

«[saying]: Do not worship anyone but Allah». This is a command to worship Allah alone and a prohibition on associating anything with Him. This is the fundamental basis of Islam and no deeds are acceptable if they are not based on that. This is the right that Allah (ﷻ) has over His slaves.

«show kindness to your parents» – this includes all types of kindness in word and deed, and implicitly forbids mistreating parents. What is obligatory is treating them kindly, and a command to do something implies prohibition of the opposite.

There are two opposites to kind treatment: mistreatment, which is the greater offence, and failing to show kindness without mistreatment, which is haram but is not as bad as the former. The same may be said with regard to upholding ties of kinship with relatives, orphans and the needy. Kindness may be defined but not quantified, as we shall see below.

Then Allah enjoined kindness towards people in general: «speak good words to people». Speaking good words to people includes enjoining them to do good, forbidding them to do evil, teaching them (beneficial knowledge), greeting them with *salâm*, smiling at them and so on.

As it is not possible for an individual to be kind to all people by monetary means, Allah has enjoined kindness that one may do to all others, namely kindness in words. That also implies that it is prohibited to say bad words to people, even the disbelievers. Hence Allah (ﷻ) says:

«Do not dispute with the People of the Book except in the most courteous manner...» (*al-'Ankaboot 29: 46*)

Part of the discipline and good manners that Allah has enjoined upon His slaves is that the individual should be dignified in his words and deeds, and not behave or speak in an indecent, offensive, insulting or argumentative manner. Rather he should have a good attitude, and