

Link between Lordship and right to be worshipped

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Is there a link between showing that the Creator of the Universe is One and the Islamic principle of worshipping Allaah alone?

Does one thing automatically lead onto the other?

ANSWER:

Yes, there is a link and yes, one does automatically lead to the other.

The Qur'aan frequently mentions the Lordship of Allaah over the Creation as a reason to worship Him alone.¹

An example is the following verse:

O Mankind, worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, so that you may become those who are dutiful to Allaah (i.e. those who do what Allaah has commanded and avoid what He has forbidden).

[Soorah al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) verse 21]

The verse mentions that Allaah created the whole of mankind – so therefore He should be worshipped.

Thus the latter is mentioned as a logical consequence of the former.

The One who created and sustains and gives provision is Allaah – so how can mankind then worship something other than Him?

This would seem to be common sense.

However throughout time, we see that people affirm the Lordship of Allaah – irrespective of the name that they give to the Sole Creator and Sustainer, which often varies according to the language of the particular community – but the people then worship something or someone other than Allaah.

¹ Refer to 'Aqeedah ut Tawheed p41 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

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The polytheists of Mecca at the time of Muhammad (may peace and blessings be upon him) affirmed Tawheed ur ruboobeyah but then worshipped idols instead of Allaah.

Say (O Muhammad, to them): "Who is the Lord of the seven heavens and the Lord of the Great Throne?"

They (the Polytheists) will say: "Allaah!"

Say: "Will you not then fear Allaah?"

Say: "In whose hand is the sovereignty of everything? And He protects all while there is no protector against Him – if you know?"

They will say: "All that belongs to Allaah!"

Say: "How then are you deceived and you turn away from the Truth?"

[Soorah al Mu'minoon (the 23rd chapter) verses 86 – 89]

The Qur'aan here uses this compelling proof to show the futility of their worship of idols.

How can you affirm Tawheed ur Ruboobeyah (the Tawheed of Lordship of Allaah alone) but then worship a piece of stone or a man or an angel?

This is an absolutely crucial point in understanding what makes a person Muslim and what differentiates him/her from a non Muslim.

Its importance really cannot be overstated.

Islam requires that as well as affirming Tawheed ur Ruboobeyah (the Uniqueness of Allaah in terms of his Lordship and Creating and Sustaining and Controlling the Universe) a person must affirm its logical consequence – which is that he singles Allaah out for worship.

This uniqueness of Allaah's right to be worshipped is referred to in Arabic as 'Tawheed ul Ulooheeyah'.

'Tawheed' means 'singling out'.

"Ulooheeyah' refers to 'the right to be taken as an object of worship'.