

Shirk of the polytheists to whom the Prophet was sent

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaymeen (*May Allaah have mercy on him*)

[Source: Islaamic verdicts on the Pillars of Islaam (Fatawa Arkanul-Islaam), by Shaykh Muhammad bin Saalih al-'Uthaymeen. Collected and arranged by Fahd bin Nasir bin Ibrahim as-Sulaiman. Translated and published by Darussalam.]

Article taken and slightly adapted from: Salafi-Dawah.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: "What is the Shirk of the polytheists to whom the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) was sent?"

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaymeen (*May Allaah have mercy on him*): Regarding the Shirk of the polytheists to whom the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) was sent, it is not Shirk in Ruboobiyyah (Lordship), because the Noble Qur'aan proves that they only would commit Shirk in matters of worship. As for Lordship, they used to believe that Allaah Alone is the Lord, and that He answers the supplication of the oppressed, and that it is he Who removes evil, and other such things; Allaah mentioned that they used to confirm about the sovereignty of Allaah's Lordship. But they used to associate partners in worship, worshipping other deities besides Allaah and this is a form of Shirk which removes one from the pale of Islaam, because Tawheed means according to what is understood from the word; to affirm the oneness of something, and Allaah, the Most Blessed, the Most High has rights which must be affirmed to Him Alone. These rights may be divided into three categories:

- Rights of dominion.
- Rights of worship.
- Rights of Names and Attributes.

For this reason, the scholars have divided Tawheed into three categories:

- Tawheed ar-Ruboobiyyah,
- Tawheed al-Asma' was-Siffaat and
- Tawheed al-'Ibaadah (Tawheed al-Uloohiyyah).

The polytheists used to worship others besides Allaah. Allaah, the Most Blessed, the Most High has said:

[Worship Allaah and join none with him (in worship)]¹

...that is, in worshipping Him. And Allaah, the Most High says:

¹ Soorah an-Nisaa' [4:36]

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[Verily, whosoever sets up partners (in worship) with Allaah, then Allaah has forbidden Paradise to him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the Zaalimoon (polytheists and wrongdoers) there are no helpers.]²

He, the Most High says:

[Verily, Allaah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him (in worship), but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He wills.]³

He, the Most High says:

[And your Lord said: "Invoke Me, [i.e. believe in My Oneness (Islaamic Monotheism)] (and ask Me for anything) I will respond to your (invocation). Verily, those who scorn My worship [i.e. do not invoke Me, and do not believe in My Oneness, (Islaamic Monotheism)] they will surely enter Hell in humiliation!]⁴

He, the Most High says in Soorat al-Ikhlaas:

[Say (O Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)) to these Mushrikoon and Kafiroon): O Al-Kafiroon (disbelievers in Allaah, in His Oneness, in His Angels, in His Books, in His Messengers, in the Day of Resurrection, and in Al-Qadar, etc.)! I worship not that which you worship, nor will you worship that which I worship. And I shall not worship that which you are worshipping. Nor will you worship that which I worship. To you be your religion, and to me my religion (Islaamic Monotheism).]⁵

And by my saying in Soorat al-Ikhlaas I mean Ikhlaas (sincerity) in deeds, for it is the Soorah of Ikhlaas in deeds even though it is called Soorat al-Kafiroon. In reality a Soorah of Ikhlaas in deeds, just as Soorah:

[Say: He is Allaah, One.]⁶

...is a Soorah of Ikhlaas in knowledge and belief. And Allaah is the Granter of Success.”

² Soorah al-Ma'eedah [5:72]

³ Soorah an-Nisaa' [4:36]

⁴ Soorah Ghaafir [40:60]

⁵ Soorah al-Kafiroon [109:1-6]

⁶ Soorah al-Ikhlaas [112:1]