

Lesson 16: Public Responsibilities And Care

In The Name Of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Can you be indifferent to other people's actions? Can you have absolutely nothing to do with other individuals within the society? What effect does a good or bad society have on an individual? What sort of individuals does a religious and honest society train? In what direction does a corrupt and wrong-doing society lead? What responsibilities do Muslims have towards their society? How does he try to achieve goodness and tranquility in this society?

An Islamic human being is responsible to his Allah and cannot be indifferent to the actions of other individuals within the society; he always binds himself to the society, considering the society as the part of his own large body: in the way of goodness and right, he exerts all his power. The Islamic human being knows that the heavenly Islamic programs, are such that they lead the individual and the society to perfection, prosperity and freedom, when perfectly executed. For the execution of all the points of laws and instructions of the religion, Islam considers two groups responsible. And it requires the implementation of Islamic laws by them.

The leader of the wise, religious persons of Islam and the Islamic government, have a duty to implement the Islamic programs and instructions. An Islamic government has a duty to lead the individuals of a society to do good works, and to prevent oppression and wrong doing. They punish oppressors, wrong-doing and corrupt ones harshly and encourage the religious and right-acting individuals.

Every single Muslim, according to Islam, is responsible to the society, to implement the instructions. Every Muslim individual is recognized as a guard and policeman. Muslim human beings have a responsibility and a duty towards the actions and behavior of his own society, and supervise and take care to prevent wrong doing. He should recognize corrupt individuals and begin to introduce them to the government.

A Muslim should be good himself and also invite others to good actions. He should make efforts for the good and benefit of the society. This behavior is called "inviting to the good" in religious terms.

A Muslim must set himself apart from, sin and opposition to the laws, and as far as he can, refrain from sin and corruption. In religious terms, this action is called "forbidding the evil."

"Inviting to the good" and "forbidding the evil" is a public responsibility and one of the biggest duties of all Muslims. It is compulsory to defend the religious laws, and to strive for them to be kept and implemented. Allah says in the Qur'an: "You are the best of communities' Ummah, because you invite to the good and forbid the evil and you truly have faith in Allah."

The Prophet of Islam has said: "As long as Muslims invite to the good, and forbid the evil, and help and co operate with each other, their society will be upright, victorious, free and prosperous. However, if they, abandon these duties then goodness and blessings will be removed from the society, and oppression will come upon them, as well, however, much they pray, their prayers will not be granted. In the heaven or the earth they will not be given a hearing.' By paying attention to this great duty what a lesson you will be getting? In what ways can you carry this out with your friends, co-workers and partners?

Think And Answer

1. Who has the duty to implement the Islamic commandments?
2. What is the duty of an Islamic government?
3. What is the duty of every single Muslim in implementing the Islamic commandments and regulations?
4. What does "inviting to the good" mean?
5. What does "forbidding the evil" mean?
6. What has the honorable Prophet of Islam stated with regards to "inviting to the good" and "forbidding the evil"?
7. What has Allah said in this regard in the Holy Qur'an?
8. What is yours and your friends' duty in this regard?

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