

Stop messaging the opposite sex under the guise of ‘Dawah’

الحمد لله رب العالمين، والصلاة والسلام على من أرسله الله رحمة للعالمين

Advice for all the Muslims especially...

Brothers: who communicate with unrelated women through social media, Facebook, Twitter, What’s App; messenger, text, etc. under the guise of “knowledge and Dawah”.

Sisters: who communicate with incarcerated men, and other unrelated males through social media, Facebook, Twitter, What’s App; messenger, text, etc.

Shaykh Ubayd Al Jabari said (summary translation):

I would like to bring attention to a dangerous affair which many of the Muslim men and women who ascribe themselves to knowledge fall into. We have dealt with this issue before **but many of the people are stubborn and refuse to accept advice**. This issue is concerning personal conversations and messaging via the cell phone.

- ❖ This affair has entangled many men and women under the pretext of Dawah. This justification is **invalid** and **distorted**.

It is not hidden from any male or female Muslim whose heart is filled with awe and fear of Allah that seclusion with the opposite sex is impermissible. It is not permissible for unrelated men and women to be alone together. (Related meaning her husband and those men she is never able to marry). This affair of messaging the opposite sex is more dangerous than being alone together. If the man and woman are alone together in the home or a car, they may attract the eyes of the people and thus be seen. But when chatting on the internet or messaging on the phone they are hidden in seclusion from everyone except the Creator of the heavens and the earth and the noble Angels who write the deeds of man.

- ❖ Many wives complain of their husbands indulging in these conversations and messages.

I call upon every male Salafi and female Salafi to abandon this evil action which Shaytan opened upon them and beautified it in their hearts while they use the excuse of knowledge, spreading knowledge and Dawah.

- ❖ It was not the practice of the Salaf for men and women to meet and study together; rather the woman asks the scholar what she needs to know concerning her religion. Likewise if there is a female scholar she sits with those who come to

take knowledge from her from the men and women but she only speaks with the man in the presence of her related guardian from behind a curtain.

Shaykh Uthaymeen said (summary):

It is not permissible for anyone to send a message to an unrelated woman, due to the Fitna involved in this. The person sending the message may assume there is no Fitna involved in this, but Shaytan will stay with him until he tempts him or he tempts her.

- ❖ Correspondence between men and women is a great Fitna and great danger which must be avoided even if the person says there is no passion or love involved. (الإجابة فتاوى الشيخ ابن عثيمين (899 - 898/2)

Shaykh Ferkous said (summary):

- ❖ Messaging an unrelated woman and speaking with her even with the excuse of getting to know her or for marriage; is not permissible according to Islam; whether the conversation is through normal means or via the internet, because this opens the door to Fitna. And this leads to instinctive impulses that inspire love which leads to searching for ways to meet one another which leads to dangerous consequences which does not protect the honor or the religion.

<http://www.sahab.net/forums/index.php?showtopic=90276>

Translator's words: This also applies to women speaking freely with unrelated students of knowledge or Dae.

Shaykh Jamal Al-Hārithī said in *"A Message exclusively to the Muslim Woman"*

What's the difference between the woman who speaks freely with a Shaykh, student of knowledge or a Dae as though he is from her unmarriageable kin, and the woman who speaks with the vendor in the market place? Or are we free from the Fitna which the Prophet peace be upon him warned against in his statement: "I have not left behind me any trial more difficult upon the men than the women." (Sahih al-Bukhari 5096) The Prophet peace be upon him said this to the best generation.

This does not mean the Prophet peace be upon him was accusing his companions of evil thus no scholar or Dae should think we are accusing them of evil, nor are we accusing the women of evil. But the phone conversation, Paltalk, and messenger is a form of seclusion. And the Prophet peace be upon him said: "There is no man who is secluded with a woman except that the third party is Shaytan" (Jami` at-Tirmidhi 1171)