

**Participating With the Disbelievers In Their Eid Festivals/Celebrations;  
Congratulating and Imitating them On Such Occasions.  
Shaykh Abdul-Aziz ibn Baaz (Rahimahullaah)**

**Question:** Some Muslims Participate with the Christians in their *Eids* (Festivals/Celebrations/Holiday Observances). What is your advice to them?

**Answer:** It is not permissible for a Muslim to participate with the Christians or Jews or any other disbelievers in their Holiday Observances. In fact, it is obligatory to avoid them. This is because anyone who imitates a people is (considered to be) one of them. And the Messenger of Allah (salla-llahu alaiyhi wa sallam) has warned us from imitating them or conforming to their behavior patterns. Therefore, the believers - men or women - must be cautioned from these things.

Additionally, it is not permissible for the believers to assist or aid them in their celebrations or observances in any way whatsoever, since these celebrations/festivals conflict with the Islamic Laws. Hence, *participation* in these observances is not allowed, nor *cooperation* with those who observe them, nor *assisting* them in any way - even by offering tea or coffee or anything else, such as the utensils (for eating or drinking), or other than that.

This is because of the saying of Allah, the One Free From All Imperfections, the Most High: ***Help one another in virtue, righteousness and piety; but do not help one another in sin and transgression. And fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment.*** Hence, *participation* with the disbelievers in their holiday observances is a manner of *helping one another in sin and transgression*.

**Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih ibn Uthaymeen (Rahimahullaah)**

**Question:** Is it permissible to attend the parties which they hold on such occasions?

**Answer:** A Muslim's acceptance of their invitation [to attend such celebrations] is not lawful, since to do so is much worse than simply congratulating them on such occasions, due to what this entails of participating - or sharing with them - in their observances.

**Question:** Is it permissible to imitate them in these things?

**Answer:** It is forbidden for the Muslims to imitate the disbelievers by holding *parties* on these occasions, exchanging *gifts*, distributing *sweets*, cooking *food* or *stopping work* and whatever is similar to this. This is based upon the saying of the Prophet (salla-llahu alaiyhi wa sallam): ***Whoever imitates a people, then he is one of them.***

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah [in his book - *Iqtidaa' as-Siraat al-Mustaqeem Mukhaalifah Ashaab al-Jaheem* (Following the Straight Path - Opposing the People of the Hell-Fire)] said: *Imitating them (the disbelievers) in some of their holiday celebrations/festivals definitely brings happiness to their hearts concerning the falsehood which they are following; and it might even give them hope or encouragement to take advantage of the opportunity and humiliate the weak (Muslims).* [End of Quote].

**Question:** Is a person considered sinful if they do any of the above mentioned acts unintentionally; i.e. he/she only did it out of politeness (*mujaamalah*), shyness (*hayaa'*), or so as not to cause any embarrassment (*ihraaj*) or for any other reason?

**Answer:** Whoever does any of these things is considered sinful - no matter whether he did so out of politeness (*mujaamalah*), friendliness (*tawaddud*), shyness (*hayaa'*) or for any other reason - since this is considered to be *al-Mudaahanah fi Deeni-llah* (**hypocrisy**) and it is one of the causes of strengthening the spirits of the disbelievers and their pride in their religion. And Allah Alone is the One Whom we ask to give the Muslims strength and might in their *Deen*, grant them steadfastness in practicing it, and victory over their enemies. Verily, He is *Qawee* (Strong) *Azeez* (Mighty).

[Translation: Abu Muhammad. 12/23/99 Taken from *Majmoo' al-Fataawaa* 2/925 and 3/44]