

## The ruling on Ghusl and circumcision for those who embrace Islam

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### Question:

A Christian couple came to me and showed interest to embrace Islam, I requested them to perform Ghusl (ritual bath), to pronounce Shahahdah (Testimony of Faith) in consent, and to get circumcised. Is what I did correct? Please provide in writing the statements of Salaf (Righteous Predecessors) in this regard and the procedures the new converts are advised to follow at the time of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)<sup>1</sup>.

### Answer:

The Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) used to call the disbelievers to Islam by asking them to testify that there is no deity [worthy of worship] but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. If they accepted this, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) would ask them to apply the rest of the tenets of Sharee'ah depending on the circumstances and the importance of these tenets. Among the reports mentioned in this regard is the one narrated by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim from Ibn `Abbas (may Allaah be pleased with them) that when the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) sent Mu`adh to Yemen (as governor) the Prophet said to him, **"You will reach a community of the People of the Book, the very first thing to which you should call them is to testify that there is none worthy of worship but Allaah. Another wording is, First call them to Tawhid (monotheism), and if they accept this, then tell them that Allaah has enjoined upon them five prayers during the day and the night. If they accept it, then tell them that Allaah has made Zakaah obligatory on them; it should be collected from the rich and distributed among the poor. If they agree to it, do not take (as a share of Zakaah) the best of their wealth. Beware of the supplication of the oppressed for there is no barrier between him and Allaah.**

Moreover, it was narrated by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim from Sahl ibn Sa`d Al-Sa`idy. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to `Aly (رضي الله عنه)<sup>2</sup> when he handed him the banner on the day of Khaybar, **"Go to them patiently and calmly until you enter the land. Then, invite them to Islam, and inform them of what has been enjoined upon them; by Allaah, if He gives guidance to somebody through you, it is better for you than possessing red (precious) camels."** Another

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<sup>1</sup> (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

<sup>2</sup> (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

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wording is, **Invite them to testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah, and that Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) is the Messenger of Allaah.**

The Salaf disputed over the necessity of Ghusl for new Muslim converts. Among the scholars who believed it was obligatory were Maalik, Ahmad, and Aboo Thawr (may Allaah be merciful with them) because of the report related by Aboo Daawood and Al-Nisaa'ee from Qays ibn `Asim (رضي الله عنه), who said, I came to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) with the intention of embracing Islam. He commanded me to perform Ghusl with water (boiled with) the leaves of the lote-tree. Using the verb "commanded" implies the obligation of this act.

On the other hand, Al-Shaafi'ee and some Hanbalee scholars stated that this act is Mustahab (desirable) unless the new Muslim convert becomes Junub (in a state of major ritual impurity) shortly before converting to Islam, in which case they are obliged to perform Ghusl. Aboo Haneefah stated that a new Muslim convert is not obliged to perform Ghusl in all cases. Therefore, the couple mentioned above may perform Ghusl on the basis the cited Hadeeth, as well as other similar Hadeeth.

With regard to circumcision, it is obligatory for men but only recommended for women. However, it could be delayed until Islam is firmly established in their hearts, lest it should induce their aversion to Islam.

On the basis of the above-mentioned points, all that you required the couple to do who newly converted to Islam is correct. May Allaah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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