

32 Worship and its categories

QUESTION: We were talking about the Tawheed ul Uloohiyah – the sole right of Allah to have all worship directed to Him. What does this worship mean and how can it be broken down into categories? ¹

ANSWER: Islam teaches that worship is the reason for Allah creating the Creation.

And I did not create the jinn nor mankind except that they should worship Me (alone). I do not seek any provision from them nor do I ask that they should feed Me.

Surah Adh Dhaariyah (the 51st chapter) verse 55 - 56

This worship includes everything which Allah loves and is pleased with – from speech and actions, both outward visible actions and inward (i.e. hidden) actions.

Worship can be divided into that of the 1) heart 2) tongue and 3) limbs.

To give examples -

Actions of the heart include having fear of Allah, having hope in Him, loving Him, putting one's trust in Him, and so on.

Making the Islamically legislated forms of remembrance on the tongue (in Arabic this is called zikr) is from worship that involves the heart and the tongue.

Doing the prayers in the correct Islamic way, performing hajj and paying the obligatory forms of charity are from those acts of worship which involve the limbs and the heart. And so on.

Islam teaches that worship is performed according to the limits set down by Allah – something we shall mention next week. It is not allowed for everyone to do acts of worship as they see fit – rather, the ways and means of doing worship are regulated by the Islamic sharee'ah.

Worship includes all aspects of the life of the Muslim.

This even includes the everyday habits, such as sleep, eating and drinking, buying and selling, etc – if these are done according to the sharee'ah with the intention of seeking nearness to Allah alone, then these become acts of worship for which the person is rewarded.

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NEXT TIME : How does Islam teach Muslims to avoid going to extremes in worship?

¹ Refer to 'aqeedah ut tawheed p66 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information