

Advice to Muslim men desiring non-Muslim women

Shaykh Bin Baz رحمه الله

Questioner: One of his questions is concerning the ruling of a Muslim man marrying a Christian woman? He would like some detail O noble Shaykh.

Shaykh Bin Baz: In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful. All praises belong to Allah and may the salutations and Salaam be upon the Messenger of Allah, his family, his companions and those who follow his guidance. As to what follows:

Allah the Exalted has clarified in His Noble Book in Soorah Al-Mā'idah the permissibility of marrying chaste women from the people of the Book. He said in His Noble Book:

الْيَوْمَ أُحِلَّ لَكُمْ الطَّيِّبَاتُ ۖ وَطَعَامُ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ حَلَّلٌ لَكُمْ وَطَعَامُكُمْ حَلَّلٌ لَهُمْ ۖ وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ إِذَا آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ أَجُورَهُنَّ مُحْصِنِينَ غَيْرَ مُسَافِحِينَ وَلَا مُتَّخِذِي أَخْدَانٍ ﴿٥﴾

This day all good foods have been made lawful for you, and the food of those who were given the Scripture is lawful for you and your food is lawful for them. And [lawful in marriage are] chaste women from among the believers and chaste women from among those who were given the Scripture before you, when you have given them their due compensation, desiring chastity, not unlawful sexual intercourse or taking them as girl-friends.¹

Thus Allah the Exalted has permitted marrying the chaste women from the people of the Book and they are the Jews and the Christians. The Muhsinah is the chaste woman, the one who is pure and chaste. Therefore if she is known for chastity and far away from lewdness and indecency then it is permissible for the Muslim man to marry her. But if she is not known for chastity then it is not permissible for him to marry her. And if she is known for lewdness or corruption it is not permissible for him to marry her. He can marry her even if she is a disbeliever because the chaste women from the Jews and Christians are the exception. This is only if she is chaste. As we have mentioned that chastity is to be innocent and not known for indecency; meaning she is not known to fornicate, and she is chaste and pure far from indecency. He can marry her even if her religion is Christianity.

¹ Soorah Al-Mā'idah 5:5

- ❖ But to marry a Muslim woman is more **befitting, better, more deserving, finer** and further away from evil, especially if he marries a Muslim woman known for the religion and being upright. Marrying the Muslim women is much better, more appropriate by far and considerably less dangerous.
- ❖ Therefore, my advice to my brothers; is to be diligent in **marrying the good Muslim women** and do not marrying the chaste women from the people of the Book.
- ❖ Marrying these women is dangerous from a number of angles such as her **evangelizing** his children.
- ❖ And she may not be chaste even if she displays that she is. We ask Allah to grant us all safety and security.

Questioner: O noble Shaykh, if he has already married her what is your advice to the husband?

Shaykh bin Baz: If she is chaste and he only sees good from her then there is no problem with this. There is nothing wrong with him remaining with her. But if he has doubts or he sees that which makes him doubt then it is appropriate for him to divorce her. Likewise if it is easy for him to marry a good Muslim woman then it is more appropriate and deserving that he marry her and divorce the non-Muslim wife in order to safeguard his religion and the religion of his children.

- ❖ Surely his children are in **grave danger** that she may take them at the slightest disagreement or when the husband dies or if they separate. This is very risky. And there is no might or power except with Allah.

Questioner: May Allah reward you with good. It seems as though the guidelines are stringent when it comes to the permissibility of marrying a woman from the people of the Book?

Shaykh bin Baz: Yes, for this reason some of the companions hated for the Muslim man to marry the non-Muslim woman. Umar hated it and he encouraged the companions to abandon it. May Allah be pleased with them all.