

Inter-faith Dialogue

(By Abdul Waheed Khan)

1. We live today in a society which is a mix of many religions and cults. The inter-faith dialogue is encouraged by Qur'aan so that other people can understand ISLAM and Qur'aan in a better perspective.
2. Qur'aan is enthusiastic about inter-faith dialogue. Holy Qur'aan at Surah Aale-'Imraan 3:61 says- "Come let us gather together; our sons and your sons; our women and your women; ourselves and yourselves. Then let us earnestly pray and invoke the curse of ALLAH on those who lie." Qur'aan at 3:62 further goes on to say. "This (Qur'aan) is the true account (that) there is NO GOD EXCEPT ALLAH (the ONE Only). Ami ALLAH is indeed, the Exalted in Power the Wise."
3. In the past 100 years or so, either there was no inter-faith dialogue or it remained a dialogue in name only, between the conqueror rulers and the conquered subjects.
4. In the past, many Western nations have done the greatest harm to Islam. It was they who had occupied most of the Muslim world and had tried hard to impose their faith and ideology on Muslims.
5. In the occupied Muslim countries they had, continuously suppressed the teachings and preaching of Islam and Qur'aan. Instead, they had promoted Christianity or communism. They had set up missionary schools and other forms of institutional centres of education whose indirect function was to portray Islam in a negative perspective.
6. Today most of the Western countries of the world consider Muslim nations as centres of terrorism just because the "Terrorism" of the few individuals. These few individuals think that prolonged injustice has been perpetrated on them and that their governments are impotent to defend them. Therefore it is upto the people to defend themselves. Driven by individual passion rather than Islamic spiritual ideals, they strike back hard and exact retribution. They argue that they find sanction for this in Holy Qur'aan Surah Al-Shooraa verse 42:39:- " And those who, when oppressive wrong is inflicted upon them (are not cowed down but) help and defend themselves. They don't understand that in overall teachings of Islam there is no place for acts of violence and terrorism. Terrorism is against the high moral and spiritual ideals of Qur'aan. Jihad mentioned in Holy Qur'aan at 9:20 and at many other verses is for a noble cause.
7. Islam does not recognize racism amongst Whites and Blacks, or amongst Browns and Yellows. Islam is a religion of peace and Co-existence. Islam believes in Monotheism-one hundred per cent.
8. Now it is time for Muslims to take initiative and reach out upto others to enlighten them about Islam and remove their misunderstandings. The ball is in the Muslim's Court. Go out, extend yourself, meet them and befriend with them. Respect them and they would be willing to listen to you and to the TRUTH. Thus do the bidding of Holy Qur'aan Surah Aale-'Imraan 3:62.

Please Visit: www.islam-christianity.com