12777 - Is It Permissible to Celebrate Non-Muslim Festivals?

the question

Is it permissible for Muslims to take part in their festivals such as Christmas?

Summary of answer

It is not permissible for the Muslim to join the non-Muslims in their festivals and to express joy and happiness on these occasions, or to take the day off work, whether the occasion is religious or secular.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

It is not permissible for the Muslim to join the non-Muslims in their festivals and to express joy and happiness on these occasions, or to take the day off work, whether the occasion is religious or secular. This is because joining the non-Muslim festivals is a kind of imitating the enemies of Allah , which is forbidden, and a kind of co-operating with them in falsehood. It was proven that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever imitates a people is one of them.” And Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Help you one another in Al-Birr and At-Taqwa (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression. And fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment.” [Al-Ma’idah 5:2]

We advise you to refer to the book Iqtida’ As-Sirat al-Mustaqim by Shaykh Al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allah have mercy on him), for it is very useful on this topic. [Translator’s note: This book is available in English under the title “The Right Way,” published by Darussalam, Riyadh].

And Allah is the source of strength. May Allah bless our Prophet Muhammad and his family and

companions, and grant them peace.

For more details, please see the following answers: 106668 , 178136 , 85108 , and 13642 .

And Allah knows best.