

20 Link between Lordship and right to be worshipped

QUESTION: Is there a link between a) the ideas mentioned in the last 3 emails showing that the Creator of the Universe is One and b) the Islamic principle of worshipping Allah alone?
Does one thing automatically lead onto the other?

ANSWER: Yes, there is a link and yes, one does automatically lead to the other.

The Quran frequently mentions the Lordship of Allah over the Creation as a reason to worship Him alone. ¹

An example is the following verse:

O Mankind, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, so that you may become those who are dutiful to Allah (i.e.those who do what Allah has commanded and avoid what He has forbidden).

Surah al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) verse 21

The verse mentions that Allah created the whole of mankind – so therefore He should be worshipped.

Thus the latter is mentioned as a logical consequence of the former.

The One who created and sustains and gives provision is Allah – so how can mankind then worship something other than Him?

As we have mentioned before, this would seem to be common sense.

However throughout time, we see that people affirm the Lordship of Allah – irrespective of the name that they give to the Sole Creator and Sustainer, which often varies according to the language of the particular community – but the people then worship something or someone other than Allah.

We have previously mentioned the example of the polytheists of Mecca at the time of Muhammad (may peace and blessings be upon him) - they affirmed tawheed ur Ruboobiyyah but then worshipped idols instead of Allah.

Say (O Muhammad, to them): "Who is the Lord of the seven heavens and

¹ Refer to 'aqeedah ut tawheed p41 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

the Lord of the Great Throne?”

They (the Polytheists) will say: “Allah!”

Say: “Will you not then fear Allah?”

Say: “In whose hand is the sovereignty of everything? And He protects all while there is no protector against Him – if you know?”

They will say: “All that belongs to Allah!”

Say: “How then are you deceived and you turn away from the Truth?”

Surah al Mu’minoon (the 23rd chapter) verses 86 – 89

The Quran here uses this compelling proof to show the futility of their worship of idols.

How can you affirm Tawheed ur Ruboobiyyah (the Tawheed of Lordship of Allah alone) but then worship a piece of stone or a man or an angel?

This is an absolutely crucial point in understanding what makes a person Muslim and what differentiates him/her from a non Muslim.

Its importance really cannot be overstated, hence our going back to it repeatedly.

Islam requires that as well as affirming Tawheed ur Ruboobiyyah (the Uniqueness of Allah in terms of his Lordship and Creating and Sustaining and Controlling the Universe) a person must affirm its logical consequence – which is that he singles Allah out for worship.

This uniqueness of Allah's right to be worshipped is referred to in Arabic as 'Tawheed ul Uloohiyah'.

'Tawheed' means 'singling out'.

'Uloohiyah' refers to 'the right to be taken as an object of worship'.

We will discuss this next concept in more depth over the next few emails.

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NEXT TIME:

What does this actually mean, that Muslims should single out all worship for Allah?
What kind of things does this worship refer to?