

UNIT

D

CHAPTER

TWO

Males and Females

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

- 1 Learn that males and females are partners in Islam.
- 2 Recognize the importance of avoiding temptations.
- 3 Recognize the importance of marriage.
- 4 Recognize the dangers of sexual relations outside marriage.
- 5 Learn and memorize the Ayaat on lowering the gaze, the blessing of marriage and the evil of Zina in this chapter.
- 6 Learn and memorize the Hadeeth on equity of men and women, and the one on encouraging them to get married.
- 7 Learn and memorize the Ahadeeth on forbidding Khulwah and touching between the two genders.

VOCABULARY

'Awrah عَوْرَة

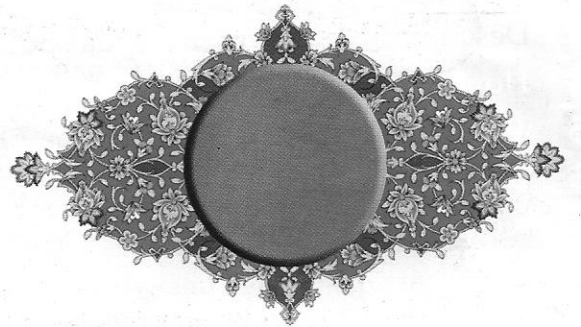
Khulwah خَلْوَة

Ghadd-ul-Basar غَضُّ البَصَر

Zawaj زَوَاج

Zina زِنَا

Mahram مَحْرَم



Males and Females are Partners

Allah says in Surat-un-Nisaa' (4:1)

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ
نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا
رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ﴿١﴾

“O People, fear your Lord who created you from one person (Adam) and created from him his partner (Hawaa') and from them dispersed many men and women.”

In this verse Allah guides us to respect each other as fellow humans and creation of God. As men and women, we must respect that Allah created Eve, or Hawaa' from Adam. This gives men and women the capacity to interact in a respectful, cooperative, and harmonious manner.

With any partnership there must always be rules to govern the relationship between the two partners. Good rules help both partners benefit from the relationship. Allah has put down decreed rules to govern the relationship between males and females whether they are married or not.



Muslim brothers and sisters in Islam should have the highest level of respect for each other. They should dress respectfully and modestly in the presence of each other. They must talk to each other in a friendly manner without getting into personal matters. They should also avoid getting close, intimate, or physical. Instead of tempting each other to disobey Allah, they are concerned about protecting each other from disobeying their Lord.

Related Texts

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ
الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴿٧١﴾

The Believers, men and women, are supporters to each other: they enjoin what is good, and forbid what is evil: they pray, give charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger. On them will Allah pour His mercy: for Allah is the Allmighty, the Wise. [9:71]

عن أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم:
"إِنَّمَا النِّسَاءُ شَقَائِقُ الرِّجَالِ"

رواه الدارمي والترمذي وأبو داود

Anas (R) narrated that Rasoolullah said,
"Women are indeed sisters to men"

Reported by Ad-Darimi, Abu Dawood and At-Tirmithi

One Nature, Different Roles

Males and females are equally humans and intellectual servants of God. No one is better than the other in these respects. They share the same nature and have similar objective in this life; to worship Allah. However, God created them with some physical and emotional differences to play different roles in this life. Allah says in the Qur'an, "the male is not like the female" (3:36). These differences are opportunities not disadvantages.

Men can perform rough and physically challenging jobs that women cannot carry out. On the other hand, the woman can bear children and provide superb emotional and physical care for her children and family. The husband cannot perform these important tasks as goodwill. Therefore, men and women should recognize their differences (while at the same time) finding ways to complement each other in a moral and positive manner.

Muslim Men and Women at School or Work?

Living in a non-Muslim society makes it difficult for Muslims to try to remain chaste and moral. The norm in the non-Muslim society is for women to walk around without covering themselves properly. At the same time if you do not look at someone in the face when you are talking to them, it is seen as disrespectful and un-attentive.

So now consider the case of a youngman in a classroom with a female teacher. Even though it is encouraged Islamically for men and women not to look at each other directly when they talk. The opinion of the majority of scholars is that the face is not part of the



'Awrah. Therefore, So the boy could look at her in the face while talking to her without focusing on her exposed hair or arms for example.

What if the woman was a fellow classmate and he was attracted to her. In this case he should not look at her when they talk. As a matter of fact, he should avoid coming close to her as long as there is are plans for them to get married in the near future. The Islamic rules require self discipline, (and they are good for us in this world and the next.)

Islam is a very practical way of life. Therefore, in exceptional and emergency situations, rules get somehow relaxed to save lives. It is permissible to look at the 'Awrah of another person in emergencies and out of necessity. For example, if a woman cuts her leg or starts choking, a male doctor should not hesitate to give help. If the situation is not an emergency, he should refer the case to an equally competent female doctor if available.



Amina always rode to school with her friend Gina from next door. Gina had her own car and the two girls had been friends since fifth grade when Gina moved in next door. Amina trusted Gina and felt that they were good friends. On this morning something changed. Gina told Amina that her friend Mark was going to start riding with them. Gina's little sister always rode in the front seat so Amina and Mark would have to sit in the back seat. At first, Amina did not say anything because it was Gina's car and she did not want to ride the bus because it took too long. Amina put her book bag next to her on the seat and Mark was always polite. After a week or so Mark started sitting next to Amina at lunch and at school activities. She felt funny at first, but did not say anything or get up because it was just Mark, and she knew he was a nice guy. He would sometimes pat her on the back or touch her arm and she did not mind because it was just Mark. One day Mark and Amina were sitting next to each other alone talking for awhile during lunch. Her Muslim friend saw this and asked her if her mom knew she had a boyfriend. Amina was really offended and said I don't have a boyfriend. She realized that she was getting too friendly with Mark, but at that point did not know how to stop the situation she had put herself in. She felt embarrassed in front of Gina, Mark, and her Muslim friends.

Avoiding Temptation:

Allah created humans as males and females and made them naturally attracted to each other. This attraction sets the stage for establishing loving families and raising healthy children. Therefore, feelings of attraction and love are natural. Islam does not forbid these feelings, but prohibits close and intimate relations between men and women outside marriage. Allah requires males and females to get married before having close and intimate relations. Therefore, Allah requires boys and girls to avoid forbidden and harmful temptations. To do that, they should keep some distance from each other and look away especially in the following situations:

1. When they see people of the opposite sex who are not covering themselves properly. This is called **غَضُّ البَصَرِ** Ghadd-ul-Basar which means lowering the gaze or looking away. Allah says in Surat-un-Noor:

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَلِكَ أَزْكَى لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

Say to the believers that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: And Allah is well acquainted with all that they do.

2. When they see someone from the opposite sex that dressed properly but still feel attracted to them. The only exception to this rule is when you are seriously considering that person for marriage.

3. When they end up alone with a person from the opposite sex in a closed room or a secluded place. This is called **خُلُوة** Khulwah.

Related Texts

عن عمر رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "ما خلا رجُلٌ بامرأةٍ إلا كان الشيطان ثالثهما"

رواه الترمذي

"Omar (R) narrated, said, "Whenever a man sits alone with a women except, the Shaytan becomes their third."

Reported by At-Tirmithi

4. When they come across bad images in magazines, posters, websites or TV shows. If they see something like this then they must turn their eyes away, change the place, or just turn off the show. It is only if you look again to satisfy your desire , wthen you will be committing a sin. Allah said in Surat-ul-Israa':

إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا ﴿٣٦﴾

"People will be asked [on the Day of Judgment] about what their hearing, sight, and their heart." [17:36]

So we must be very careful about what we listen to and what we look at.

5- When they go to the mall, park or other public places. It is not uncommon for men and women, boys and girls to sit or browse around in public and go places like parks and malls. Let's learn this important Haadeeth:



عن أبي سعيد الخدري رضي الله عنه قال : قال
رسول الله ﷺ :

"إِيَّاكُمْ وَالْجُلُوسُ فِي الطَّرِيقَاتِ ،

قالوا: "ما لنا مِنْ مَجَالِسِنَا بُدُّ نَتَحَدَّثُ فِيهَا"

فقال : "فَأَعْطُوا الطَّرِيقَ حَقَّهَا"

قالوا: "وما حَقُّ الطَّرِيقِ"

قال: "غَضُّ الْبَصَرِ وَكَفُّ الْأَذَى وَرَدُّ السَّلَامِ

وَالْأَمْرُ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَالنَّهْيُ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ."

رواه البخاري ومسلم

Physical Contact



Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri narrated that
Rasoolullah once said to the Sahabah:

"Do sit on the pathways,"

"We need sometimes to sit there," they
responded.

"Then give the road its due right," he
said.

"And what's that," they asked.

"Lowering the Gaze, refraining from
harming [the passing by], returning the greet-
ing, enjoining the good and forbidding the
bad," he concluded.

Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

As young children, it is permissible for
boys and girls to play with each other.
However, as they get older and get closer to
the age of puberty they must keep some dis-
tance from each other. Once they reach
puberty it would be forbidden for them to
touch each other. The only exception to this
according to some scholars is shaking hands
provided there is no fear of temptation or
attraction. Even so, they consider this highly
discouraged because the Prophet ﷺ never

shook hands with a woman other than his wife.

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ :
" وَاللَّهِ مَا مَسَّتْ يَدُ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ
وَسَلَّمَ - يَدَ امْرَأَةٍ قَطَّ "

رواه البخاري ومسلم

Aishah رضي الله عنها once said,

By Allah, the Prophet' hand never touched a hand of another woman*

Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

Boys and girls cannot play most sport games together. This is so partially because such activities either have a risk or require physical contact. The other reason is that physical sports have a high likelihood of exposing a person's "Awrah. This does not imply that girls cannot play sports they can. Aishah raced with the Prophet a least twice, but when men were not around. Girls can play sport with girls in the condition that they wear proper Islamic uniforms and men are not around.

Marriage, the only lawful way!

Allah made marriage the only way for males and females to experience a close and intimate relationship. This rule in Islam is made by Allah, Who knows us better than we know ourselves. Marriage indeed enables men and women to form families, raise children, and help humanity to continue and prosper. They also inspire their children to become better Muslims and better members of society. This way happy families will be formed everywhere, thus, happiness and peace will find its way in this world.



Marriage also leads to lasting love and mercy. Allah says in Surat-ur-Room,

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا
لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي
ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

"And among His signs that He created for you from yourselves partners to settle with and He granted you mutual love and mercy, in that are signs for those who think." [30:21]

According to Imam Ibn Majah, Al-Bayhaqi and others, Ibn Abbas (R) reported that Rasoolullah said, "there is no way for the two in love except marriage." If marriage is not possible, then the two must avoid any relation, like dating, until marriage becomes possible.



Hadeeth Shareef

عن عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ : قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ :
" يَا مَعْشَرَ الشَّبَابِ مَنْ اسْتَطَاعَ مِنْكُمُ الْبَاءَةَ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ فَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ
فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّوْمِ فَإِنَّهُ لَهُ وِجَاءٌ ."

رواه البخاري ومسلم

Abdullah Ibn Mas'ood narrated that Rasoolullah ﷺ said,
Oh young men [and women], whoever can afford to get married should do so, and whoever is unable to afford it should resort to fasting because it is a protection for him [or her].

Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim

Any deviation from the rule of marriage might bring short term pleasure but it would produce long term suffering and misery in the society. Unfortunately, many people seek short term sexual pleasures outside marriage. They date, have boyfriends or girlfriends, and even cheat on their wives or husbands. This is called in the Qur'an زِنَا

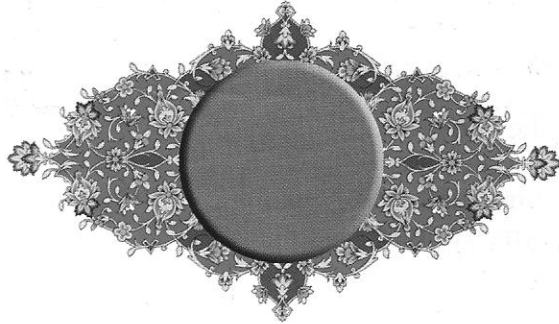
Zina; fornication or adultery. Allah did not only prohibit all forms of Zina but con-

sidered it a crime. Allah says in Surat-ul-Israa':

وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الزِّنَا إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَاحِشَةً وَسَاءَ

سَبِيلًا ﴿٣٢﴾

And don't come near adultery: for it is a shameful (deed) and an evil way [of life] [17:32].



Analogy

Obedying Allah's rules in life and in relationships is like the farmer who respects Allah's rules for growing.

- A successful farmer must till the soil, plant and water the seeds, and harvest at the right time of year. If a farmer is in a hurry and does not plow the field, most of the seeds will be wasted by birds or inclement weather. The farmer will have weak crops and will fail in the long term. In the same way, when men and women rush the relationship before marriage they will also have similar long term problems.

- If the farmer does not continuously take care of his field or garden then he will have failed crop yields. In the same way, when husbands and wives don't continuously work to improve their relationship it can become a burden on both of them.

- If the farmer harvests too early the crops might not be ready yet and if the farmer waits too long a freeze might come and destroy the crops. In the same way, parents should help their kids get married without pushing them too quickly or waiting too long.

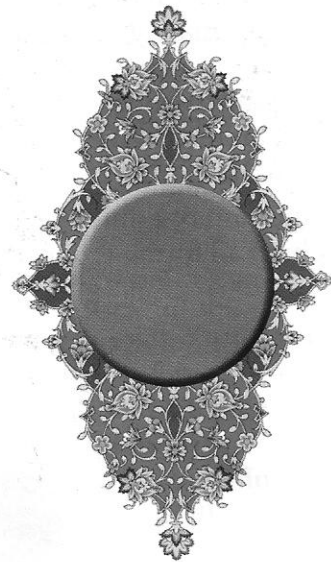
Modest Clothing and Appearance

It is just as important for girls to modestly cover the whole body and avoid wearing tight outfits that reveal the body's shape. Girls will often think that if they just cover their hair and their body then they are "okay". So it is not uncommon to see girls wearing tight long dresses or shirts and pants that expose their body shape during prayer or in public.

Boys should also exercise Hayaa' particularly when they play sports or go swimming. Boys must cover themselves at least from the waist to the knee. It is not acceptable to wear really tight outfits or shorts that reveal one's thighs.

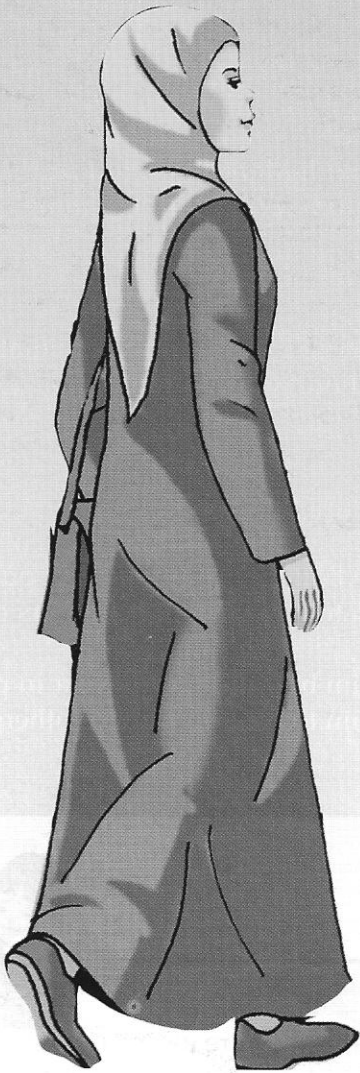
Girls must cover their body with loose modest clothing. Once they reach the age of puberty, they must cover everything except for the face and hands in public. Under certain circumstances it is also encouraged to cover the face. The wives of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, used to cover their face in front of strange men.

Girls before the age of puberty should start practicing good dress habits even though it is not a sin at that age to show their hair for example. It is also important to remember that men and women must cover themselves from the waist to the knee even amongst members of the same sex. The areas of the body that must be covered in front of other people is called the " 'Awrah."



I am a Muslim woman

by Jenn Zaghoul



I am a Muslim woman.
Feel free to ask me why.
When I walk,
I walk with dignity.
When I speak
I do not lie.

I am a Muslim woman.
Not all of me you'll see.
But what you should appreciate
Is that the choice I make is free.

I'm not plagued with depression.
I'm neither cheated nor abused.
I don't envy other women,
And I'm certainly not confused.

Note, I speak perfect English,
Et un petit peu de Francais aussi.
I'm majoring in Linguistics,
So you need not speak slowly.

I run my own small business.
Every cent I earn is mine.
I drive my Chevy to school & work,
And no, that's not a crime!

You often stare as I walk by.
You don't understand my veil.
But peace and power I have found,
As I am equal to any male!

I am a Muslim woman,
So please don't pity me.
For God has guided me to truth,
And now I'm finally free!

CHAPTER REVIEW

Projects and Activities



Activity 1:

Discuss with your classmates the following questions about the story of Amina at the beginning of the chapter:

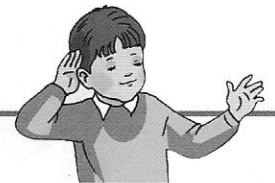
1. What if Amina did not have a Muslim friend to remind her?
2. What could have been the repercussions of her behavior with Mark? i.e. touching boys, sitting next to boys, private conversations with boys, going to boy/girl parties, going out to eat with boys/girls, dances.
3. What would she have to do to get out of the situation?
4. Should she ask Allah for guidance and how?
5. How can she change her behavior so she won't get caught up in these types of situations, such as avoiding non-modest communication like conversation, phone calls, emails, text-messaging, passing notes, etc.

Activity 2:

Draw the following:

1. Draw clothing that you think is appropriate for a Muslim boy and girl to wear in public.
2. Draw clothing that you think is appropriate for a Muslim to wear in front of others of the same gender.
3. Draw clothing that you think is inappropriate for a Muslim boy and girl to wear in public.
4. Draw clothing that you think is inappropriate for a Muslim to wear in front of others of the same gender.

Stretch Your Mind



1. What does Allah mean by "You are a garment for them and they are a garment for you?"
2. Explain in your own words the analogy of farming and the intimate relation between males and females.
3. Why should we cover ourselves even in front of the same gender? Discuss why this is important.
4. Write a letter to a friend who thinks about dating.

Study Questions

- 1 How does Islam see the general relation between males and females?
- 2 What is the main lesson you learned from the story of Amina?
- 3 What is the only lawful intimate relation between males and females. Support your answer with an Ayah and a Hadeeth.
- 4 What is Zina? Support your answer with a Hadeeth.
- 5 What are the forbidden contacts between boys and girls?
- 6 Describe if the following actions are Halal or Haram; support your answers with an Ayah or a Hadeeth:
 - a. Sitting alone in a room with a person from the opposite sex.
 - b. Touching a person from the opposite sex who is not a Mahram.
 - c. Talking to a person from the opposite sex in a respectful manner.
 - d. Plucking eye brows.
 - e. Wearing tight clothes that shape the 'Awrah for males or females.
 - f. Wearing makeup in public.
 - g. Looking with a temptation at a person from the opposite sex.
 - h. Watching the Miss World contest.

