

Rectifying our Salaah...

Generally, the formal Islamic education of a person ends at Madrasah level, and whatever is learnt in the valuable years of one's youth is practiced upon for the rest of one's life. Yet, in most cases what is learnt at Madrasah is not totally sufficient. An example of this is one's knowledge on how to perform salaah correctly. Salaah is absolutely vital to a Mu'min, yet due to inadequate knowledge, people are performing salaah with many deficiencies. Constant effort should be made to improve and perfect this salaah throughout one's life.

The following are some common mistakes when people are performing salaah in congregation:

1. Recitation of Tasbeeh and Tashahhud in a Disturbing Tone

When performing salaah in congregation, we should be mindful of those around us. Some people recite the tasbeehaat and tashahhud so audibly that it disturbs the salaah of those around them in the congregation. This is incorrect. A person should recite these such that he hears himself, and others do not hear him. Inconveniencing others in salaah is against the spirit and purpose of salaah.

2. Lifting the Feet in Sajda

Some have the habit of lifting their toes off the ground whilst in sajda. In sajda the toes should be kept on the ground and preferably face the Qibla. The fingers should also be kept together and not spread apart.

3. Qiraat Behind Imaam

Those who follow the fiqh of Imaam Abu Hanifa (*rahimahullah*), should not recite qiraat when following the Imaam. The qiraat of the Imaam suffices for those following him.

4. Preceding the Imaam

To precede the Imaam in any of the postures, into ruku or sajdah, or to lift up the head from sajdah before the Imaam, are acts which are against the spirit of salaah with congregation. These acts have been severely condemned in the hadith.

5. Formation of Saffs (Rows)

It is also noticed that the rows for salaah are not formed consistently. The saffs for salaah should be formed by filling both ends equally, starting from the right side. Throughout the salaah, the saffs should be equally filled from both sides. Furthermore, a new saff should not commence until the one before it is complete. Saffs should be straightened by keeping the heels in line.

Like this, there are many other finer points of salaah of which we are unaware. Therefore we should try our best to improve our salaah and ensure that it conforms to the Sunnah method by referring constantly to Ulama and authentic literature on salaah.

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