



Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

Friday Sermon

16 June 2023 / 27 Zulkaedah 1444H

Strengthening the Family Institution in Islam

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ مُثِيبِ الطَّائِعِينَ عَلَى صَالِحِ الْعَمَلِ أَجْزَلِ الثَّوَابِ، وَمُجِيبِ الدَّاعِينَ فَهُوَ أَكْرَمُ مَنْ
أَجَابَ، وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ تَابَ وَأَنَابَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ شَهَادَةً لَا
يَجُوبُهَا عَنِ الْإِخْلَاصِ حِجَابٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَرْسَلَهُ بِأَسْمَحِ دِينِ
وَأَفْصَحِ كِتَابٍ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَهْلِ الثَّقَى وَأُولِي
الْأَلْبَابِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

Brothers and sisters blessed by Allah,

Let us increase our taqwa in Allah (s.w.t.) by observing all His commandments and prohibitions. May we strengthen our family in obedience and worship of Allah (s.w.t.).

Brothers and sisters,

In last week's sermon, we discussed the important role of parents, specifically the role of a father in building a successful and happy family. A family that is built upon the foundation of *taqwa*, and embodies the values of love, compassion and mercy. As Allah (s.w.t.) mentions in the Quran:

وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

Which means: “And one of His signs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves (O men), so that you may find peace in them. And He has placed between you (spouses) compassion and mercy. Surely in this are signs for people who reflect.” (Ar-Rum: 21)

It is therefore very clear that Islam has given clear guidance on how to build and develop our families, with the intention of acquiring the blessings of Allah (s.w.t.) in this world and the hereafter. There is no confusion nor doubts in Islam on the structure and constitution of a family – a family unit is established through marriage between a man and a woman. The Quran is clear in this matter, as can be seen in the decree of Allah (s.w.t.) in Surah An-Najm, verse 45:

وَأَنَّهُ وَخَلَقَ الزَّوْجَيْنِ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ ﴿٤٥﴾

Which means: “And verily, He created **the pairs — males and females.**”

Brothers and sisters,

Even with this clarity, there are other conflicting ideas and lifestyles that can sow the seeds of doubts and confusion on the concept and structure of families. Some giving the impression

that families can be constituted other than from a man and a woman. As Muslims, we cannot accept such ideas that are clearly not in accordance with our religious values and teachings. These ideas are even in conflict with the views held by the majority with regard to the concept and structure of families.

The younger generation, including our children, are exposed to these ideas, and may be confused and have difficulty addressing these questions and challenges. Thus, all of us play an crucial role in guiding our families in this increasingly diverse and challenging world. How then can we strengthen our family institution according to our religious values and teachings?

There are two pieces of advice that I wish to share with all of you.

Firstly, continue equipping our children with a holistic and comprehensive religious education.

The role of parents in educating children about religion must go beyond the fundamentals of praying and fasting. Parents today must have the additional knowledge on how to guide their children in facing their present challenges.

Parents must also engage with the views and perceptions of their children regarding the social trends of their generation. When a child feels at ease to express themselves, it would be easier for the parents to discuss with them about such social issues. This

will allow parents to better provide guidance and explanations that are based on religious values and teachings.

Brothers and sisters,

Secondly, we need to deal with these differences and developments with maturity, wisdom and mercy. Even though we reject an idea or opinion, we must never insult or abuse. Our role is to guide and be constructive in our advice, not to degrade or humiliate anyone. Whatever the end or outcome we want, it does not justify the means.

If we threaten an individual or a group with harsh and insulting words, this will only breed hatred, and hatred only brings forth discord and enmity.

Surely, whatever is it that we wish to achieve, we do not wish for our children to think that Islam is an extreme religion, or a religion of hate.

However, if we wish for others to take heed in our advice, then we should follow Allah (s.w.t.)'s guidance to Prophet Musa and Prophet Harun (a.s.).

فَقُولَا لَهُ قَوْلًا لَّيِّنًا لَّعَلَّهُ يَتَذَكَّرُ أَوْ يَخْشَى ﴿٤٤﴾

Which means: *“Speak to him (that is to Fir’aun) **with gentle words**, so he may be mindful or fearful.” (Taha: 44)*

May Allah (s.w.t) grant us strength, guidance, and success in our efforts to educate our children with wisdom and maturity to overcome the challenges we face today. Amin. Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَ لَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَ بَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمَهْدِيِّينَ أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ اذْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمِحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَّنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.