

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ تَشِيعَ الْفَاحِشَةُ فِي الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ
أَلِيمٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ...
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
...لَا تَغْتَابُوا الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا عَوْرَاتِهِمْ فَإِنَّهُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ
عَوْرَاتِهِمْ يَتَّبِعِ اللَّهُ عَوْرَتَهُ...

PRIVACY BRINGS ALONG RESPECT

Dear Muslims!

Every human being is born with inherent and inalienable fundamental rights. One of them is the right to privacy. The human body, created by Allah the Almighty in a state of pure nature, is an inviolable aspect of one's privacy. The home and workplace are integral to a person's privacy; they are private spaces that no one may enter without permission and a valid legal justification. Personal information is a fundamental aspect of an individual's privacy; no one has the right to access or disclose another person's information without their explicit consent. The family, where the values of goodness are nurtured, is a cornerstone of both individual and societal privacy; no one has the right to undermine its dignity.

Dear Believers!

Privacy is a fundamental pillar of the religion. It remains constant and unchanging, regardless of person, time, place, or circumstances. In Islam, the boundaries of privacy are established by the Qur'an and the Sunnah. No one has the right to reshape or redefine these boundaries based on their personal worldview. A Muslim bears the primary responsibility for safeguarding their own bodily privacy. For our body is not a possession we can use or dispose of as we please. It is a profound blessing and sacred trust bestowed upon us by Allah.

Esteemed Muslims!

Allah the Almighty, while describing the privacy between spouses, states, **“Your spouses are a garment for you as you are for them”**¹. Indeed, man and woman within the family are trusted confidants, shielding each other's shortcomings and safeguarding each other's secrets. Therefore, a Muslim must uphold the privacy of their spouse and children, refraining from sharing it on any platform, including digital media, for any reason. Let us never forget that the private matters of our family are not subjects to be discussed in coffeehouse and tea gatherings, nor in magazine programs, entertainment, or cooking shows. This is both a violation of a person's rights and a disgraceful act prohibited by Allah. Our Prophet's (saw) warning in this regard is quite clear: **“Among the**

greatest trusts that will be reckoned with Allah on the Day of Judgment is a man disclosing the privacy of his wife.”²

Esteemed Believers!

Unfortunately, some communication platforms—such as television, radio, newspapers, and social media—that should preserve and uphold our national and spiritual values instead contribute to the spread of immorality and the normalization of sins like adultery, alcohol consumption, and gambling. Through certain TV series, cartoons, and advertisements, exhibitionism is being encouraged, while moral deviations and gender neutralization are being promoted. Daytime television programs have become a platform where the boundaries of privacy are violated, family ties are weakened through debates and conflicts, and matters that should remain within the family are discussed publicly for days. All these factors harm the institution of the family, our most precious treasure, and especially instill fear in young people about marriage and starting a family. It fosters new conflicts among family members and weakens the sense of trust within society. It erodes the moral and human values that define us, such as modesty, chastity, and decency. Our Lord Almighty warns us in this regard as follows: **“Indeed, those who love to see indecency spread among the believers will suffer a painful punishment in this life and the Hereafter...”**³

Dear Muslims!

Unfortunately, we have moved from a time when the doors of homes were locked and curtains were drawn to an era where people freely share the private matters of their families and even strangers. In such times, it is essential for everyone to be more vigilant and uphold their responsibilities with greater care. Screens should not be a means of spreading immorality just to gain more views and higher ratings. Everyone should teach their children the importance of privacy through age-appropriate guidance and exemplary behavior. They should avoid sharing content that violates privacy merely to gain likes, increase followers, or earn financial profit on social media. Everyone should refrain from prying into others' private lives or making unsolicited comments about them. They should remember that spending time on digital media without regard for privacy can harm both their worldly life and their Hereafter.

Let us conclude this Friday's khutbah with the Messenger of Allah's (saw) following hadith: **“...Do not backbite Muslims, and do not seek out their private matters. For whoever pursues the faults of his Muslim brother, Allah will expose his faults...”**⁴

¹ Baqarah, 2/187.

² Muslim, Nikah, 124.

³ Nur, 24/19.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Birr, 85.

