

Ten Commandments

Allah the Almighty has revealed 4 sacred books and several manuscripts on His Apostles to guide humanity. Tawhid of Allah was the central message of all the Prophets. They have preached the message of Tawhid in every era and sacrificed everything for this cause. After the commencement of Tawhid a Muslim is bound to follow the commandments of Allah the Almighty regarding every matter. Ten Commandments are those commandments that were revealed on every Prophet for every Ummah. They provide a basic framework of the teachings of Islam. All the commandments after Tawhid are focused on dealings with other members of family and society. They are also present in the Old Testament and New Testament in fractions. In the Quran they are mentioned at one place in Sura Bani Israil or al-Isra, Sura no. 17 verses 23-40. The details of these commandments are as follows.

Tawhid

Tawhid (Absolute Oneness of Allah) has already been discussed in great detail and notes have also been provided to you.

Rights of Parents

Islam is the only religion that provides guidance regarding every walk of life. The teachings of Islam provides a complete mechanism regarding individual and social life. Family is the basic unit of every society. A strong family system will leads towards a better society. Parents are the head of every family. Allah the Almighty has elevated the ranks of parents because of their responsibility of fostering and raising children.

Treat Parents with Benevolence

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا

And your Lord has commanded you not to worship anyone other than Allah and treat the parents with benevolence.

This is a very significant point that Allah the Almighty has mentioned the ruling of benevolence with parents adjacent to His

tawhid in the same. One can understand the esteemed status of parents with this verse. This practice has been repeated in the Quran several times. Allah the Almighty wants to make this clear that after My worship reverence of the parents is one of the most significant commandment.

وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تَشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا

And worship Allah and do not set up any partners with Him and treat the parents with moral excellence.¹

It is important to clarify that this commandment has been established since the time of the Prophet Adam ﷺ and that it has continued to the time of final Prophet, Muhammad ﷺ.

وَإِذْ أَخَذْنَا مِيثَاقَ بَنِي إِسْرَآئِيلَ لَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا

And (remember) when We took a firm promise from the Children of Ya‘qub (Jacob): ‘Do not worship (anyone) besides Allah, and be nice to the parents.

Kindness with parents is one of the best deeds in the sight of Allah.

It is reported on the authority of Abdullah that the Apostle of Allah ﷺ observed: The best of the deeds or deed is the (observance of) prayer at its proper time and kindness to the parents.

Taking care of Parents in Old age

إِمَّا يَبْلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا

If either or both of them attain to old age in your presence, then do not say even ‘Ugh!’ to them nor reproach them. And always speak to both of them submissively, observing polite manners.

Allah the Almighty has associated this commandment with old age of parents. He has mentioned that not to even use the word “Uff” in front of them. We need to understand the point mentioned in the verse. Uff is not even a proper word and it has no meaning. It is just a

¹ Sura al-Nisa:36

sign of frustration and irritation. Allah has stopped us from using this kind of word so that we can contemplate that misbehave and loud voice is strictly prohibited. As per hadith of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ our conduct with parents in old age will decide our destiny.

Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported Allah's Apostle ﷺ as saying: Let him be humbled into dust; let him be humbled into dust. It was said: Allah's Messenger, who is he? He said: He who sees either of his parents during their old age or he sees both of them, but he does not enter Paradise.²

This is the testing time of children to take care of them in old age. Only a person who obeys Allah can take of parents in a good manner.

Pray for Parents

In the next verse another commandment has been given to the children. It is the duty of children to supplicate in the court of Allah for their parents.

وَ اخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا

And always lower your arms of submissiveness and humility out of soft-heartedness for both of them and keep supplicating (Allah): 'O my Lord, have mercy on both of them as they brought me up in (my) childhood (with mercy and clemency).'

Allah the Almighty has reminded us that when we were infants our parents take care of us. We were not able to perform anything and help ourselves. Both the parents but particularly mother has bore a lot of pain during pregnancy and delivery.

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهْنًا عَلَىٰ وَهْنٍ وَفِصَالُهُ فِي عَامَيْنِ

And We enjoined upon man emphatically (to do good) in relation to his parents — whose mother bore him (in her reproductive system) in pain after pain,³

² Sahih Muslim: 6510

³ Sura Luqman: 14

Same point has been mentioned in Sura al-Ahqaf verse 15. Parents helped and raised us with extreme care and unconditional love. They have helped the children in every phase of their lives. Nothing can be the compensation of this unconditional love. This is the utmost duty of children to take care of them in the old age when they are weak.

Be Grateful to parents

Allah the Almighty has directed us to always remain grateful to Him and parents. He has merged the right of His gratitude with parents in the following verse.

أَنْ أَشْكُرَ لِي وَلَوْ أَلَدَيْكَ إِلَيَّ الْمَصِيرُ

Be grateful to Me and to your parents.

The person who is not grateful to his parents from the core of heart can never be grateful to Allah in true sense.

Obedience of Parents

A person should always be obedient to his parents. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has regarded disobedience of parents one of the greatest sins after the shirk of Allah.

Anas narrated from the Apostle ﷺ about the major sins. He (the Holy Prophet) observed: Associating anyone with Allah, disobedience to parents, killing a person and false utterance.⁴

One should never Abuse his parents

The Holy Prophet ﷺ guided his companions that a person should never abuse his parents. The Companions asked how a person can abuse his own parents. He replied:

“Yes, one abuses the father of another man, who in turn abuses his father. One abuses his mother and he in turn abuses his (the formers) mother.”⁵

⁴ Sahih Muslim:260

⁵ Sahih Muslim:263

The right of Mother is 75%

It was narrated that Abu Hurairah (RA) said: "They said: O Messenger of Allah, whom should I treat kindly? He said: Your mother. He said: Then who? He said: Your mother." He said: Then who? He said: Your father: He said: Then who? He said: The next closest and the next closest" (sahih)⁶

Father is the door of Janah

It was narrated that Abu Darda heard the Prophet ﷺ say: "The father is the middle door of Paradise, middle door of Paradise (i.e., the best way to Paradise), so it is up to you whether you take advantage of it or not."⁷

In another hadith the Prophet Muhammad a said:

You and your money belongs to you father.

⁶ Sunan Ibn Maja: 3658

⁷ Sunan Ibn Maja: 3663