

Successful Family Communication

The First Khutbah:

All praises are due to Allah, Lord of all the Domains of existence. Who has inclined us towards building families founded on mutual connection, love, peace and affection. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love; nothing worthy of attaching our hearts upon in worshipful adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that Oneness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfected example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created cosmos. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows and seeks to emulate him in the way of embodied spiritual conduct till the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, dutiful servants of Allah, and myself, to adhere to a heartfelt reverential consciousness (Taqwa) of Allah, for He, the Most Gloriously Transcendent, states:

O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer. [Qur'an: ٤:١]

O You Who Believe:

Allah (Glorified be He) informs us in His Book:

And Allah has made for you from yourselves partners and has made for you from your partners, children and grandchildren, and has provided for you from the good things. [Qur'an: ١٦:٧٢]

The components mentioned in the verse above: partners, children and grandchildren, are the fundamental components of a family, which Allah (Glorified be He) has made the foundation of successful societies, and the primary means by which such societies attain cohesion and strength. The foundation and key to a happy family life is the ability to demonstrate empathetic understanding and communication between its members. This begins with the husband and wife embodying mutual love and mercy amongst themselves; being united, connected, compassionate, forgiving and gentle, actualizing in the realities of their own selves the Qur'anic verse:

And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves partners that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought. [Qur'an: ٣٠:٢١]

So successful communication between partners in a marriage, founded on mutual empathy and understanding, is actually a religious ideal as well as a societal one. Such communication is supported by the couple sitting with each other to discuss the matters of their home, as is evident from the biography of the Prophet (peace and

blessings be upon him), as he would always make time for his spouses, speaking to them and showing his affection. Ibn Abbas is narrated to have said in the Tafsir (Exegesis) of Ibn Kathir: “The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) whenever he would enter the house after the Night Prayer (Isha) would speak to his family for an hour.”

Likewise, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) would walk with his wives, speaking and communicating with them. Safiyyah bint Huyai (May Allah be pleased with her), the Mother of the Believers, narrates: “I came to visit the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) while he was in the state of I'tikaf (seclusion in the mosque during the last ten days of Ramadan). After having talked to him, I got up to return. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) also got up with me and accompanied me a part of the way.” [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

The ability to successfully communicate between the spouses contributes to a deepening of understanding between them, allowing them to mutually fulfil their duty towards their children; aware that their children are given to them as a trust from Allah which entails a responsibility. In this manner the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) is reported to have said: “All of you are shepherds [guardians] and all of you are responsible for your flock: ... a Man is the guardian of his family (household) and is responsible for those under his care; [likewise] a Woman is the guardian of her husband's home and is responsible for those under her care” [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

From the outward embodiment of such guidance, is successful family communication. Through it one attains family cohesion and provides psychological reassurance and contentment to its members. From examples of forms of successful communication, is communication with children: meeting them, discussing things with them, listening to them and encouraging them, showing them love and affection, strengthening their relationship with their Creator, and advising them. The righteous have always communicated well with their children and advised them and guided them to what is most useful to them. Let us look to the example of Luqman, the Wise, who inculcated trust and faith in Allah in his son, teaching him to have conscious of Allah by being aware that He is always aware of him, as Allah informs us of his saying:

[And Luqman said], "O my son, indeed if wrong should be the weight of a mustard seed and should be within a rock or [anywhere] in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it forth. Indeed, Allah is Subtle and Acquainted. [Qur'an: 31:16]

Through this demonstration of gentle fatherly care, true and sincere love, the son could come to feel at ease with his father and believe that his father is actually the closest of people to him. This enables him to come to his father with everything that concerns him, to speak to him about everything on his mind that may be busying him.

In this manner, the Prophet Yusuf (peace and blessings be upon him) did not find anyone closer to him than his Father, to whom he spoke about the dream vision he had seen, about which Allah says:

[Of these stories mention] when Joseph said to his father, "O my father, indeed I have seen [in a dream] eleven stars and the sun and the moon; I saw them prostrating to me." [Qur'an: ١٢:٤]

And such family communication remains strong and extends beyond the marriage of sons and daughters, for the Messenger of God (peace and blessings be upon him) used to visit his daughter Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her), sit down with her and give her comfort. Whenever he entered upon her, she would stand up for him, take him by his hand, kiss it and make him sit alongside her. Likewise, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him), whenever he would visit his daughter Aaisha (may Allah be pleased with her), asking about her affairs and visiting her if she fell ill, asking her: "How are you, my dear daughter?" [Al-Bukhari]

Similarly, look at the likes of Umar ibn al-As (may Allah be pleased with him), and how avid he was in honoring such communication with his children, for he would visit his son Abdullah after he got married, asking about his affairs, on which Abdullah's wife would say: "Abdullah is from the best of Men".

O Believers in Allah:

Children have an important role in achieving successful family communication, and that is through their piety towards their parents, respecting and honoring them, visiting them and taking care of their interests, consulting them in their affairs, and benefitting from their experiences. For Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her) used to visit her father, the Messenger of God (peace and blessings be upon him), just as he would visit her. Whenever she would enter upon him, he used to grab her by the hand and say: "Welcome, my Daughter" and then make her sit alongside him.

Similarly children can strengthen family communication by demonstrating keenness and concern for their siblings, so the son helps his brothers and sisters, supporting them in their needs. This is because boys as brothers are often endowed with strength, determination and ambition, and true chivalry is helping those around one. In this regard, Allah informs the Prophet Moses (peace and blessings be upon him): **"We will strengthen your arm through your Brother.."** [Qur'an: ٢٨:٣٥], in other words, Allah strengthened his affair and supported his cause through the companionship of his brother.

From the things that help strengthen family connection and ties, is the respect that younger siblings have for their elders, and the affection and gentleness that older siblings should have for their younger ones. This should continue into adulthood, and should manifest itself in frequent visiting of each other, brothers and sisters, finding out about each other's affairs. This can usually only happen if such affection is sowed

into the hearts of children when they are young, allowing them to continue embodying it as they age.

O Dutiful Servants of Allah:

What could be better than individual family members gathering together around the learning of the Qur'an, such that the peace that it represents descends upon them collectively, and they be enveloped in its mercy, bringing about Baraka (grace) in their homes. Such Baraka would enable them to actualize good communication. Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates that whenever he would try and do the khatm (complete recitation) of the Qur'an in the night, wherein something would be left to complete it by the time of the morning, then he would gather his family around and complete the khatm with them (so they could partake in the reward).

Parents should invest time with their children, gathering on appropriate occasions around food, exchanging pleasant conversation, planting the seeds of honorable values in their hearts, and the highest of goodly character. They should call their children to that which draws them towards closeness to their Lord just as the Prophet Ibrahim (peace and blessings be upon him) called upon his Lord, saying: "My Lord, make me an establisher of prayer, and from my descendants. Our Lord, and accept my supplication." [Qur'an: ʾ ٤:٤٠]. In this way, the children are brought up in a sound manner, preserving their original pure nature and characteristics.

O Allah, increase us in commitment, embodiment, cohesion, love, connection and successful communication. And assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), to be dutiful towards those You have commanded us to be dutiful towards, in accordance with Your words: **O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.** [Qur'an: ٤:٥٩]

May Allah bless me and bless you with the Noble Qur'an and with the Way (Sunnah) of His Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). I say this, and I seek forgiveness for me and for you, so seek His forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful.

The Second Khutbah:

All praises are for Allah, I praise Him with a praise commensurate to the majesty of His countenance, and the immensity of His authority. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love; nothing worthy of attaching our hearts upon in worshipful adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfected example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created cosmos. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever

follows and seeks to emulate him in the way of embodied spiritual conduct till the Last Day.

I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself, with Taqwa of Allah (glorified be He).

O Worshippers:

Indeed families resemble strong social fabrics, the glue which ultimately holds a society together. The tighter the weave (the more frequently and positively the members interact with each other), the stronger the fabric is; the looser the weave, the weaker the fabric. In this regard, families are the first incubator for the formation of generations, the raising of real men and women who can become champions for the Truth, all dependent on the strengthening of family communication. This is what establishes a compassionate society and enables a life of dignity, characterized by peace of spirit and mind; the tranquility of hearts dedicated to Allah. This is ultimately what every human being wants, is it not? This is why the Qur'an records the supplication of those who have actualized in their hearts mercy, having become the dutiful servants of the Most-Merciful, as being:

And those who say, "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous. [Qur'an: ٢٥:٧٤].

So let us strive to enable and fortify true, empathetic and successful communication between all the members of our families, so we strengthen not just our bonds with each other, but the wider societies of which we are a part, mutually helping humanity as a whole.

And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the one we have been commanded to send our peace and blessings upon, as Allah says: **Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace. [Qur'an: ٣٣:٥٦].** So, O Allah, bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon our Master, our Prophet and upon his family and all of his companions.

And may Allah be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali ; and the noble companions of the Prophet, the Sahaba, May Allah be pleased with all of them. O Allah, we ask You for soundness in our faith, and trust in good character, and a true success that will be followed by eternal bliss. O Allah, we ask You for Your mercy, for true prosperity, for Your redemptive forgiveness and Your pleasure. O Allah, make us from those who are obedient, respectful, those who venerate their parents, honoring their mothers and their fathers, embodying excellent character towards their families and wider societies.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we seek Your favour in granting him continued good health and care. O Allah, we also ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, we ask You to forgive all of the Muslims, both the men and women, the living and dead. O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed onto the mercy of their Lord. O Lord, grant them from your abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Allah, we ask you to admit them into Paradise, being given bounties therein without being taken to account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whosoever may have a right upon us.

O Allah, we ask You, from and for your loving kindness, for the immensity of your forgiveness, for the reward of all righteousness, for the safety and protection from all sin. O Allah, we ask you for the ultimate success in attaining Paradise, and the ultimate relief in being saved from the Fire. O Allah, do not allow us to sin except that You forgive us, nor to have any worry except that you relieve us therein, nor for any debt to come upon us except that You see it compensated, nor for there to be any sick amongst us except that You see them healed. Let there be no dead, except that You have covered them in Your mercy, and let there be no pressing need, amongst any of us, except that You see it met and fulfilled. O most Noble of the Noble, You are capable over all things, and You are the most generous in responding to those who call upon You.

We ask You, O Allah, the Lord of all domains, to continue blessing the UAE with stability, welfare, increase in its bounties, knowledge, civilization, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with safety and security. O Allah, have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the Prophets. O Allah, make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever-responsive to those who call upon You. O Allah, grant to the people of Yemen that which is good, and unite them upon that which is True and Sacred, and provide for them all manners of prosperity, O most Noble of the Noble.

O Allah, spread peace and security amongst all the Muslim nations, and the entirety of the world. O our Lord, we ask You for the best of this World, the best of the Hereafter, that You will protect us from the punishment of the Fire, and that You enter us into Your paradise with the righteous, You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

Servants of Allah: Remember Allah, the Majestic, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessing, and He will increase you therein. And establish the prayer.

Stand up for prayer.