



(Part No : 1, Page No: 333)

Prostration to anyone or anything other than Allah

(Part No : 1, Page No: 334)

The second question from Fatwa No. 4400 

Q: What do you think of the claim of some People that whoever commits himself to the Message of Muhammad (peace be upon him) and faces the Qiblah in Prayer is a Muslim and even if they prostrate themselves before their shaykhs, they will not be considered disbelievers or be called polytheists. These people even claim that Muhammad ibn `Abdul-Wahhab was wrongful when he stated that those who commit polytheistic acts will be consigned to eternal punishment unless they repent. They maintain that the polytheists among Muslims will be tortured (for a while) then will enter paradise. None of the followers of Muhammad i.e. Muslims will remain eternally in Hell."

A: Those who believe in the message of Muhammad (peace be upon him) and in the ordinances of shari`ah, and prostrate themselves to anyone other than Allah e.g. a pious man, a dead person, or a shaykh are considered apostates and polytheists even if they utter the two testimonies of faith in their prostration because they act contradictory to their utterances. But they may be excused for their ignorance, and should not be punished until they have been informed. When the evidence is brought forth, they should be given a three-day respite to review the situation in the hope that they may repent. If they insist on prostrating to anyone other than Allah after being informed, they should be sentenced to death

(Part No : 1, Page No: 335)

for apostasy, because the Prophet says: [\("When a Muslim discards his religion, kill him."\)](#) related by Al-Bukhai in his Sahih (book of sound Hadiths) on the authority of Ibn `Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both). The Information and the establishment of evidence are just to excuse them before applying the punishment not to call them disbelievers. Indeed, they may be called 'disbelievers' because of their prostration, making vows, or giving offerings to anyone other than Allah. The Qur'an and the Sunnah indicated that whoever dies as a disbeliever, will not be forgiven and shall abide in Hell forever, because Allah (the Exalted) says: [\("Verily, Allâh forgives not that partners should be set up with Him \(in worship\), but He forgives except that \(anything else\) to whom He wills"\)](#) and His saying: [\("It is not for the Mushrikûn \(polytheists, idolaters, pagans, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allâh\), to maintain the Mosques of Allâh \(i.e. to pray and worship Allâh therein, to look after their cleanliness and their building\), while they witness against their ownelves of disbelief. The works of such are in vain and in Fire shall they abide."\)](#)

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Member	Committee Deputy Chairman	The Chairman
`Abdullah ibn Qa`ud	`Abdul-Razzaq `Afify	`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz

The General Presidency of Scholarly Research and Ifta'. All Rights Reserved.