

Celebration of New Year's Day

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: What is the opinion of Islaam as regards what is known by “Happy New Year”? May Allaah reward you with good.

Answer: All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers until the Day of Resurrection.

Firstly, it is important to notice that Islaam has not opinions in the questions of fiqh (jurisprudence) and creed as it is mentioned in your question, like the religious schools and sects, but Islaam has legal rulings which are manifested in its proofs and signs. Moreover, know that every deed by which we want to be near Allaah should be in accordance with His Sharee'ah and His Prophet's صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ practices, taking into account quantity, manner, place and time which are determined by the Sharee'ah. If this conformity is not realised, the innovations which the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ warned us against by saying: "**Avoid novelties, for every novelty is an innovation, and every innovation is an error and every error is in Hell**"¹.

Indeed, Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ said:

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

[And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it)]²

He عَزَّ وَجَلَّ also said:

فَلْيَحْذَرِ الَّذِينَ يُخَالِفُونَ عَنْ أَمْرِهِ أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ أَوْ يُصِيبَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

[And let those who oppose the Messenger's (Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) commandment (i.e. his Sunnah legal ways, orders, acts of worship, statements, etc.) (among the sects) beware,

¹ Reported by Aboo Dawood in his “Sunan”, chapter of “As-Sunnah”, concerning sticking to the Sunnah (hadeeth 4607), At-Tirmidhee in his “Sunan”, chapter of “Knowledge”, concerning what is reported about sticking to the Sunnah and avoiding innovations (hadeeth 2676), Ibn Maajah in his “Sunan” concerning following the Sunnah of the rightly guided Caliphs (hadeeth 42), Ahmad in his “Musnad” (hadeeth 17608), from the hadeeth of Al-`Irbaadh Ibn Saariya رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. This hadeeth is judged authentic by Ibn Al-Mulaqin in “Al-Badr Al-Muneer” (9/582), Ibn Hajar in “Muwaafaqat Al-Khubr Al-Khabar” (1/136), Al-Albaanee in “As-Silsilah As-Saheehah” (hadeeth 2735) and Shu`ayb Al-Arnaoot in his recension of “Musnad Ahmad” (4/126). Al-Waadi'i judged it as Hassan (good) in his “Musnad” (938).

² Soorah Al-Hasher[59:7]

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lest some Fitnah (disbelief, trials, afflictions, earthquakes, killing, overpowered by a tyrant, etc.) befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them.]³

The celebration of the birthday of the Christ is not different from the celebration of that of the Prophet ﷺ, since it is known by people that this did not exist at the time of the Prophet ﷺ, nor that of his Companions or during the Three Best Generations. Certainly, all that was not considered as religion at the time of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions cannot be considered today a religion, as the Imaam Maalik رحمه الله noticed, who said also : “Whoever introduces an innovation into Islaam thinking that it is good, is implying that Muhammad betrayed his mission, because Allaah عز وجلّ says:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ وَعَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

[...This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islaam as your religion...]⁴

In addition, such deed is inherent to the traditions of Christians among people of the Scriptures whom the Sharee'ah prevented us from following, by the texts ordering to contradict them and not imitate them. That is why we should stick to the Book and the Sunnah as regards creed, knowledge and deed, because it is the only way to do away with innovations and their harmful effects.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah عز وجلّ. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers Sha'baan 24th, 1416 H January 15th, 1996

³ Soorah an-Noor [24:63]

⁴ Soorah al-Maa'idah [5:3]