

Participating in Christmas with the kuffaar

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Article taken and slightly adapted from: mtws.posthaven.com

(Source: <http://www.binbaz.org.sa/mat/20019>)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Our brother says: He notices that some of the Muslims participate along with the Christians in the Festival of the Birth, or Christmas as they call it; he hopes for some guidance regarding that.

Shaykh ibn Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: It is not permissible for the Muslim male or female to participate with the Christians, the Jews, or other than them from the disbelievers in their holidays. Rather, it is obligatory to abandon that. This is because:

مَنْ تَشَبَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ

“He who imitates a people is from them.”

And the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)² warned us against imitating them and adorning ourselves with their mannerisms. So it is upon the believing male and female to beware of that, and not to aid in the celebration of these holidays with anything. This is because they are holidays which oppose the Legislation of Allaah and the enemies of Allaah establish them. So it is not permissible to participate in them nor to cooperate with its people or to assist them with anything; not with (giving them) tea, coffee, or anything at all; such as utensils, and the likes. Also, Allaah (سُبْحَانَهُ)³ says:

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ

[Help you one another in al-Birr and at-Taqwaa (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression.]⁴

So participating with the disbelievers in their holidays is a type of helping them upon sin and transgression. Hence, it is obligatory upon every Muslim male and female to abandon that and it is not befitting for the one who has intellect to be deceived by the people in their actions. It is obligatory to ponder over the legislation of al-Islaam and that which is has brought and to adhere to the command of Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), and

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

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ (سُبْحَانَهُ) (Subhanahu) The Exalted

⁴ سورة المائدة - Soorah al-Maa'idah [5:2]

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not to look towards the affairs of the people. For most of the creation has no concern for the Legislation of Allaah. As Allaah (عزوجل)⁵ has said:

وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوا أَكْثَرَ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُضِلُّوكَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ

[And if you obey most of those on earth, they will mislead you far away from Allaah's Path.]⁶

He, (سبحانه), has said:

وَمَا أَكْثَرُ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ

[And most of mankind will not believe even if you desire it eagerly.]⁷

So the holidays which oppose the Legislation, then it is not permissible to accept them, even if the people are doing it. For the believer weighs his actions and statements, and the actions and statements of the people, by the Book and the Sunnah; the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). That which coincides with them or one of them, then it is accepted, even if the people have abandoned it. That which opposes them or one of them, then it is rejected, even if the people do it. And may Allaah grant all Tawfeeq and guidance.

⁵ (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Mighty and Majestic is He

⁶ سورة الأنعام - Soorah al-An'aam [6:116]

⁷ سورة يوسف - Soorah Yoosuf [12:103]