

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Class 26 – The Categories of Muhabbah (Love) are Four

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The shaykh began with the Khutbatul Haajah.

And then the shaykh mentioned the great bounty of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) upon us. As Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) has kept us alive and we now witness the great month of Ramadaan. So the ones who fast the month of Ramadaan, believing that it is waajib upon them, and hoping for the reward of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa), then their past sins are forgiven. Shaykh Ahmed praised Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) due to the fact that He has brought us to this great blessed month of Ramadaan, and mentioned that this is from the Mercy and Bounty of Allaah upon us.

THE CATEGORIES OF MUHABBAH (LOVE) ARE FIVE

TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT IN AL-QAWL-UL-MUFEEDEE ADILLATIT TAWHEED:

The First: 'Ibaadah (Love in Worship)

And it is to love Allaah and to love what is loved by Allaah.

Allaah (ta'laa) said:

وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ حَبَّبَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَزَيَّنَهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ

But Allaah has endeared the Faith to you and has beautified it in your hearts. (Al-Hujurat 49:7)

And Allaah (ta'laa) said:

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ

But those who believe, love Allaah more (than anything else). (Al-Baqarah 2:165)

And Allaah (ta'laa) said:

فَسَوْفَ يَأْتِي اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ يُحِبُّهُمْ وَيُحِبُّونَهُ

Allaah will bring a people whom He will love and they will love Him. (Al-Ma'idah 5:54)

And narrated Anas (radiyAllaahu ‘anhu) that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, “Whoever possesses the following three qualities will have the sweetness (delight) of faith:

1. The one to whom Allaah and His Messenger becomes dearer than anything else.
2. Who loves a person and he loves him only for Allaah's sake.
3. Who hates to revert to Atheism (disbelief) as he hates to be thrown into the fire.” (Bukhaaree, no. 16 and Muslim, no.43).

EXPLANATION OF THE TEXT BY SHAYKH AL-WASAAABEE:

Love of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) necessitates love of Allaah (subhaana wa ta’laa). And the proof of this is Allaah’s (subhaana wa ta’laa) statement:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) to mankind): "If you (really) love Allaah then follow me (i.e. accept Islaamic Monotheism, follow the Qur'aan and the Sunnah), Allaah will love you and forgive you of your sins. And Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Aali Imran 3:31)

So following the Messenger in belief, and statements, and actions necessitates the love of Allaah (subhaana wa ta’laa). And it is upon the believer that his love for Allaah (‘azza wa jal) be more tremendous than his love for his wife, and his property, and for his children, and for his parents, and everything that exists in this world.

From ‘Abdullaah ibn Hishaam (radiyAllaahu ‘anhu) who said ‘We were with the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) when he took ‘Umar ibnul-Khattaab by the hand. So ‘Umar said, “O Messenger of Allaah! By Allaah, you are more beloved to me than everything except for my self.” So the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, “No, by the One in Whose Hand my soul is, not until I am more beloved to you than your own self.” So ‘Umar said to him, “So now, by Allaah, you are more beloved to me than my own self.” So the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, “Now, O ‘Umar.”’ (Bukhaaree, no. 6257).

From Anas ibn Maalik (radiyAllaahu anhu) who said, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, “No one from amongst you has truly believed until I am more beloved to him than his father, his son, and all of the people.” (Bukhaaree, no. 15 and Muslim, no. 44).

So we are ordered to follow the Messenger, and if we follow the Messenger, then this necessitates that Allaah (subhaana wa ta’laa) will love us.

Allaah (subhaana wa ta’laa) says:

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا

And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)) gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it) (Al-Hashr 59:7)

And the statement of Allaah (subhaana wa ta’laa):

اتَّبِعْ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ

Follow what has been inspired to you from your Lord. (Al-An'am 6:106)

And Shaykh Ahmed explained this as being the Kitaab and the Sunnah. So the ones who follow the Kitaab and the Sunnah follow the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), and this necessitates that Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) will love us.

And the Mu'min's love for Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) is more tremendous than everything in this world, such as the things that are desired in this world. So his love for these things is lesser than his love for Allaah (jalla wa 'ala) and his love for Allaah is greater than all things.

And if it were not for the great bounty and mercy of Allaah, then we would not love Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa).

Allaah (ta'laa) said:

وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ حَبَّبَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَزَيَّنَهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ

But Allaah has endeared the Faith to you and has beautified it in your hearts. (Al-Hujurat 49:7)

So it is a great bounty and mercy of Allaah that the believers love Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa), and it was not for them to love Allaah except that Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) made them love Him.

And the uncle of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم), Abu Taalib, used to love the Messenger and he used to defend the Messenger and defend his call. But Abu Taalib did not reach the great status of loving Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) and he was not given the tawfeeq to believe in the message of al-Islam. And Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) did not make Abu Taalib love Him and He did not make belief beautiful in his heart. So this is a great bounty of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) that He gives to whomever He Wills.

Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) said:

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَتَّخِذُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَندَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ

And of mankind are some who take (for worship) others besides Allaah as rivals (to Allaah). They love them as they love Allaah. But those who believe, love Allaah more (than anything else). (Al-Baqarah 2:165)

So Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) has affirmed for the muhsrikeen that they do love Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa). But the mushrikeen also love the idols and the partners they have set up with Allaah as they love Allaah. And Allaah has described the believers as more tremendous in their love for Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) than everything else.

And Eemaan has sweetness. And the sweetness of Eemaan is attained by three things. The first of them being that the believer loves Allaah and His Messenger more than anything else. The second one being that the believer loves a person and he loves him only for Allaah's sake. And we are ordered to love the believers for the sake of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) because of what they upon of the good, and because their holding tight and strong adherence to the Kitaab and the Sunnah. And so the person who loves Allaah, and loves the Messenger, and loves the believers, then with this love he finds the sweetness of Eemaan.

And Shaykh Ahmed referred back to the hadeeth of Abu Hurayrah regarding the seven whom Allaah will give shade to on the Day when there will be no shade but His. And the shaykh mentioned that one of these seven categories are two persons who love each other only for Allaah's sake and they meet and part in Allaah's cause only.

And a person does not love anyone, for any reason or any cause, except for Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa), and what the person is upon of good and holding tightly to the Kitaab and the Sunnah. And he does love those who are not upon the Kitaab and the Sunnah, even if they may be from his close relatives, such as from his fathers, or his mothers, or his children, or other than them.

Allaah's statement:

لَا تَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ

You (O Muhammad (ﷺ)) will not find any people who believe in Allaah and the Last Day, making friendship with those who oppose Allaah and His Messenger (Muhammad (ﷺ)), even though they were their fathers, or their sons, or their brothers, or their kindred (people). (Al-Mujadilah 58:22)

So the believers love each other for the sake of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) even if one amongst them may be of a lowly status or low nature. Regardless, the believer has a tremendous rank and degree with Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) and the believers love him and each other for the sake of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa), due to what they are upon, which is holding tightly to the Kitaab of Allaah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (ﷺ).

TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT IN AL-QAWL-UL-MUFEEH ADILLATIT TAWHEED:

The Second: Shirk (Shirk of Love)

And it is to love something or someone other than Allaah as one loves Allaah or greater.

Allaah (ta'laa) said:

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَتَّخِذُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنْدَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ

And of mankind are some who take (for worship) others besides Allaah as rivals (to Allaah). They love them as they love Allaah. (Al-Baqarah 2:165)

EXPLANATION OF THE TEXT BY SHAYKH AL-WASAABEE:

This is the love of the mushrikeen and the love of shirk. The mushrikeen during the time of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) were in agreement and affirmed the Ruboobeeyah (Lordship) of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa). So they affirmed that Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) is the Sole-Creator (Khaaliq) and the Sole-Controller ('Amr) of the affairs of the universe. So if they were to be asked who created the Heavens and the Earth, they will say Allaah. Even though they believed in His Lordship, they associated with Him in His Ulooheeyah by directing certain types of worship to other than Him (subhaana wa ta'laa). And from the different types of worship that they directed to other than Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) was muhabbah (love), and it is the love of worship. And they directed this type of worship to other than Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa), such as their false idols. While Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) alone has the sole right to be loved with the love of worship. And this is ash-Shirk al-Akbar (major shirk) that expels one from the fold of al-Islaam. And similarly, the people who follow the mushrikeen in our day and age, they also direct their love of worship to other than Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) or others along with Him (subhaana wa ta'laa).

TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT IN AL-QAWL-UL-MUFEEH ADILLATIT TAWHEED:

The Third: Ma'seeyah (Love in Disobedience)

Such as loving the haraam and the bid'ah and the sins and such as loving the people of innovation and desires and sinning, and other than that from the loving which opposes the legislation of Allaah.

Allaah (ta'laa) said:

وَتُحِبُّونَ الْمَالَ حُبًّا جَمًّا

And you love wealth with much love! (Al-Fajr 89:20)

And because of this He has sanctioned them by His statement, كَلَّا (Kallaa). Refer to Tafseer al-Baghawee and ash-Shawkaanee and al-Jazaa'iree.

And Allaah (ta'laa) said:

فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّبَعُوا الشَّهَوَاتِ فَسُوفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غِيًّا

Then, there has succeeded them a posterity who have given up As-Salaat (the prayers) [i.e. made their Salaat (prayers) to be lost, either by not offering them or by not offering them perfectly or by not offering them in their proper fixed times, etc.] and have followed lusts. So they will be thrown in Hell. (Maryam 19:59)

And Allaah (ta'laa) said:

قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَمْوَالٌ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِينُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ

Say: If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your kindred, the wealth that you have gained, the commerce in which you fear a decline, and the dwellings in which you delight are dearer to you than Allaah and His Messenger, and striving hard and fighting in His Cause, then wait until Allaah brings about His Decision (torment). And Allaah guides not the people who are Al-Fâsiqûn (the rebellious, disobedient to Allaah). (At-Tawbah 9:24)

And Allaah (ta'laa) said:

لَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ يَفْرَحُونَ بِمَا أَتَوْا وَيُحِبُّونَ أَنْ يُحْمَدُوا بِمَا لَمْ يَفْعَلُوا فَلَا تَحْسِبَنَّهُمْ بِمَفَازَةٍ مِّنَ الْعَذَابِ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

Think not that those who rejoice in what they have done (or brought about), and love to be praised for what they have not done, think not you that they are rescued from the torment, and for them is a painful torment. (Aali Imran 3:188)

And Allaah (ta'laa) said:

وَقَالَ نِسْوَةٌ فِي الْمَدِينَةِ امْرَأَتُ الْعَزِيزِ تُرَاوِدُ فَتَاهَا عَنْ نَفْسِهِ قَدْ شَغَفَهَا حُبًّا إِنَّا لَنَرَاهَا فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

And women in the city said: "The wife of Al-'Azeez is seeking to seduce her (slave) young man, indeed she loves him violently; verily we see her in plain error." (Yusuf 12:30)

And Allaah (ta'laa) said:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ تَشِيعَ الْفَاحِشَةُ فِي الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

Verily, those who like that (the crime of) illegal sexual intercourse should be propagated among those who believe, they will have a painful torment in this world and in the Hereafter. And Allaah knows and you know not. (An-Nur 24:19)

EXPLANATION OF THE TEXT BY SHAYKH AL-WASAABEE:

Explaining the verse in Sooratul-Fajr (89:20), the shaykh mentioned that this by making the issue of wealth and property a great issue, and by making it very important in a most tremendous way.

Explaining the verse in Soorah Maryam (19:59), the shaykh mentioned that these are the people who love and follow their lusts and their desires. And this is the reality in this day and age of ours. For verily we find that the adhaan for the salawaat are called, and the people are busy in the market places and continue on in their work, and in their actions and dealings and transactions, not paying attention to the adhaan. And they do not prepare to the salaah and continue in their chase after the worldly affairs. However, these people are Muslims and they are called Muslims. But we say these people are chasing after the dunyaa. And their punishment is Ghayya. And Shaykh Ahmed mentioned that some of mufasssireen have mentioned that Ghayyan is a valley in Jahannam.

Explaining the verse in Sooratut-Tawbah (9:24), the shaykh mentioned that it is not appropriate and nor is it permissible for a believer to direct his love to other than Allaah and His Messenger, who has come with Revelation from Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa). And it is upon the believer to make his love for the different categories of people and objects mentioned in this verse in adherence with his love for Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa). And he is ordered to have respect for his elders, and his fathers, and his mothers, and to look after the welfare of his children, and to be kind and merciful to them, and to look after the welfare of his brothers, and the wife, the Prophet (ﷺ) has ordered the believers to have good family relations with the wives, and that it is upon him to feed his wives with what he feeds himself and to dress them with what he wears himself. So if the believer carries out all these affairs following the orders of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) and His Messenger, and he loves Allaah and His Messenger, then as the Messenger of Allaah (ﷺ) has explained, this is worship to Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa). And it should not be the case that his love for the aforementioned categories be a cause for him to elevate and direct this love out its proper place, such that it becomes a hazard or prevents him from the obedience of Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa).

TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT IN AL-QAWL-UL-MUFEEH ADILLATIT TAWHEED:

The Fourth: Muhabbah Tabee'eeyah (The Natural Love)

Such as loving the children and the family and the soul and the wealth, and other than that from the permissible matters, however it must be natural love.

But if it distracts a person from obedience to Allaah and he leaves some of the obligatory things then it is the Love of Disobedience (Muhabbah Ma'seeyah). And it overtakes his life and his heart and he loves them as he loves Allaah or greater, then that is Shirk of Love (Muhabbah Shirkeeyah).

Allaah (ta'laa) said:

زَيْنَ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنْطَرَةِ مِنَ الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ
وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْحَرْثِ ذَلِكَ مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ حُسْنُ الْمَآبِ

Beautified for men is the love of things they covet; women, children, much of gold and silver (wealth), branded beautiful horses, cattle and well-tilled land. This is the pleasure of the present world's life; but Allaah has the excellent return (Paradise with flowing rivers, etc.) with Him. (Aali Imran 3:14)

قُلْ أُوْبِتُّكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ مِّنْ ذَلِكُمُ لِلَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا
وَأَزْوَاجٌ مُّطَهَّرَةٌ وَرِضْوَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ بَصِيرٌ بِالْعِبَادِ

Say: "Shall I inform you of things far better than those? For Al-Muttaqoon (the pious) there are Gardens (Paradise) with their Lord, underneath which rivers flow. Therein (is their) eternal (home) and Azwaajun Mutabharatun (purified mates or wives) [i.e. they will have no menses, urine, or stool, etc.], And Allaah will be pleased with them. And Allaah is All-Seer of the (His) slaves". (Aali Imran 3:15)

And Allaah (ta'laa) said:

إِذْ قَالُوا لِيُوسُفُ وَأَخُوهُ أَحَبُّ إِلَيْنَا مِمَّا

When they said: "Truly, Yoosuf (Joseph) and his brother (Benjamin) are loved more by our father than we." (Yoosuf 12:8)

EXPLANATION OF THE TEXT BY SHAYKH AL-WASAABEE:

So the things mentioned in the text, such as children, and family, and a person's own self and wealth, then Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) has created the people and has put in their hearts natural love for these things. And it is problematic for some people to accept that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) did love his uncle Abu Taalib, and this because is Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) has brought the people us upon loving their relatives and their families.

And if this natural love overcomes a person and reaches a degree where it becomes equal with his love for Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) or even greater, then verily this falls under the category of Shirk of Love (Muhabbah Shirkeeyah).

And it is not befitting that the affairs of this dunyaa stop and hinder a person from obedience to Allaah (subhaana wa ta'laa) and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

Explaining the verse in Soorah Yoosuf (12:8), Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Abdul Wahhaab has mentioned that this verse is a proof of a natural love, such that Yoosuf ('alayhis salaam) had love for all of his brothers.