

Lesson 24

Summary Notes

Kufr (Unbelief)

"We do not enter into vain talk about Allāh (ﷻ) nor do we allow any dispute about the religion of Allāh." [55]

"We do not excommunicate any of the **People of the Qiblah** on account of a sin, as long as he did not deem it lawful." [57]

"Impunity and despair displace [a person] from the religion of Islām, and the path of truth is between the two for the People of the Qiblah." [60]

"The servant [of Allāh] does not leave faith except by rejecting that which brought him into it" [61]

Dangers and consequences of Kufr.

- In relation to this world
- In relation to Hereafter.

Definition and the types of Kufr.

1. Inkārī Kufr

"As to those who reject Faith. It is the same to them whether you warn them or do not warn them; they will not believe." Qur'ān [2:6]

2. Juhūdī Kufr

"... when there comes to them that which they (should) have recognized, they refuse to believe in it but the curse of Allāh is on those without Faith." Qur'ān [2:89]

3. 'Inādī Kufr

the case of Abū Ṭālib

4. Nifāqī Kufr

5. Jahlī Kufr

6. Ḥukmī Kufr

1. Rejecting the fundamentals

- Believing that there is one God is not sufficient for one to be called a believer, nor even a partial believer.
Categorization of Tawḥīd (into Rubūbiyyah and Ulūhiyya) is artificial.
- One should not be hasty in pronouncing **Kufr** where there is room for doubt.
"Whoever said to his brother, '**Kāfir**', one of the two has incurred it." [Mālik, Bukhārī, Muslim, Tirmidhī (hsg), Aḥmad]
- Believing that any other than Allāh has innate power to help you.
"Whoever associates others with Allāh, Allāh has forbidden Heaven to him, and his destination shall be Hell, and the wrongdoers shall have no helpers." Qur'ān [5:72]
- Rejecting part of the Qur'ān or mutawātir Sunnah.
- Rejecting a particular Ḥadīth without an acceptable reason (based on qualified **ijtihād**) is Ḥarām, but not necessarily Kufr.
- To deny anything that is necessarily known to be part of Islām, such as the belief in angels, bodily resurrection, Heaven and Hell, or to deny the obligatory nature of Ṣalāh, Zakāt, Ḥajj, fasting, or Jihād, or the prohibition of wine, adultery, and the like.
"Do you then believe in a part of the Book and reject another part? What, then is the recompense of those who do so, other than disgrace in this world. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will be returned to the severest punishment." Qur'ān [2:85]

2. Making fun of any aspect of Islām

"And if you were to ask them they would certainly say, 'We were only joking and playing.' Say, 'Was it of Allāh, His signs and His Messenger that you were making fun? Do not make excuses, you have committed Kufr after your having believed.'" Qur'ān [9:65-66]

3. To curse Allāh, the angels, prophets, etc.

"Whosoever is an enemy to Allāh, and (to) His angels, and (to) His Messengers, and (in particular, to) Gabriel and Michael, then (let him know) that Allāh is an enemy to the disbelievers." Qur'ān [2:98]

4. To hate some part of Islām

"That is because they hate what Allāh has revealed, and so He has made their deeds void." Qur'ān [47:9]

5. Deeming a sin lawful, or forbidding the permissible

There must be consensus and public knowledge. "They took their learned men and monks as lords besides Allāh." Qur'ān [9:31]

6. Impunity or Despair

"Do they consider themselves safe from the plan of Allāh? Indeed, none consider themselves safe from Allāh's plan except the people who are losers." Qur'ān [7:99]

"Do not despair of the Allāh's mercy. Indeed, none despair of Allāh's mercy except the unbelieving people." Qur'ān [12:87]

"Know that Allāh is severe in retribution and that Allāh is the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful." Qur'ān [5:98]

7. Sorcery

"And the two of them (who were showing people what sorcery is) never taught (it to) anybody without first saying, 'We are only a temptation, so do not commit kufr.' " Qur'ān [2:102]

8. Legislation

To legislate laws other than those sanctioned by the Qur'ān and Sunnah, or to deem it permissible to rule by such man-made laws, or to believe that the laws of Islām are backward and not appropriate for the modern world. "Whoever does not judge by what Allāh has revealed - they are the disbelievers." Qur'ān [5:44]

9. To ally oneself with the disbelievers and seek their help against the Muslims

"Whoever among you allies himself with them is one of them." Qur'ān [5:51]

10. Denying the Kufr of the Kuffār.

To refuse to acknowledge the kufr of unbelievers (who adopt a religion other than Islām), or to have doubt in pronouncing **Kufr** upon them, or to maintain that their religion is correct. Similarly, to believe that it is permissible today to follow the Sharī'ah of any previous prophet, such as Moses or Jesus (upon them both be peace).

"Whoever does not believe in Allāh and His Messenger, then [let him know] that for the disbelievers We have prepared a blazing fire." Qur'ān [48:13]

11. To turn away from Islām, refusing to find out about it or learn about it.

"Who is more of a wrongdoer than one who is reminded of the signs of his Lord and then turns away from them? Surely, We shall extract retribution from the guilty ones." Qur'ān [32:22]

In this category is the agnostic who refuses to investigate Islām, claiming indifference to whether or not Islām is the true religion.

12. To refuse to pronounce the Testifications of Faith when asked to do so

"Thus do We deal with the guilty ones. They are those who, when they were told, 'There is no God but Allāh', were arrogant." Qur'ān [37:34-35]

The case of Abu Talib.

13. Being pleased with the Kufr of others

14. To intend to commit Kufr in the future

15. Throwing the Qur'ān into the garbage, or stepping over it

VALID EXCUSES

Heart

- Passing but unconfirmed thoughts [Muslim, Aḥmad]
- Recent embracement of Islām
- Being isolated from scholars

Tongue

- **Coercion (ikrāh).**

"Whoever disbelieves in Allāh after his faith, except for one who is coerced while his heart is content with faith, but whoever finds ease in Kufr, then upon them is wrath from Allāh, and theirs is a terrible punishment." Qur'ān [16:106]

'Ammār ibn Yāsir (رضي الله عنه).

If one does not comply, and is killed, s/he is a martyr, but in the case of rape, one is obliged to comply.

- **Slip of tongue**

As in the Ḥadith of the bedouin who had a slip of tongue out of extreme happiness. [Muslim]

- **Loss of mental ability**

"The [recording] pen is lifted off from three [categories of people] : the child until he reaches maturity, the sleeping one until he awakens, and the insane one until he regains sanity." [Nasa'i]

- **Saying something while thinking of something else.**
- **Ignorance of the meaning.**

Action

- **Coercion.**
- **Loss of mental ability**
- **Ignorance of content of book being trashed**