

Worshipping Allah (God Almighty):



The Right Approach

1. Involuntary and whole hearted submission to Allah (SWT) and a willing and unconditional surrender to Him and His will. This is the very essence of Islamic Faith.
2. Firm conviction that the only sources of guidance and righteousness are Allah's lastly revealed message and His final Messenger (SAW). He (SAW) is the living Qur'an, who translated His message into action.
3. Purpose of life: Obedience to Allah (SWT), seeking His pleasure and persuading others to do good, practice virtue, avoid the bad and refrain from vices.
4. Focus of life: Fear of Allah (SWT) and concern for the Hereafter.
5. Man: A combination of body, spirit, intellect, emotions and feelings. He is given the free will to distinguish right from wrong and is held morally responsible for his actions and accountable for his deeds.
6. Man's duty and status: Servitude to the Lord of the universe and His representation on earth.
7. Excellence and superiority of the spiritual and moral over the material and worldly.
8. Acceptance of the fair, pure, religiously sanctioned, legally allowed and rejection of the unfair, impure, religiously forbidden, and legally disallowed. Cognizance of the clearly defined measures and established principles and strict adherence to those measures and practice of those principles for the betterment of the permanent life and not of the temporary one.
9. The dynamic force behind motives: Belief in Allah's promise for tomorrow (Hereafter). A passionate love for Paradise (expanse of which is like that of the sky and the earth) and an extreme fear of Hell and a tremendous urge to save the self from it.
10. Traits and characteristics: Simplicity, moderation, modesty, contentment, gratitude, selflessness, beneficence, well-wishing, sincerity, love, conciliation, helpfulness, and forgiveness.
11. Thought pattern: "We, for us, and our" as against, "I, mine and for me."
12. Life graced with piety, purity and modesty.
13. Stability of well-knit family unit for the security of each individual member.
14. The real measure of success: Concern for what is moral and focus on what is in the Hereafter.

Worshipping the Material World:



The wrong approach

1. Not only disassociation with Allah (SWT), but total betrayal of faith by working against His commands and rebelling against His injunctions.
2. Practical disregard and expression of disgust for the revelation, the Book of Allah and the Prophet Hood.
3. Purpose of life: Servitude of the self, greed for the material world, carelessness in distinguishing right from wrong to satisfy temptations.
4. Focus of life: Fulfillment of stomach's needs, satisfaction of carnal desires, forgetfulness of the Hereafter, and worship of the material world.
5. Man: A combination of matter, intellect, desires, temptations and only a biological phenomenon.
6. Man's duty and station: Servitude of the self, independent of Allah, sovereign and self-sufficient.
7. Excellence of the material world over the morals and the spirit.
8. No principle outlined to govern life. Principles are subjected to fulfill worldly needs and ambitions.
9. Dynamic force behind motives: Quench the thirst of lust, greed and inordinate desires.
10. Obvious characteristics: Hypocrisy, showmanship, extravagance, vanity and pride, impatience and ingratitude, selfishness and opportunism, jealousy rancor, malice, hatred and revenge.
11. Thought pattern: I, for me, and mine.
12. Life tainted with immodesty and shamelessness.
13. Breakup of the family unit, insecurity of its individual members, loneliness and helplessness.
14. Measure of success: Worldly and material gain.