

يَتَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا دِينَكُمْ هُزُوءًا وَلَعِبًا
مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ وَالْكَفَّارَ أَوْلِيَاءَ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
إِن كُنْتُمْ مُّؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٥٧﴾

Al-Ma'idah (The Table Spread) 5:57

O You Who Believe!

- Take not for friends and protectors those who take your religion for a mockery or sport.
- Whether among those who received the Scripture before you, or among those who reject Faith.
- But you fear Allah, if you have faith (indeed).

Commentary

Allamah Taba Tabai (AR)

The verses forbid taking those who make mockery of Allah and His communications as friends from among the People of the Book and unbelievers, and enumerate some of their evil characteristics including their breaking the covenants of Allah and so on – the matters related to the theme of this chapter, i.e. exhorting people to keep their promises and covenants and showing the demerit of going against promises, etc..

It appears from the above that:

First: Those, whose friendship is forbidden, are described as “those who take your religion for a mockery and a joke”; this description points to the reason of this prohibition. As described earlier, friendship entails spiritual mingling and management of personal and sociological affairs. Obviously, a *waliyy* (friend) will not treat as a joke or a mockery those things, which his friend respects and pays honor to, and considers it more distinguished and honorable than everything, even his own self. It is therefore necessary not to take such a person as a friend and not to let him interfere in one’s spiritual and physical affairs.

Second: The verse is very appropriately addressed to: “you who believe”, as it stands parallel to: “those who take your religion for a mockery and a joke”; also there is the fine point of the genetic construction: “your religion”, [as it emphasizes their strong connection with the religion of Islam, and puts them on guard against the enemies’ manipulation].

Third: The clause: “and fear Allah if you are believers,” puts a sort of emphasis to the preceding wordings: “Do not take for friends those who take your religion for a mockery and a joke,” by repeating it in a more inclusive and comprehensive wording. Obviously, a believer who adheres to the cord of true faith cannot be pleased if the matters he believes in were to be taken as a mockery or joke. Therefore, these people, if they are truly associated with belief and are attached to the religion, are bound to fear Allah regarding those inimical persons and not to take them as friends.

Another possibility: The clause: “and fear Allah if you are believers”, may point to the verses which were revealed a little earlier, e.g. and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them. The meaning then will be as follows: Be afraid of Allah in taking them for a friend if you are not one of them. But the first meaning is more manifest.

Mir Ahmed Ali (AR) and Aqa Mahdi Puya (AR)

The Jews and the Christians had much in common, and therefore readily formed an alliance against Islam. So, anyone who makes them his friends must have some points of identity with them. A believer, in order to keep himself safe from the influence of falsehood, must avoid the company of disbelievers. The doctrines of tawalla (staying attached with the Ahlul-Bayt) and tabarra (avoiding the enemies of Allah, the Holy Prophet and his Ahlul-Bayt) are the articles of the faith of them followers of Muhammad and ali Muhammad.

The Holy Prophet said:

Do not adopt the style and mannerism of my enemies, lest you may be considered as one of them. He who appears like a certain type shall be identified as of that type.

Ayatullah Sayyid Kamal Faqih Imani and a Group of Muslim Scholars

The worldly retribution of the act of mockery and sacrilege unto the religion of Allah and profanity, is rupture of relations. Mocking the religion is a job of disbelievers. So, the condition of having Faith is having the religious zeal and dissociating from the vicious.

Never be afraid of the rupture of relation with pagans, the profaners of the religion. If you have Faith, be in awe of Allah.

" O' you who have Faith! do not take those who take your religion in mockery and play, from among those who were given the Book before you and the infidels as guardians; and be in awe of Allah if you are believers."