



AsSalam Alaykum!



TEXASDAWAHCONVENTION *Learn it! Live it!*



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TEXASDAWAHCONVENTION



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The Muslim Identity

Islam and the building of Character

Muhammad Bashir Shala



“IDENTITY”



- **Webster Dictionary: “the *distinguishing* character or personality of an individual”**
- **Character:**
 - Behavior
 - Appearance
 - Distinguishing Characteristics of Personality



“IDENTITY”



- **Self-defining attributes**
 - **Race/Ethnicity (White, Black, Asian, etc)**
 - **National Origin (Indo-Paki, Arab, etc)**
 - **Gender (Feminism)**
 - **Religion**

We define our Identity based on what we believe is our most important and distinguishing character!



Muslim Identity



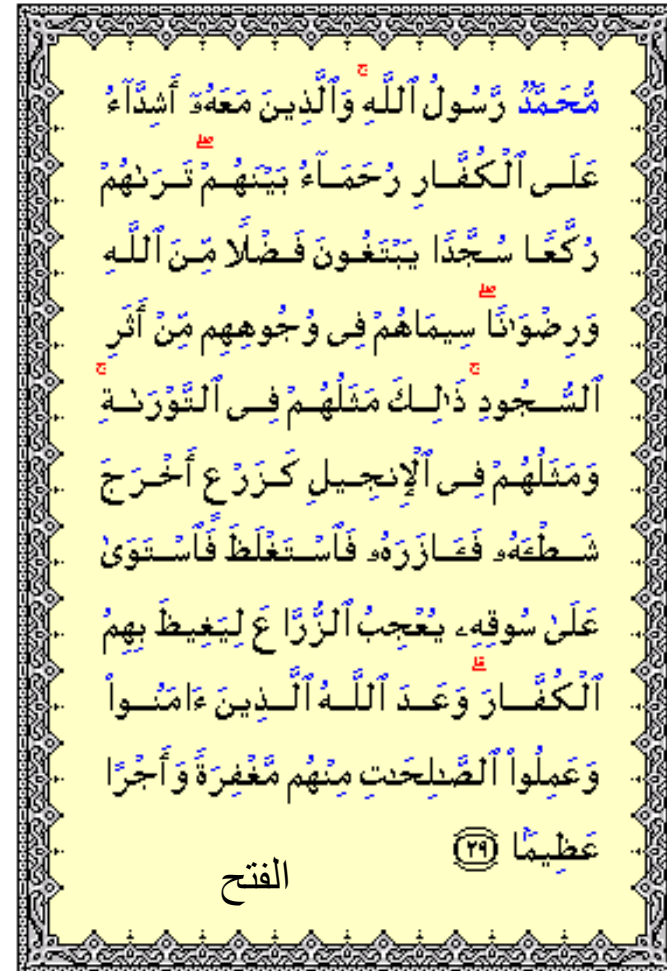
- **Can religion form a certain character or personality?**
- **Is there a distinguished Islamic Character?**
- **How can religion form a certain character?**



Muslim Identity

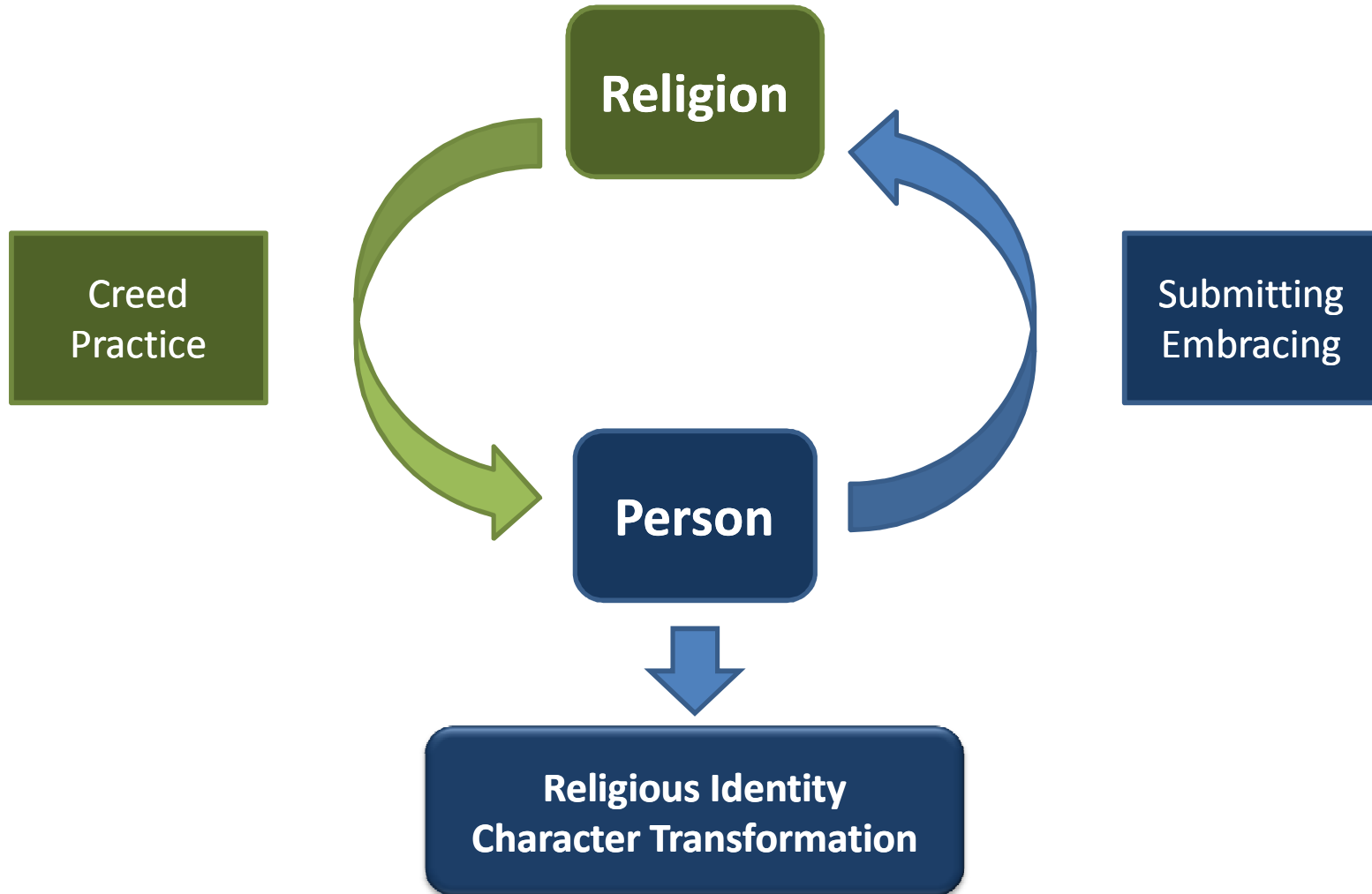


Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم is the Messenger of Allah. And those who are with him are severe against disbelievers, and merciful among themselves. You see them bowing and falling down prostrate (in prayer), seeking Bounty from Allah and (His) Good Pleasure. The mark of them (i.e. of their Faith) is on their faces from the traces of prostration (during prayers).



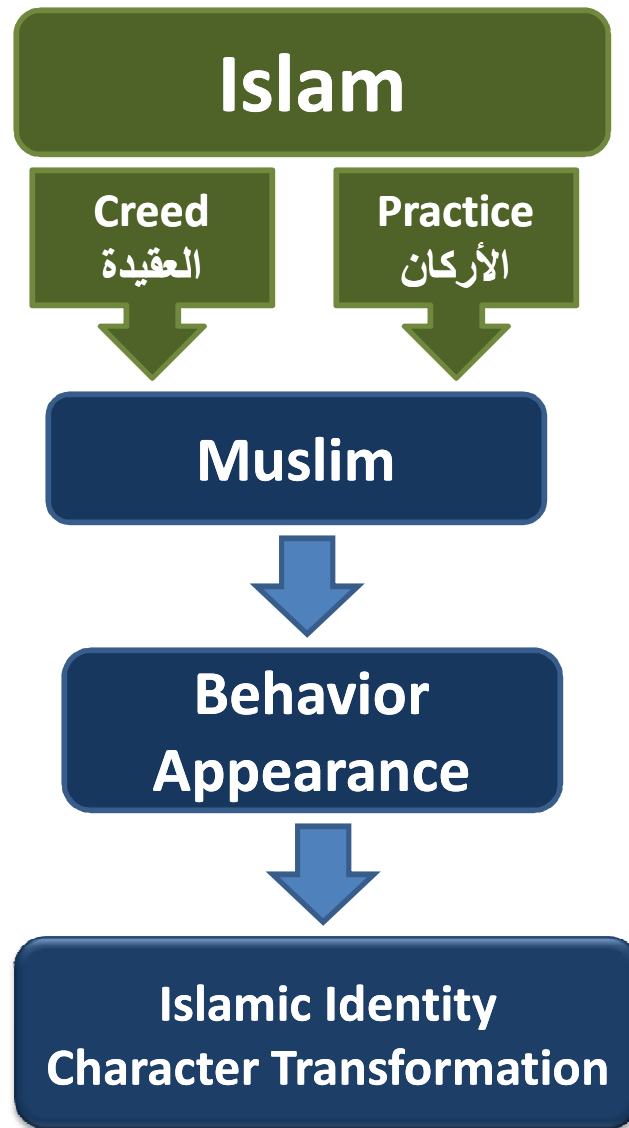


Religion and Character





Religion and Character





Building Character through Creed



- **Aqeedah (Creed)**
 - **Tawheed Uloohiyah**
 - Allah is One in His rights to be worshiped alone
 - **Tawheed Ruboobiyah and Asmaa'**
 - Allah is One and Unique in His Lordship
 - Allah is One and Unique in His Names and Attributes





Building Character through Creed



- **Tawheed Uloohiyah**
 - Allah is One in His rights to be worshiped alone

Servitude

Dedication

Submission

Dignity

Humbleness



Building Character through Creed



- Tawheed Ruboobiyah and Asmaa’
 - Allah is One and Unique in His Lordship, His Names and Attributes.

Independence

Strength

Dignity



Building Character through Worship



Salah

Zakah

Sawm

Hajj



Building Character through Worship

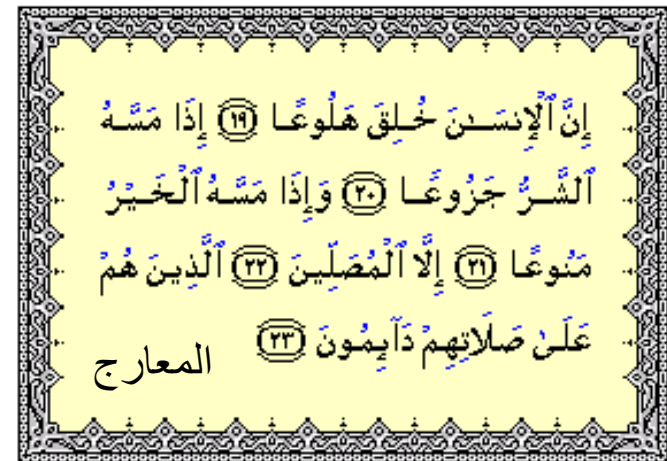


Salah

Strength

Dignity

Verily, man was created very impatient;
Irritable (discontented, panicking) when evil
touches him;
And niggardly when good touches him.
Except those who are devoted to *Salah*
(prayers).
Those who remain constant in their *Salah*
(prayers);





Building Character through Worship



Salah

Cleanliness

Wudu: Ablution

Ghusl: Shower, Bath

Perfume (for Men)

Siwak: Dental hygien

أخرج ابن ماجة عن ابن عباس رضي الله عنهما قال : قال رسول
الله : ((إن هذا يوم عيد جعله الله للمسلمين فمن جاء إلى الجمعة
فليغتسل، وإن كان عنده طيب فليمس منه، وعليكم بالسواك))



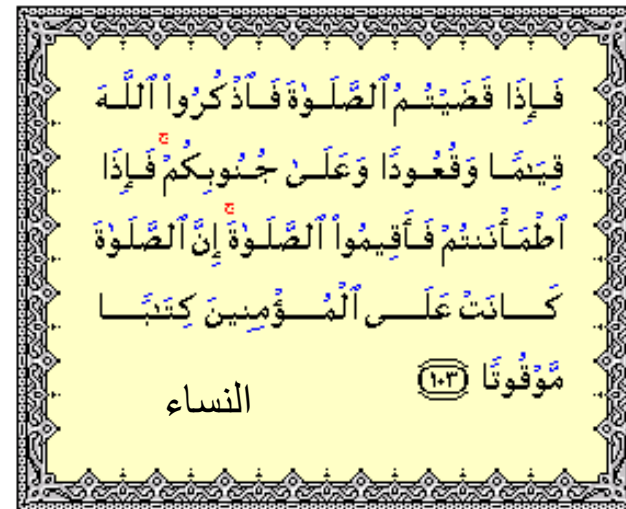
Building Character through Worship



Salah

When you have finished *As-Salah* (the congregational prayer), remember Allah standing, sitting down, and (lying down) on your sides, but when you are free from danger, perform *As-Salah*. **Verily, *As-Salah* (the prayer) is enjoined on the believers at fixed hours.**

Punctuality





Building Character through Worship



Salah

Being Considerate of Others

عن جابر أن رسول الله قال: ((مَنْ أَكَلَ البَصَلَ والثومَ والكراثَ فلا يقربنَّ مسجدنا؛
فإنَّ الملائكة تتأذى مما يتأذى منه بنو آدم)) أخرجه مسلم

عن أبي سعيد الخدري قال: اعتكف رسول الله في المسجد، فسمعهم يجهرون
بالقراءة، فكشف الستر فقال: ((ألا إنَّ كلَّكم منا ج ربّه، فلا يؤذِينَّ بعضكم بعضاً،
ولا يرفع بعضكم على بعضٍ في الصلاة)) أخرجه أحمد وأبو داود.



Building Character through Worship



Salah

**Leadership
Following Leaders**

Humbleness/Humility

**Commitment
Dedication**



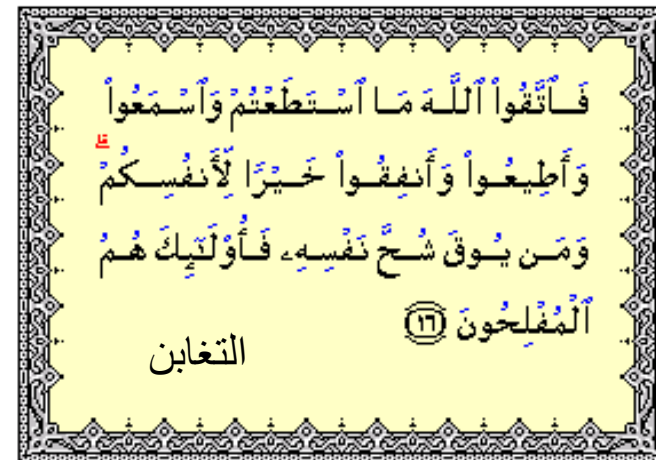
Building Character through Worship



Zakah

Generosity

So keep your duty to Allah and fear Him as much as you can; listen and obey, and spend in charity; that is better for yourselves. And whosoever is saved from his own covetousness, then they are the successful ones.





Building Character through Worship

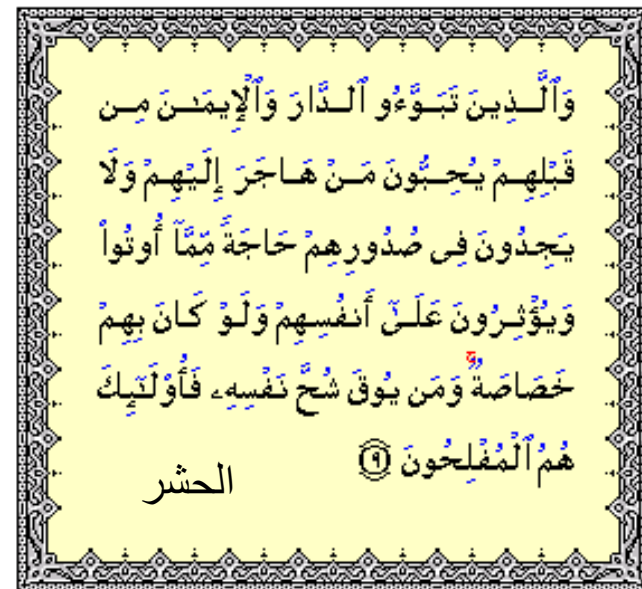


Zakah

And (it is also for) those who, before them, had homes (in Al-Madinah) and had adopted the Faith, love those who emigrate to them, and have no jealousy in their breasts for that which they have been given, and give them preference over themselves even though they were in need of that.

And whosoever is saved from his own covetousness, such are they who will be the successful.

Selflessness





Building Character through Worship



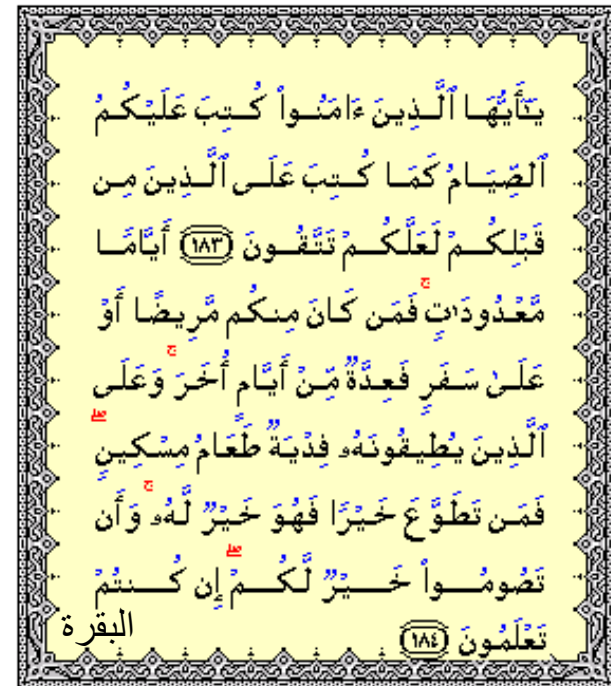
Sawm

Patience

Endurance

O you who believe! Observing *As-Sawm* (the fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become the pious .

for a fixed number of days, but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the same number (should be made up) from other days. And as for those who can fast with difficulty, they have (a choice either to fast or) to feed a poor person. But whoever does good of his own accord, it is better for him. And that you fast is better for you if only you know.





Building Character through Worship

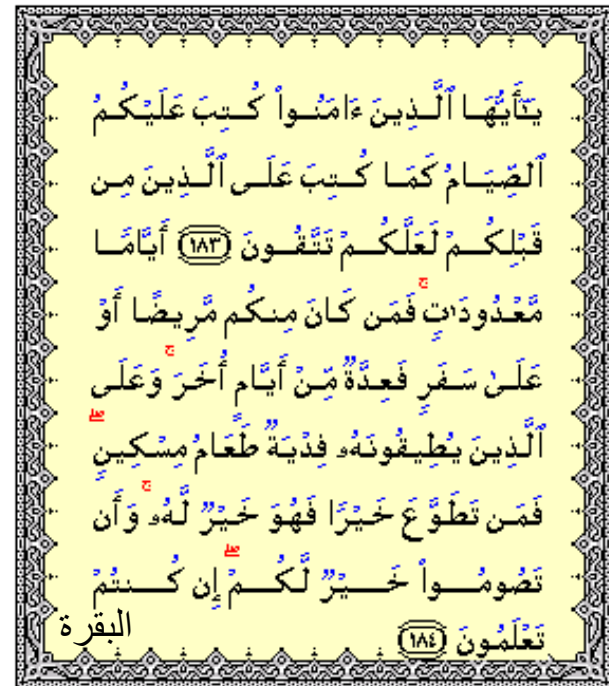


Sawm

Self-Control

O you who believe! Observing *As-Sawm* (the fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become the pious .

for a fixed number of days, but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the same number (should be made up) from other days. And as for those who can fast with difficulty, they have (a choice either to fast or) to feed a poor person. But whoever does good of his own accord, it is better for him. And that you fast is better for you if only you know.





Building Character through Worship



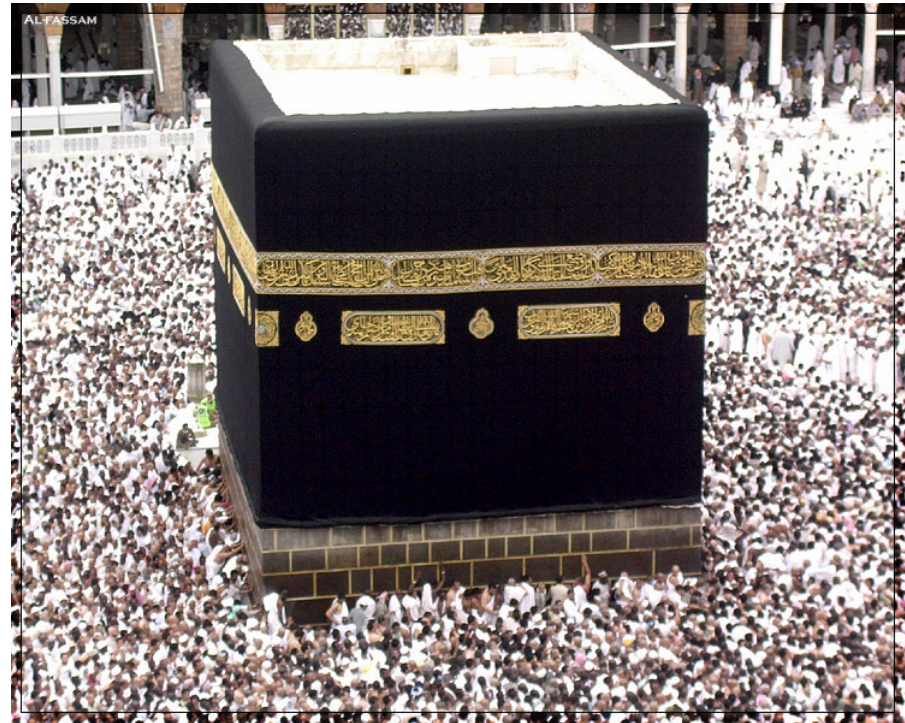
Hajj

Equality

Humbleness

Belonging to
Ummah

Endurance





Building Character through Worship

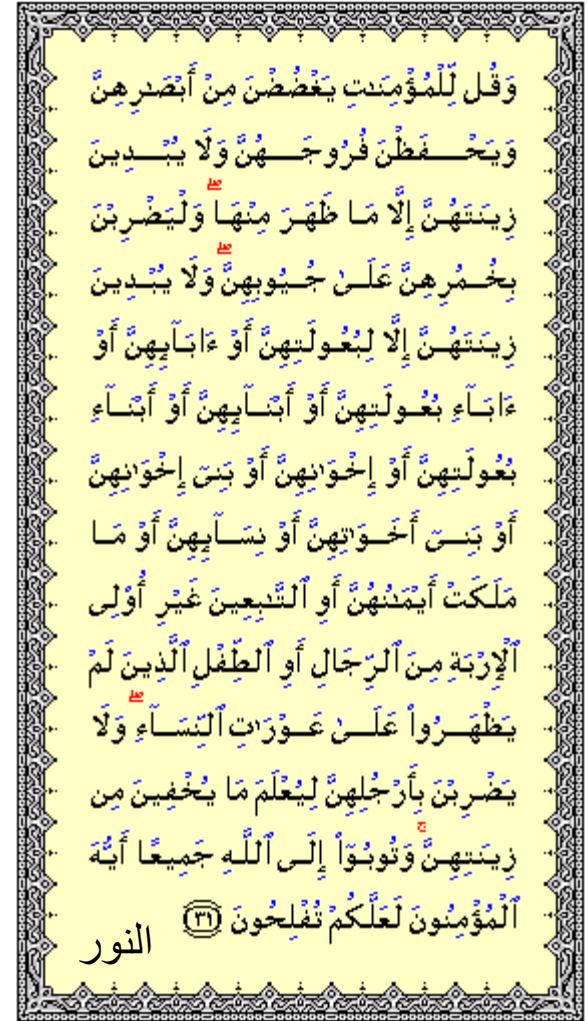


Dress Code

And tell the believing women to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts) and not to show off their adornment except only that which is apparent, and to draw their veils all over their folds (faces, necks and bosoms) and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands, or their father....

And let them not stamp their feet so as to reveal what they hide of their adornment. And all of you beg Allah to forgive you all, O believers, that you may be successful.

Modesty





Muslim Identity



Punctuality

Selflessness

Self-Control

Endurance

**Leadership
Following Leaders**

Generosity

Independence

Strength

Cleanliness

Patience

Dignity

Humbleness

**Commitment
Dedication**

Modesty

Being Considerate of Others



Muslim Identity



- **Character**
 - Absorb Islamic teaching into our personality
- **Behavior**
 - Act according to Islamic morals and ethics
- **Appearance**
 - The Islamic “look” in modesty and cleanliness



Islam

Creed
العقيدة

Practice
الأركان

Muslim

**Behavior
Appearance**

Islamic Identity
Character Transformation

**Representing Islam
(Da'wah)**

**Living Islam
(Application)**



Muslim Identity



- **We need to identify ourselves as Muslims, first and foremost.**
- **We need to reflect Islam in our character, behavior and appearance.**
- **Our Islamic Identity is the living example for Da'wah to Islam**



Muslim Identity



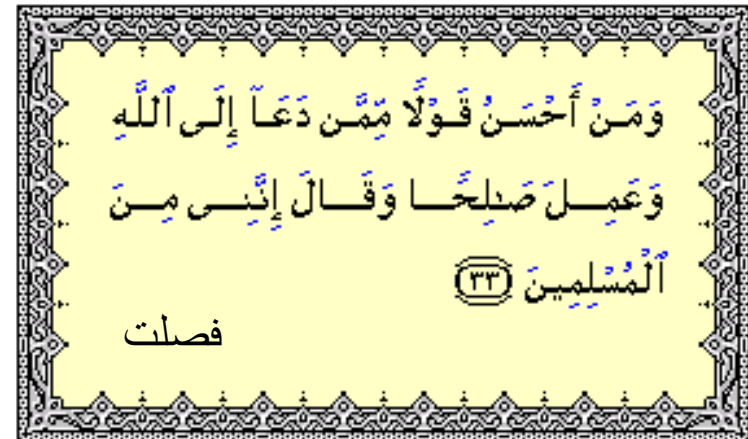
Islam...

Love it!

Live it!

Deploying the Muslim Identity and Character in Da'wah

*And who is better in speech
than he who invites to Allah,
and does righteous deeds, and
says: "I am one of the
Muslims."*





Manners of Da'wah



- **First: Arm yourself!**
 - **Piety (Taqwa)**
 - **Knowledge (Ilm)**
 - **Sincerity (Ikhlas)**

**Commitment
Dedication**

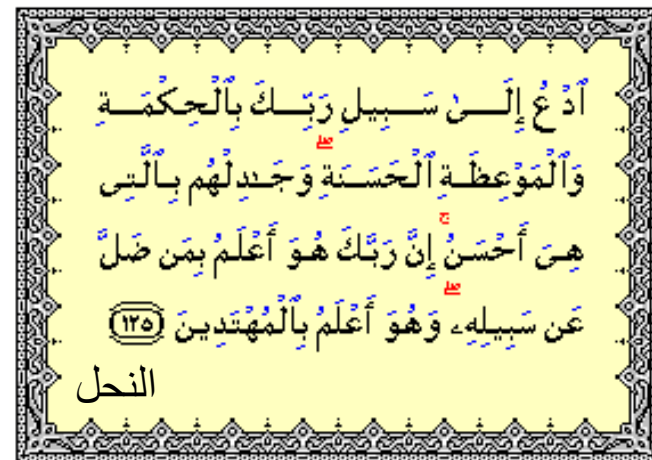


Manners of Da'wah



- Use wisdom and gentle advice

Invite to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and fair preaching, and argue with them in a way that is better. Truly, your Lord knows best who has gone astray from His Path, and He is the Best Aware of those who are guided.



Humbleness

Being Considerate of Others



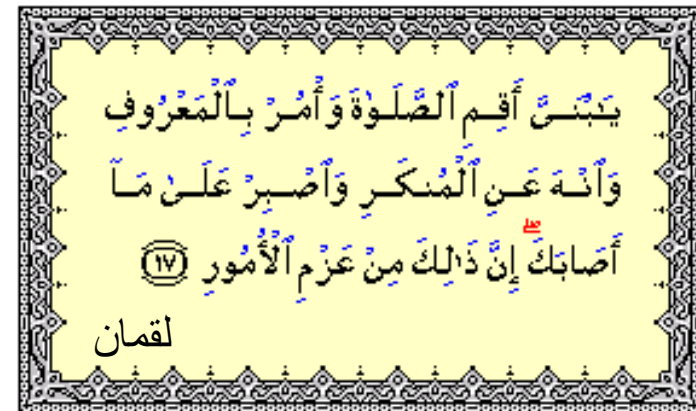
Manners of Da'wah



- **Patience: Be prepared to endure harm**

"O my son! Perform As-Salat, enjoin good, and forbid evil, and bear with patience whatever befalls you.

Verily, these are some of the important commandments.



Endurance

Strength



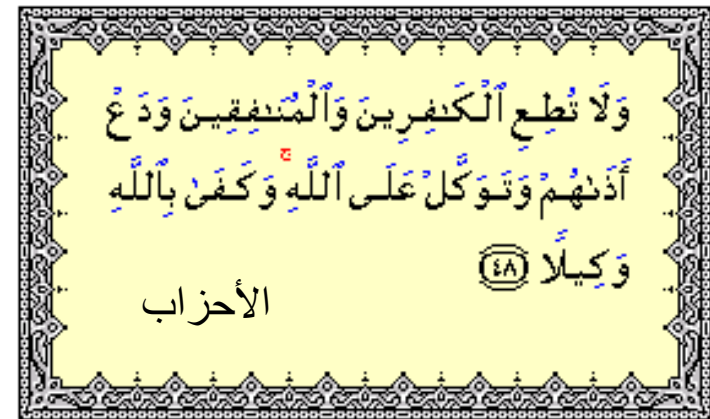
Manners of Da'wah



- Rely on Allah and trust in Him

And obey not (the behests) of the Unbelievers and the Hypocrites, and heed not their annoyances, but put your trust in Allah. For enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs.

Independence



Strength

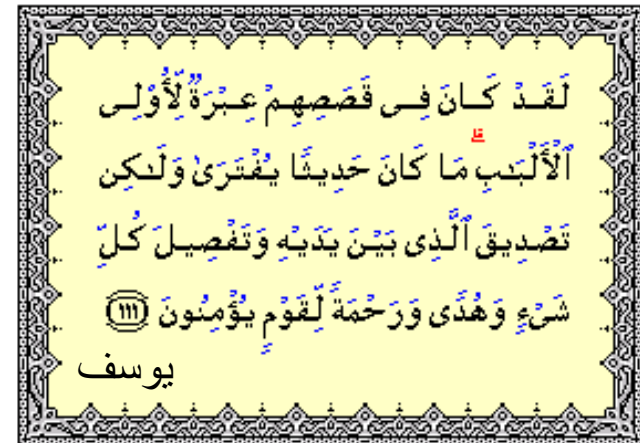


Manners of Da'wah



- Inspire guidance from the Stories of the Quran and Seerah

Indeed in their stories, there is a lesson for men of understanding. It is not a forged statement but a confirmation of which were before it and a detailed explanation of everything and a guide and a Mercy for the people who believe.



**Commitment
Dedication**

Strength

Endurance

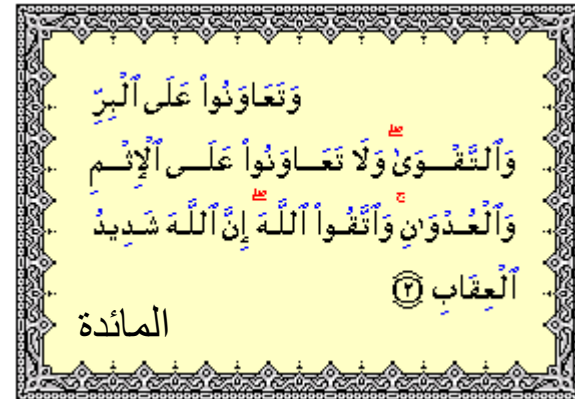


Manners of Da'wah



- **Work with others in cooperation**

Help you one another in *Al-Birr* and *At-Taqwa* (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression. And fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment.



Leadership
Following Leaders



Manners of Da'wah



- Be a good example!
- Accept advice and criticism!
- Selflessness, focus on the goal!
- Start with the closest circle to you!

And admonish your nearest kinsmen!

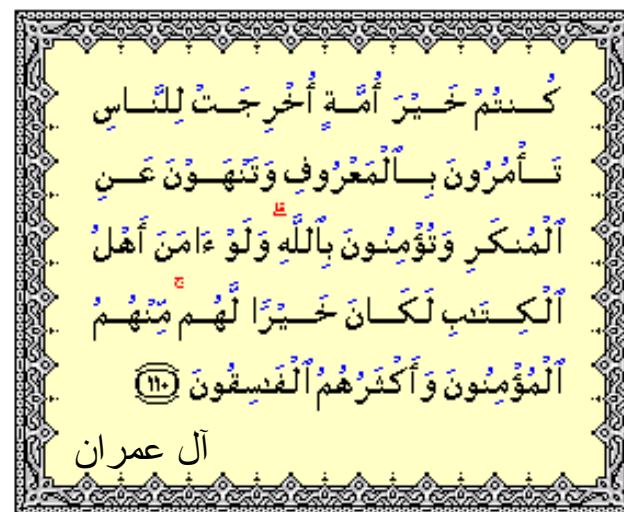




“The Best of People”



“You are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin Al-Ma‘ruf (Good) and forbid Al-Munkar (Evil), and you believe in Allah.....”





Muslim Identity



Islam...
Learn it!
Love it!
Live it!



Da'wah Challenges



- **What stops people from engaging in Da'wah?**
 - **Fear of Mockery**
 - **Fear of being harmed**
 - **Fear of losing friends/Social isolation**
 - **Depending on “others” to do the job**

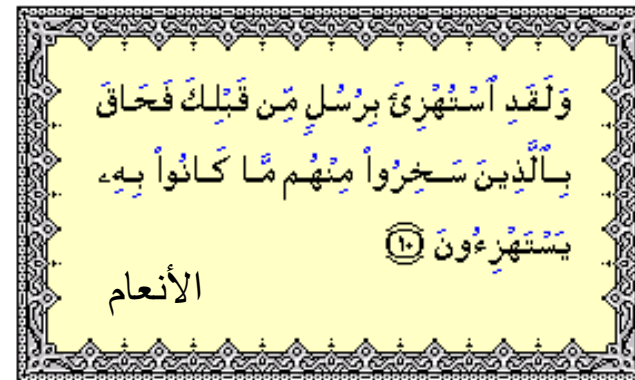


Da'wah Challenges



- **Fear of Mockery**

And indeed (many) Messengers before you were mocked at, but their scoffers were surrounded by the very thing that they used to mock at.



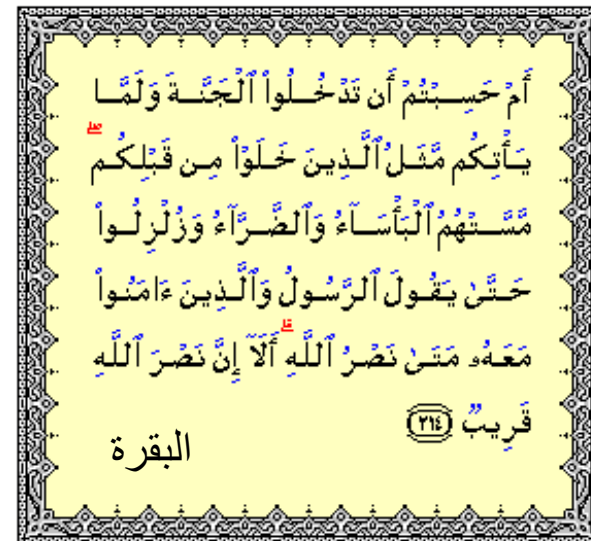


Da'wah Challenges



- **Fear of being harmed**

Or think you that you will enter Paradise without such (trials) as came to those who passed away before you? They were afflicted with severe poverty and ailments and were so shaken that even the Messenger and those who believed along with him said, "When (will come) the Help of Allah?" Yes! Certainly, the Help of Allah is near!





Da'wah Challenges



- **Fear of losing friends/Social isolation**
 - **Father of Ibrahim**
 - **Son of Nooh**
 - **Quraysh's Siege against Muslims (embargo)**



Da'wah Challenges



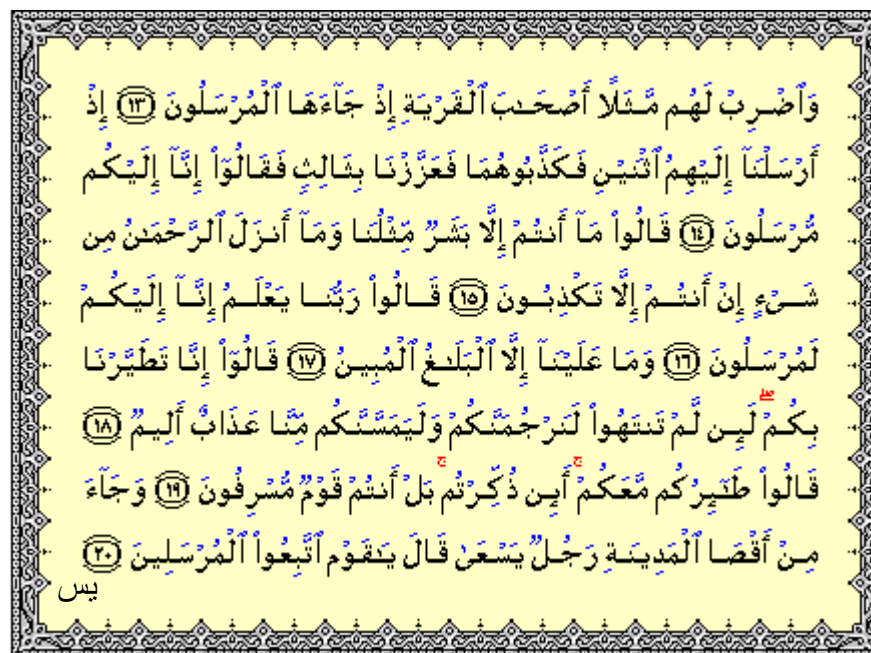
- Depending on “others” to do the job

And put forward to them a similitude: the (story of the) dwellers of the town, when there came Messengers to them.

When We sent to them two Messengers, they belied them both; so We reinforced them with a third, and they said: "Verily we have been sent to you as Messengers."

They (people of the town) said: "You are only human beings like ourselves, and the Most Gracious (Allah) has revealed nothing. You are only telling lies."

.....And there came a man running from the farthest part of the town. He said: "O my people! Obey the Messengers.

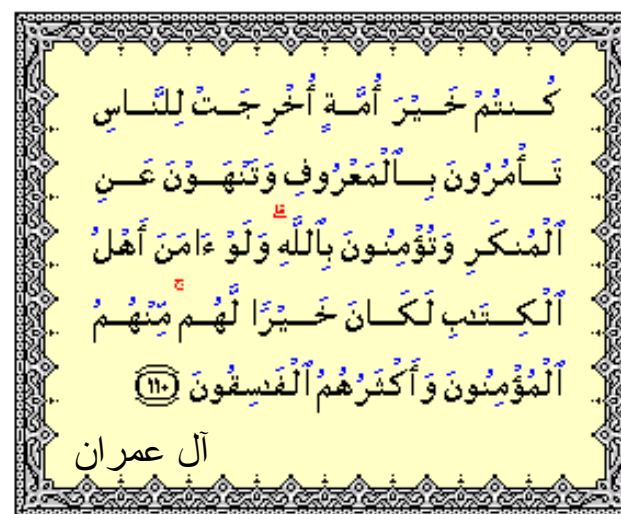




“The Best of People”



“You are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin Al-Ma‘ruf (Good) and forbid Al-Munkar (Evil), and you believe in Allah.....”





Muslim Identity



Islam...
Learn it!
Love it!
Live it!
Spread it!