

Do not wrong others

BS Foad, M.D 2011

Every human being should enjoy basic human rights:

- Not be afraid for his life or the safety of his family
- That his possessions are safeguarded
- That he is free to express his opinion without fear of reprisals

These basic human rights are not available to many Muslims in Muslim countries. We have seen what a suppressive regime can do to deprive its own people of their freedom and to silence any opposition. The recent events in Egypt testify to the ruthlessness of dictators and their desire to hold on to power despite clear evidence that their own people do not want them.

We will discuss the following concepts:

- God honored mankind and gave him certain rights including the right to express his views and the right to chose and not be forced against his will
- We are ordered in the Qur'an to be just and not wrong others
- Each person is responsible and accountable
- We should seek forgiveness from those whom we wronged

God honored mankind and gave them basic human rights

We have honoured the sons of Adam; provided them with transport on land and sea; given them for sustenance things good and pure; and conferred on them special favours, above a great part of Our Creation.

Al-Isra'a 17: 70

Each human being was blessed by Allah and is guided to do what is right. Each one of us knows when we do something wrong that it is wrong. Some suppress their conscience and convince themselves that their actions are Ok. Others have a live conscience that reminds them if they do something wrong:

Is then one who is on a clear (Path) from his Lord, no better than one to whom the evil of his conduct seems pleasing, and such as follow their own lusts?

Muhammad 47: 14

And

Is he, then, to whom the evil of his conduct is made alluring, so that he looks upon it as good, (equal to one who is rightly guided)? For Allah leaves to stray whom He wills, and guides whom He wills. So let not thy soul go out in (vainly) sighing after them: for Allah knows well all that they do!

Fatir 35: 8

What are these basic human rights?

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Do not envy each other; do not cheat each other; do not hate one another; do not turn your back from each other and do not deprive each other of buying and selling; and be O servants of Allah brothers. A Muslim is a brother to another Muslim: he does not wrong him, nor leaves him alone unsupported, nor look down at him. Piety is here, pointing at his heart, it is bad enough for a Muslim to look down or humiliate his Muslim brother. Everything that a Muslim holds dear is sacred: his life, and his possessions and his family)

Muslim after Abou Horaira

We learn from this saying of the Prophet:

- We should not wrong our brothers
- We should not leave them unsupported
- We must safeguard their lives, families and properties
- We should love one another and not hate, envy or distance ourselves

Each person is responsible for his choice and actions and is accountable to Allah

A husband and father is responsible for the welfare of his family and a leader of a nation is responsible for the welfare of his people and is accountable to Allah regarding how he treated his subjects. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Indeed every one of you is a guardian, and everyone is responsible for those under his care. The leader that rules is a guardian and is responsible and accountable for the welfare of his people; and the man is a guardian and is responsible and accountable for his family; and the woman is a guardian and is responsible and accountable for her home and children)

Bokhari & Muslim

To be a guardian and in a place of authority is a grave responsibility and those responsible for taking care of others under their influence must shoulder this responsibility with honesty and justice. Allah is ever watchful and whatever we do never goes undetected but is duly recorded:

On the Day that Allah will raise them all up (again) and show them the truth (and meaning) of their conduct. Allah has reckoned its (value), though they may have forgotten it, for Allah is Witness to all things.

Al-Mujadalah 58: 6

To be in a position of authority is not an allowance to abuse our power or to behave according to our whims and desires. It is a trust that Allah gave to us and we should be faithful to that trust and treat everyone with justice and not favor some over others because they are related to us, or we like them. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Judges are three types: one in heaven and two in Hell. AS to the one in heaven, he knew what is right and he judged according to the truth. Another person knew what is right but he judged in a wrong way so he is in Hell. The third person judged while being ignorant so he is in Hell)

Abou Dawood & Hakim

The Qur'an and the Sunnah orders us to be just and not wrong others

Allah doth command you to render back your Trusts to those to whom they are due; and when ye judge between man and man, that ye judge with justice: verily how excellent is the teaching which He giveth you! For Allah is He Who heareth and seeth all things.

An-Nesa'a 4: 58

And:

O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts); lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do.

An-Nesa'a 4: 135

From the Sunnah:

(Avoid wrong-doing for it is darkness on the Day of Judgment, and avoid Greed and not spending money to help others, for this destroyed those before you: it led them to kill each other and to do what has been forbidden)

Muslim & Bokhari

(O My servants I made wrong-doing forbidden on Myself and made it forbidden among you, therefore do not wrong each other. O My servants all of you is astray except for those whom I guide, therefore seek My guidance and I will guide you.. It is your deeds that I keep an account of, then I give you your reward accordingly. Whoever finds good, let him thank Allah, whoever finds otherwise, he should only blame himself)
Muslim

We should seek forgiveness from those whom we wronged

We may be able to fool some people, but we cannot fool Allah. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

You come to me with your disputes so that I may judge between you; but some of you may be more eloquent and persuasive in presenting his case. If I judge in his favor according to what I hear from him, if he is wronging his brother and I judged in his favor, then he should not accept it, because what I gave him is a piece in Hell)

Bokhari & Muslim

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(If you wronged your brother in any way, you should seek forgiveness from him today, before a day comes when money will not be accepted. If you have good deeds, some of it will be taken from you according to the wrong-doing you did. And if you have no good deeds, then some of the bad deeds of the person you wronged will be placed on you)

Bokhari & Muslim

Seeking forgiveness from Allah should be done every day, as the Prophet (PBUH) used to do. He taught Abou Bakr to say this Du'a

(O Allah I have wronged my soul greatly; no one can forgive the sins but You, therefore grant me forgiveness and bestow mercy on me, for You are the Often-Forgiving, Most-Merciful)

Bokhari & Muslim

Some may wrongly assume that Allah is unaware of what they are doing, or that they will not be punished. Therefore, they exceed the limit and keep doing wrong. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explained to us:

(Allah gives time for the wrong-doer, and then when He grasps him he has no way out, then recited the Qur'anic verse:

Such is the chastisement of thy Lord when He chastises communities in the midst of their wrong: grievous, indeed, and severe is His chastisement.

HUd 11: 102

Narrated in Bokhari & Muslim

Justice and not wronging others **BS Foad, M.D 2011**

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"We have honored mankind; provided them with transport on land and sea; given them sustenance things good and pure, and conferred on them special favors, above many of Our creation" Al-Isra'a 17: 70

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Do not envy each other; do not cheat one another; do not hate one another; do not turn your back on each other, and do not deprive others from buying and selling; and be O servants of Allah brothers to each other. A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim: he does not wrong him, nor leaves him unsupported, nor look down at him. Piety is here, pointing to his chest three times. It is bad enough for a Muslim to look down or humiliate his brother. Everything that a Muslim holds dear to him is sacred: his life, and his possessions and his family) Muslim

We should not wrong others and be just and fair in our dealings with them

"Allah does command you to render back your trusts to whom they are due; and when you judge between people that you judge with justice" An-Nesa'a 4: 58

"O you who believe stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be against rich or poor, for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts of your hearts lest you swerve; and if you distort justice or decline to do justice, indeed Allah is well-acquainted with all that you do" An-Nesa'a 4: 135

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Avoid wrong-doing and injustice, for injustice is darkness on the day of Judgment; and avoid greed and covetousness, for it destroyed those before you: it led them to kill each other and to do what is clearly forbidden) Muslim & Bokhari

(O My servants I have made wrong-doing and injustice forbidden on Myself, and I made it forbidden on you, therefore do not wrong each other or be unjust) Muslim

Each person is responsible and accountable for those under his care

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Indeed every one of you is a guardian and is responsible and accountable for those under his care. The leader that rules is responsible for the welfare of his people and accountable; and the man is responsible for his family and accountable; and the woman is responsible for her home and children and accountable) Bokhari & Muslim

To be in a position of authority is a grave responsibility that should be discharged with honesty and justice. We should not favor those who are related to us or those whom we like. Some people suppress their conscience and their own wrong deeds seem pleasing in their eyes:

"Is then one who is on a clear path from his Lord no better than one to whom the evil of his conduct seems pleasing, and such as follow their own lusts?" Muhammad 47: 14

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(You come to me with your disputes so that I may judge between you; but some of you may be more eloquent in presenting his case than others. If I judge in his favor according to what I hear from him and if he has wronged his brother, then he should not accept what I gave him, for it is only a piece in Hell) Bokhari & Muslim

(Allah gives time for the wrong-doer, then when He holds him to account that person has no way out. Then he recited the verse: "Such is the chastisement of your Lord when He chastises communities in the midst of their wrong-doing. Indeed severe and grievous is His chastisement" Hud 11: 102)

Bokhari & Muslim