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## Ruling on eating with disbelievers

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

**Question:** Is it unlawful for a Muslim to eat or drink with a Christian or a disbeliever? If it is unlawful, then what can we say about Allaah's (Exalted be He) Saying: [**The food (slaughtered cattle, eatable animals) of the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) is lawful to you and yours is lawful to them**]. ?

**Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz** (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ)<sup>1</sup>: It is lawful to eat with disbelievers when necessary or when there is a legitimate benefit. However, one should not befriend them, eat with them, entertain them, or laugh with them for no legitimate reason or benefit. Nevertheless, there is no harm if there is a need for doing so such as eating with guests, inviting them to the religion of Allaah, guiding them to the Truth, or for any other legitimate reasons.

The permissibility of the food of the People of the Book for us does not warrant befriending and entertaining them, and it does not entail sharing their food and drink without a legitimate need or benefit. May Allaah grant us success.

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<sup>1</sup> (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him