

Welcome to
ALI 440: Topical Tafsir of Quran
Family Relationships

Check the following verses in your copy of the Quran

Verses for today's session

- 1) Sura Maidah, no.5, verse 8 (also 4:135)
- 2) Sura Anfal, no.8, verse 1
- 3) Sura Shura, no.42, verse 38

Agenda

- The Holy Quran
- Principles to avoid conflict in the family
 - Justice
 - Reform
 - Consultation
- An Example of a family in the Quran
- Imam Ali (a) on Family

The Holy Quran

The Quran is wealth

There is no wealth without it

and there is no poverty after it.

Holy Prophet(s)

Biharul Anwar, Vol. 92, pg 19

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Justice

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ ^ص وَلَا
يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاَنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ ^ج أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا ^ج اعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ ^ص
وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ^ج إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

O you who have believed, be upright for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do

Sura Maidah no.5, verse 8

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ بِالْقِسْطِ شُهَدَاءَ لِلَّهِ
وَلَوْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَوِ الْوَالِدِينَ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ

O you who believe! be maintainers of justice,
bearers of witness of Allah's sake, though it may
be against your own selves or your parents or near
relatives

Sura Nisaa, no.4, verse 135

Points from the verse

- Justice and Fairness are essential in society. Two factors that cause deviation from justice are hatred of people, and love of self or others.
- When the heart follows desires rather than reason, it becomes difficult to be just.
- Complete justice and fairness are only possible through belief in Allah and Taqwa.
- Continuous justice is a sign of sincerity

Reforming relationships

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَصْلِحُوا ذَاتَ بَيْنِكُمْ

So fear Allah and set right that
which is between you

Sura Anfal, no.8, verse 1

Points from the Verse

- 'Islah' is to reform and make things better. Here the verse is referring to relationships
- To reform is to improve and strengthen as well as to remove that which weakens.
- Differences that are unresolved can eat away at the foundations of a family or society.
- Reflect on the differences and take steps to resolve through communication and positive reinforcement.

Hadith

I have heard your grand-father (the Holy Prophet (s.)) saying, 'Improving mutual differences is better than general prayers and fasting'

Imam Ali (a)

Letter no.47, Nahjul Balagha

Some steps for reforming relationships

- 1) Reflect on your own reactions. What are the reasons behind your reactions?
- 2) Understand the other person's perspective.
- 3) Be an outsider to the situation and then judge.
- 4) Talk and do things together other than the conflict issue.
- 5) Show affection in different ways.

Consultation

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ
بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ

And those who have responded to their lord and established prayer and whose affair is determined by consultation among themselves, and from what We have provided them, they spend

Sura Shura, no.42, verse 38

Points from the verse

- After submitting to Allah two important qualities – salaah (individual) and consultation (social) are mentioned. These are continuously practiced.
- The human being sees from one perspective. He needs to add the perspective of others and then decide.
- The Holy Prophet (s) often consulted with his companions and considered their opinions.

There is no support like consultation and seeking consultation is [seeking] guidance.

Imam Ali (a)

Wasailush Shia, Vol.8, pg 425

An Example from the Quran

Story of Nabí Ibrahim (a) and Nabí Ismail (a)

Sura Saffat, no.37

Verses 101-102

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Family according to Imam Ali (a)

Do not disregard the rights of your brother depending upon your relationship with him, for he is not your brother if you disregard his rights.

Imam Ali (a) Letter no.31, Nahjul Balagha

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