

Every Verse of the Qur'an Calls to Love

Throughout history, people have sought the secret of happiness, the source of peace and the meaning of true love. Philosophies have been put forward, ideologies have been developed, countless books have been written and various systems of thought have been established. Yet despite all these quests, the fundamental problems of humanity have remained unchanged. Wars, rancor, hatred, selfishness, cruelty, injustice and lovelessness have continued to exist throughout the ages.

However, God, Who created man, knows man's physical and spiritual needs best. For this reason, He has sent down the Qur'an, a flawless guide to life, so that humanity may attain happiness in this world and the Hereafter.

When the Qur'an is read carefully, a very important truth emerges. All the verses that give warnings and reminders about seemingly different subjects actually explain different aspects of one great truth. From acts of worship to morality, from family life to commerce, from the accounts of the prophets to descriptions of Heaven and Hell, all the commandments of the Qur'an aim to lead man to love and the love of God.

From this perspective, love is one of the most important results of the good morality that the Qur'an seeks to bring about in human life. True love is not merely a feeling expressed in words; it is a way of life manifested through faith, good morality, compassion, justice, self-sacrifice and sincerity.



Love Is an Inseparable Part of Faith

Today, love is often perceived merely as an emotion. However, in the understanding of morality revealed by the Qur'an, love is a value that is reflected in a person's behavior and strengthened by good morality.

A person who loves God acts by seeking His approval. This love enables a person to be compassionate, just and affectionate toward other people and the beings created by God.

A person who loves God:

- Strives to be just.
- Avoids telling lies.
- Does not act cruelly.
- Does not remain indifferent in the face of injustice.
- Knows how to forgive and pardon.
- Looks after those in need.
- Does not refrain from sharing what he possesses.
- Rather than looking for people's faults, encourages them to adopt good morality.
- Strives to remain far removed from pride and selfishness.

All these show that true love is not merely an emotion expressed in words. Love is a state of attentiveness and clear consciousness that beautifies a person's attention, conscience and behavior.

The features of good morality commanded by God also serve to strengthen love and trust among people. Justice protects love, goodness makes love grow, compassion strengthens love and self-sacrifice makes love lasting. Truthfulness creates trust, patience calms anger, forgiveness can put an end to hostility, spending in the way of God reduces stinginess, humility eliminates pride, and good words create warmth and sincerity among people.

Our Almighty Lord reveals the fundamental principles of the morality that creates and strengthens love in a verse as follows:

God commands justice, doing good, and giving to relatives. And He forbids indecency, doing wrong, and tyranny. He warns you so that hopefully you will pay heed (Surat an-Nahl, 90)

God does not merely command people to worship; He also teaches them how they should behave toward one another. Thus, faith shapes not only a person's life of worship, but also all his morality and relationships.

The Behaviors God Forbids Are Obstacles to Love

Many behaviors forbidden in the Qur'an have consequences that damage love, trust, brotherhood and peace among people.

For example;

- Pride distances people from one another.
- Backbiting damages trust.
- Slander can lead to hostility among people.
- Envy wears away the feeling of brotherhood.
- Cruelty destroys the sense of justice.
- Uncontrolled anger harms relationships.

- Selfishness reduces sharing and solidarity.
- Mockery injures people's honor.
- Evil can prevail over compassion.
- Evil words create resentment in hearts.

When a person reflects on these truths, he can better understand why the Qur'an warns against these behaviors. God wants His servants to live in love, compassion, trust and brotherhood by remaining far removed from rancor, hatred, jealousy, selfishness, lying and cruelty.

Our Lord reveals as follows:

You who believe! People should not ridicule others who may be better than themselves; nor should any women ridicule other women who may be better than themselves. And do not find fault with one another or insult each other with derogatory nicknames. How evil it is to have a name for evil conduct after coming to faith! Those people who do not turn from it are wrongdoers. (Surat al-Hujurat, 11)

For this reason, the prohibitions in the Qur'an are not merely commandments that regulate individual life, but are also divine admonitions that protect a person's heart and relationships within society. Indeed, our Lord reveals as follows:

The believers are brothers, so make peace between your brothers and have fear of God so that hopefully you will gain mercy. (Surat al-Hujurat, 10)

The Descriptions of Heaven in the Qur'an Give the Glad Tidings of the Eternity of Love and Peace

When Heaven is described in the Qur'an, it is not only physical blessings that are mentioned. It is also revealed that there will be no fear, sorrow, rancor or hostility there, and that people will live in security and peace. The descriptions of Heaven portray a life in which;

- Fear and sorrow come to an end,
- Rancor and resentment in hearts are removed,
- Hostility disappears,

- People live in brotherhood and friendship,
- Good words and good behavior prevail,
- Peace, security and happiness are perpetual.

God has promised the believers Heaven, where His infinite mercy will be manifested. There, the troubles, resentments and fears experienced in the life of this world will come to an end, and servants who have earned God's approval will live in peace and happiness.

They will say: "Praise be to God Who has fulfilled His promise to us and made us the inheritors of this land, letting us settle in Paradise wherever we want. How excellent is the wage of those who work." (Surat az-Zumar, 74)

The Qur'an's descriptions of Heaven give the glad tidings that the true peace and security man seeks in the life of this world will find their most perfect fulfillment in the Hereafter.



The Descriptions of Hell Remind Us of the Consequences of Lovelessness and Evil Morality

The Qur'an's descriptions of Hell warn man against the grave consequences of behaviors that distance him from God and good morality.

In the descriptions of Hell, states such as fear, regret, conflict, accusation, helplessness and despair come to the fore. People accuse one another and face the consequences of the bonds between them and their wrong choices in the world. In Hell;

- There is no friendship.
- The feeling of trust disappears.
- Fear and distress take the place of peace.
- No trace of mercy or affection remains.
- The feeling of brotherhood gives way to argument.
- There is no solidarity or mutual assistance.
- A feeling of abandonment takes the place of loyalty and fidelity.
- Sincerity and closeness of heart disappear.
- There is no courtesy or good speech.
- Forgiveness and tolerance disappear.
- Selfishness takes the place of self-sacrifice.
- Dispute and disagreement take the place of sharing.
- Contempt and humiliation take the place of respect.
- Deep regret takes the place of joy and happiness.
- Helplessness and despair take the place of hope.
- Constant distress and torment take the place of peace of mind.
- Accusation and distancing oneself from others take the place of protecting and watching over one another.

Indeed, it is revealed in the Qur'an as follows:

Arguing in it with one another, they will say, 'By God, we were plainly misguided when We equated you with the Lord of all the worlds. It was only the evildoers who misguided us and now we have

no one to intercede for us; we do not have a single loyal friend. If only we could have another chance then we would be among the believers!' There is certainly a Sign in that, yet most of them are not believers. (Surat ash-Shu`ara, 96-103)

In these verses, people's arguing with and accusing one another and feeling regret because of their choices in the world are striking.

Therefore, the purpose of the warnings of the Qur'an about Hell is not merely to create fear, but also to warn man against and deter him from behaviors that distance him from God and disrupt the peace of both the individual and society.

A person who distances himself from the love of God may leave his heart open to feelings such as pride, selfishness, cruelty and hatred. For this reason, the Qur'an constantly calls man to have faith, seek God's approval and turn toward good morality.

Conclusion: The Qur'an Is a Guide That Calls to Love and Good Morality

The Qur'an is a divine guide that calls man to serve God, to good morality, justice, compassion, goodness and brotherhood. When the Qur'an is followed, a life that beautifies a person's heart and behavior emerges.

Every commandment and prohibition revealed by the Qur'an enables a person to strengthen his bond with God and beautify his morality. Acts of worship enable man to turn to his Lord; good morality strengthens trust and love among people; prohibitions deter man from behaviors that damage love, peace and brotherhood.

For this reason, the love of God lies at the center of a believer's life. A person who loves God aims to earn His approval. In pursuit of this aim, he avoids hurting people, acting unjustly and breaking hearts; he races to do good, forgives, shares, shows compassion and strives to spread good morality.

Acts of worship also serve to strengthen this bond of love. Prayer, supplication, fasting, spending in the way of God and other acts of worship are special moments when a person turns to his Lord and seeks His approval. For a sincere believer, worship is not merely a duty that must be fulfilled, but also a means of drawing closer to God and earning His love.



True love begins with the love of God and is reflected in a person's entire life. A person who loves God strives to be more compassionate, more just and more affectionate toward what He has created. Thus, the love of God becomes a beauty that spreads from a person's heart to his behavior, from his family to his friends and to his relationships within society.

The finest recompense for this love is seen in the Heaven that God has promised the believers. The Heaven described in the Qur'an gives the glad tidings of an eternal life in which there is no fear, sorrow, rancor or hostility, and in which security, peace, friendship and brotherhood prevail. A person who beautifies his heart with the love of God in the life of this world hopes to attain God's approval and mercy in the Hereafter.

From this perspective, the verses of the Qur'an that address different subjects direct man toward the same fundamental goal: to love God, earn God's love and approach what He has created with love, compassion and justice.

Commands build a person's good morality, prohibitions protect this morality and human relationships, accounts impart lessons and admonition, descriptions of Heaven give the glad tidings of the reward for earning God's approval, and warnings about Hell deter man from wrong paths.

Our Lord reveals this in a verse as follows:

We have given all kinds of examples to people in this Qur'an, so that hopefully they will pay heed.
(Surat az-Zumar, 27)

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