



وَالَّذِينَ يَصْلُونَ مَا أَمْرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَنْ يُوصَلَ وَيَخْشُونَ رَبَّهُمْ

وَيَخَافُونَ سُوءَ الْحِسَابِ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْمُؤْمِنُ مَأْلُوفٌ وَلَا خَيْرَ فِيمَنْ لَا يَأْلَفُ وَلَا يُؤْلَفُ.

PEER RELATIONSHIPS

Esteemed Muslims!

The essence of communication among people is founded upon love and respect. Indeed, hearts are softened through love and attain tranquility through respect. Friendships are established through love and sustained through respect. Trust within the family and affection within society are cultivated through love and respect.

Where love and respect are absent, there are unrest, oppression, and exclusion. Minor disagreements turn into major arguments. Patience and forbearance weaken, and anger becomes uncontrollable. Mercy gives way to violence, and affection is replaced by hatred.

Dear Believers!

One of the problems of the age we live in is that young people who are deprived of love and respect display rude, harsh, and demeaning attitudes toward one another. This reprehensible trait, which confronts us as peer bullying, goes far beyond mockery and hurtful words and has turned into physical violence and even murder. This mentality, which regards wearing identical clothing, having the same appearance, becoming involved in crime, using mind-numbing narcotic substances, and repeatedly entering and leaving prison as achievements, is becoming increasingly visible among our youth. Moreover, films, television series, games, and digital platforms that contain violence are paving the way for these incidents to become even more widespread. However, our Prophet (saw) states in his noble hadiths as follows: “**All things of a Muslim are inviolable for his brother in faith: his blood, his wealth, and his honor.**”¹

Dear Young People!

You must be more vigilant against those who seek to exploit your emotions, use you as instruments for their own wrongdoing, darken your dreams, and steal your hopes. Servitude to Allah, respect for the family, and being beneficial to humanity should be your guiding objectives. Never forget that a future cannot be built through fear, oppression, and violence. As our Beloved Prophet (saw) has stated: “**The believer is one who is gentle and friendly. There is no goodness in a person who is neither friendly, nor befriended.**”² Bullying is not strength but weakness. Mockery is not amusement but shamelessness. Attempting against a life is not honor, but the fire of Hell. Dear Young Brother and Sister! What befits you is not bullying, but courtesy and grace.

Esteemed Parents! Distinguished Educators and Teachers! Dear Brothers and Sisters!

While the noble hadith of the Messenger of Allah (saw), “**It is sufficient sin for a person to neglect those for whom he is responsible,**”³ stands clearly before us, we cannot remain indifferent to this harmful course of events. We cannot remain silent while those devoid of the climate of mercy shed blood without remorse and attempt to justify it. We cannot abandon our youth to the mercy of evil forces seeking to ignite the fires of discord and corruption. Families, schools, mosques, institutions and organizations, the media, in short, all segments of society, must join forces. We must stand united against the bullying that harms the sanctity of human life and lineage. We must fulfill our responsibilities properly to build a society where goodness and compassion prevail, and where the safety of life and property is ensured.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the following verse from our Almighty Lord: “**(None will be mindful ‘of this’ except people of reason) ... and those who maintain whatever ‘ties’ Allah has ordered to be maintained, stand in awe of their Lord, and fear strict judgment.**”⁴

¹ Muslim, Birr, 32.

² Ibn Hanbal, II, 400.

³ Abu Dawud, Zakat, 45.

⁴ Ra’d, 13/28.

