

Tawheed (Oneness of God)

Introduction

Tawheed means to believe that Allah is the one and only God worthy of worship. It is sometimes referred to as monotheism; however, in the purest sense in that no other entity can in any way have the attributes or be equivalent or even in competition with Allah. All acts of worship that a person does should be to Allah or for Allah Alone. For example, the prayer should only be to Allah etc.

Allah Says in Qur'an

Surah Al Anbiya Chapter #21 Verse #25

"And we did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad) but We inspired him (saying): 'There is none who has the right to be worshipped but I (Allah), so worship Me (Alone and none else).'"

Tawheed is the essence of Islam, it is the core of Islam, it is what Islam stands for, and it is the reason why Allah created us. All prophets and messengers were sent with the message of Tawheed, the Quran itself is a book of Tawheed, and those who have a firm and correct belief in Tawheed will indeed be the saved ones.

The Qur'an declares that "Nothing is like Him" (42:11). Allah is omniscient and all-powerful. All of Allah's attributes belong to Him exclusively. He is the first and there is no last but His oneness. He is the First without anything before Him. He is the Last without anything after Him. The end is with Him alone, and He is the End. He is All-Existing: with him there is no end. Allah is now as He was before. He is Eternal.

Significance of Tawheed

Tawheed is the essence of Islam and the mainspring of its strength. All other laws, beliefs and commands of Islam stand firm on this foundation. Take it away, and there is nothing left of Islam. Tawheed is the call of all the prophets to their people, it is mentioned in Qur'an

Surah An Nahl Chapter#16 Verse #36

And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghut (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taghut besides Allah)."

Tawheed is the only reason for the world's creation as Allah Says in Qu'ran

Surah Adh Dheryat Chapter #51 Verse #56

And I (Allah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).

By declaring sincere belief in Tawheed, a disbeliever will become a Muslim. Conversely, a Muslim will become a disbeliever (kafir) if he rejects any aspect of it. By Tawheed we achieve salvation from Eternal punishment in the Hereafter, right guidance in this world, and forgiveness for sins. Tawheed is only belief in Islamic ideology which does not have forgiveness of its rejection, means Allah will never forgive that person who associate partner with Allah. Allah states in the Qur'an:

Surah Nisa Chapter #04 verse #48

Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him (in worship), but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He wills;

There is a Sahih Hadith of Prohet Muhammad (pbuh)

Volumn 009, Book 093, Hadith Number 470. Sahih Bukhari

Narated By Mu'adh bin Jabal : The Prophet said,
"O Mu'adh! Do you know what Allah's Right upon His slaves is?"
I said, "Allah and His Apostle know best." The Prophet said,
"To worship Him (Allah) Alone and to join none in worship with Him (Allah).

Whoever fulfills Tawheed will be admitted to the Garden (Al-Jannah) in the Hereafter. The Prophet Muhammad has stated: Verily Allah has promised that whosoever does not commit shirk shall enter Al-Jannah (the Garden in the Heaven) [Al-Bukhari].

It is the reason for solving peoples' sadness because true happiness will be achieved if persons realize Tawheed within their heart. They will also never feel psychologically enslaved even if physically captive. It is the only reason for Allah's pleasure and rewards. In another aayah (verse) in the Qur'an Allah says:

Surah Az Zumar Chapter#39 verse#7

If you disbelieve, then verily, Allah is not in need of you; He likes not disbelief for His slaves.

Disbelief is nothing but a manifestation of shirk which is the opposite of Tawheed. The acceptance of all of one's religious deeds is based upon Tawheed. Allah states:

Surah Al-Imran Chapter #03 Verse #85

"Whoever accepts a religion other than Islam it shall be rejected by Allah
and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers"

Islam is nothing if not an embodiment of the belief in Tawheed. Tawheed prevents man from eternally remaining in the Hellfire. The Prophet Muhammad stated in an authentic report: Whoever dies and has so much as a mustard seed of faith in his heart shall enter Al-Jannah.

Effects of Tawheed on Personal Life (Individuals)

When an individual pronounces the testimony: "**Ash-hadu allaa ilaaha illAllah wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadar- Rasullullaah**" (I testify that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and I testify that Muhammad is His Messenger), believing in it and acting upon it, he experiences a noticeable change in his life.

By understanding who his Lord is as well as the purpose of his creation, he will be able to achieve success in this life and the next. This success emanates from the following points:

1- A believer in this testimony can never be narrow in outlook. He believes in Allah, Who is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the Master of the universe and its Sustainer. After this belief, he does not regard anything in the world as a stranger to himself. He looks on everything in the universe as belonging to the same Lord he himself belongs.

2- This belief produces in man the highest degree of self-respect and self esteem. The believer knows that Allah Alone is the Possessor of all power, and that none besides Him can benefit or harm a person, or provide for his needs, or give and take away life or wield authority or influence. This conviction makes him indifferent to, independent on, and fearless of all powers other than those of Allah. He never bows his head in homage to any of Allah's creatures, nor does he stretch out his hand before anyone else. He is not overawed by anybody's greatness. This attitude of mind cannot be produced by any other belief.

3- Along with self-respect, this belief also generates in man a sense of modesty and humbleness. It makes him unostentatious and unpretending. A believer never becomes proud, haughty or arrogant. The boisterous pride of power, wealth and worth can have no room in his heart, because he knows that whatever he possesses has been given to him by Allah, and that Allah can take away just as He can give. In contrast to this, an unbeliever, when he achieves some worldly merit, becomes proud and conceited because he believes that his merit is due to his own worth. In the same way, pride and self-conceit are a necessary outcomes and concomitants of 'Shirk' (association of others with Allah in worship), because a polytheist believes that he has a particular relation with deities, which does not exist between them and other people.

4- This belief makes man virtuous and upright. He has the conviction that there is no other means of success and salvation for him except purity of soul and righteousness of behavior. He has perfect faith in Allah Who is Above all needs, is related to none and is absolutely Just. This belief creates in him the consciousness that unless he lives rightly and acts justly, he cannot succeed. No influence or underhand activity can save him from ruin.

5- The believer never becomes despondent. He has a firm faith in Allah Who is The Master of all the treasures of the earth and the heavens, Whose grace and bounty have no limit and Whose power is infinite. This faith imparts to his heart extraordinary consolation, fills it with satisfaction and keeps it filled with hope. Although he may be met with rejection from all sides in this world, faith in and dependence on Allah never leave him, and on that strength he goes on struggling. Such profound confidence can result from no other belief than belief in Allah Alone.

6- This testimony of faith inspires bravery in man. There are two things which make a man cowardly: (a) fear of death and love of safety, and (b) the idea that there is someone else besides Allah who can take away life, and that man- by adopting certain devices- can ward off death. Belief in 'Laa ilaaha illAllah" blocks and drives away both these ideas. The first idea goes out of his mind because he knows that his life and his property and everything else really belong to Allah, and he becomes ready to sacrifice his all for the pleasure of Allah. He gets rid of the second idea because he knows that no weapon, no man or animal has the power of taking away his life; Allah alone has the power to do so. A time has been ordained for him, and all the forces of the world combined cannot take away anyone's life before that time.

It is for this reason that no one is braver than the one who has faith in Allah. Nothing can daunt him: not even the strongest tempest of adversity and the mightiest of armies.

7- The belief in 'Laa ilaaha illAllah' creates an attitude of peace and contentment, purges the mind of jealousy, envy and greed, and keeps away the temptations of resorting to base and unfair means for achieving success. The believer understands that wealth is in Allah's hands, and He apportions it out as He Wills; that honor, power, reputation and authority - everything - is also subjected to His Will, and He bestows them as He Wills; and that man's duty is only to endeavor and to struggle fairly.

Effects of Tawheed on Collective Life (Social)

Belief in one God has deep impact on the social life of man. This is certain that the basis of social and collective life is based on justice and equality, and perfect justice and equality is not possible without the concept of one God and unity of mankind.

Tawheed in Islam is that it implies the equity and unity of all people in their relation with Allah. Thus, people of different social strata were not created by separate deities with varying levels of power, since this would violate Tawheed by putting barriers between them. Instead, social dimension of Tawheed states that the same Allah created everyone, and so all people have the same fundamental essence. In fact, the noblest person in Allah's Sight is the one who is most Allah-conscious. It is mentioned in Quran

Surah Al Hujrat Chapter #49 Verse #13

O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other)). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)said: “Your Lord is One. You are from Aadam and Aadam was created from dust. An Arab is not superior to a non-Arab, nor a white person over a black person, except for his/her piety and righteousness.”

We know that all religions in the world preach peace, but even we witnessed violence, destruction of civilization and values human society. It is just because of that nations in the world are not united on one base, they have their own different religion, different God, that is the most focal point which serve as the basic block of violence and destruction. Tawheed is only solution for the whole humanity to bring and maintain peace in the world.

Past Paper CSS Questions on Tawheed

Q: Define Tawheed in a scholarly manner describing its significance and effects on human life. (2001)

Q: Explain the belief of Tawheed in scholarly manner describing its effects on human life. (2004)

Q: Identify the importance of the concept of "Tawheed" and explain the practical results of this principle on the private as well as public aspects of the human life. (2007)