

## HOW CHILDREN SHOULD TREAT THEIR PARENTS

### (Responsibilities of children to their children)

1. In Islam, good treatment of parents is a form of worship commanded by Allah in the holy Qur'an. Allah says in **Q (17:23)**;

*“Your Lord has enjoined you to worship none but Him, and to show kindness to your parents.”*

2. A child must show every kind of patience and speak to Parents with nice words especially at the old age. Allah says in **Q (17:24)**;

*“If either or both of them attain old age with you, show them no sign of impatience nor rebuke them but speak to them with kind words.”*

3. We must treat our parents with humbleness and sensitivity and always pray for them whether dead or live. Allah states in **Q (17:24)**;

*“Treat them with humbleness and tenderness and say ‘Lord! Be merciful to them. They nursed me when I was an infant.’”*

4. Parents need respect from their children because they are the reason we exist on earth. They love us and care for us like mothers who carry us in their wombs for nine months.

5. Respect is also accorded to them due to the pain they go through while bringing up children.

Allah says in **Q (31:14)**; *“And We enjoined on man to show kindness to his parents, for weakness and weakness his mother bears him and he is not weaned before he is two years of age.”*

6. A good child must take time and thank his parents for what they did for him even if for him sees nothing in that case. That is a command from Allah as He says in **Q (31:14)**;

*“We said: ‘Give thanks to Me and to your parents.’”*

7. It is an obligation of the child to always meet his parents with a smiling face. Though this is an act of kindness to others, it is a necessity to the parents.

8. Allah commands us to lower ourselves before our parents and not to speak any words that may show displeasure to them.

He says in **Q (17:24)**;

*“... nor shout at them but speak to them with kind words and out of your kindness lower yourselves to them.”*

9. Kindness and respect must be extended to both parents, mother and father, whether they are Muslims or not because Allah does not categorize them.

10. Disobedience to parents is extremely condemned in Islam unless they tell us to commit shirk or to disobey Allah, but even then, we have to do it in a polite way.

Allah says in **Q (29:8)**;

*“We ordered man to show kindness to his parents. But if they bid you to associate with Me what you do not know, do not obey them.”*

11. Prophet Muhammad PBUH said that the child’s paradise is under his parents’ feet. So whoever disobeys them denies himself chance to enter paradise.
12. In Islam, mothers are preferred to fathers in the division of the child’s love. The prophet PBUH said that they take  $\frac{3}{4}$  (75%) of his love due to the pain they go through in carrying the womb for nine months and giving birth to him and other strong reasons in that case.
13. A child should be extra careful and patient to his parents when they grow old. This is because at this age they grow physically weak and mentally feeble, accompanied by impatience and misjudgment. So one must control his temper to them.
14. It is among good moral for a child to listen to his parents while speaking to him. It is totally irreligious for him to interrupt their speech or argue with them.
15. In Islam, among the everlasting benefits (sadaq) a parent can be proud of even after death is a good child left on earth that can pray for him or do things that can benefit him e.g building a school or mosque for him.
16. A good child is obliged to provide necessities of life to his parents and to always visit them especially when they grow old. In doing so, he should give them according to his standard.
17. Male children are charged with a duty of balancing the love for their parents and wives. They should not love their wives at the expense of their mothers but they should strike a harmonious and reconciliatory relationship between them.
18. A good child should maintain friendship and respect of his parents’ friends. This is because he finds consolation in them and comfort in absence of the parents.
19. Finally, insulting parents is one of the grave mistakes a child should never commit to them. Abusing one’s parents or the parents of others must be avoided.

### **MARITAL FAITHFULNESS**

1. This is the commitment and fulfillment of marital obligations expected of each partner in a marriage bond in order to maintain a permanent and joyous marriage.
2. In order to have a long and lasting marriage, the married couples should observe following pillars in Islam.
3. They should not engage in adultery because it is a major evil that has led to family breakdown in society today.
4. Each partner should ensure sexual satisfaction to each other in order to eliminate cases of marital rape and adultery in the family.

5. They should endeavor to look attractive to each other e.g having a pleasant face, being smart, clean and having a good scent.
6. They should not entertain rumours because it is the major source of family quarrels. The Prophet PBUH said; *“If one does not have what to say should keep quiet.”*
7. Women are asked to seek permission before leaving their husbands’ homes to avoid suspicion and quarreling with them in cases they do not find them at home.
8. Islam encourages Muslims to choose partners they love. They should not be forced in marriage because it will not serve its purpose of harmonious living.
9. They should keep the secrets of their marital affairs to themselves without revealing them to unconcerned people.
10. They should be open to each other. If one has disappointed the other, he/she should tell her/him in order to solve the problem amicably.
11. Islam prohibits superstition and witchcraft because apart from being shirk, it disrupts the peace and unity of the family.
12. Islam emphasizes that marriage should be based on love and sympathy. This will encourage partners to forgive each other.
13. Each partner should tell the other their whereabouts. They should not just move out especially men without informing their people at home.
14. Partners especially wives are not allowed to receive gifts which may be tempting and hence make them unfaithful to their partners.
15. Partners are asked to avoid being in company of members of opposite sex without their brothers or sisters or husbands/wives because this reduces temptations.
16. Women are not allowed to entertain visitors in their homes when their husbands do not approve them or when they are not present to avoid suspicion.
17. Where there is misunderstanding, partners should settle their issues amicably and the one in wrong should apologize.
18. In case of serious misunderstandings, partners should refer their differences to their parents for guidance and if necessary to their witnesses during their marriage covenant.
19. There should be mutual trust between the husband and the wife if they are to have a successful marriage relationship.
20. However, having faith in Allah and sticking on Islamic morals is the major foundation on which a pure and stable marriage is built.