

How did Islam edify (refine) humans?

God, the Almighty, wouldn't leave humans without a final messenger to deliver the ultimate, unaltered message. The last and final message was revealed (given) to Muhammad almost 1,500 years ago; it is Islam. Yet Islam is not a new message; that is, it is not a new religion. The messages and teachings of previous prophets reached us in different forms and wordings. A final message was needed, so we, humans, wouldn't have an excuse when we are judged by God based on our choices and decisions.

Islam's message "is" the same message that all the prophets and messengers delivered before Muhammad (pbuh): "Worship God (Allah) [Allah is the name of God in Arabic and Aramaic], the One and the Only God who is worthy of worship." Fear none but Him, for He is The Exceedingly Compassionate, The Exceedingly Merciful, The Dominant, and The Honorable.

The teachings of all messengers and prophets were the guidance God wanted for "their" people. Muhammad's (pbuh) message is universal, as it is the last message sent to earth, and Muhammad's

teachings are the final guidance for all mankind. The final guidance should also address all our questions, problems, and needs, anything related to human lives in this worldly life. We were also told about the next one, the Day of Judgment, and the final fate.

So, how does Islam edify (refine) humans? What teachings about human innermost feelings, the human own-self does Islam teach us? The answers to these questions need us first to define the human own-self (the Self), not the soul, and how Islam helps control and improve this own-self.

One needs to know that human beings have different and distinct acting (or controlling inner parts [I call them the inner-components of the human being]). They are the human mind, the human heart (emotions), and the human own-self (the Self). Allah, the Almighty, says, (By the sun and its brightness (1) And [by] the moon when it follows it (2) And [by] the day when it displays it (3) And [by] the night when it covers [i.e., conceals] it (4) And [by] the sky and He who constructed it (5)



Guest Column

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And [by] the earth and He who spread it (6) And [by] the (human) Self and He who proportioned it (7) And inspired it [with discernment of] its wickedness and its righteousness, He has succeeded who purifies it, (8) And he has failed who instills it [with corruption]. (9) (Quran 91: 1-10)

The human mind is the one that controls faith and religion. Humans who may have mental issues that disable them from deciding on matters of faith are exempt from God's judgment on the Day of Judgment because they do not have enough mental power to decide which path is the right path to God. They are exempt, and they won't be held responsible.

The mind is important in declaring faith. God, the Almighty, wants us to choose Him with our own free will, so when we are judged for our free choices, we won't have

an excuse for our choices if they turn wrong. We made them with our own free will. He wants us to choose him freely and through the mental and logical process of making a free choice. The human heart controls human actions or behaviors such as anger and satisfaction, boldness and fear, generosity and miserliness, discontent and acceptance. As you can see, my dear reader, they are reactions to external effects.

The last of these controlling parts is the human own-self, which is in control of one's desires and what one enjoys in foods, drinks, and sexual pleasures. Our concern is this last controlling component, the human own-self, or the Self. The Self is an image of the soul. It is what gives the soul its whims, its desires, and its longings. The Self gives the soul the power to perform its properties (by the command of God, the Almighty).

The Self, then, is the true identity of us, humans. It is what defines us and what decides which direction one takes in this worldly life. The Self sees with the eyes and hears with the ears. It feels (touches) with the

skin and tastes with the tongue. All these sensations and perceptions are felt by the brain and understood by the mind. The sum of these feelings is what we call the Self. Once the soul leaves the body, the Self ceases to exist.

It is through the Self, our Self, that one gets busy with material needs and worldly demands. The more one follows his desires, the more he gets lower and lower on the human being scale. All sins are committed because of some desires we longed to have or because we want to deny a wrong we have already committed.

It is when we follow the guidance (call it the manual!) that was given to us by the Almighty Who created us, believing and knowing that He is the One and the Only Who knows us better because He is the one Who "made" (created) us, that our position on the humanity scale starts to get higher, that our self-respect increases and that our self-esteem begins to shine, raising our awareness of ourselves as being humans. This tells us that this Self (the human own-self) has different levels.

It could move (transfer) from one level to another based on a certain set of actions that this Self in us decides to do or not do.

The Quran says, (Verily! Allah will not change the condition of a people as long as they do not change their state [of Self] themselves (Quran 13:11). That is, to seek help from the Almighty Who can cause this change in us, we have to decide to change ourselves.

In my next article, God willing, I will explain how the Quran tells us that the human soul is one of God's secrets. Allah says, (And they ask you (O Muhammad) concerning the Rouh (the Spirit/the soul); Say: "The Rouh (the Spirit/the soul): it is one of the things, the knowledge of which is only with my Lord. And of knowledge, you (mankind) have been given only a little." (Quran 17:85). Yet, the human own-self (the Self) is explained in the Quran. How does the Quran classify this Self into three categories, and what are these categories?

The author could be reached at: hatim@gmx.us
For more information, please visit: www.icstillwater.org/islam/

Gospel With A Purpose to host final concert

After 14 years, it is time to say farewell to Gospel With A Purpose. Words cannot express what this ministry has meant to us. We say "thank you" to you, our friends and family who have supported us and kept us going. It has been an honor and privilege to get to know you and make many wonderful friends!

It has been our intent to bring some of the best gospel music in the region. What an honor and privilege to get to know and host so many outstanding groups and soloists throughout the years. Many thanks to them for blessing us. We also want to thank the churches that have hosted us over the years and graciously allowed us the use of the building. Without these venues,

we could not have done what we do. Most of all, we thank the Lord for His incredible covering and provision over this ministry and allowing us to serve Him in this manner. He has answered so many prayers and helped us in so many ways. He deserves all the praise and glory!

To say we will miss you and all the groups/soloists that have crossed our paths over the years, is an understatement! But due to several reasons, as well as life changes, after much prayer, we know it is time.

We hope you will join us for our Final Farewell Concert, as we wish to say thank you and hug your necks! On Saturday, March 2 you are going to enjoy a wonderful afternoon with some of your favorite

groups, Sacred Call, 8th Street, The Peacemakers, and us, For His Purpose. Mr. Jim Barritt will Emcee the program and sing a bit as well! Please join us in praying for good weather!

Please mark your calendar and join us at LifePoint Church, 9404 S. Perkins Rd. Perkins, OK. Doors will be open before 2:30, at which time a farewell video will be played until the concert begins at 3 p.m.. Be prepared for a bit longer program. If you wish to bring donations of paper goods and non-perishable food items, we will get those to Our Daily Bread! There will be an offering taken for our guest groups ministering.

– Submitted



ABOVE: SACRED CALL. LEFT: 8TH STREET. BELOW: PEACEMAKERS.



Worship at the church of your choice this week

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.



1 Chronicles 16:11

Stillwater Bible

Proclaiming Christ, Training Believers

JB Bond, Senior Pastor

Sundays

Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.

G.R.O.W. Groups.....9:45 a.m.

Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.

Kids' Church.....11:20 a.m.

Tuesdays

Cornerstone @ The Union (RM 297).....7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Stillwater Bible Institute.....6:30 p.m.

Impact Youth.....6:30 p.m.

Bible Kids.....6:30 p.m.

7617 W. 6th Ave.

Stillwaterbible.org (405) 564-5794

Crosspointe

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Sunday AM Worship - 10:30

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701 S. DUNCAN • 405-372-5212

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WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

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Sunday School.....10:00am

Closer Walk.....10 am Family Life Center

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Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - in person, online

On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3

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Sunnybrook

Christian Church

421 E. Richmond Rd • 377.0923

www.sunnybrookccc.org

SUNDAY SERVICE

9:45 am

11:15 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:30 am

9:45 am

KIDS CHURCH 9:45 & 11:15 am

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Meeting Times

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Worship.....10:30 AM

Bible Study.....5:00 PM

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM + 6 PM

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Paul Hutchison - Pastor

Address - 1223 S. Perkins. Rd.

Phone: 405-372-2411

Email: southsidestillwater@gmail.com

Zion Lutheran

Church - LCMS

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John E. Wackler, Pastor

504 S. Knoblock • 372-3703

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711 N. Country Club Rd.

Sunday Mass

8:30 | 11:15 a.m.

en Espanol | 1 p.m.

Tuesday Mass

12:10 | 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Mass

12:10 p.m.

en Espanol | 6 p.m.

Thursday Mass

12:10 | 5:30 p.m.

Friday Mass

12:10 p.m.

Saturday Mass

9 a.m.

Saturday Vigil Mass

5 p.m.

Confessions before every

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Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and

Saturdays from 9:45-11 a.m.

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