

GUIDE for *Life*

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Who is the Righteous Guide for Mankind?



Is one person in a better position than another to act as a righteous guide through this journey of life? For as humans, we are all different, have different desires, thoughts and needs. One person may have more patience than another, one more sensitive than another, one person have more aggression than another, and all these emotions go into making up the way that we behave. The only righteous leader for mankind is the creator of mankind himself, but what does the creator of all that exists look like?

The Islamic belief with regards to God is not unique in the sense that Muslims believe in the existence of a

creator, but what makes the Islamic belief unique is that there is One in all that is unique to him. The belief that the characteristics and rights of the creator are for him alone is only to be found in Islam, this belief in Arabic is known as '*Tawheed*' which means to unify and to make something one. Thus in Islam all attributes that belong to God are not shared by others in his creation.

Muslims believe that God alone is the creator, being alone in controlling the universe and all that takes place therein. God is the only one to whom any form of worship should be directed to, whether that be fear, hope, calling upon for relief and deliverance, sacrificing to, or any other worship done to draw near to the creator.

All other religions in some way shape or form direct some of what is rightfully God's to other than him. The following are just a few examples. Some believe that Jesus (the great prophet whom all Muslims love and respect) may be called upon or supplicated to for guidance and relief from hardships. Some even believe that Jesus is the actual son of God and it is this type of belief which *tawheed* in Islam rejects. Consider the following story:

A scholar was once sent to medieval Europe to debate a priest. The Christian king of the area greeted the scholar and the scholar met the king and priest with smiles and asked the priest how his family was doing. Unfortunately, the priest practiced celibacy and had no family. The king's face turned angry as he said to the Muslim scholar, "Do you not know that this man is a priest. He has freed himself of such needs and impurities of families and children." The scholar responded, "Glory be to Allah, how can your priests be free of these qualities and needs and then you assign them to God?"

Can you imagine providing someone with what their heart desires and then another is thanked in your place, this is exactly what mankind does when they direct their worship to other than God after have been blessed with innumerable blessings thanks is given to the creation instead of the creator. We see this in many cultures and beliefs around the world where people make sacrifices to man made structures, or where they hope and believe that by worshipping the grave of a man that he will ask God for their forgiveness.

The Islamic belief of *tawheed* produces in a believer the highest degree of self-respect and self-esteem. The believer knows that

Allah alone is the Possessor of all power, and that none besides Him can benefit or harm a person, or provide for his needs, or give and take away life or wield authority or influence. This conviction makes him indifferent to, and independent and fearless of, all powers other than those of God. He never bows his head in homage to any of God's creatures, nor does he stretch out his hand before anyone else. He is not overawed by anybody's greatness. This attitude of mind cannot be produced by any other belief. For it is necessary that those who associate other beings with God, or who deny God, should bow in homage to some creatures, regard them able to benefit or harm them, fear them and place their hopes in them.

To conclude, let us look at how God describes himself to us:
'Say: He is Allah, the One and Only; Allah the eternal and absolute; He begets not, nor is he begotten; And there is none like unto Him.'
Qur`an, Surat-ul-Ikhlās (Purity).

