

The United Church of Christ at The Villages, Sunday,
December 12, 2015

Adhan

Arabic First

Allah is the greatest 4 times

I declare that there is no God but Allah 2 times

I declare that Mohammed is his messenger 2 times

Hasten to prayer 2 times

Hasten to success 2 times

Allah is the greatest 2 times

there is no God except Allah.

Words of Pardon and Assurance:

Islamic: Surah al’Ahzaab 33:35, "And the men and the women who remember Allah much with their hearts and tongues. Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a great reward"

Jewish

Christian

Khutbah al Khajah: Arabic and English

[In]al-hamdu Lillaahi [nahmaduhu wa] nasta'eenahu wa nastaghfiruhu, wa na'oodhu billaahi min shuroori anfusinaa [wa min sayi'aati a'maalinaa]. Man yahdih Illaahu falaa mudilla lahu wa man yudlil falaa haadiya lahu. Wa ashhadu an laa ilaaha ill-Allaah [wahdahu la sharika lahu] wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluhu.

[Verily] all praise is for Allah, we seek His help and His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah from the evil of our own souls. Whomsoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whomsoever Allah leaves astray, no one can guide. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

Jewish Torah lesson and message

Islamic Qur'an Lesson and Message

Today I have been asked to share about love in the Islamic Paradigm.

Allah's name, The All Loving, manifests itself in many ways in the life of the believer and in the world.

The Qur'an says in Chapter 2: 195, "Verily, Allah loves those who do good".

Propagandist are traveling across this country informing audiences that Islam is full of hate.

Unfortunately people are taking it seriously.

Propagandist praying on ignorance and gullibility are spinning preposterous lies about Islam and creating shock affects everywhere they go.

Allah mentions in Chapter 17:81 of the Qur'an, "Truth has arrived, and falsehood perished: For falsehood is by its nature bound to perish."

Falsehood is inherently perishable.

I thank God that the loving, accepting and affirming United Church of Christ in the Villages is creating the opportunity to illuminate the darkness descending on this land with the truth of what my holy book says.

The Qur'an says in Chapter 11:90, "Seek the forgiveness of your Lord, then turn to him in repentance! Verily, my Lord is Most Merciful and All Loving."

In Chapter 85:14, we read, "And He is Oft-forgiving, All Loving."

Allah's name, al-Wadud, is one of the 99 Most Beautiful Names of Allah that Prophet Muhammad used in ahadith (narratives of what he said and did) and the second authentic source for Islam to refer to Allah.

Al-Wadud means The absolute all loving.

The All Loving manifests itself in many ways - in the life of the believer and in the world.

The Qur'an says in Chapter 2:195, "Verily, Allah loves those who do good."

In 2:222, "Verily, Allah loves those who are penitent and those who keep themselves pure."

In 3:76, "For verily, Allah loves those who are righteous."

In 3:146, "... And Allah loves those who are patient.'

In 3:159, "... Allah loves those who trust in Him".

In 5:42, "... Allah loves those who are just."

In 9:108, "... Allah loves those who foster purity."

These phrases are repeated numerous times in the Qur'an.

The qualities mentioned in the Qur'an as being associated with the Love of Allah are goodness, penitence, purity, righteousness, patience, trust in God and justice.

These are all religious virtues that those who hate Islam consciously avoid mentioning in their twisted, defamatory presentations.

As for the prophetic ahadith (reports and narratives), the instances where the manifestations of Allah's love are mentioned are too numerous to be mentioned in 7 minutes.

I relate the following examples: The Prophet (p.b.u.h.) said,

"Allah loves the servant who is magnanimous in his business dealings...",

"Divorce your heart from the world and Allah will love you...",

"Allah is gentle and loves gentleness. He gives to those displaying gentleness what he does not give to those displaying violence",

"Allah loves the righteous, pious, inconspicuous people. When they are absent they are not missed. When they are present they are not called out or noticed. Their hearts are lamps of guidance. They emerge from every place of darkness",

"Allah is beautiful and He loves beauty",

"Verily, the most beloved of people to Allah on the Day of Resurrection and the one closest to Him will be a just leader..."

This is just a representative sample of ahadith addressing "love" in Islam and the "love" of Allah.

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, the theological definition of love is defined as God's benevolence and mercy towards man.

God's benevolence and mercy cannot be separated from His love.

In this regard, 113 of 114 chapters in the Qur'an open with the phrase, *Bismillahi hirrahmanirraheem*, "In the name of Allah, the All Merciful, the All Compassionate."

The names ar-Rahman and ar-Rahim, both involving mercy, occur over 170 times in the Qur'an.

Other names of Allah that imply love, benevolence and mercy (translated into English for your convenience are, The Most Forgiving, The Giver of Gifts , The Provider of Sustenance, The Most Gentle, The Forbearing, The Answerer, The Most Expansive in His Grace, The Source of Goodness, The Acceptor of Repentance, The Pardoner, The Exceedingly Compassionate, The Enricher, The Source of Assistance, The Benefactor, The Gentle Guide, and The Wise Guide.

Prophet Muhammad said, "None of you believe until you Love for your brother what you love for yourself."

This is the golden rule for all the monotheistic faiths; in concept it sounds very easy, but when diseases like envy, hatred, and prejudice reside in the very heart with which we love god, we fail to realize this golden rule.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Abdullah ibn Mas'ud, a companion of the Prophet Muhammad reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said during his farewell sermon: Which month do you believe has the greatest sanctity?

They said, "This month of ours, Dhul Hijjah." The Prophet said:

Which place or structure do you believe has the greatest sanctity?

They said, "The Ka'bah." The Prophet said:

Which city do you believe has the greatest sanctity?

They said, "This city of ours, Mecca." The Prophet said:

Which day do you believe has the greatest sanctity?

They said, "This day of ours, Arafat." The Prophet said:

Verily, Allah the Exalted has made your lives as sacred as your day, your city, your month and your Ka'bah.

Our beloved Prophet so loved mankind that he would not retire at night until he had fed forty homes to his North, forty homes to his East, forty homes to his South and forty homes to his West.

Chapter 5:32 in the Qur'an says, "...To save a live is like saving all mankind and to take a life without just cause is like killing all mankind (7 billion people)."

May God help us all to uphold the sanctity of life.

Christian Gospel Lesson & Message