

The Importance Of Religious Education For The Family

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ وَأَنْعَمَ، وَهَدَانَا بِالْقُرْآنِ لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ،

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، وَصَفِيُّهُ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَخَلِيلُهُ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ
وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ
الدِّينِ.

Praise be to Allah, who taught us and bestowed upon us blessings, and guided us with the Quran to that which is most suitable. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship, except for Him alone without any partners or peers. To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and whatever is within them. And He is over all things competent.

I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, may the peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him, his companions and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

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- Families are a source of serenity, joy, strength, honour, and dignity.

زَيْنَ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ

“Beautified for people is the love of that which they desire - of women and sons”...(3:14)

- However they can also become a source of torment, depression, weakness and disgrace.

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ

“And know that your properties and your children are but a trial” ... (8:28)

- We find that even the Anbiya were extremely concerned about the faith of their families and children.

وَوَصَّىٰ بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ بَنِيهِ وَيَعْقُوبُ يَا بَنِيَّ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمْ الدِّينَ فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

And Abraham instructed his sons and Jacob, "O my sons, indeed Allah has chosen for you this religion, so do not die except while you are Muslims."(2:132)

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يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ
غِلَاطٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ

"O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded". (66:6)

كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ، وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالرَّجُلُ رَاعٍ فِي أَهْلِهِ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ،
وَالْمَرْأَةُ رَاعِيَةٌ فِي بَيْتِ زَوْجِهَا وَمَسْئُولَةٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهَا

"All of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects. The ruler is a guardian of his subjects, the man is a guardian of his family, the woman is a guardian and is responsible for her husband's house and his offspring; and so all of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects." (Bukhari)

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- Look at how concerned Ibrahim and Ya'qub were towards the faith of his children and descendants, just as the Prophet for his family and nation.
- What about us? Are we prepared to be answer to Allah that we have done our very best to strengthen the faith of our children and families?

مَا مِنْ مَوْلُودٍ إِلَّا يُولَدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ، فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجِّسَانِهِ

- The Prophet said, every child is born with Fitrah, (Bukhari)
- It is the duty of the parents to shape their minds, worldview and develop their souls. If they are left on their own without any guidance, then the purity of the child will be tainted by his desires (nafs), bad peer influences who may lead the child towards doing bad deeds, as well as Satan.

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- **First: Islamic education needs to be supported with practice.**
- It is not enough for us to just send our children to madrasah, hoping that they will become good Muslims with a deep understanding of Islam. Religious classes are stepping stones to help our children recognise their responsibilities.
- But parents are the key towards encouraging them to apply and uphold what they have learnt. It will be very difficult for children to appreciate and understand Salah if their parents adopt a nonchalant attitude towards Salah.
- **Second: Early exposure to the teachings of Islam and an environment that encourages Ibadah.**

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- **Third:** We need to assist them in understanding the link between Islamic knowledge and their daily lives.
- For example, when they learn Science, we can help them to realise the Greatness of Allah ﷻ and His wisdom. Through the study of science, it can strengthen their belief that there exists a bigger power that manages this universe with utmost perfection.
- **Fourth:** Teaching them about what Islam forbids, with clear and detailed explanations as to why they are prohibited.

وَأَيْمُ اللَّهِ لَوْ أَنَّ فَاطِمَةَ بِنْتَ مُحَمَّدٍ سَرَقَتْ لَقَطَعُ مُحَمَّدٌ يَدَهَا

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- **Fifth:** We also need to make charity and performing good deeds as a culture within our family.
- When we, as parents, make time for volunteer work such as helping those in need, or attend Islamic lectures, or go to the mosque for tarawih prayers and qiyam sessions, we should bring our children along. Inculcate in their hearts the habit of carrying out good deeds and acts of compassion.
- Remember how the Quran tells us the story of how Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام built the Ka'bah together with his son, Prophet Ismail عليه السلام. This is a reminder that it is very important for us to soften our children's heart to appreciate the pleasures of carrying out good deeds and make it a habit.
- **Sixth:** Build a close relationship with your children through displays of affection in words and actions. Indeed, this was the most important approach showed by the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم who was very loving towards children.

مَا رَأَيْتُ أَحَدًا كَانَ أَرْحَمَ بِالْعِيَالِ مِنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ