

Enjoining good and forbidding evil

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Question: I heard that some scholars consider enjoining good and forbidding evil as one of the pillars of Islam. Is this true?

Shaykh bin Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: Yes, some scholars are of this view. Although, no clear text concerning this matter is stated, it constitutes one of the major obligations in Islaam.

The Pillars of Islaam specified by Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) are five. He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) stated, **“Islaam is built on five (Pillars): the testimony that there is none worthy of worship except Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah; establishing Salaah (prayers); paying Zakaah (obligatory charity); fasting Ramadhaan; and Hajj (pilgrimage) to the House (the Ka’bah).”**²

Thus, the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) pointed out the pillars and fundamentals of Islaam. It is impermissible to add an additional pillar, unless there is valid textual evidence. However, enjoining good and forbidding evil is one of the fundamentals and obligations in Islaam, but it must not be stated as the sixth pillar due to the lack of the evidence.

Similarly, Jihaad (fighting/striving in the Cause of Allaah) as well as abstention from Haraam (forbidden) things are fundamentals of faith, but they must not be stated as two of the Pillars of Islaam due to the lack of the evidence.

It should be noted that we must abide by everything that Allaah has enjoined and avoid everything that Allaah has forbidden.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² Agreed upon by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim