

The meaning of *fisq* (sinfulness)

With regards to the definition of *fisq*, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah* states:

And the linguistic meaning of *fisq* is: *khurooj* (to leave or emerge).

And by way of this (it is said) the fruit *fasaqat* (emerged) from its rind – meaning it emerged and came out from it.

And in its technical sense, (*fisq* means): performing a major sin or persisting upon a lesser sin... So *fisq* according to the Legislation is to perform a major sin or to persist upon a lesser sin.

If a person commits *zinaa* (fornication) he becomes a *faasiq* (person of *fisq*).

If he persists upon smoking then he becomes a *faasiq*.

If a person drinks an intoxicant only once he becomes a *faasiq* because this is a major sin.

(“Sharh of Safaariniyyah ” of Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah*,
quoted in Mu'jam at Ta'reefaat p328)