



The Path to
**SUCCESSFUL
RELATIONSHIPS**

Making a **better world**
one relationship at a time

IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE QUR'AN AND AUTHENTIC SUNNAH OF
PROPHET MUHAMMAD
SALLALLAHU ALAIHE WASSALLAM.

ZAKIA USMANI



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Dedicated to:

My Teachers

*Without whom,
after the blessings of Allah,
all this would not be possible.*

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INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allah alone; may He send salutations and exalt the mention of the seal of all Prophets and Messengers, our Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam, his family and all his companions.

We all want Allah's love but what are the ways to attain that status?

It is from the mercy of Allah that He has legislated many deeds through which believers can come closer to Allah, attain His love and earn great rewards. To improve our relationship with Allah we must try to improve our relationship with the Divine Book, with our parents, our husbands, our children and our relatives and strive to fulfill our duties toward them so that they in turn may serve as righteous deeds for us and benefit us after we die.

In this publication, I have compiled ahadith and verses from the Qur'an that speak about the teachings of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam.

In order to attain Allah's love we must improve our actions and understand the right others have on us.

As stated by Ibn al-Qayyim: Actions are distinguished, one from the other, with respect to their excellence in the Sight of Allah in accordance with the condition of the heart, not by the number or form, but rather due to the strength of the caller, his or her truthfulness, his or her sincerity and extent to which he or she prefers Allah over himself or herself.

Relationships are simple if we follow the guidance from Quran and Sunnah. Having a better relationship with Allah helps us discover who we are and this helps us to improve our relationship with others.

I present this e-book to my sisters in the hope that this action may be included in those referred to in the hadith of the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam. Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu reported that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, "He who calls others to follow the Right Guidance will have a reward equal to the reward of those who follow him, without their reward being diminished in any respect on that account".¹

¹ Sahih Muslim

I ask Allah to accept this deed of mine sincerely for His sake and to make you and me among those who guide others and are themselves guided.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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PILLARS OF RELATIONSHIPS

Our life is surrounded by relationships, and these relationships are the pillars that support us throughout our life. We get into many different types of relationships and every relationship has its own value. Each of the relationship we have in our lives contributes to make us what we are. The way we handle them define the importance of that particular pillar in our lives. If our relationship pillar is not strong enough, we cannot achieve desire goal in our life which of course should be the pleasure of Allah SWT and attain Jannah.

There are three very important types of relationships that every person has:

1. With ourselves
2. With Allah, which include our relationship with the Qur'an and Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam,
3. With the world around us which includes our relationship with spouse, parents, children, relatives, friends so on.

If we pay proper attention to all the three levels of relationships and learn to align these levels together we will be able to live a peaceful and happy life in this world and the hereafter.

1. Relationship with the self: Any relationship needs a lot of work, and this is true also for our relationship with ourselves. We need to put in a lot of effort to get to know ourselves first. Learn about our weakness and strength. Next we must work towards accepting the different aspects of our personality and work on strengthening the positive aspects. This will in turn strengthen the relationship pillar. After strengthening the relationship with ourselves, we need to work on our relationship with Allah, the Qur'an and Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam.

2. Relationship with Allah, Qur'an and Prophet SAW: This is the most important pillar in a Muslim's life. We can never get close to Allah by being arrogant, full of pride and having a bad character and manners. Those who are closer to Allah possess humility, character, and good manners. Relationship with Allah means to develop the way of life which is pleasing to Allah and in accordance with the Qur'an and authentic sunnah of Prophet Muhammad sallallahu alaihe wassallam.

3. Relationship with the world around us: While building a relationship with another person it is important to let go of the "me" and focus more on the "you". Relationships work better when we stop thinking about ourselves and start thinking about the other person. If we put in our best efforts to this end then there is no reason why a relationship will not work. The interaction with the world is a vital part of our life. In fact, it defines us in various ways. As we improve our interaction with the world our relationship pillar with the world will get strengthened too.

CHAPTER 1

Relationship with the Self

Acknowledging our shortcomings is one of the first steps in order to have a healthy relationship with ourselves. When we acknowledge our shortcomings, then we start on the path to self-discipline. This acknowledgement is one of the things that make us discipline ourselves and it is a sign of Allaah's care, as Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Verily, Allaah will not change the condition of a people as long as they do not change their state themselves”²

So whoever tries to change for the sake of Allaah, Allaah will help him to change.

Beware of minor and major sins

Most fires start due to minor causes, and one sin leads to another. If the heart is darkened and blackened because of sin, it will no longer be a heart that is alive and recognizes good as good and evil as evil.

It was narrated from 'Abd-Allaah ibn Mas'ood radi allahu anhu that the Messenger of Allaah sallallahu alaihe wassallam said: “Beware of trivial sins, for they will accumulate until they destroy a man.” And the Messenger of Allaah sallallahu alaihe wassallam gave an example, likening them to people who stopped to camp in the wilderness, and they wanted to prepare some food, so one man went and brought a stick, and another man brought a stick, until they had gathered a huge pile and lit a fire, and whatever they put in the pot was cooked as a result.³

Beware of the fitnah (temptation) of wealth

The one whom Allaah has blessed with wealth should use that wealth to help him obey Allaah and spend it in ways that please Allaah and beware of going to extremes with regard to permissible things or spending it on haraam things, for wealth may be a cause of a person being tempted away from his religious commitment. Allaah says:

² Surah al-Ra'd 13:11

³ Narrated by Ahmad (37/467)

“Your wealth and your children are only a trial, whereas Allaah! With Him is a great reward (Paradise)”⁴

Choosing righteous companions

Strive to choose righteous friends who are religiously-committed, trustworthy and of good character, who are sincere towards Allaah and are preoccupied with seeking knowledge and are of a good nature, who can help you in achieving your aim and encourage you to do good deeds.

Beware of the bad companion, for he may influence you and people are like birds, they will resemble one another [i.e., “birds of a feather flock together”]. So beware of mixing with people like that, for that is a sickness, and prevention is better than cure.

Temptation to show off

Riya’ (showing off) renders good deeds void and unacceptable, turning them into sins and making the person who has this riya’ liable for Hellfire. An act of worship intended for other than Allah will bear witness against the person on the Day of Judgment and he will be subject to punishment for this very deed.

The Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassalam said, “Whoever shows off, Allaah will expose him.”⁵

Ibn Hajar said: al-Khattaabi said, this means: whoever does something that is not sincerely for the sake of Allaah, merely wanting people to see him and hear him, will be punished for that – Allaah will expose him and make known what he is concealing.

It was said that whoever does something with the intention of gaining status and prestige among people, and does not seek the Face of Allaah by doing it, Allaah will make him the subject of bad speech among the people in whose eyes he wanted to gain status, and he will have no reward for it in the Hereafter.⁶

Control your anger

The Messenger of Allah sallallahu alaihe wasslam said, "Whoever controls his anger at the time when he has the means to act upon it, Allaah will fill his heart with contentment on the Day of Resurrection."⁷

⁴ al-Taghaabun 64:15

⁵ Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 6134; Muslim; 2986

⁶ Fath al-Baari, 11/336

⁷ Reported by al-Tabaraani, 12/453

Another great reward is described in the Prophet's words: "Whoever controls his anger at the time when he has the means to act upon it, Allaah will call him before all of mankind on the Day of Resurrection, and will let him choose of the Hur al-'Iyn whoever he wants."⁸

The Messenger of Allaah sallallahu alaihe wassallam said: "The strong man is not the one who can overpower others (in wrestling); rather, the strong man is the one who controls himself when he gets angry."⁹

The greater the anger, the higher the status of the one who controls himself. The Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam said: "The strongest man is the one who, when he gets angry and his face reddens and his hackles rise, is able to defeat his anger."¹⁰

Humble yourself

Humility is a virtue on which a special stress is laid in the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

It is related by Haritha ibn Wahb radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "Shall I not tell you about the inhabitants of Paradise? They are weak one, who is considered weak, who if he were to swear an oath by Allah, He would keep it. Shall I not tell you about the inhabitants of Hell? They are very surely, uncivil and proud one."¹¹

This hadith describes the people of Paradise as weak, weak means a noble, humble, and mild person who deals humbly with others whom others regard as weak in comparison, the proud and arrogant.

Watch out for Hasad (Envy)

Hasad is a desire that a blessing, or a cause of happiness, may depart from its possessor and become transferred to oneself. Hasad is cancerous in its effect and leads to hatred, animosity, as well as ill-feeling and often further disobedience towards Allah. It is condemned in many ahadith.

Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam said, 'Envy eats away good deeds like fire eats away wood.'¹²

⁸ Reported by Abu Dawud, 4777

⁹ Reported by Ahmad, 2/236

¹⁰ Reported by Imaam Ahmad, 5/367

¹¹ Bukhari and Muslim

¹² Abu Daud and al-Tirmidhi

Be Generous

If you are generous to others, Allah will be generous to you. Value the bounty that has been given to you and try your utmost to act in accordance with the same generosity and give out from that which you have been blessed with.

A man once asked the Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam for something in charity and the Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam gave him a flock of sheep. When the man returned to his people he said, 'O my people, convert to Islam, because Muhammad gives [in charity] as a man who does not fear poverty.'

CHAPTER 2

Relationship with Allah

Can we have a relationship with Allah? What does it mean to have a relationship with Allah? What does that look like?

All of us have a deep longing for meaningful relationships. Allah made us that way. A relationship with Allah is the best relationship we could ever have in our lives.

Stop and think for a moment of the happiest time in your life. What about it made you so happy? Most if not all of us will likely remember a time when we were around people that we LOVE. Can you imagine being with Allah, spending time with Him and talking to him?

The relationship with Allah is the best relationship you can ever have! But how do you do that?

The way to develop a relationship with Allah is through talking to him and listening to him. When you are in Salah you are actually talking to him and when you are reading the Qur'an you are listening to His Words. Start with the prayer. Spend time reciting and understanding the Qur'an. When you read the Qur'an you will feel that Allah is telling you something, STOP and ponder over the meanings. Pray and ask Allah to show you the guidance and ask for His help and His love.

Here are some ways through which you can develop your relationship with Allah.

Offer five obligatory prayers promptly

Abdullah bin Mas'ud radiallahu anhu related to us that he once asked the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wassallam which act, among all religious duties, was most pleasing to Allah. The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "To offer prayer at the right time". Then I asked: 'Which act is most pleasing to Him after it?' "To serve one's parent's, replied the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam. I again asked: "Which act is most pleasing (to Him) after it?" To do Jihad in the path of Allah", came the reply."¹³

The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said here that prayer is dearer to Allah than even serving parents and engaging in jihad.

¹³ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim 499/27

Pray 12 Sunnah prayers

Umm Habibah radiallahu anha related to us that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Whoever will offer 12 Raka’t during the day and the night (apart from the Fard prayers), for him a mansion will be built in Heaven. (The 12 Rak’ats are): 4 before and 2 after Dhur, 2 after Maghrib, 2 after Isha, and 2 before Fajr.”¹⁴

This hadith is also mentioned in Muslim but the number of raka’t is not mentioned there. Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam was very particular about the 12 rak’at of Sunnah mentioned in the above hadith and laid a great stress on them.

Pray tahajjud prayer

It is related by ‘Amr bin ‘Abasa that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Allah is nearest to the believer in the later half of the night. So, if it is possible for you to be of the believer who mentioned Allah at that hour then is of them.”¹⁵

It is related on the authority of Abu Umamah radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “You should offer Tahajjud for it has been the way of the pious souls before you and it is a special means of seeking the countenance of Allah and it removes the evil effects of sins and protects from the transgression of divine laws.”¹⁶

Make dhikr constantly

Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu reported the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam as saying that Allah, the Exalted, has said; “I am with My slave when he remembers Me and his lips move mentioning Me.”¹⁷

¹⁴ Tirmidhi 652/180

¹⁵ Tirmidhi 676/204

¹⁶ Tirmidhi 678/206

¹⁷ Sahih Bukhari 104/3

Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu narrated that the Prophet Sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam said: “ No slave does utter Laa illaha illal Allah (There is no God but Allah) sincerely but that the gates of heaven are opened for him until it comes up to the Throne as long as he avoids major sins.”¹⁸

It is related by Abu Sa’eed Al Khudri radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam was asked who would be most excellent and most exalted in the sight of Allah on the Day of Resurrection (as regards the deeds that one performs). He said, “The men and women who remember Allah often”. He was asked, “Would they be superior even to him who fought in the path of Allah?” He said, “even if he plied his sword among infidels and polytheists till it was broken and smeared with blood, the one who made mention of Allah would have a more excellent degree than he”.¹⁹

Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu narrated that Allah’s Messenger Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Who-ever says ‘Subhan Allahi wa bihamdi hi, one hundred times a day, will be forgiven all his sins even if they were as much as the foam of the sea.”²⁰

Allah says in the Qur’an, “O you who believe! Remember Allah with much remembrance, and glorify Him in the morning and evening”.²¹

“And remember your Lord within yourself with humility and fear.”²²

While dhikr is the most excellent and dearest of all deeds, we must bear in mind that prayer, recital of the Qur’an (and so on) is included in its definition.

Seek forgiveness 100 times a day

It is related by Al Agharr Al Muzani radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “O people! Turn to Allah, in repentance, for I turn in repentance to Him a hundred times a day.”²³

¹⁸ Tirmidhi 1066/23

¹⁹ Ahmad, Tirmidhi 1050/7

²⁰ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim

²¹ Al Ahzab 33:41-41

²² Al Araf 7:205

²³ Sahih Muslim 1311/268

It is related by Ibn Abbas radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, "If anyone makes it regular (for himself) to seek (Allah's) forgiveness, Allah will appoint for him a way out of every distress and a relief from every anxiety, and will provide for him from where he did not expect".²⁴

Allah (SWT) is much pleased with anyone's tawbah and istighfar. Abdullah ibn Mas'ud radiallahu anhu said that he heard the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam say in a long hadith, "By Allah! Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His believing slave than the traveler who encamps at a place that is an inhabited waterless desert where his life is jeopardizes ..."²⁵

Thank Allah

The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "Allah is pleased with the slave who thank Him after eating and drinking."²⁶

It was narrated that 'Aa'ishah said: When the Messenger of Allah sallallahu alaihe wassallam prayed, he would stand for so long that his feet became swollen. 'Aa'ishah radiallahu anha said: O Messenger of Allah, are you doing this when Allah has forgiven your past and future sins? He said: "O 'Aa'ishah, should I not be a thankful slave?"²⁷

How can a person thank his Lord for His great blessings? His gratitude should fulfil all the necessary conditions, which are gratitude of the heart, gratitude of the tongue and gratitude of the physical faculties.

Ibn al-Qayyim (may Allah have mercy on him) said: Gratitude may be in the heart, in submission and humility; on the tongue, in praise and acknowledgement; and in the physical faculties, by means of obedience and submission.²⁸

Allah has commanded us to give thanks to Him for those blessings, and not to deny them. He says: "Therefore remember Me (by praying, glorifying). I will remember you, and be grateful to Me (for My countless Favours on you) and never be ungrateful to Me"²⁹

²⁴ Ahmad, Abu Dawood, Ibn Majah 1332/289

²⁵ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim 1334/291

²⁶ Sahih Muslim

²⁷ Sahih Bukhari (4557) and Sahih Muslim (2820).

²⁸ Madaarij al-Saalikeen (2/246)

²⁹ al-Baqarah 2:152

Gratitude for blessings is a cause of them being increased, as Allah says: “And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed: ‘If you give thanks (by accepting Faith and worshipping none but Allah), I will give you more (of My Blessings); but if you are thankless (i.e. disbelievers), verily, My punishment is indeed severe’”³⁰

Make dua

Islam encourages us to make a lot of dua’, and not to be hasty in seeking a response. That is because du’aa’ is a great act of worship which is beloved to Allah.

Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu said that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam told us that nothing is more honourable in the sight of Allah than supplication.³¹

It is related by Ibn Masud radiallahu anhu that Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, “Ask Allah to grant from His bounties (ask for His favors and mercy) for Allah loves to be asked. And the most excellent worship is hope and expectation of relief (from anxiety and distress, and it is a great form of worship because of its humble concentration).³²

Tell Allah that you love Him

One of the attributes of Allah is that He Loves His believing slaves in a fashion which befits His Majesty and Might; His slaves in turn love Him more than their wealth, children, and their own selves.

Allah says in the Qur’an: “Allah will bring a people whom He will love and they will love Him.” (Al Maa’dah : 54)

Almighty Allah said: “Say (O Mohammad): “if you (really) love Allah then follow me, Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”³³

Abu Huraira radiallahu ‘anhu narrated that the Prophet Sallallahu ‘alaihe wasallam. Said, ‘if Allah loves a person, He calls Jibrael (Gabriel) saying,’ Allah loves so and so; O Jibrael (Gabriel) love him.’ And make an announcement amongst the inhabitants of the heaven:

³⁰ Ibraaheem 14:7

³¹ Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah 1116/73

³² Tirmidhi 1119/76

³³ Ale Imran 3:31

“ Allah loves so and so therefore you should love him also, and so all the inhabitants of the heaven would love him, and then he is granted the pleasures of the people on the earth.” ³⁴

Enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil

The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Allah, the angels, the inhabitants of heaven and earth, even the ant in its hole and even the fish in the sea, send blessings upon the one who teaches the people good.” ³⁵

Allah, may He be glorified, praises those who follow that path, as He says: “And who is better in speech than he who [says: ‘My Lord is Allah (believes in His Oneness),’ and then stands firm (acts upon His Order), and] invites (men) to Allah’s (Islamic Monotheism), and does righteous deeds, and says: ‘I am one of the Muslims’”³⁶

“O you who have believed, fear Allah and seek the means [of nearness] to Him and strive in His cause that you may succeed.” ³⁷

“O you who have believed, if you support Allah, He will support you and plant firmly your feet.” ³⁸

Give charity for the sake of Allah

It is related by Anas radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Charity cools down the fire of Allah’s wrath and wards off an evil death”. ³⁹

Allah says in the Qur’an, “You will not attain Al-Birr (piety) unless you spend (in Allah’s Cause) of that which you love”. ⁴⁰

³⁴ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim

³⁵ Tirmidhi, 2609

³⁶ Fussilat 41:33

³⁷ Al-Maida 5:35

³⁸ Muhammad 47:7

³⁹ Tirmidhi 863/40)

⁴⁰ Aal ‘Imran 3:92

The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “If a woman spends from the wealth of her house without causing harm (to her family), she will get the reward of what she spent and her husband also gets a reward because he earned it. (Moreover) the one who is entrusted with money gets the same rewards (of spending it), without any of them (the wife and the entrusted) decreasing the rewards of the others.”⁴¹

Place Your Need before Allah, Not Men

Abdullah bin Mas’ud radiallahu anhu related to us that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Whoever is confronted with a severe need and places it before men (and begs them for help), he will never be relieved of it permanently, and whoever places it before Allah and beseeches Him (for it), it is confidently hoped that Allah will put an end to his need either by granting him death before long (if the appointed time of his death has arrived) or by bestowing prosperity upon him after sometime.”⁴²

The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Whosoever guarantees me that he will not ask people for anything, I can guarantee him Paradise.”⁴³

⁴¹ Sahih Bukhari

⁴² Abu Dawood and Tirmidhi 849/26

⁴³ Sahih Bukhari

CHAPTER 3

Relationship with Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam

Our relationship with the Messenger of Allah is connected with our faith and to the strength of our love for him. When our faith increases, our love for the Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam increases and our relationship with him becomes stronger. Having a close relationship with Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam means loving him which is an act of obedience to Allaah and a means of drawing closer to Him. Loving the Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam is one of the obligatory duties in Islam.

It was narrated that Anas radiallahu anhu said: The Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam said: “None of you truly believes until I am more beloved to him than his father, his children and all the people.” (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 15; Muslim, 44)

The way to strengthen our relationship with Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam is by following his Sunnah in words and deeds, so that his Sunnah is the path we follow in our whole life, and put his words before any other words and put his command before everything else.

May Allaah help us to love His Messenger sallallahu alaihe wassallam and to make him dearer to us than our children, parents, families and our own selves.

Follow the authentic Sunnah and stay away from bidah

Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Whoever introduces anything into this matter of ours that is not part of it will have it rejected.”⁴⁴

It is narrated from Jabir (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to say in his Friday khutbahs: “The best of speech is the Book of Allah and the best of guidance is the guidance of Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam. The most evil of things are those which are newly-invented, and every innovation (*bid'ah*) is a going- astray.”⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Sahih Muslim (1718)

⁴⁵ Sahih Muslim

Obey him

“O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad), and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority. (And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger, if you believe in Allah and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination ⁴⁶

Send salawat and Salam upon him especially on Fridays. This will increase our blessings from Allah

Surely Allah and His angles send blessings on the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam. O you who believe! Send your blessings on him and salute him with a becoming salutation. ⁴⁷

Anas radiallahu anhu has said that the Messenger of Allah said, “If anyone invokes a blessing on me, Allah will grant him ten blessings, ten of his sins will be remitted and he will be raised ten degrees”. ⁴⁸

Make dua for him

Ibn Mas’ud radiallahu anhu said that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, “The one who will be nearest on the Day of Resurrection will be the one who invoked most blessings on me”. ⁴⁹

The Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said the person is assured of my intercession who says: “O Allah! Shower blessings on Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam and cause him to occupy a place near You on the Day of Resurrection.”⁵⁰

⁴⁶ al-Nisaa’ 4:59

⁴⁷ Al Ahzab, 33:56

⁴⁸ Nasai 1336/293

⁴⁹ Tirmidhi

⁵⁰ Tabarani

Love him more than you love yourself, your family, and your wealth

Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “None of you truly believes until I become dearer to him than his own self, his children, his parents and all of mankind”.

Ali radiallahu anhu reported that Allah’s Messenger Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, “He who revives one of my Sunnah after it had been forgotten after my death has, indeed, loved me. And, he who loves me will be with me.”⁵¹

Show respect for the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam and for his Sunnah

Allah says: “O you who believe, do not raise your voices above the prophet’s voice and do not speak to him loudly, lest your deeds become vain while you perceive it not”.⁵²

O you who have believed, respond to Allah and to the Messenger when he calls you to that which gives you life. And know that Allah intervenes between a man and his heart and that to Him you will be gathered.⁵³

Defend our Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam and promote his good name

Allah say: “To believe in Allah and His messenger that you may assist and honour him”.⁵⁴

Read the biography of Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam from authentic sources and benefit from the many lessons that they contain

O you who have believed, fear Allah and believe in His Messenger; He will [then] give you a double portion of His mercy and make for you a light by which you will walk and forgive you; and Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.⁵⁵

⁵¹ Tirmidhi

⁵² Surah Al-Hujarat 49:2)

⁵³ Al-Infal 8:24

⁵⁴ Al-Fath 48:9

Learn the Sunnah by studying its sources. We must study the hadith and strive to understand them correctly

Abu Rafi' radiallahu anhu reported that Allah's Messenger Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, "Let me not see anyone reclining on his couch (arrogantly) when something from me comes to him of what I have commanded to do or disallowed to do, and he says: I know not; what we find in the Qur'an is only what we will follow."⁵⁶

Follow the Sunnah in its entirety, giving priority to what we are obliged to do

Abdullah ibn Umar radiallahu anhu reported that Allah's Messenger Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, "None of you can be (true) believer unless his desire become subservient to what I have brought (of guidance and teachings)".⁵⁷

Dislike the actions of those who defame the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam or disapprove of his Sunnah

Miqdam ibn Ma'dikarib reported that Allah's Messenger Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, "Beware! I have been given by Allah the Qur'an for guidance and with it something like it also. Beware! Soon some satiated people (will arise) who sitting (comfortably) on their glorious couch will say to the people, "Keep to the Qur'an alone. What it has made lawful, treat it as lawful, and what it has declared as unlawful treat it as unlawful (for only that is lawful and unlawful what the Qur'an has described. Nothing else." Reciting this misleading concept, the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam added), "The turn is that whatever Allah's Messenger has declared as unlawful is just like that which Allah has declared unlawful in the Qur'an."⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Al-Hadeed 57:28

⁵⁶ Ahmad, Abu Dawood, Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah

⁵⁷ Sharah as-Sunnah, Arba'een

⁵⁸ Abu Dawood, Ibn Majah, Darami

O you who have believed, believe in Allah and His Messenger and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture, which He sent down before. And whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray.⁵⁹

⁵⁹ An-Nisa 4:136

CHAPTER 4

Relationship with the Qur'an

“(This is) a Book (the Qur’aan) which We have sent down to you, full of blessings, that they may ponder over its Verses, and that men of understanding may remember”⁶⁰

The Qur’an is the word of Allaah that was revealed to His Prophet Muhammad sallallahu alaihe wassallam. Its recitation is an act of worship and it brings light and gives certainty, it is the strong rope, it is the path of the righteous.

It tells us of those who came before us, Prophets and righteous people, and how those who disobeyed them tasted the punishment of Allaah and were humiliated. It contains verses which speak of the miracles of Allaah and His power in this great universe. In it there is healing for men’s hearts, light and illumination for the blind. In it is guidance for mankind, away from misguidance and to the truth.

It contains innumerable benefits, so everyone who seeks happiness in this world and in the Hereafter must refer to it for judgement and follow its commands.

Imam Ibn Hazm said:

Because the proof and the miracles indicate that the Qur’aan is the covenant of Allaah with us, we must believe in it and act in accordance with it. It has come down to us through generations of Muslims narrating it to those who came after them, which leaves no room for doubt that the Qur’aan is the one which is written in the Mus-hafs which we find everywhere. We have to follow its teachings, for it is our reference-point, because we read in it the words (interpretation of the meaning):

“There is not a moving (living) creature on earth, nor a bird that flies with its two wings, but are communities like you. We have neglected nothing in the Book, then unto their Lord they (all) shall be gathered” [al-An’aam 6:38]

Here are some tips if we follow them than we will be able to build a strong relationship with the Quran and adhere to its commands.

⁶⁰ Surah Saad 38:29

Learn to read Qur'an with tajweed

“Verily, We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an in order that you may understand”⁶¹

It is not permissible for anyone to deliberately change any letter of it when he is able to pronounce it correctly. This is a kind of mistake, which is a sin.

Allah states in the Qur'an: “And recite the Qur'an with measure”.⁶²

In the commentary of the above ayat, Ali radiallahu anhu explains that tarteel means to recite the letters with Tajweed.

It has been narrated in a hadith: “Allah desires that the Qur'an be recited in the manner it was revealed i.e. with tajweed.

Ayesha radiallahu anha has said that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “One who is skilled in the Qur'an is associated with the noble, upright recording angels, and he who falters when reciting (because he is not fluent with it and does not remember it well) and it is difficult for him will have a double reward (one for the recital and other for enduring difficulty).”⁶³

Recite the Quran every day

Abu Umamah Radiallahu 'anhu narrated that he heard the Prophet Sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam saying: “ Read the Qur'an (regularly) for it will act as an intercessor for its readers on the Day of Resurrection.”⁶⁴

Abidah al Mulayhi radiallahu anhu reported the Messenger of Allah as saying: “O People of the Qur'an, do not make the Qur'an your pillow. But, recite it during the night and the day, as it deserves to be recited. Diffuse it and read it with interest and cheer. Think over it that you may prosper. Do not seek to get reward for it in this world. You will get great reward for it from Allah.”⁶⁵

⁶¹ Yosuf 12:2

⁶² Muzzammil 73:4

⁶³ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim

⁶⁴ Sahih Muslim

⁶⁵ Baihaqi 1081/38

“Recite the Qur’an, for verily on the Day of Resurrection it will act as an intercessor for its companions (those who read it often).”⁶⁶

Read the Quran’s translation and explanations and ponder upon it

“(This is a) Book that We have sent down to you, full of blessings, so that they may ponder over its verses, and that men of understanding may remember”.⁶⁷

“Do they not then think deeply in the Qur’an, or are their hearts locked up (from understanding it)?”⁶⁸

Act upon the Quran’s teachings

It is reported by Mu’aaz al Juhanni radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, “If anyone recites the Qur’an and acts according to its contents, on the Day of Resurrection his parents will be given to wear a crown whose light is better than the light of the sun in the dwellings of this world if it were among you”. He then added, “So what do you think of him who acts according to this?”⁶⁹

“O mankind! There has come to you a good advice from your Lord (i.e. the Qur’an, enjoining all that is good and forbidding all that is evil), and a healing for that which is in your breasts, — a guidance and a mercy (explaining lawful and unlawful things) for the believers”⁷⁰

Teach others

Uthman Radiallahu ‘anhu narrated that the Prophet Sallallahu ‘alaihe wasallam said: “ The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur’an and teach it (to others).”⁷¹

⁶⁶ Sahih Muslim

⁶⁷ Saad 38:29

⁶⁸ Muhammad 47:24

⁶⁹ Ahmad, Abu Dawood

⁷⁰ Yonus 10:57

⁷¹ Sahih Bukhari

In a hadith qudisi Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam has reported the saying of Allah: “He whom the Qur’an keeps busy (and away) from remembering Me and making supplications, I will give him better than that what I give those who ask and make supplications.”

CHAPTER 5

Relationship with the Wealth

The wealth and good health has been given to us by Allah to see how we use it. Allah is forever testing us whether we are rich or poor. Wealth is something given by Allah and it is there to be shared with other Muslims. If we use our wealth in a good way then Allah will give us more.

Contrary to what you may have been told or believe, money isn't evil; it's what we do with it that determines whether it is used with good or bad intentions. With money, you can do great deeds in the world. You can support wonderful causes and spread your wealth to where it is needed.

Allah SWT tell us that the Shaytaan has share in our wealth, as mentioned in the aayah: “share with them wealth and children (by tempting them to earn money by illegal ways usury, or by committing illegal sexual intercourse),”[al-Israa’ 17:64]

What this meant was every kind of wealth which involved disobeying Allaah, whether it was spent on haraam things, earned from haraam sources, sacrificed to their gods, or other ways by means of which it was spent in disobedience (towards Allaah). That is because Allaah said: “share with them wealth”. So every kind of wealth by means of which the Shaytaan is obeyed and Allaah is disobeyed, the one who does that, has given Iblees a share in it.

There are two ways of earning in Islam the halal way and the haram way. The halal way is when you work hard to earn your living and you spend it in a halal way such as spending on yourself, your family, giving it to the mosque or to a charity. The haram way is when you earn your money selling drugs, alcohol and when you spend it on haram things such as gambling, riba and so on.

Focus on abundance, not lack! If you moan about what you haven't got, you're placing all your energy and focus into creating nothing. The negative thoughts simply highlight your deficiencies and do nothing to start creating financial abundance. When you hear yourself complaining about not having enough money, stop yourself! Turn the negative statement into a positive one and focus your attention to abundance. It may prove difficult at first, especially if you're always grouching, but stay resolute and focus on plenty and your fortunes will start turning round.

Give a percentage of what you earn to a good cause. Spread your wealth and don't begrudge doing so. By sharing what you have, and giving away some of your money without worrying about lack or hoping to gain something in return, you are demonstrating a healthy relationship with money while trusting in Allah and in yourself to create abundance all round.

There are several different types of charities. Some are compulsory and some are voluntary. Islam does not forbid saving up wealth in all cases, rather what is forbidden and what a stern warning is issued against is not paying zakaah on one's wealth. But if a person pays zakaah, he is not included in the condemnation.

Allaah says: "And those who hoard up gold and silver (Al-Kanz: the money, the Zakaah of which has not been paid) and spend them not in the way of Allaah, announce unto them a painful torment" [al-Tawbah 9:34]

Spending for the sake of Allaah is one of the best kinds of charity, for which Allaah has promised a great reward and there is no doubt that charity is one of the best acts by means of which one may draw close to Allah.

"Take Sadaqah (alms) from their wealth in order to purify them and sanctify them with it"⁷²

Seek forgiveness for increase in wealth

Allah says: "I [Nooh] said (to them): 'Ask forgiveness from your Lord, verily, He is Oft-Forgiving; 'He will send rain to you in abundance, 'And give you increase in wealth and children, and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers"⁷³

Give sadaqah whilst you are in good health

It was narrated from Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) that a man came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said: "O Messenger of Allah, which charity brings a greater reward?" He said, "If you give in charity when you are healthy and miserly, fearing poverty and hoping for richness. Do not delay until you are at the point of death and you say, 'Give this to So and so, give this to So and so,' ..."⁷⁴

⁷² al-Tawbah 9:103

⁷³ Nooh 71:10-12

⁷⁴ Sahid Bukhaari, 1330; Sahih Muslim, 1713

Spend on your husband if he is in need

It was narrated that Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri radiallahu anhu said: The Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam went out – on Eid al-Fitr or Eid al-Adha – to the prayer place, and when he had finished (the prayer) he preached to the people and enjoined them to give charity. He said, “O people, give in charity!” Then he went over to the women and said, “O women, give in charity for I have seen that you are the majority of the people of Hell.” When he went home, Zaynab the wife of Ibn Mas'ood came seeking permission to see him. It was said, “O Messenger of Allah, here is Zaynab.” He said, “Which Zaynab?” It was said, “The wife of Ibn Mas'ood.” He said, “Yes, let her in.” So they let her in and she said, “O Prophet of Allah, today you enjoined charity, and I have some jewellery which I wanted to give in charity, but Ibn Mas'ood claims that he and his child have more right to receive it in charity.” The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Give it in charity to Ibn Mas'ood, for your husband and your child have the most right that you should give it to them in charity.”⁷⁵

Allah is Good and accepts nothing but that which is good

“O you who believe! Spend of the good things, which you have (legally) earned, and of that which We have produced from the earth for you, and do not aim at that which is bad to spend from it, (though) you would not accept it save if you close your eyes and tolerate therein. And know that Allah is Rich (Free of all needs), and Worthy of all praise”⁷⁶

Ongoing Charity

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “If a person falls sick or travels, there will be recorded for him (a reward) like that of what he used to do when he was not traveling and was healthy.”⁷⁷

Allah says, “O you who believe! Spend of that with which We have provided for you, before a Day comes when there will be no bargaining, nor friendship, nor intercession. And it is the disbelievers who are the Zaalimoon (wrongdoers)”⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Sahih Bukhari 1393, Sahih Muslim 80

⁷⁶ al-Baqarah 2:267

⁷⁷ Narrated by al-Bukhaari (2996)

It is narrated that Abu Huraira said: “The good deeds that will reach a believer after his death are: knowledge which he learned and then spread; a righteous son whom he leaves behind; a copy of the Qur’an that he leaves as a legacy; a mosque that he built; a house that he built for wayfarers; a canal that he dug; or charity that he gave during his lifetime when he was in good health. These deeds will reach him after his death.”⁷⁹

This is what is narrated in the words of the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam: “Whoever builds a mosque for the sake of Allah, even if it is like the nest of a sand grouse, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise.”⁸⁰ The hadith gives an example of building the smallest thing possible.

Charity from your husband’s wealth

The Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “No woman spends anything from her husband’s household, without causing any harm, but she will have the reward for that, and he will have a similar reward because he earned it, and she will have a reward because she spent it, and the storekeeper will have a similar reward, without it detracting from the reward of any of them in the slightest.”

It was narrated from Asma’ radiallahu anha that she came to the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam and said: O Messenger of Allah, I have nothing but that which al-Zubayr gives me. Is there any sin on me if I give charity from that which is given to me? He said: Give charity.”⁸¹

Use kind words if you don’t have money to help others

Allah says, “And if you (O Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) turn away from them (kindred, poor, wayfarer, whom We have ordered you to give their rights, but if you have no money at the time they ask you for it) and you are awaiting a mercy from your Lord for which you hope, then, speak unto them a soft, kind word (i.e. Allah will give me and I shall give you)”⁸²

⁷⁸ al-Baqarah 2:254

⁷⁹ Ibn Majah (242)

⁸⁰ Ahmad, 2157; classed as sahih by al-Albaani in Sahih al-Jaami’.

⁸¹ Sahih Bukhari

⁸² al-Isra’ 17:28

Ibn Katheer (may Allah have mercy on him) said: i.e., if your relatives and those to whom We have enjoined you to give ask you for something, and you do not have anything and you turn away from them because you cannot afford to spend, “then, speak unto them a soft, kind word” meaning, make them a promise, in kind and gentle words, that when the provision of Allah comes, we will give you some, if Allah wills.⁸³

Do not follow up your spending with reminders

Those who spend their wealth in the Cause of Allah, and do not follow up their gifts with reminders of their generosity or with injury, their reward is with their Lord. On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve”⁸⁴

“Believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad), and spend of that whereof He has made you trustees. And such of you as believe and spend (in Allah’s way), theirs will be a great reward”⁸⁵

Giving charity increase the wealth

“The likeness of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah, is as the likeness of a grain (of corn); it grows seven ears, and each ear has a hundred grains. Allah gives manifold increase to whom He wills. And Allah is All Sufficient for His creatures’ needs, All-Knower.”

It was narrated from Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu that the Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam said: “There is no day on which the people get up but two angels come down and one of them says, ‘O Allah, give in compensation to the one who spends (in charity),’ and the other says, ‘O Allah, destroy the one who withholds.’”⁸⁶

It was narrated from Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah sallallahu alaihe wassallam said: “Allah said: ‘Spend, O son of Adam, and I shall spend on you.’”⁸⁷

⁸³ Tafseer Ibn Katheer, 3/52

⁸⁴ al-Baqarah 2:261-262

⁸⁵ al-Hadeed 57:7

⁸⁶ Sahih Bukhari, 1374; Sahih Muslim, 1010

⁸⁷ Sahih Bukhari, 5073; Sahih Muslim, 993

It was narrated that Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu said: The Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “Whoever gives charity equal to a date from good (halal) earnings – for Allah does not accept anything but that which is good – Allah will take it in His right hand and tend it for the one who gave it as any one of you tends his foal, until it becomes like a mountain.”⁸⁸

Always remember the words of Allah, “And no moving (living) creature is there on earth but its provision is due from Allah. And He knows its dwelling place and its deposit (in the uterus or grave). All is in a Clear Book (Al-Lawh Al-Mahfooz — the Book of Decrees with Allah).”⁸⁹

Do not take anything from your husband’s wealth without his permission

It is not permissible for the wife to take anything from her husband’s wealth except with his permission, unless he is stingy with her in spending what he is obliged to spend. In that case it is permissible for her to take what is sufficient for her and her children, on a reasonable basis⁹⁰, because of the report narrated from ‘Aa’ishah (may Allah be pleased with her), which says that Hind bint ‘Utbah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: O Messenger of Allah, Abu Sufyaan is a stingy man and does not give me enough for me and my children, unless I take from him without him knowing. He said: “Take what is sufficient for you and your children on a reasonable basis.”⁹¹

Spend on your parents if they are poor and you are rich

The child – male or female – is obliged to spend on his (or her) parents if they are poor and he is rich. The obligation of spending on them is indicated by the Qur’aan, Sunnah and scholarly consensus (ijmaa’).

Allah says “And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents”⁹²

⁸⁸ Narrated by al-Bukhari, 1344; Muslim, 1014.

⁸⁹ Hood 11:6

⁹⁰ Islamqa.com fatwa 146876

⁹¹ Sahih Bukhari (5364)

⁹² al-Isra’ 17:23

Being dutiful includes spending on them if they are in need

In order for it to be obligatory to spend on fathers and grandfathers, they should be poor and the child should be rich, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Start with yourself and give charity to yourself. If there is anything left over, then (give) to your family. If there is anything left over from your family, then (give) to your relatives.”⁹³.

Shaykh Ibn Jibreen (may Allah preserve him) said: If the parents are poor and the daughter has wealth surplus to her needs, then she is obliged to spend on her parents according to their needs, without it detracting from her needs.⁹⁴

⁹³ Narrated by Muslim (997

⁹⁴ Islamqa.com Fatawa # 111892

Relationship with the World Around You

Your success in all relationship requires you to be ever mindful of your speech, of your thoughts, of your actions and your intentions. Successful Relationships require that you pay close attention that nurture your ability to be more compassionate and that you stay calm. Mindfulness helps you be aware of the patterns that help you connect to yourself and to others in your world....and, the world at large.

When it comes to relationships, we all want someone to respect us and for whom we have respect, too. If you can't understand and appreciate your husband/children/parents' work, interests, opinions, morals (of course, you don't have to necessarily agree with them) and they don't yours, then it may not go well down the line. Successful relationship requires a bit of give and take. The willingness to compromise on various aspects of a relationship is vital. Ask yourself how good are you at compromise?

To "surrender or compromise" doesn't mean to give up; it means letting go of what is unnecessary or keeping you back. It means giving the situation to a higher power and trusting that the world will give you strength and joy in return.

Relationships don't have to be a battle where one wins and one loses. When both parties surrender their defense and attack, they make room for peace and forgiveness.

You can change the world by just being present in a meaningful way to all those around you. Being an obedient slave of Allah, a loving wife, mother, daughter, friend, or co-worker bears much fruit in your lives.

There are four keys to happiness:

1. Be kind to everybody
2. Being compassionate
3. Be joy and offer joy
4. Do not discriminate about the recipient of your kindness, compassion and joy.

Understand how you connect with others, and try to explore patterns and behaviors that create roadblocks to your life's goal.

You will be able to win the people's love when you treat everyone in such a way that he thinks of himself as the most beloved of all people to yourself. For instance, you should treat your mother so grandly that she begins to think you have never treated anyone in such a fine manner.

You can say the same about the way you should deal with your father, your spouse, your children, and your relatives.

The Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassalm was an expert in this.

Whoever reads about the life of the Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassalm will find that he would deal with everyone in an excellent manner. Whoever he met, he would be very welcoming and cheerful, such that the person would think that he was the most beloved of all to him, and therefore, the Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassalm would also become the most beloved of all to that person.

CHAPTER 6

Relationship with the Parents

Having a good relationship with our parents is very important for us. However, relationships with parents can be quite difficult and complex. There is scope for lots of misunderstandings and conflicts. These basically stem from lack of communication in most instances. However, in other instances, communication itself can be the source of conflicts.

Whatever the case may be never be disrespectful to your parents. Do not say a harsh word to them. Even if parents are unjust, it is not lawful for children to ill-treat, disobey or displease them. Obey them in all lawful things. If they instruct you to do anything which is unlawful in the Sharee'ah , then politely and with respect and apology decline. Never refuse rudely nor argue with them.

When parents abuse, scold or even beat their children, they should submit to such treatment with humility. Never should they utter a word of disrespect or complaint, nor should they display on their faces any indication of disgust or anger. Bear their treatment in silence and with patience. Make du'aa for them.

“The Lord has ordained that ye worship non but Him; and to show kindness to your parents.”⁹⁵

If you are living with them, take their permission before going anywhere. Inform them of your whereabouts.

If at any time you were disrespectful to your parents, regret your action and hasten to obtain their pardon. Scholars have said that being grateful to Allah is to be grateful for the Iman that He has blessed us with. And to be thankful to our parents is to be grateful for the hard work they went through to raise us.

In their life and after death, make du'aa of forgiveness for them. Pray for their forgiveness and within your means, practice virtuous deeds with the intention of the reward thereof being bestowed on them by Allah.

“O My Lord! Bestow your Mercy on them, even as they reared me when I was young.”⁹⁶

⁹⁵ Bani Isra'il 17:23

⁹⁶ Surah Bani Israel 17:24

Call them often if they live far away or visit them if they live close by

It is related by Abdullah ibn Amr ibn Al-Aas radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "In the good pleasure of the father lies the good pleasure of Allah, and in his displeasure, the displeasure of Allah." ⁹⁷

Take care of their needs

Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-Aas radiallahu anhu narrated that a person (once) came to the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam and said that he wanted to participate in Jihad. "Are your parents alive?" enquired the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam, "Yes", he replied. "They are alive." The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam observed: "Then strive in their service and bring aid and succor to them. (This is your Jihad)." ⁹⁸

Be gentle with them

Jabir radiallahu anhu related to us that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "Allah prolongs the life of a person who obeys his parents and serves them devotedly." ⁹⁹

It is related by Abdullah ibn Umar radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "Obey your parents and treat them with kindness, your children will be kind and obedient to you; and live with purity, your wives will stay pure." ¹⁰⁰

Be patient over things which you may dislike

⁹⁷ Tirmidhi 1393/28

⁹⁸ Abu Dawood

⁹⁹ Musnad Ibn Man'ee and Kamil Ibn Adee

¹⁰⁰ Tabarani

Anas radiallahu anhu related to us that (once) the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam was asked about the major sins. He replied: “To associate anyone with Allah; to disobey the parents and cause them pain or injury; to kill unlawfully; and to give false evidence.”¹⁰¹

Your parents have rights over you and those are:

1. Love and respect, as much as possible, because they are the most deserving of people your good companionship.
2. Taking care of them and looking after their affairs if they need that; this is a debt that rests on the child’s shoulders.
3. Not offending them or saying or doing anything that they dislike. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): “say not to them a word of disrespect”¹⁰²
4. Spending on them if they are in need.
5. Obeying them when they tell you to do something good. But if they tell you to do something bad, such as shirk, then there should be no obedience to any created being if it involves disobedience to the Creator. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):
“But if they (both) strive with you to make you join in worship with Me others that of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not; but behave with them in the world kindly”¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ Sahih Bukhari

¹⁰² al-Israa’ 17:23]

¹⁰³ Luqmaan 31:15

CHAPTER 7

Relationship with the Husband

A good wife is one of best treasures in life, yet at the same time to be a good wife is not always that easy.

What kind of foundation is your relationship based on? If you cannot think of any, then develop respect and communication if it is not there. Respecting each other and communicating with each other will go a long way to a successful relationship. A good relationship tip to consider is compromise. Yes! Compromise can go a long way in deepening the relationship. How much compromise do you show to your husband? It makes sense to give and take so you'll both feel valued needed in the relationship.

Although it's true that actions speak louder than words, words often speak more clearly than actions. Take a moment every now and then to verbalize your feelings for your husband. A simple "I love you" or "You mean the world to me" can go a long way towards making your husband feel wanted, cared for, and secure in your relationship. Also small acts of physical intimacy can give your husband a warm feeling and convey the love and affection you feel for him.

Don't keep your likes and dislikes, dreams and fears, achievements and mistakes, or anything else to yourself. If it's important to you, share it with your husband similarly be supportive when your husband faces life's little challenges, too – an argument at work, a rough commute, a misplaced check. Listen to what's bothering him and offer whatever help – even if it's just sympathy – you can.

Make Dua to Allah to make your marriage and relationship successful.

All good things are from Allah. Never forget to ask Allah subhanahu wata'ala for the blessing of having a successful marriage that begins in this Dunya and continues on - by the Mercy of Allah ta'ala - into Jannah.

Be thankful to him

Ibn Abbas radiallahu anhu reported that Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "O Women, give charity, for I have surely seen that you from the majority of the inhabitants of Hell."

They asked, ‘why is this so, O Messenger of Allah?’ He said, “Because you curse too much, and are ungrateful for good treatment (on the part of your husband)”¹⁰⁴

Support him in his decisions. Don’t go against his decisions, if you dislike something, talk to him gently when his is in a good mood and give him reasons for your opinion

The Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, “It is not permitted for a woman who believes in Allah to allow anyone into her husband’s house whom he dislike; or to go out when he does not want her to; or to obey anyone else against him; or to forsake his bed; or to hit him. If he is wrong, then let her come to him until he is pleased with her, and if he accepts her then all is well, Allah will accept her deeds and make her position stronger, and there will be no sin on her. If he does not accept her then at least she will have done her best and excused herself in the sight of Allah.”¹⁰⁵

Take care of him

It is reported from Ayesha radiallahu anha that when the Messenger of Allah was in I’tikaf, he inclined his head towards me and I combed his hair, and he didn’t enter the house except to answer the call of nature.¹⁰⁶

Don’t complain about his shortfalls to his family or to your family members

A woman came to Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam about some matter, and when he had dealt with it, he asked her, “Do you have a husband”. She said, “Yes”. He asked her, “How are you with him”. She said, “I never fall short in my duties, except for that which is beyond me”. He said, “Pay attention to how you treat him, for he is your Paradise and your Hell”.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁴ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim

¹⁰⁵ Al Hakim 2/190

¹⁰⁶ Sahih Muslim

¹⁰⁷ Ahmad, An-Nasai

Don't argue with him when he is angry

Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "Shall I not tell you about your wives in Paradise." We said "of course, O Messenger of Allah. He said, "They are fertile and loving. If she became angry or is mistreated, or her husband becomes angry, she says, "My hand is in your hand, I shall never sleep until you are pleased with me".¹⁰⁸

Be sensible what you spend from his earnings

It was narrated that 'Aa'ishah said: "Hind bint 'Utbah, the wife of Abu Sufyaan, entered upon the Messenger of Allah sallallahu alaihe wassallam and said, 'O Messenger of Allah, Abu Sufyaan is a stingy man who does not spend enough on me and my children, except for what I take from his wealth without his knowledge. Is there any sin on me for doing that?' The Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, 'Take from his wealth on a reasonable basis, only what is sufficient for you and your children.'" ¹⁰⁹

Don't ask him for more than he can afford

Allah says, "but the father of the child shall bear the cost of the mother's food and clothing on a reasonable basis"¹¹⁰

"Let the rich man spend according to his means; and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what Allah has given him"¹¹¹

Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, "The best woman who ride camels are the woman of Quraysh. They are the most compassionate towards their children when they are small and the most careful with regards to their husband's wealth."¹¹²

¹⁰⁸ At-Tabarani

¹⁰⁹ Sahih Bukhari, 5049; Sahih Muslim, 1714

¹¹⁰ al-Baqarah 2:233

¹¹¹ al-Talaaq 65:7

¹¹² Sahih Muslim 16/81

Don't complain to him about his parents or his family

'Ali ibn Abi Talhah said, narrating from Ibn 'Abbas: "Men are the protectors and maintainers of women" means, they are in charge of them, i.e., she should obey him in matters of obedience that Allah has enjoined upon her, and obey him by treating his family well and taking care of his wealth. This was the view of Muqaatil, al-Saddi and al-Dahhaak.¹¹³

Don't say no when he wants to intimate with you unless you've a reason to say so

It was narrated that Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: 'When a man calls his wife to his bed and she refuses, and he went to sleep angry with her, the angels will curse her until morning.'"¹¹⁴

Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, "Allah will curse those procrastinating women who when their husbands call them to their beds, say I will, I will..., until he falls asleep."¹¹⁵

¹¹³ Tafseer Ibn Katheer, 1/492

¹¹⁴ Sahih Bukhari, 3065; Sahih Muslim, 1436

¹¹⁵ At-Tabarani

CHAPTER 8

Relationship with the Children

Just like with any relationship, building a positive relationship with your children is one that requires work and effort to make it strong and successful. Parenting is a tough job, and maintaining close relationships and open communications helps to stay connected with them through all ages of their upbringing.

To discipline a child is not to torture the child. The Prophet sallallahu alaihe wassallam never struck another human being except in warfare. The ways of discipline a child is to explain him/her your displeasure, and make him/her understand that actions have consequences and remove the privilege that is related to the wrong the child did. To minimize the need to discipline, build your family on routines which means that child know what to expect and when to expect it.

Your children need to know that you believe they are a priority in your life. Children can observe excessive stress and notice when they feel you are not paying them attention. Sometimes, part of being a parent is not worrying about the small stuff and enjoying your children.

Tell your children you love them every day -- no matter their age. Even on trying days or after a parent-child disagreement, when you don't exactly "like your child" at that moment, it is more important than ever to express your love. A simple "I love you" goes a long way toward developing and then strengthening a relationship.

Teach them about Islam

Allah says: "O you who believe! Ward off yourselves and your families against a Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who disobey not, (from executing) the Commands they receive from Allah, but do that which they are commanded"¹¹⁶

Teach them to pray

It was narrated from 'Amr ibn Shu'ayb from his father that his grandfather said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Teach your children to pray when they are

¹¹⁶ al-Tahreem 66:6

seven years old, and smack them if they do not pray when they are 10 years old, and separate them in their beds.”¹¹⁷

Instil the love of Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam and teach them to read Qur'an with tajweed

It was narrated from 'Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Train your children to acquire three characteristics: love of your Prophet, love of his family and reading the Qur'an, for the bearers of the Qur'an will be in the shade of Allah on the Day when there will be no shade except His, with His Prophets and His chosen ones.”¹¹⁸

Give them an Islamic environment

Al-Nawawi said: The father must discipline his child and teach him what he needs to know of religious duties. This teaching is obligatory upon the father and all those in charge of children before the child reaches the age of adolescence. This was stated by al-Shaafa'i and his companions. Al-Shaafa'i and his companions said: This teaching is also obligatory upon the mother, if there is no father, because it is part of the child's upbringing and they have a share of that and the wages for this teaching may be taken from the child's own wealth. If the child has no wealth then the one who is obliged to spend on him may spend on his education, because it is one of the things that he needs.¹¹⁹

Teach them to take care of needy

It is related by Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu that the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “It is the message of Allah to every believer: O son of Adam! Go on spending the wealth I have given you (on the poor, the needy and the destitute). I shall give you more from My treasure.”¹²⁰

¹¹⁷ Abu Dawood (459) and Ahmad (6650) Classed as sahih by al-Albaani in al-Irwa' (247).

¹¹⁸ Narrated by al-Suyooti in al-Jaami' al-Sagheer, p. 25

¹¹⁹ Sharh al-Nawawi 'ala Saheeh Muslim, 8/44

¹²⁰ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim

Dress them according to Islamic ruling

It is important for girls to grow up loving virtue, until they get used to it. Hence Islam gives children a preparatory stage in which they can get used to praying and does not make it obligatory all of a sudden, because it takes time to get used to it and learn it. When a girl is nine years old, she should start learning and getting used to what will be required of her, before she reaches puberty.

Sheikh Ibn 'Uthaymeen said: I think that people should not dress their daughters in these clothes when they are young because if the girl gets used to them she will continue to wear them and take the matter lightly. But if she gets used to modesty from an early age, she will remain modest when she grows up. What I advise my Muslim sisters to do is to forsake the clothing of foreigners and enemies of Islam, and make their daughters get used to wearing concealing clothes and to modesty, for it is part of faith.¹²¹

Develop the love for Allah and Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam in their hearts

It was narrated that 'Abd-Allaah ibn 'Umar said: I heard the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam say: "Each of you is a shepherd and each of you is responsible for his flock. The ruler is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock. A man is the shepherd of his family and is responsible for his flock. A woman is the shepherd of her husband's household and is responsible for her flock. A servant is the shepherd of his master's wealth and is responsible for his flock." He said: and I think he said, "A man is the shepherd of his father's wealth and is responsible for his flock. Each of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock."¹²²

Develop the love for Allah and Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam in your children's heart because you are responsible for their upbringing.

¹²¹ From Fataawa al-Sheikh Ibn 'Uthaymeen in al-Da'wah magazine, issue no. 1709, p. 35.

¹²² Sahih Bukhari, 583; Sahih Muslim, 1829.

Teach them to thank Allah for the blessings

It is related from Suhayb, radihallahu `anhu, "The affairs of a believer are astonishing, and are all good; this is something which is true of him alone. For when something good comes to him he gives thanks, while when something bad comes he is steadfast, which is good for him also."¹²³

Love them, hug them, and kiss them frequently

It is reported from Ayesha radiallahu anha that whenever Fatimah came into the room, Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam would stand up, welcome her, kiss her, and offer his seat, and whenever he came into the room, she would stand up, take his hand, welcome him and kiss him and offer her seat. When she came to see him during his final illness, he welcomed her and kissed her.¹²⁴

Treat all your children equally

Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in the sahih hadith: "Fear Allah and treat your children fairly."¹²⁵

It is reported from the father of Al Nu'man ibn Bashir radiallahu anhu that his father brought him to the Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam and said, "I have given this son of mine a slave I have." The Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam asked, "Have you done the same for all the children?" (My father) said, 'No'. Prophet Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said, "Fear Allah and treat all of your children equally."¹²⁶

Reward them for their good actions and appreciate them

¹²³ Sahih Muslim

¹²⁴ Abu Dawood

¹²⁵ Sahih Bukhari, 2447; Sahih Muslim, 1623

¹²⁶ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim, Sharh al Sunnah 8/296, Kitab al-'ataya wa'l-hadaya, bab al ruju fi hibbah al walad wa'l-taswiyyah bayna.

Allah says:” Verily, those who believe [in the Oneness of Allah and in His Messenger (Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam)] and work deeds of righteousness, the Most Gracious (Allah) will bestow love for them (in the hearts of the believers)”¹²⁷

Teach them to select good friends for themselves

If the friend is a good person, then teach them to love her/him and grow close to their friend, and if he/she is a bad and corrupt person, then tell them to keep away from her/him.

Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari, radi Allahu 'anhu, reported that the Prophet, sal Allahu alayhi wa sallam, said, "The example of a good companion and a bad one is the bearer of musk and the worker on the fires. A bearer of musk would give you some, you might buy some from him, or you might enjoy the fragrance of his musk. The worker on the fires, on the other hand, might spoil your clothes with sparks from his bellows, or you get a bad smell from him."¹²⁸

“Bad statements are for bad people (or bad women for bad men) and bad people for bad statements (or bad men for bad women). Good statements are for good people (or good women for good men) and good people for good statements (or good men for good women): such (good people) are innocent of (every) bad statement which they say; for them is forgiveness, and Rizqun Kareem (generous provision, i.e. Paradise)”¹²⁹

¹²⁷ Maryam 19:96

¹²⁸ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim

¹²⁹ Surah al-Noor 24:26

CHAPTER 9

Relationship with Relatives

Relatives are those who are related to you through blood and close-ties; such as the brother, the uncle, the aunt, or their children. Everyone who has a tie of relation with you has certain rights upon you, in accordance with how closely they are related to you. Allaah SWT said:

"And worship Allaah alone, and do not set-up any partner to Him in worship, and be kind and good to the parents, and to the relatives."¹³⁰

So it is obligatory upon everyone to treat their relatives in the best possible manner, and to support them in accordance with their needs, and what they seek of help and support.

Brotherhood is the fruit of good character, for good character is what brings about loving each other and friendliness and it is also a reason for entering paradise.

A good attitude is the characteristic of the best of the Messengers and is the best action of the righteous. It is – no doubt – half of religion, the fruit of the efforts of the pious and the practice of the devoted worshipper.

Be kind to them and treat them respectfully

It is reported by Ayesha radiallahu anhu that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "Allah does not grant kindness to a family without giving them benefit, and He does not deprive them of it without injuring them".¹³¹

Don't compete with them

Abu Huraira radiallahu anhu relates that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: "Guard yourselves against envy for envy eats up good deeds as fire eats up wood".¹³²

¹³⁰ Surah an-Nisaa 4:36

¹³¹ Baihaqi/297/57

Stay away from conflicts

It is narrated from Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Beware of conflict, for it is the shaver” i.e., it erases religious commitment.¹³³

It was narrated from Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) that a man said: O Messenger of Allah, I have relatives with whom I try to keep in touch, but they cut me off. I treat them well, but they abuse me. I am patient and kind towards them, but they insult me. He said: “If you are as you say, then it is as if you are putting hot ashes in their mouths. Allah will continue to support you as long as you continue to do that.”¹³⁴

Always stand by their side when they are in need

Anas radiallahu anhu has said that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihe wasallam said: “He who fulfills the need of any of my people to make them happy, truly makes Me happy. And, he who makes me happy, in fact, makes Allah happy, and, he who makes Allah happy, Allah will make him enter Paradise.”¹³⁵

Visit them often and call them over to your house and give them gifts

Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “The one who upholds the ties of kinship is not the one who reciprocates, rather the one who upholds the ties of kinship is the one who upholds those ties even if his relatives cut him off.”¹³⁶

¹³² Abu Dawood 290/150

¹³³ Sunan al-Tirmidhi

¹³⁴ Sahih Muslim (2558)

¹³⁵ Baihaqi 296/29

¹³⁶ Sahih Bukhari (5645)

If you get in fight with them be the first one to give them salaam and don't cut off your relationship for more than three days

It is narrated from Abu Ayyoob al-Ansaari (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "It is not permissible for a Muslim to forsake his brother for more than three days, each of them turning away from the other if they meet. The better of them is the one who greets the other first."¹³⁷

¹³⁷ al-Saheehan

CONCLUSION

As believers, we must strive to come closer to Allah by all those means which were taught by our beloved Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihe wasallam so that we gain Allah's love. I ask Allah to give my sisters and I the strength to do good deeds and to avoid evil and help us to improve our relationships in all aspects of our lives and give us ability to follow the believer's path.

Abu Huraira Radiallahu 'anhu narrated that the Prophet Sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam. Said, 'if Allah loves a person, He calls Jibrael (Gabriel) saying,' Allah loves so and so; O Jibrael (Gabriel) love him.' And make an announcement amongst the inhabitants of heaven: " Allah loves so and so therefore you should love him also, and so all the inhabitants of the heaven would love him, and then he is granted the pleasures of the people on the earth."¹³⁸

"O Allah! Forgive us! Have mercy on us! And be pleased with us! Accept from us! Admit us to Paradise and protect us from Hell! And rectify our affairs!"¹³⁹

¹³⁸ Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim.

¹³⁹ Ahmad, Ibn Majah, Tabarani 1280/237