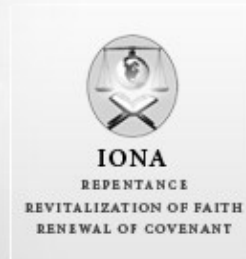




Synopsis of Friday Sermon

Ameer Mustapha Elturk



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Synopsis of the Friday Sermon delivered by Ameer Mustapha Elturk on August 25, 2023

The Ideal Muslim Family

Islam places great emphasis on the importance of family and the relationships within it. Family is considered a fundamental unit of society, it is the nucleus and heart of society and plays a crucial role in shaping the moral, social, and spiritual development of individuals.

The Qur'an and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) give us the framework as well as the complete guidance on various aspects of family life, including marital relationships, parental responsibilities, and the treatment of family members.

The human family began with the first couple Adam and Hawa' (Eve), *“O people! Be mindful of your Lord Who created you from a single soul, and from it He created its mate, and through both He spread a multitude of men and women. And remain conscious of Allah, in whose name you request of one another—and (observe the) family ties. Surely Allah is ever watchful over you.”* [al-Nisa', 4:1]

Humanity began to multiply through the process of procreation. *“And among His signs is that He created spouses (husbands and wives) from among yourselves for you to live with in tranquility and has placed affection and compassion in you. Surely, in that are signs for a people who reflect.”* [al-Rum, 30:21]

The ayah emphasizes marital harmony. Islam encourages harmony, love, and mutual respect between spouses. The Qur'an describes the relationship between husband and wife as one of companionship and comfort, with each partner serving as a source of support for the other.

In order to ensure a healthy marriage, the husband and the wife need to be familiar with their mutual rights and responsibilities.

Husbands are responsible for providing for the family's financial and other needs, while wives are entitled to respect, kindness, and protection. *“Men shall take full care of women, a preference Allah made of some over others and because they spend out of their wealth (to support them).”* [al-Nisa, 4:34]

Husbands are entrusted with the responsibility of providing comprehensive care for their wives, as Allah (ﷻ) has distinguished certain individuals by granting them a preference due to their capabilities and willingness to expend their wealth in support of them.

The Prophet (ﷺ) in his farewell sermon (*hajjatul-wada'*) instructed, *“It is true that you have certain rights in regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives, only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right, then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them, for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with anyone of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.”*

While Islam outlines different roles and responsibilities for men and women, it emphasizes the equal worth and value of both genders. At the moral and spiritual level both husbands and wives are equal before Allah. *“Surely, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous.”* [al-Hujurat, 49:13]

Husbands and wives are blessed with children. Parents are responsible for the physical, emotional, and spiritual upbringing of their children.

Parenting is considered a sacred and important duty. The physical needs of children, including food, clothing, shelter and healthcare, is a fundamental responsibility parents bear. Parents should ensure their children's well-being and safety.

Parents should create a loving and supportive environment for their children. Offering emotional support, listening to their concerns, and expressing affection are elements of parenting.

Parents are responsible for disciplining their children in a fair and balanced manner. This involves setting boundaries, enforcing rules, and teaching them self-control and responsibility.

Treating children with respect and kindness is important. Islam prohibits harsh treatment, abuse, or neglect of children. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was known for his gentle and compassionate treatment of children.

Parents should prepare their children for adulthood by teaching them life skills, responsibilities, and the importance of contributing positively to society.

Parents are responsible for providing education and knowledge to children. It is an essential duty of parents. This includes not only secular education but also Islamic teachings, the Qur'an, and the life of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). Sunday school will only complement and reinforce what the children learn at home.

Parents are expected to lead by example, by living according to Islamic principles. Indeed, children learn by observing their parents' behavior and actions.

Parents will learn that each child is unique, with varying strengths, weaknesses, and personalities. Parents should strive to understand and address the individual needs of each child.

As children grow older, parents play a role in guiding them toward making informed and suitable choices in marriage partners.

Parents are encouraged to make dua for their children's well-being, guidance, and success. A parent's dua is powerful and will be answered by Allah (ﷻ).

Islam stresses the importance of nurturing children's faith (iman) and character, instilling strong moral values in them. This involves teaching them the principles of Islam, the importance of prayer, honesty, kindness, and respect for others with the primary focus on iman. *“Mention (O Prophet), when Luqman said to his son while instructing him: ‘O my dear son, do not commit shirk (associate anything) with Allah, for verily, shirk is the greatest injustice.’* [Luqman, 31:13]

The aim is to raise righteous, upright, educated, responsible Muslims to lead the community in righteousness and good deeds, promoting what is good and forbidding what is evil.

Likewise, children are instructed to show respect and obedience to their parents. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of treating parents with kindness, gratitude, and obedience. *“And We have enjoined upon man (kindness) to his parents. His mother carried him with weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years, that you be grateful to Me and your parents. (Ultimately,) you will return to Me.”* [Luqman, 31:14]

A similar ayah further explains the attitude of a righteous son or daughter, *“And We have enjoined upon man, (good treatment) to his parents. His mother carried him with hardship and gave birth to him with hardship, and (the period of) carrying him and weaning is thirty months. (He grows) until, when he reaches maturity*

and reaches (the age of) forty years, he says, 'My Lord, enable me to (always) be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do good deeds of which You are pleased, and make righteous for me my offspring. Indeed, I repent to You, and indeed, I am of the Muslims.' [al-Ahqaf, 46:15]

These ayat highlight the importance of treating one's parents with kindness, respect, and good behavior. Only mothers know and are familiar with the hardships they endure during pregnancy and childbirth, underscoring the sacrifice and effort involved in bringing a child into the world. As the child grows and matures, they are to express gratitude to Allah for His blessings and to be grateful to their parents for their efforts and sacrifices.

When children reach the age of psychological maturity they pray for guidance and righteousness. They seek Allah's approval and ask for the ability to lead a life that is pleasing to Him, to their parents, and to future generations.

The ayat from Surah Luqman and Surah al-Ahqaf emphasize the significance of gratitude, kindness, and righteousness in one's relationship with both Allah (ﷻ) and their parents.

The fruit of the parent's labor is righteous children taking good care of their parents in their old age, *"And your Lord has decreed that you worship none except Him, and good treatment to parents. Should one or both reach old age (while) with you, never say to them 'uf/ugh' and do not repel them, rather (always) speak gently to them. And spread the wings of mercy in humility to them and pray, 'O my Lord, be merciful to them as they have raised me when I was a little child.'* [al-Isra', 17:23,24]

Similarly, the above mentioned ayat also highlight the command to treat parents with kindness, respect, and obedience provided that the parents' instructions do not conflict with Islamic teachings. Even in moments of disagreement or old age, children should not show impatience or annoyance toward their parents. Instead, they are instructed to address their parents with noble and respectful words, reflecting the importance of maintaining a positive relationship with parents throughout their lives.

Active listening and open communication between parents and children is essential. Children should take time to understand their parents' perspectives, concerns and advice. While parents' decisions are to be respected, children can offer guidance and share their opinions respectfully, especially in matters where their expertise or perspective is relevant.

Children are commanded to treat their parents with kindness, compassion, and empathy. This includes showing affection, offering help, and tending to their parents' needs as they age. They should avoid actions or speech that may cause embarrassment or harm to their parents' dignity and reputation. Children should provide emotional support and companionship to their parents, especially in times of difficulty or loneliness.

When they are financially capable, children are expected to contribute to their parents' financial needs, especially in old age or in times of necessity. This obligation extends to providing for parents' necessities, including food, clothing, and shelter. This principle also extends to providing for family members who may be less fortunate or facing hardships.

They should prioritize their parents' health and well-being, ensuring they receive proper medical care and attention. They should pray for their well-being, health, and success. Making dua for their parents' forgiveness and blessings is considered a virtuous act. *"Our Lord be merciful to them as they have raised me when I was a little child."*

Even after marriage and establishing their own families, children should continue to maintain strong relationships with their parents. Regular visits, phone calls, and expressions of care help nurture these ties.

When they pass away, remember them, and supplicate for them. Ask Allah (ﷻ) to forgive them and be merciful to them. Children have responsibilities related to the proper distribution of their parents' inheritance in accordance with Islamic law.

By fulfilling these responsibilities, children not only honor their parents but also contribute to the harmonious

functioning of families and society. Islam places a strong emphasis on valuing and caring for parents throughout their lives, reflecting the importance of family bonds and the compassionate teachings of the faith.

The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) emphasized the importance of obedience to parents and the gravity of disobedience in the following hadiths.

According to Abdullah bin 'Amr (RAA), the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The pleasure of the Lord is in the pleasure of the parent, and the anger of the Lord is in the anger of the parent." (Sunan Ibn Majah)

Abdullah bin Mas'ud (RAA) said, the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The major sins are to believe that Allah has partners, to disobey one's parents, to commit murder, and to bear false witness." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Similarly, Abdullah bin Omar (RAA) said, the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The parent is the middle door of Paradise (i.e., the best way to paradise), so it is up to you whether you take advantage of it or lose it." (Sunan Ibn Majah)

Abu Huraira (RAA) narrates: "A man came to Allah's Messenger and said, 'O Allah's Messenger! Who is more entitled to be treated with the best companionship by me?' The Prophet said, 'Your mother.' The man asked, 'Who is next?' The Prophet said, 'Your mother.' The man further asked, 'Who is next?' The Prophet said, 'Your mother.' The man asked for the fourth time, inquired, 'Who is next?' The Prophet said, 'Your father.'" (Sahih al-Bukhari)

These hadiths emphasize the significance of respecting, obeying, and being dutiful to one's parents. Disobedience to parents is mentioned as one of the major sins in Islam, reflecting the high status that parents hold in Islam. The Prophet's words further emphasize the importance of recognizing the sacrifices and care parents provide, and the obligation to treat them with kindness, respect, and obedience throughout their lives.

Islam teaches the importance of resolving conflicts and disputes within the family through communication, patience, and seeking mediation. It is discouraged to let conflicts escalate and disrupt family harmony.

Islam also encourages maintaining relationships with extended family members (*silat al-rahm*), including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Treating extended family with respect and kindness is an important aspect of Islamic etiquette.

Additionally, Islam promotes treating in-laws with kindness and respect. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) emphasized the significance of maintaining positive relationships with the families of one's spouse.

While Islam permits divorce in certain circumstances, it is considered a last resort after all efforts for reconciliation have been exhausted. Steps should be taken to protect the well-being of both spouses and any children involved.

In Islam, family is viewed as a means to attain spiritual growth, fulfill responsibilities, and support one another in both temporal and eternal aspects of life. The teachings of Islam promote compassion, love, respect, and a sense of shared responsibility within the family unit, fostering an environment of emotional well-being and social harmony.

May Allah (ﷻ) help us be good to our parents and make righteous of our offspring, ameen.

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