

Does Islam Prohibit Making Friendship with Non-Muslims?

By: Khurshid Imam

One of the prevalent misconceptions is that we should not take all non-Muslims as friend. This misconception is very harmful as it is one of the obstacles in *dawah*. People get excuse not to do *dawah*.

Quran does say not to take ‘certain people’ as friends... But is it for ‘all’ non-Muslims or only certain people? The beauty of Quran is that explanation of an ayah of Quran is found in another ayah. So, when we conclude anything from Quran then we must take all ayah of Quran on that particular subject into consideration. This will ensure that we don’t understand something which contradicts with the Quran.

The Quran speaks about not to take ‘certain people’ people as friends in the following ayah:

- a. Surah Al Imran 3-118
- b. Surah Nisa 4-89, 139, 144
- c. Surah Maidah 5-51
- d. Surah Mujadilah 58-14, 22
- e. Surah Mumtahanah 60-1, 8, 9

Let us see what these ayah reveal:

- a. Surah Al ‘Imran 3:118 says “do not take as intimates those other than yourselves as *they will not fail to do their best to corrupt you, they are already full of hatred for you...*”.
- b. Surah Nisa 4:89 says not to take those people as friends who have *rejected the faith*.
- c. Surah Mujadilah 58:14 refers to these people as one *upon whom is the wrath of Allah*.
- d. Surah Mujadilah 58, Ayah 22 clearly says “You will not find any people who believe in Allah and the last day, making friendship with those *who oppose Allah and his messenger*, even though they were their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their kindred...”
- e. Surah Mumtahanah 60 explains in details whom not to take as friends. In Ayah 1 Allah says “Take not *my enemies and your enemies* as friends, showing affection towards them, while *they have disbelieved* in what has come to you of the truth, and *driven out the messenger and yourselves* because you believe in Allah your Lord.”

In Above ayah we have seen the “implementation”. Below two ayah explain about the principle behind this concept.

- f. In Ayah 8 Allah says – “*Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who*

fought not against you on account of religion nor drove you out of your homes...”

g. In Ayah 9 Allah says – “It is **ONLY** as regards those *who fought against you on account of religion, and have driven you out of your homes, and helped to drive you out*, that Allah forbids you to befriend them.”

h. So, the principle given in Quran regarding friendship with ‘certain people’ is that who are:

1. Are enemies of Islam, working against believers of God.
2. Oppressing believers on account of their faith.
3. Driven believers out of their homes or helped to do so.
4. Rejected the truth after it was presented to them and they rebelled against Allah.

Regarding rest of the non-Muslims we should behave well with them and deal justly with them.
