

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ عِوَجًا، وَجَعَلَ لِمَنْ اتَّقَاهُ
فَرَجًا وَمَخْرَجًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، أَنْزَلَ
الْقُرْآنَ هِدَايَةً وَنُورًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولَهُ،
فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah. He revealed the Book and has not made therein any deviance. He also provided relief and a way out for those who obey Him. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. He sent down the Quran as a guidance and enlightenment to His Creation. I also bear witness that our Master Mohammed is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

- In Islam rights are of two kinds: the Divine rights and the Human rights. Divine rights include strong faith in the Lord and worshipping Him. The Qur'an repeatedly tells the believers to worship the Lord also emphasises the respect for Human rights - thereby promoting four core principles:

The Equality Of Mankind

Mutual Understanding

Cooperation

Friendship

These wonderful virtues underpin Muslim relationships and interactions

Equality Not Discrimination

- The glorious Quran says: **“O men! We have created you all out of a male and female and have made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another” (49:13)**. The classical commentators interpret a “male” and a “female” as “we have created you from a mother and a father”, implying that this equality of biological origin is reflected in the equality of human dignity common to all.

- The Quran also highlights the criterion for freedom, **“There is no compulsion in religion” (2:256)**. God has given mankind the freedom to choose a religion. We must be willing to give others the right as we expect for ourselves
- Another interesting verse is this one: **“Unto everyone of you we have given a different law and a way of life. And if God had so willed He could have made you all one single community” (5:48)**. This makes it absolutely clear that the different religions are part of the divine plan, within this diversity is human unity.

Mutual Understanding Not Disengagement

- The following verse is a clear invitation to discover our commonalities. **“O people of the book! Come to common terms as between us and you: that we worship none but God, that we associate no partner with him, that we should not appoint from among ourselves lords and patrons other than God” (3:64)**
- As far as Muslim understanding of Christians is concerned there are some misunderstandings for example: **Colonialism, Christian missionaries and Orientalists**. Muslims must make distinction between excesses of these and Christianity, these western activities and Christianity are not necessarily the same thing. Similarly, the Christian’s awareness of Muslim concepts of **Prophethood and Jihad, status and role of women** will help Christians overcome the misunderstandings about Muslims.

Cooperation Not Conflict

- The Quran lays down a principle with regards to this when it says **“And co-operate in matters of righteousness and piety” (5:2)** for example:
- Provide spiritual guidance; religiosity, promote moral values in society
- Support the family institution; Rejuvenate traditional marriage, educate the rights of parents, tackle problems of divorce and domestic violence.
- Help modern man to cope with materialism and consumerism
- Stand against violence & wars, relief of world poverty and development of sustainable societies, Support the asylum and refugees

Friendship Not Hatred

- A friend is a person with whom one enjoys mutual affection and regard. There are many levels of friendship, from intimate friendship to mere acquaintance or mere knowledge of someone.

Muwalat – Intimate and very close friendship

Muwasat – sympathetic relationship

Madarat – to show regard and courtesy

Muamalat – purely economic or professional relationship