



﴿يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا يُنْفِقُونَ قُلْ مَا أَنْفَقْتُ مِنْ خَيْرٍ قَلِيلًا لِلَّذِينَ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ وَالْيَتَامَى  
وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ﴾ (سورة البقرة:

(٢١٥)

2:215. They ask you what they should spend [in charity]. Say: Whatever good you spend should be for parents, kindred, orphans and those in need, and for wayfarers, and whatever good you do, Allah is aware of it.

That is, they ask you about spending, which includes asking about what is spent and on whom it is spent. Allah responded by saying: ﴿Say: Whatever good you spend﴾, whether it is a smaller or greater amount, the most deserving people of it, the most entitled to be given precedence, the ones who have the greatest rights over you, are parents to whom it is obligatory to show kindness and it is forbidden to disobey them. One of the greatest ways of showing kindness to them is to spend on them, and one of the greatest kinds of disobedience to parents is to fail to spend on them. Hence spending on them is obligatory for the one who can afford it.

Then after parents come relatives of varying degrees, the closest then the next closest, according to the degree of closeness and of need. Spending on them is both an act of charity and upholding ties of kinship.

﴿orphans﴾ – this refers to small children who have no breadwinner; they are usually in need because they are not able to look after themselves and they have lost their breadwinner. So Allah enjoined people to take care of them, out of mercy and kindness towards them.