

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَاسْتَقِمَّ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ وَمَنْ تَابَ مَعَكَ وَلَا تَطْغَوْا إِنَّهُ بِمَا
تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الصِّدْقَ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْبِرِّ، وَإِنَّ الْبِرَّ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ، وَإِنَّ
الرَّجُلَ لَيَصْدُقُ حَتَّى يَكُونَ صِدِّيقًا، وَإِنَّ الْكَذِبَ يَهْدِي إِلَى
الْفُجُورِ، وَإِنَّ الْفُجُورَ يَهْدِي إِلَى النَّارِ، وَإِنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيَكْذِبُ
حَتَّى يُكْتَبَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ كَذَّابًا.

BEING RIGHTEOUS IN OUR WORDS AND BEHAVIORS

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, Allah the Almighty (swt) states, “So remain on a right course as you have been commanded. You and those who have turned back with you [to Allah]. And do not transgress. Indeed, He is Seeing of what you do.”¹

In the hadith I have read, the Messenger of Allah (saw) says, “Truth leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise. And if a man continues to speak the truth and makes truth his object he will be recorded as truthful before Allah. Falsehood leads to wickedness and wickedness leads to Hell. And if a man continues to speak falsehood and makes falsehood his object he will be recorded as a liar before Allah.”²

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion, Islam, is sent for us to live a life on the right course in a straightforward manner. Our Lord Almighty (swt) commands us to be truthful and honest in our intentions and beliefs, as well as words and behaviors. In addition, Islam never approves lies and any kind of behavior that leads to telling a lie. It does not tolerate lying, even if it is done in jest or for the sake of amusement.

Dear Muslims!

Being truthful is the essence of faith and a sign of a believer. Lying is a malignant disease that disrupts societal peace and pits individuals against one another. On the other side, truthfulness builds trust within the family and cements love and respect. It is the utterance of a lie that destroys families that have been built after so many efforts. While truthfulness is the barakah of business, lying is its destruction. An honest and trustworthy merchant will

be with the prophets, the righteous, and the martyrs.³ Truthfulness contributes to the prosperity of wealth and property. There is no one who has ever derived any benefit from wealth earned by lies.

Dear Believers!

Regrettably, social media platforms have risen to prominence as the areas where lying spreads the most and the quickest nowadays. Lying, which is haram in real life, however, is also haram in virtual life. As believers, it is our responsibility to ensure that the truth prevails the social media, without losing sight of our real world and becoming captives of the virtual platforms. Sharing every piece of news we receive without verifying it and thus, facilitating the propagation of falsehoods, whether we are aware of it or not, is a grave sin. In this regard, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) says, “It is enough for a man to prove himself a liar when he goes on narrating whatever he hears.”⁴

Dear Muslims!

It is stated in the Holy Qur’an as follows:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ

“O you who have believed! Fear Allah and be with those who are true.”⁵ Right, truthfulness is important. But what is more important is to be with those who are truthful. In this respect, the following words of our Prophet (saw) is very important: “A man follows the religion of his friend.”⁶

So, let us choose our friends both in social life and in virtual life from among the truthful people. Let us make our hearts the heart of truthfulness. Let us ensure that our inner world and our words are truthful, and our behaviors and attitudes are consistent. Let us not forget that if one’s word is true, their actions are truthful as well. If one’s actions are true, then their heart is truthful as well. If one’s heart is true, then their religion is true as well. If one’s religion is true, then their only destination is paradise.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the meaning of the 6th verse of the Surah al-Hujurat: “O you who have believed! If an evil-doer brings you any news, verify it. Lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful.”⁷

¹ Hud, 11/112.

² Bukhari, Adab, 69.

³ Tirmidhi, Buyu’, 4.

⁴ Abu Dawud, Adab, 80.

⁵ Tawbah, 9/119.

⁶ Tirmidhi, Zuhd, 45.

⁷ Hujurat, 49/6.