

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ بُيُوتِكُمْ سَكَنًا...
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ...

FAMILY

Esteemed Muslims!

The family is the first place where a person opens their eyes to life and where their character and values are shaped. It is within the family that one learns how kind words touch hearts and how compassion heals wounds. It is there that one comes to recognize truthfulness in the words of one's elders, compassion in the affection one receives, and justice in the balance maintained among siblings. Amid the turmoil of the world, one finds peace and tranquility within the family, as stated in the following verse of the Holy Qur'an: **"And Allah has made your homes a place to rest..."**¹

Dear Believers!

The family is not merely a worldly union or a partnership built upon fleeting desires. Rather, it is the safest haven in which a person can seek refuge throughout their life. Family means caring for one's parents when they are ill, staying by one's child's bedside when they have a fever, and embracing one another on the morning of Eid. Let us not forget that nursing homes and children's care homes can be built, but nothing can replace a mother's tender embrace, a father's exemplary guidance, or the stories told by grandparents to their grandchildren.

Esteemed Muslims!

Children learn their first prayers at their mothers' knees and how to perform salah by their fathers' sides. It is within the family home that they learn respect for their elders, compassion for the young, mercy, and generosity. It is in the family that they come to understand that lying is a sin and that violating the rights of others is a grave offense. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, **"No parent can give their child a gift more valuable than good manners and upbringing."**² Therefore, parents who leave their children at the mercy of screens and fail to give them the attention they need are depriving them of this precious legacy.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The sense of responsibility developed within the family is also reflected in society. Children who learn love, respect, friendship, and generosity within their families become exemplary individuals at school, in the workplace, and throughout every stage of their lives. On the other hand, children who witness conflict and violence in their families and grow up deprived of attention and affection carry the scars of these experiences throughout their lives.

Esteemed Parents!

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw) declared that each of us is responsible for our family.³ This statement reminds us of our duty to know and monitor whom our children befriend, which applications they use in the digital world, and whether they fulfill their religious obligations. The time we devote to our families and the sacrifices we make for one another are regarded as acts of worship. Whoever leaves the day's weariness behind upon entering their home, spends time with their family, and greets them with a smiling face revives the sunnah of our Prophet (saw). Conversely, whoever neglects these responsibilities deprives both themselves and their family of the blessings of following the Prophet's (saw) sunnah.

Dear Young Brothers and Sisters!

Starting a family is a shield that protects you from sins and a blessing that brings tranquility to your souls. Starting a family means adding a new link to the prophetic legacy of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw), who said, **"The best of you are those who are best to their families..."**⁴ Let us not forget that raising generations worthy of our Prophet's (saw) praise will be a means of ensuring that the record of our good deeds continues to grow even after our death.

Let us conclude this week's khutbah with the following supplication taught to us by Allah the Almighty: **"Our Lord! Bless us with 'pious' spouses and offspring who will be the joy of our hearts, and make us models for the righteous."**⁵

¹ Nahl, 16/80.

² Tirmidhi, Birr, 33.

³ Bukhari, Jumu'ah, 11; Istiqrad, 20.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Manaqib, 63.

⁵ Furqan, 25/74.

