

Is it permissible for a person who has embraced Islaam to change his name?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question:

“Is it permissible for a person who has embraced Islaam to change his name?”

Answer:

“If a disbeliever embraced Islaam, then he is not required to change his name unless it is an unpleasant or offensive name; Such as Hazn (which means “sad”) or if it is indicative of worshipping other than Allaah, such as: ‘Abdul-Maseeh (slave of the Messiah/Christ) or ‘Abdul-Ka’bah (slave of the Ka’bah) or other than that from the prohibited names. That is because the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹ changed the names of some individuals because of these two types of [unpleasant/offensive and prohibited] names.”²

¹ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

² Reference: al-Muntaqaa min Fataawa Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan – Volume 1, Page 433-434, Fatwa No.257

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