation in the Christian mission is inseparable from the calling to spread the teachings of Christianity, which can bring goodness to all Christian believers. The mission conveyed by Jesus to the Christian community is never wrong; rather, it is the methods and approaches used by Christians in carrying out the mission that may need to be corrected. Understanding the importance of the Christian mission in the present time is crucial because incorrect evangelization methods can lead to misinterpretations of Christian teachings (Sukanto, 2022). The New Testament Bible portrays mission holistically, as seen in Matthew 23:23, which emphasizes justice, mercy, and faithfulness. The paradigm of mission in Christianity can address how people from different Christian perspectives can build harmonious relationships. The Christian community needs to demonstrate that they are followers of Jesus Christ by striving for unity amid diverse beliefs, as exemplified by Jesus in John 17. In the diversity of the Church, consideration can be given to new mission approaches that liberate missionaries from institutional constraints to increase new membership in the Church (Widjaja & Simanjuntak, 2022, p. 7).

Galatians 5:14 mentions moderation in the Christian mission. In Christian tradition, moderation in mission serves as a perspective that mediates the extremities of Christian teachings, comprehended by all Christian believers. One approach to fortify moderation in Christianity is to enhance interaction among various Christian denominations. In the Gospels, fundamental to Christian belief, Jesus is portrayed as the peacemaker among Christian believers. Through moderation in the Christian mission, divergent Christian believers can reconcile their religious understandings (Latif et al., 2022).

The term "mission" in Christianity is derived from the Latin word "mission," which means sending. Christian mission is one of the apostolic activities originating from Jesus and witnessed in the Bible. Essentially, the Christian mission aims to offer the truth about Jesus to all Christian believers faithfully. Spreading the mission in Christianity requires an open attitude to foster harmonious relationships among believers with different beliefs. Evangelism in Christianity is a vital part of the Christian mission, aiming to inform believers about Jesus and his teachings. Christian mission is a commission entrusted by Jesus to spread his work through his sacrifice (Lumintang, 2022).

The mission is an integral part of Jesus' ministry to Christian believers. Jesus' ministry serves as a normative model for Christian philanthropic endeavors in the mission. Exploring the essence of mission in the Gospels reveals that it is a continuation of Jesus' mission to Christians, a mission that

Jesus carried out while practicing Christian teachings. Essentially, the Christian mission does not contradict values outside of Christianity. The dissemination of the Christian mission must be connected to the role of Christian leaders. Christian mission does not merely target individuals but aims to enable believers to worship in accordance with Jesus' teachings (Widjaja & Simanjuntak, 2022).

In essence, the concept of moderation in the Christian mission entails avoiding extremism, radicalism, exclusivity, and excessiveness in practicing Christian teachings. It represents a middle ground that summarizes the diversity within Christianity. Practicing a moderate attitude in Christian mission involves openness, wherein Christians accept all differences within Christianity. When conducting Christian missions, it is advisable to adopt an open attitude so that the mission can be peacefully accepted (Pono, 2022).

Fundamentally, the concept of moderation in the Christian mission exists among Christians as the implementation of the Christian mission with the aim of bringing peace. The concept of moderation in the Christian mission has become an ideal form of carrying out Christian missions, wherein mutual respect for differences in religious understanding is emphasized based on the concept of moderation in the Christian mission (Putri & Wijaya, 2022).

In the concept of moderation in the Christian mission, addressing religious differences among Christians is crucial. These differences are viewed as endeavors towards fostering harmony within Christianity. Tolerance plays a pivotal role in this concept, as embracing diverse beliefs within Christianity grants freedom for individuals to practice their faith. With the introduction of moderation in the Christian mission, violent behaviors during missions can be substituted with peaceful attitudes (Latif et al., 2022).

The concept of moderation in the Christian mission can also foster religious diversity among Christians, avoiding conflicts among Christians. Differences in dogma and doctrine will help Christians maintain harmonious relationships. Instead, these differences can unite all denominations within Christianity. Differences in Christian faith cannot be denied, and moderation in Christianity can unite these differences. Appreciating differences in beliefs as a concept of moderation in the Christian mission can eliminate inclusive attitudes and promote exclusive attitudes (Arifianto et al., 2021).

#### *Background of Moderation in Christian Mission*

The mission of Christianity has a goal, which is to convert everyone to Christianity so that they become followers of Jesus Christ. The church is one of the places used by Christians in carrying out the Christian mission and can significantly contribute to spreading the Christian mission. The concept of mission in Christianity is evidence of God's dynamic consistency towards Christians. Mission in Christianity can also respond to the call and resonate with Christians in portraying the Gospel of Jesus. From the perspective of Christianity today, it is closely related to Jesus' command in the Gospel of Matthew 28, which instructs all Christian believers to go and carry out the Christian mission. The most important requirement for moderation in the Christian mission is to be able to connect theological arguments and not to force those who have different beliefs to adopt our own beliefs (Walean, 2021).

Referring to Matthew 85-13, it can also be elaborated that something very important related to the mission of Christian moderation is that in carrying out the mission with moderation, there must be an attitude of accepting differences. The implication of a mission attitude in moderation will not blame the understanding of different Christian believers regarding religious beliefs. In living out the life of Christian believers, the main thing to do in missions is not just to prove that Christianity is the true religion (Stanley, 2014, p. 78). Moderation in Christian missions is present as one of the solutions to the problems that have arisen in the spread of Christian missions. The target in the implementation of the mission in Christianity is not only for oneself but for the entire Christian community, and the command to carry out the mission in Christianity is obligatory for all Christian believers (Pono, 2022).

### *Model of Moderation in Christian Mission*

In Galatians 5:13-26, the letter presents Apostle Paul's advice to the Christian community, urging them to worship diligently, as worship serves as one of the best defenses against the snares of false teachers. Jesus' arrival in the world is a tangible manifestation of the love bestowed by God upon Jesus, evident to Christian believers. God sent Jesus into the world with the purpose of spreading the teachings of the Christian mission. Paul's emphasis on compassion towards fellow Christians is also evident in Galatians 5:14 (Latif et al., 2022).

In Christianity, it is believed that one must actively engage in understanding the mission of Christian teachings and fully comprehend all the contents of the Bible. Christianity demands that all believers apply moderation in the Christian mission, as exemplified by Jesus. God also instructs Christian believers that if they sin during their time on earth, they will receive reprimand from God. Therefore, the main foundation of moderation in the Christian mission in the lives of believers must be realized through moderation in the Christian mission, in other words, in behavior based on Christian teachings. Consequently, all attitudes in the Christian mission become the actions of Christian believers. The example set by Jesus in carrying out the Christian mission can also be continued by Jesus' disciples in the lives of Christian believers (Arifianto, 2021).

Christian mission is considered a crucial endeavor in proclaiming salvation to all of Christianity. The proclamation of the Christian mission must persist until it brings growth to believers in Jesus. The motivation of Christian believers in executing the mission will be pivotal in carrying out the mission undertaken by them. It is undeniable that within the Christian mission, there are motivations that drive Christian believers to firmly believe in disseminating the message of the Christian mission, such as the salvation owed to God and given through Jesus. This will fuel great enthusiasm in promoting the dissemination of Christian teachings. With the motivation to proclaim the mission of Christianity, Christian believers must undertake the mission (Anjaya & Arifianto, 2021).

The implementation of the mission carried out by Jesus, as well as the foundation of Christian believers in carrying out the mission, must know the truth of the Word of Jesus Christ. Because anything done in the implementation of the Christian mission can bring souls to God. Christian believers must carry out the Christian mission so that the implications of Christian teachings can be applied when on a mission. Jesus Christ has also become an example that impacts Christian believers in carrying out the Christian mission (Lina & Wijanarko, 2022).

### *Moderation Strategies in Christian Mission*

Jesus Christ carried out the mission of Christianity according to the will of God. The dissemination of the Christian mission undertaken by Jesus Christ aims to provide spiritual healing to the souls of Christian believers. In the implementation of the Christian mission, Jesus Christ also imparted teachings to Christian believers (Hall, 1840). Christian believers who believe in Jesus find it only fitting to emulate His attitude in carrying out the Christian mission, as explained in the Holy Scriptures of Christian believers. Jesus plays a very important role in the spread of the Christian mission (Saepudin et al., 2023).

In Christianity, the mission is inseparable from God's purpose in sending Jesus Christ into the world, which is to proclaim testimony and news about Evangelism. The power of God can also drive the characteristics of the Christian mission. The Christian mission, propelled by Jesus Christ, can also prepare a straight path to God. It is stated in the Bible that moderation in the Christian mission is given to Christian believers through the intermediary of Jesus Christ. In 1 John 15:13, the Christian mission carried out by Jesus can also give life to Christian believers today. Currently, many Christian believers need more openness when spreading the teachings of the Christian mission. With moderation in the Christian mission today, pastors should ideally have an attitude of mutual openness when carrying out the Christian mission (Sinaga et al., 2023).

It is crucial to have strategies for carrying out the mission with moderation. The element of moderation in the Christian mission has become one of the crucial elements in Christianity so that believers can always maintain a relationship with Jesus. The Christian mission can provide an



understanding to Christian believers about the values found in the Gospel. Therefore, the level of interest among Christian believers in using moderation strategies in carrying out the Christian mission has become one of the aspects of Christianity where missions have an attitude of mutual openness. Implementing the moderation mission in Christianity involves realizing peace within Christianity (Gultom et al., 2022).

The mission of Christianity aims to ensure that the teachings are accepted by both Christian believers and those outside of Christianity. The concept of the mission in Christianity is evidence of the relationship between Christian believers and God. The mission of Christian teachings can also call upon its followers to proclaim the Gospel to humanity. The Christian mission is one of the manifestations of the arrival of Jesus Christ into this world, which ultimately can have a significant impact in carrying out the mission call in today's era. The prerequisite for proclaiming the news of the Christian mission is to relinquish the attitude of imposing one's own will when spreading the Christian mission (Lina & Wijanarko, 2022).

Essentially, the Christian mission found in the Gospels illustrates how his followers can also continue the mission brought by Jesus. The Gospels, specifically Matthew 11:15 and Luke 7:22, recount the Christian mission carried out by Jesus Christ. Moderation in the Christian mission comes with an attitude of mutual openness when carrying out the Christian mission. The hospitality in carrying out the mission, demonstrated by Jesus as one of the attractions for people to enter Christianity, motivates Christian believers to spread the Christian mission with the friendly attitude taught by Jesus (Simanjuntak, 2021).

The Bible also states that Christian believers must provide salvation to all people within Christianity. Indirectly, the Bible states to Christian believers that all Christians are indeed obliged to proclaim the Gospel, as Jesus Christ did when spreading the Christian mission. There are numerous examples of evangelism announcements in the Gospels found in Christianity. Before being crucified, Jesus informed His disciples about evangelism announcements in Christianity, and He gave the command to carry out this task. Before Jesus died on the cross, He instructed Christian believers to spread the mission of Christianity to future generations of Christian believers (Andersen & Purmanasari, 2022).

The presence of moderation in the mission of Christianity is unavoidable, as it fosters harmonious relationships within Christianity despite differences in religious understanding. Peter's sermon in the Acts of the Apostles exemplifies moderation in the Christian mission, marking a significant event for Christian believers. Moderate mission in Christianity facilitates unity among various groups within the faith. Respecting every belief is crucial in Christianity, reflecting the attitude exemplified by Jesus Christ. Christian believers must embody mutual openness when conducting the Christian mission to ensure smooth Evangelism in Christianity (Widjaja & Simanjuntak, 2022).

During the delivery of Christian teachings, believers are called to carry out the mission of Christianity with gentleness and mutual respect. Adopting a gentle approach in conveying the Christian mission ensures that the invitation is accepted despite differences in beliefs within Christianity. Implementing evangelism with moderation has become imperative for all Christian believers in spreading the mission of Christianity. Pastors in this era must utilize moderation in disseminating Christian teachings (Triposa & Yulianto, 2022).

### **c. Comparison Between Moderation in Islamic Preaching and Christian Mission**

Islamic preaching always embraces an open attitude towards all differences within Islam, thereby unifying them through Islamic moderation. Similarly, a moderate Christian mission also entails openness towards all differences within the Christian faith, thereby uniting them through moderation. Islamic preaching serves as a middle ground that encompasses the diversity within Islam, while moderation in the Christian mission acts as a mediator within Christianity, embracing all the diversity within the Christian faith.

With moderation in Islamic preaching, it becomes a means for Islamic believers to understand the teachings of Islam fully (As'ad, 2021). Similarly, in Christianity, moderation in the Christian mission allows believers to understand Christian teachings fully. In Islam, the concept of moderate preaching has been exemplified and taught by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) to all Muslims. The example set by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) can serve as a basis for conducting moderate preaching in Islam. In Christianity, conducting moderate missions has been taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ to all Christian believers. The example set by Jesus can also serve as a basis for conducting the dissemination of the Christian mission with moderation.

In Islam, practicing moderation in delivering Islamic preaching entails refraining from extreme actions. By avoiding extremism, Islamic preaching can be conveyed peacefully and accepted by the Islamic community. Similarly, in Christianity, spreading Christian teachings with moderation means avoiding extreme actions. By refraining from extremism, the invitation to the Christian mission can be conveyed peacefully and accepted by the Christian community.

While the differences in Christianity, God sent Jesus Christ into the world with the purpose of carrying out the mission of God. In Islam, God sent Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) into the world not to fulfill a specific mission of God but rather to transform the character of humanity (Anjaya & Arifianto, 2021). Before the birth of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), humanity lacked moral character. In conducting moderate missions in Christianity, it is essential to consider the target audience in the delivery of the Christian mission. In Islam, when conducting Islamic preaching, there is no need for specific target audiences in the delivery of Islamic preaching (Nawawi, 2019).

Moderation in the Christian mission essentially serves as a mediator among various Christian denominations in disseminating the Evangelical message within Christianity. Similarly, moderation in Islamic preaching serves as a mediator among various beliefs within Islam, unifying all differences in belief within Islam for the propagation of the Islamic faith.

In the mission of Christianity, it serves as the proclamation of the Evangelical message to all Christian believers (Listari & Arifianto, 2020). In Islamic preaching, it serves as a notification to Muslims to spread the teachings of Islam. In Christianity, the mission is a means of salvation provided by Jesus Christ to free Christian believers from inherited sins. In Islam, preaching serves as a means of informing Muslims so they may understand the teachings of Islam properly (Nurdin, 2021). In Christianity, the mission fulfills the longing of Christian believers for Jesus Christ in the dissemination of the Evangelical message. In Islam, preaching is a duty given by God to Muslims and spread to all followers of Islam.

In Christianity, the mission is a way to convert non-believers into believers in Jesus Christ. In Islam, preaching is a way for Muslims to spread the teachings of Islam so that many people can fully understand Islamic teachings. In Christianity, Jesus Christ spread the Christian mission before his crucifixion, instructing Christian believers to disseminate the Christian mission peacefully. In Islam, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) spread the Islamic preaching before his death, instructing Muslims to propagate the teachings of Islam. He also left two legacies for living in this world, including spreading Islamic preaching, which regulates the dissemination of Islamic preaching.

In Christianity, the mission has become a notification of the Evangelical message to Christian believers, providing salvation to them. Jesus Christ has demonstrated to Christian believers in the implementation of the Christian mission. Therefore, in the implementation of moderation in the Christian mission carried out by Christian believers, a spirit of openness can also create peace within Christianity during the Christian mission (Salvador et al., 2014). In Islam, the implementation of preaching with moderation, when carrying out the teachings of Islamic preaching, can also adopt an attitude of openness in spreading Islamic preaching, thus allowing the message to be conveyed peacefully. Moderation in Islamic preaching has become a way to understand and practice the teachings of Islam comprehensively and balanced to avoid disputes over differing religious understandings (Hendri et al., 2023). Moderation in Islamic preaching

serves as a way to dialogue among different Islamic communities with varying religious understandings, including extremist factions on both ends of the spectrum.

#### 4. Conclusion

In essence, the concept of moderation in Islamic preaching always entails maintaining a balanced approach when conducting Islamic outreach. In propagating Islam, Muslims are encouraged to respect the religious differences of others and must exhibit tolerance. Through such tolerance, Muslims can foster harmonious relationships with individuals of different religious beliefs. Similarly, the concept of moderation in Christian missions can be practiced through an open and accepting attitude toward all religious differences within Christianity. In Christianity, moderation serves as a means of fostering peace among its adherents. With the concept of moderation in Christian missions, Christians can also exhibit tolerance towards differing beliefs, thereby promoting harmonious relationships.

One commonality between moderation in Islamic preaching and Christian missions is their shared goal of spreading the teachings of their respective religions peacefully. Both moderation in Islamic preaching and Christian missions advocate for openness in the dissemination of their teachings, allowing for their messages to be received positively without conflict. The concept of moderation in Islamic preaching and Christian missions serves as a middle ground that accommodates religious diversity within Islam and Christianity. By embracing moderation in Islamic preaching and Christian missions, the delivery of teachings from Islam and Christianity can avoid the use of extreme approaches. However, there are differences between moderation in Islamic preaching and Christian missions. In Christianity, only religious figures can conduct missions, whereas in Islam, all Muslims can engage in preaching.

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