

Why some people have misunderstandings and misconceptions in their beliefs 1

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Lack of knowledge and ta'assub

QUESTION: Some people have misunderstandings and misconceptions in their beliefs.
How might these have crept into people's beliefs?

ANSWER:

Misunderstandings and misconceptions can creep in for many different reasons.¹

1) LACK OF KNOWLEDGE: Islam teaches that many people simply do not know about what Islamic beliefs are.

This might be because their parents did not tell them – and this is sadly the case with many Muslims and non Muslims around the world today – or it may be because people actually choose not to look into Islam and find out what it teaches and encourages.

It is certainly true that many people wander through life with their own set of ideas about what life is all about, without ever stopping to think 'Is this right? Does it make any sense at all? Should I look into what other people think in case they have something better than me?'

Yet Islam teaches that people must think about all the things they see and hear around them. Many verses in the Qur'aan praise 'the people who reflect and think'.

2) STICKING TO WHAT THE PARENTS OR FOREFATHERS WERE UPON.

In Arabic, this is called 'ta'assub'.

You will find people who will not let go of what their parents followed, despite their brain and their hearts telling them that it is incorrect. 'My family do it this way, so I will do it the same way.'

¹ Refer to 'Aqeedah ut Tawheed p14 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

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This kind of thinking is criticised severely in the Qur'aan. Allaah says:

**When it is said to them "Follow what Allaah has sent down!" - Then they reply
"No! We will follow what we found our fathers following."
(Would they do that) even though their fathers did not understand anything, nor
were they rightly guided?**

[Soorah Al Baqarah (2): ayah 170]

Ta'assub is seen amongst the Muslims as well as the non Muslims.

Allaah mentions in this verse that ta'assub cannot be used as an excuse for turning away from something true in favour of something false, simply because a person's ancestors used to do things a certain way.