

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

THE BREAKDOWN OF FAMILY

VALUES AND ITS IMPACT ON MORALITY

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Tashah-hud – Ta’awwudh – Basmallah

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَبْلِيَّكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَبُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٧﴾

Tonight, I stand before you all to speak on the topic that strike at very heart of our society, our faith and our future, THAT IS “**The Breakdown of Family Values and its Impact on Morality.**”

In our daily lives, a landlord would do everything possible to ensure the security and serenity of his house. He would furnish the house with electric fence, security men, CCTV camera, and on top of that, he may keep a well-trained dog.

This is the effort of a man who only wants to secure his physical house. We can all imagine how much more effort is required for one to fortify his family from breaking down.

For generations, the family has been the first classroom where we learn what it means to be human. It is within the family that we discover love, responsibility, respect, empathy and discipline. But in recent times the foundation of this crucial institution has weakened.

The verse I recited is taken from Surah At-Tahrim, 66:7. Allah

Almighty orders believers to protect themselves and their families from the Fire. He says:

O ye who believe! save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is men and stones, over which are appointed angels, stern and severe, who disobey not Allah in what He commands them and do as they are commanded.

The Fire mentioned here purports to two states of discomfort. The discomfort as a result of the breakdown of family values and the discomfort of punishment in the Hereafter for failing to win the pleasure of Almighty Allah.

The decline in family values often results in a loss of guidance for young people. Children learn less from personal interactions and more from screens. Conversations that once happened at the dinner table are replaced by silence, isolation, or virtual noise. Without strong support at home, many turn to the world for guidance, often finding influences that promote selfishness over compassion, instant gratification over patience, and convenience over commitment.

We see the consequences around us: rising crime rates, substance abuse, disrespect for authority, declining empathy, and a general confusion about right and wrong. These are moral issues, but they often begin as family issues.

Let us be clear, this is not about blaming individual families but recognizing a collective challenge. A society is only as strong as the values it upholds. Values do not grow in the abstract, they grow in homes, through relationships, and through consistent examples of love and accountability.

The Holy Qur'an has clearly marked marriage as the divine foundation stone for building up a family. Islam emphasizes that family is the cornerstone of our society. It shapes our identities, moulds our characters, and instills values that guide our actions. The Holy Prophet Muhammed (s.a.w) teaches us that the family unit is not merely a social structure, it is a divine institution ordained by God.

In this case, when the principles of marriage set by Islam are followed with due diligence and righteousness, marriages get fortified. And the more fortified and successful marriages are, the stronger society becomes both socially and morally.

In recent years, we have observed a troubling trend: the disintegration of traditional family values. Factors such as rapid societal change, economic pressures, and the influence of technology have all contributed to this shift. With the weakening of family bonds, we face a moral crisis that affects individuals and communities alike.

Morality (Khulq) as defined by the Promised Messiah (a.s), is when man brings his natural faculties, desire and urges under control and regulations and uses them on their proper occasions and places.

The Holy Qur'an teaches **Empathy, love, and kindness** to family members. Allah says:

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ

And fear Allah, in Whose name you appeal to one another, and fear Him particularly respecting ties of relationship.

This verse points to the basic principle of family values. Kindness to one's family members holds so much so importance that it makes one win the pleasure of Allah. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w) is reported to have said that:

لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ قَاطِعٌ

The one who cut the ties of kinship will not enter Paradise. [Sahih Muslim, Book 45, Hadith 20]

The promised Messiah (a.s) in relation to this admonished his followers strongly that:

‘Whosoever does not honor his parents and does not obey them in all matters that are not contrary to the Qur’an, and is careless in serving them diligently, is not of my community. Whosoever does not treat his wife and her relatives with gentleness and benevolence, is not of my community.’ [Noah’s Ark, Page 33]

Another important family value is **honesty and respect**. Any community deprived of honesty and respect suffers from chaos and treachery. The rise in unfaithfulness in businesses, food products, and other commodities of daily use has claimed the lives of many innocent people.

The Prophet (s.a.w) is reported to have said that:

“Anyone who indulges in cheating is not part of my community.”

The Promised Messiah (a.s) said:

“Every husband who deceives his wife, and every wife who deceives her husband, is not of my community.” [Noah’s Ark, Page 33]

The breakdown of trust within the family unit, particularly between spouses, can mirror a broader crisis of trust in society, potentially leading to social fragmentation and reduced community cohesion.

Indifferent attitudes towards religion and righteousness.

This is a very serious issue worrying the Jamaat in this contemporary time. Some Ahmadi families have paid no heed to religiousness and Taqwalaah. Marriage which stands as the bedrock for building up families and societies, has been disregarded in some Ahmadi homes. Parents stay unconcerned with the premarital relationships of their children leading to some marrying outside the Jamaat and others giving birth out of wedlock.

It is imperative for us to engage with the younger generation. We must actively teach them the significance of family values and the moral teachings of Islam. We must support parents, guardians, and caregivers. Raising a child is a community effort, and strong families flourish in supportive and nurturing environments.

The breakdown of communication and understanding can lead to misunderstandings and conflict, not only within families but also in society at large. When children grow up in environments devoid of love and support, they may struggle to develop a strong moral compass.

We must reaffirm the values of responsibility, kindness, honesty, and respect not as outdated ideals, but as necessary tools for a stable, ethical society.

Each of us must live by the values we hope to see in the next generation. Morality is not taught by words alone; it is demonstrated through our actions.

In conclusion, when traditional family structures and values weaken due to factors such as higher divorce rates, single-parent households, increased parental workload, and societal individualization, the mechanisms for moral transmission are affected.

The breakdown of family values poses a significant challenge to our moral fabric. Yet, as members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, we have the tools and teachings to combat these issues. Let us recommit ourselves to nurturing our families, fostering strong relationships, and building a society grounded in moral principles.

Together, we can instill values that will not only strengthen our families but also lead to a more just and compassionate world. It is my ardent prayer that Allah Almighty enables you and me to do so. Amen thumma Amen.

Wa akhuru da'wanaa