

# Quran’s call to noble morals

We can define morals as a set of meanings and qualities that are established within the soul, by which an action is deemed good or bad in a person’s view; accordingly, one either proceeds with or refrains from that action.

For this reason, the correct method for reforming people guiding their behavior, and facilitating a good life for them, is for reformers to begin by purifying souls, and instilling good moral values within them. This is why Islam emphasized the need to reform the soul, explaining that changes in people’s conditions—whether happiness or misery, ease or hardship, prosperity or difficulty, tranquility or anxiety, honor or humiliation—all of these and more depend on changes within themselves in terms of qualities and attributes. The Quran says, **“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.”** [Quran 13:11].

Islam is not a religion of mysticism or superstition. Islam is a faith grounded in rationality, clarity, and practical guidance for living. It rejects baseless superstitions or practices without clear foundations in its teachings. Instead, Islam promotes a balanced approach to life, focusing on moral integrity, intellectual engagement, and spiritual enlightenment through well-defined principles and guidelines outlined in the Quran and

Sunnah (Sunnah are the practices and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, pbuh).

Islam focuses on refining people’s behavior and habits. Islam teaches that changes do not come suddenly or through mere wishes. Islam advocates for gradual personal and societal change through consistent efforts in moral and ethical self-improvement. Islam teaches that transformation requires discipline, self-awareness, and active steps toward better habits, as opposed to relying solely on hopes or sudden miracles.

Thus, one of the most important goals of Islam is for humans to possess noble character and clean behavior that befits human dignity and aligns with their role as stewards on Earth. This is the ideal that philosophers, scholars, and reformers have sought through the centuries, yet they have not fully achieved this desired aspiration. Islam’s attention and keenness to achieve this noble moral goal aims to create strong individuals and righteous people, so they can contribute with their hearts and minds to the elevation and improvement of life, and be worthy of God’s companionship and pleasure in life beyond this world.

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) acquired his morals and virtues from the Quranic call to embody them and to adopt them in character; so much so



Guest Column

that his character was the Quran itself, and his Lord praised him by saying: **“And indeed, you are of a great moral character”** [Quran 68:4]. In our articles (SNP 9/7/24, 9/17/24) we talked about the foundations upon which a community should be built. We mentioned the transitions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Today we shall talk about these foundations from the Quran.

There are numerous Quranic verses related to the topic of ethics. Among these ethics that Islam advocates are:

1. Fulfilling the Covenant: Allah Almighty says: **“And fulfill the covenant; indeed, the covenant is ever [that about which one will be] questioned”** [Quran 17:34]. He also says: **“O you who have believed, fulfill [all] contracts”** [Quran 5:1]. And He says: **“And those who are to their trusts and their covenant are [constantly] maintaining”** [Quran 70:32].
2. Prohibition of Speaking Without Knowledge: Allah Almighty says: **“And do not follow that of which you have no knowledge. Indeed, the hearing, the sight, and the heart—**

**about all those [one] will be questioned”** [Quran 17:36]. He also says: “And do not say about what your tongues describe, ‘This is lawful and this is unlawful,’ to invent falsehood about Allah. Indeed, those who invent falsehood about Allah will not succeed” [Quran 16:116].

3. Prohibition of Walking with Arrogance and Swagger as the Proud Do: Allah Almighty says: **“And do not walk upon the earth exultantly. Indeed, you will never tear the earth, nor will you ever reach the mountains in height”** [Quran 17:37].
4. Prohibition of Extravagance, Wastefulness, Stinginess, and Misery: Allah Almighty says: **“And give the relative his right, and [give] the needy and the traveler, and do not spend wastefully. Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils, and ever has Satan been to his Lord ungrateful”** [Quran 17:26-27]. He also says: **“And do not make your hand [as] chained to your neck or extend it completely, and thereby become blamed and insolvent”** [Quran 17:29].
5. Command to Uphold Justice in All Circumstances and Towards All People, Including Non-Muslims: Allah Almighty says: **“And when you speak, be just, even if it concerns a near relative”** [Quran 6:152]. He also says: **“And let not the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness”** [Quran 5:8].

Additionally, He says: **“Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice”** [Quran 16:90]. And He says: **“And I was commanded to be just among you”** [Quran 42:15].

6. Cooperation in Righteousness and Piety, and Prohibition of Cooperation in Sin and Aggression: Allah Almighty says: **“And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression”** [Quran 5:2].
7. Oppression is Darkness on the Day of Resurrection, and Its Consequences are Severe; This is Why Islam Prohibits It: Allah Almighty says: **“And those who have wronged will know to what [kind of] return they will be returned”** [Quran 42:227]. He also says: **“And who is more unjust than one who invents a lie about Allah or denies His signs? Indeed, the wrongdoers will not succeed”** [Quran 6:21]. Furthermore, He says: **“These are the limits of Allah, so do not transgress them. And whoever transgresses the limits of Allah—those are the wrongdoers”** [Quran 2:229]. And He, Exalted He is, says: **“And for the wrongdoers, there are no helpers”** [Quran 5:72].
8. Truthfulness is a Sign of Faith and Its Fruits; This is Why Islam Commands It: Allah Almighty says: **“O you who have believed, fear Allah and be**

**with the truthful”** [Quran 9:119]. He also says: **“And say, ‘My Lord, admit me to a good entrance and exit and grant me from Yourself a supporting authority”**” [Quran 17:80].

9. Lying is a Vice That Prevents Its Possessor from Receiving the Guidance of Allah and Leads to Hypocrisy in the Heart; This is Why Islam Prohibits It: Allah Almighty says: **“Indeed, Allah does not guide one who is a transgressor and a liar”** [Quran 40:28]. He also says: **“So He caused hypocrisy to prevail in their hearts until the Day they will meet Him, because they failed Allah in what they promised Him and because they were lying”** [Quran 9:77].

These teachings, along with many others, are found in the Noble Quran, the Holy Book revealed to Prophet Muhammad 1,460 years ago. One might expect that a divine text, regarded as the final revelation from the Almighty to humanity before the end of time, would consist solely of exaltations and praise for God, condemning those who do not believe in Him. However, the Quran is rich with guidance for humanity, offering teachings that encourage a virtuous life and the maximization of God’s blessings. These verses, and others, show that the Quran is a book of life, optimism, and hope.

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## Pope travels to the heart of Europe to appeal for peace, boost his dwindling flock

LUXEMBOURG – Pope Francis called for Europe to be a beacon of peace in war and a welcome home for migrants and refugees as he arrived in the heart of the continent on Thursday to encourage the dwindling Catholic flock in a onetime bastion of Christianity.

Francis received a warm welcome as he landed in blustery weather that turned to rain in Luxembourg, the European Union’s second-smallest

country and its richest per capita. The visit came after the 87-year-old pope canceled his audiences in recent days because of a slight flu.

Francis seemed in good form, though he skipped his traditional walk down the plane aisle to greet journalists during the trip from Rome. His spokesman said it was because of the short flight time and single aisle of the ITA aircraft, not for any health problems.

Francis was in Luxembourg for just a few hours before flying onto Belgium, where he is to stay through the weekend. There too immigration and peace — with a war raging on European soil — are expected to be on the agenda. Francis is also expected to meet with survivors of clergy sexual abuse, given the Belgian church’s wretched record.

The visit seemed designed to let Francis get a sense of

Luxembourg from his friend and tour guide, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, the only cardinal from this once vibrant Catholic stronghold. A Jesuit like Francis, Hollerich has become one of Francis’ go-to advisers and brought Francis to a soccer-themed coffee shop near his home during Thursday’s afternoon siesta.

In his opening remarks to Luxembourg government authorities and the diplomatic

corps, Francis recalled the country’s position as a geographic crossroads in Europe, invaded during both World Wars and keenly aware of the “quarrels and wars that have been caused by exaggerated forms of nationalism and pernicious ideologies.”

“Luxembourg can show everyone the advantages of peace as opposed to the horrors of war,” he said.

—AP

# Worship at the church of your choice this week

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.



2 Peter 3:9

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JB Bond, Senior Pastor

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Friday Mass

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