

## Abstract

The objective of the thesis primarily is to identify the main characteristics of the relationship between Christian and Muslims in the Czech Republic after September 11, 2001 (*here and now*) based on the sociological survey. Subsequently, the ascertained *concerns* and *hopes* become subject to a theological reflection with the aim to assess their justification, or to outline the theological base for their evaluation and thereby, to aid in correct orientation when deciding on whether these concerns and hopes are justified, or whether they are prejudices, which have no support at the dogmatic level and which should be further avoided.

Within the conducted sociological surveys, the following methods and techniques were applied: media analysis (nationwide press at selected time intervals), inquiry of the participants of a weekend gathering of Christians and Muslims, semi-controlled interviews with selected respondents from the environment of the Catholic Church.

Based on the above mentioned sociological surveys, **dialogue** was identified as *hope*. An in-depth examination indicated that the dialogue has a number of levels. A dialogue at an *ethical and practical* level represents a possible way out from the current situation, owing to its focus on common values and the common future of the participants, who care about a common future. Apart from formulating an own standpoint, the dialogue also anticipates interest in others and openness towards others. The fact whether this interest is present also on the side of Muslims living in the Czech Republic shall be the subject of continuing sociological surveys. Moreover, contemplating the dialogue content and its forms has a rather substantial effect – it forces in individual to self-reflection and it may aid in certain restoration of Christian attitudes.

The divergent **concept of political power**, political involvement was designated as a concern. Some concepts of enforcing Islamic law are directly abhorrent to the Western concept of democracy. Unlike Christian teachings, Islam does not differentiate between the secular and religious area, whereas this aspect may be considered as one of the most significant roots of mutual misunderstanding.

This examination thesis represents a part of a future dissertation. The chapters presented herein will be further complemented and other chapters shall be included based on the ascertained respondent opinions. The continuing sociological surveys will expand the identified concerns, as well as focus on other respondent and media groups.

This project, among others, seeks to stimulate an intra-religious dialogue, with the aim to search for new forms of coexistence of the representatives of both the religions (in a majority society) in the CR based on mutual respect. One cannot speak of full-value relationship without revealing the congruent and divergent attitudes. If we do not understand namely the hidden concerns, space will be left for fomenting hatred. The sociological surveys (non-religious interpretation) alone are not sufficient for unearthing the roots of these concerns and hopes. An analysis of theological concepts should be performed in the manner as this thesis attempts with selected topics.