

What's Islam: General Principles of Islam (simplified) WhatsIslam.co.uk

The Belief [Faith & Doctrine]	Duties		Lifestyle (Way of Life)		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In God (Allah), Lordship and Oneness (Tawheed*) The Angels Holy Books/Scriptures: Torah, Bible and Quran** The Prophets and Messengers The Day-after Al-Qadar (predestination) [Divine Will & Decree] 	Religious Duties (5 pillars)***	Prohibitions	General	Characters	Rights (to be respected)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Declarations (Testimony or Shahada) Prayers (5) Obligatory charity (Zakat) Fasting Ramadan. Pilgrimage (when able) 	<p>Absolute</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adultery/sodomy or fornication. Alcohol Pork & dead meat. Gambling Usury Associating partner(s) with Allah <p>General ****</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Extravagance, overspending Celibacy Swearing & bearing false witness Believing soothsayers Killing with no legitimacy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Moderation and modesty# Be dutiful to parents & family Unity & support for Muslims Contentment & Chastity Tolerance Kindness & generosity 	<p>A. Good (To be attained)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Truthfulness Honesty & keeping promises Visiting the sick/ill persons Self-control (repressing the anger, revenge..) <p>B. Bad (To be avoided)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cheating Lying Spying Slandering Arrogance 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ummah, country, community Family and kindred Neighbours' rights Road and public places###

*Tawheed in Arabic means attributing Oneness to Allah and describing Him as being One and Unique, with no partner or peer in His Essence and Attributes, and whoever does not acknowledge this or associates partner with God (i.e. *shirk* in Arabic), he/she does not believe in Tawheed. The Prophets are united on the principle of Tawheed (the oneness of God), the message with which Allah sent every Messenger whom He sent, and which He included in every holy Book that He revealed, but their laws differed as to command and prohibitions, what was permitted and what was forbidden. Whoever disbelieves in the message of one of them has disbelieved in all of them.

** Because the Qur'an is the greatest of the heavenly Books, the most complete, the most perfect and the last of them, Allah commanded His Messenger Muhammad (pbuh) to convey it to all of mankind: "**O Messenger (Muhammad)! Proclaim (the Message) which has been sent down to you from your Lord. And if you do not, then you have not conveyed His Message. Allah will protect you from mankind**" [al-Maa'idah 5:67] .

*** Islam is based on five pillars that has been explained by the Messenger (pbuh) when he said: "**Islam is built upon five [pillars]: the testimony that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; establishing regular prayer (Salah); paying the zakah; Hajj (pilgrimage) and fasting Ramadan.**" .

**** The Hadith, 'Avoid the seven great destructive sins.: 'To join others in worship along with Allah, to practice sorcery, to kill the life which Allah has forbidden except for a just cause (according to Islamic Law), to eat up Riba (usury), to eat up an orphan's wealth, to give back to the enemy and fleeing from the battlefield at the time of fighting, and to accuse, chaste women, who never even think of anything touching chastity and are good believers.'" [Bukhari-Muslim]. One of the best definitions of a **major sin** is: Any sin that has been described as major severe punishment or had been prescribed for it in the Quran, Sunnah- hadeeth, and by a consensus; it should be then a major sin" [Al-Kurtobi].

Modesty is a humble, unpretentious manner or appearance. Both Muslim men and women are expected to show modesty in the clothes they wear. Women are expected to dress in a way that shows they are believing women. The Qur'an instructs the Prophet, "**Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to wrap their outer garments (the jilbāb) around themselves. That is more suitable so that they will be known as pious women, and not be harassed.**" (Al-Ahzāb 33:59). This means that the dress is meant to protect the wearer from harassment and to prevent one from becoming obsessed with pride in one's outward appearance. It is also a way Muslims can develop a society that respects the boundaries between men and women.

The Prophet commanded Muslims to remove the harmful objects from the roads, which is a right pertains to the road, as the he said, "**Faith has over seventy branches – or over sixty branches – the uppermost of which is the declaration: 'None has the right to be worshipped but Allah'; and the least of which is the removal of harmful object from the road, and modesty is a branch of faith.**" (Bukhari and Muslim). Removing harmful things from the roads leads to forgiveness and paradise as well; the Prophet said, "**A person while walking along the path saw the branches of a tree lying there. He said: By Allah, I shall remove these from this so that these may not do harm to the Muslims, and he was admitted to Paradise.**" (Muslim).