The Rights of Husbands and Wives

15-minute standard · Free English Friday sermon

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First Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Innal hamda lillah,
nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu,
wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina
wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina. ▶ Audio

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,
wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah. ▶ Audio

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. ▶ Audio

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi
wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah,
▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa,
wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa’aa. ▶ Audio

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa’aloona bihi wal-arhaam.
Innallaha kaana ‘alaykum raqeebaa. ▶ Audio

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

Yuslih lakum a‘maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum. ▶ Audio

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

Wa man yuti‘illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan ‘azeemaa. ▶ Audio

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

Ammaa ba‘d. ▶ Audio

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah, ▶ Audio

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, ▶ Audio

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,
wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah,
wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah,
wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar. ▶ Audio

وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.

First Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah.

Fear Allah, be aware of Allah, and remember that one day we will stand before Him and answer for how we treated the people in our lives.

Today's khutbah is about a relationship that Allah has made an important part of our lives.

A relationship that should bring love, comfort and peace into our homes.

The relationship between husbands and wives.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Marriage is one of the great blessings Allah has given us.

It is a relationship in which two people come together to build a family, support one another and help each other live in a way that pleases Allah.

But marriage is not always easy.

There will be disagreements.

There will be financial pressures.

There will be times when one spouse is tired, upset or worried.

And there may be times when husband and wife see things differently.

The question is not whether we will face these difficulties.

The question is how we behave towards each other when difficulties arise.

Allah says in Surah Ar-Rum, (verse 21):

"He ordained love and kindness between you."

Think about these words.

Love and kindness.

These are among the blessings Allah has placed within marriage.

A husband should be a source of comfort to his wife.

And a wife should be a source of comfort to her husband.

Marriage should not be a constant struggle over who has more power, who is always right or who gets the final word in every disagreement.

It should be a relationship built upon fulfilling our responsibilities and treating one another with kindness.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One of the biggest mistakes in marriage is focusing only on what the other person owes us.

A husband may constantly remind his wife about her obligations.

A wife may constantly remind her husband about his obligations.

But neither spends enough time thinking about their own responsibilities.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Before demanding our rights, we should ask ourselves whether we are fulfilling the rights of our spouse.

Allah reminds us in Surah Al-Baqarah, (verse 228), that wives have rights as well as obligations, according to what is fair.

Islam gives both spouses rights.

And both spouses will answer to Allah for how they fulfil their responsibilities.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Let us begin with the responsibilities of the husband.

A husband is responsible for providing for his wife and family according to his means.

This includes the necessary things such as food, clothing and suitable accommodation.

A husband should make a sincere effort to earn a halal living and provide for those under his care.

But providing for a family is not only about earning money.

A husband must also treat his wife with kindness and respect.

He should listen to her concerns.

Speak to her properly.

Protect her dignity.

And avoid treating her as though she is simply there to cook, clean and look after the children.

My dear brothers in Islam,

A wife is a human being with feelings, needs and worries of her own.

She may spend much of her day caring for the children.

She may be tired.

She may be worried about something.

Or she may simply need her husband to listen to what she has to say.

Sometimes, a husband comes home from work believing that because he has been working all day, nobody else has a reason to be tired.

But raising children, managing a home and caring for a family also require effort.

And many wives are also working outside the home.

We should appreciate one another's efforts rather than constantly comparing who has done more.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, gave husbands an important reminder.

In Jami at-Tirmidhi, (Hadith 3895), the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, said:

"The best of you is the best to his wives"

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about that.

A man's good character should be seen in the way he treats his wife.

Not only in the way he behaves at the masjid.

Not only in the way he speaks to his friends.

But in the way he behaves inside his own home.

A man may be respected by everyone outside his house.

But if his wife and children are frightened of his temper, he needs to examine his behaviour.

Our families deserve our best character, not what is left of our patience at the end of the day.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Now let us consider the responsibilities of the wife.

A wife also has important obligations towards her husband and their marriage.

She should treat her husband with respect.

Be trustworthy.

Protect the private matters of the marriage.

And cooperate with him in what is right and pleasing to Allah.

She should appreciate his efforts to provide for the family and avoid deliberately making his responsibilities more difficult.

Just as a husband should not insult or humiliate his wife, a wife should not insult or humiliate her husband.

Just as a husband should be honest, a wife should be honest.

And just as a husband should protect the marriage from harmful behaviour, a wife should do the same.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Respect must go in both directions.

A marriage cannot become peaceful when one person constantly demands kindness but refuses to show kindness in return.

Both spouses must make an effort.

And neither spouse should use the teachings of Islam as a weapon to control, frighten or humiliate the other.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah says in Surah An-Nisa, (verse 19):

"Live with them in accordance with what is fair and kind"

This is an instruction to husbands about how they should treat their wives.

Notice that Allah does not simply tell us to remain married.

He tells us how we should behave within that marriage.

With fairness and kindness.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Sometimes, a husband and wife become so used to living together that they stop showing appreciation.

The husband may take his wife's efforts for granted.

The wife may take her husband's efforts for granted.

And slowly, the kind words that were common at the beginning of the marriage begin to disappear.

When was the last time you thanked your spouse?

When was the last time you told them that you appreciated something they did?

When was the last time you put your phone aside and gave them your full attention?

My dear brothers in Islam,

A little appreciation can make a great difference in a marriage.

Sometimes, the problem is not that the love has disappeared.

It is that we have stopped showing it.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another important part of marriage is communication.

When something is troubling us, we should learn to speak about it calmly.

Do not expect your spouse to know what you are thinking without telling them.

And do not keep every problem inside until it becomes a serious argument.

If something has upset you, explain it respectfully.

Listen when your spouse responds.

And try to understand their point of view.

This does not mean you must agree on everything.

But it does mean that you should be able to disagree without insulting each other.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One of the greatest dangers in marriage is allowing anger to control our words.

Sometimes, during an argument, a husband or wife says something deeply hurtful.

They may bring up mistakes from years ago.

They may insult each other's families.

Or they may threaten divorce simply to frighten or punish the other person.

But my dear brothers in Islam,

Words spoken in anger can leave wounds that remain long after the argument is over.

We should never use the threat of divorce as a way of winning an argument.

Marriage is a serious responsibility.

And ending it is not something to threaten carelessly whenever we become upset.

When disagreements become serious, seek appropriate advice and help before matters become worse.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We must also be clear that cruelty and abuse have no place in the way Muslims should treat their spouses.

No husband has the right to use his position as an excuse to be cruel to his wife.

And no wife has the right to deliberately harm or abuse her husband.

Physical violence, threats, constant humiliation and controlling behaviour can cause terrible harm.

If someone is experiencing abuse, they should seek appropriate help and protection.

Patience in marriage does not mean accepting abuse or remaining in danger.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also remember that husbands and wives are not perfect.

We all have weaknesses.

We all make mistakes.

And sometimes, the person we love will disappoint us.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us in Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 1469), that a believing husband should not hate his believing wife because of one quality he dislikes, when there may be other qualities in her that he appreciates.

This is an important lesson.

Do not allow one fault to make you forget every good quality your spouse has.

Your wife may have habits that annoy you, but she may also be caring, loyal and devoted to her family.

Your husband may have weaknesses, but he may also work hard, support the family and genuinely care about your wellbeing.

We should try to see the good in one another, not only the faults.

This does not mean ignoring serious wrongdoing.

But it does mean avoiding constant criticism over small matters.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Finally, remember that our children are watching how we treat one another.

When children see their parents speaking kindly, showing respect and resolving disagreements calmly, they learn an important lesson about marriage.

But when they constantly see shouting, insults and anger, they may begin to believe that this is normal family life.

We should make our homes places where children feel safe, loved and respected.

And where they see Islam being practised through our behaviour.

May Allah bring love and mercy into our marriages.

May Allah help husbands fulfil their responsibilities with kindness and fairness.

May Allah help wives fulfil their responsibilities with sincerity and respect.

And may Allah protect our families from anger, cruelty and division, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Asking for Forgiveness

Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,
wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,
wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.
Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem. ▶ Audio

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second Khutbah — Arabic Opening

Alhamdulillahi rabbil 'aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu 'alaa ashrafil anbiyaa'i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa 'alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma'een.
▶ Audio

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba'd. ▶ Audio

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Second Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have spoken about the rights and responsibilities of husbands and wives.

But now we need to ask ourselves:

What can we do to make our marriages stronger?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we can do is begin with ourselves.

Instead of spending all our time thinking about what our spouse needs to change, ask what we can improve in our own behaviour.

Am I patient?

Am I respectful?

Do I listen properly?

Do I fulfil my responsibilities?

And do I treat my spouse the way I would want to be treated?

Sometimes, changing our own behaviour can make a great difference in the relationship.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The second thing we can do is show appreciation.

Thank your spouse for what they do.

Do not assume that because something is their responsibility, they do not deserve to be thanked.

A husband who works hard to provide for his family appreciates knowing that his efforts are recognised.

And a wife who spends her days caring for her family also deserves to know that her efforts have been noticed.

Gratitude should be part of our everyday lives, especially inside our homes.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The third thing we can do is make time for one another.

Sometimes, we become so busy with work, children, bills and daily responsibilities that we forget to spend meaningful time together.

Put the phones away occasionally.

Sit together.

Talk about your day.

Ask how your spouse is feeling.

And make time to enjoy one another's company.

A strong marriage needs attention.

It does not remain strong simply because two people live under the same roof.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also learn to apologise.

If you have spoken harshly, apologise.

If you have been unfair, admit it.

If you have made a mistake, do not allow pride to stop you from correcting it.

An apology does not mean that you have lost.

It means that protecting your marriage matters more than protecting your pride.

My dear brothers in Islam,

If a marriage is experiencing serious difficulties, do not wait until everything has fallen apart before seeking help.

Speak to one another honestly.

Seek guidance from someone trustworthy and qualified.

And where there is ongoing harm or abuse, seek the protection and support needed to keep everyone safe.

Marriage requires effort from both people.

One person cannot maintain a healthy marriage through effort alone.

My dear brothers in Islam,

And for those who are not yet married, remember that marriage is not simply about finding someone who meets all your expectations.

It is also about becoming someone who is ready to fulfil the rights of another person.

Learn about your responsibilities before marriage.

Develop good character.

And understand that marriage requires patience, sacrifice and kindness.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, we will stand before Allah and answer for how we treated those closest to us.

Let us make sure that we did not give our best character to strangers while treating our own families badly.

Let us become husbands and wives who show love, respect and mercy.

And let us build homes in which Allah is remembered and His commands are respected.

Because a successful marriage is not one in which nobody ever disagrees. It is one in which both spouses continue treating each other with kindness and fairness, even during difficult times.

May Allah strengthen our marriages.

May Allah guide husbands and wives to fulfil each other's rights.

May Allah protect our families from arguments, injustice and separation.

May Allah bring peace into homes that are facing difficulties.

And may Allah make our marriages a source of happiness in this world and a means of reaching Jannah, Ameen.

Closing Dua — Arabic Transliteration

In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee,
yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa.

▶ Audio

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.

Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad

▶ Audio

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat. ▶ Audio

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.

Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen. ▶ Audio

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ.

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar. ▶ Audio

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

Final Khutbah Closing — Arabic Transliteration

Ibaadallah,
innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli
wal-ihsaani
wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa,
wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy.
Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon. ▶ Audio

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ، وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen.
Wa Aqimis-salaah. ▶ Audio

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.