

in our best interests, and He does not forbid anything but that which is purely or mostly bad, because of His perfect wisdom and mercy.



﴿وَلَا تَنْكِحُوا الْمُشْرِكَةَ حَتَّىٰ تُؤْمِنَ ۚ وَلَأَمَةٌ مُّؤْمِنَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ مُّشْرِكَةٍ وَلَوْ أَعْجَبَتْكُمْ ۚ وَلَا تُنكِحُوا الْمُشْرِكِينَ حَتَّىٰ يُؤْمِنُوا ۚ وَلَعَبْدٌ مُّؤْمِنٌ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ مُّشْرِكٍ وَلَوْ أَعْجَبَكُمْ ۚ أُولَٰئِكَ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى النَّارِ ۚ وَاللَّهُ يَدْعُو إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ وَالْمَغْفِرَةِ بِإِذْنِهِ ۚ وَبَيَّنَّ ءَايَاتِهِ لِّلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢٢١﴾﴾ (سورة البقرة: ٢٢١)

- 2:221. Do not marry the polytheist women until they believe, for a believing slave girl is better than a polytheist woman, even though she may please you; and do not give your daughters in marriage to polytheists until they believe, for a believing slave is better than a polytheist, even though he may please you. They invite unto the fire, and Allah invites unto paradise and unto forgiveness by His grace, and He explains His revelations to humankind so that they may bear them in mind.

«Do not marry the polytheist women» so long as they are still polytheists

«until they believe», because a believing woman – no matter how ugly she may be – is better than a polytheist woman, no matter how beautiful she may be. This is general in meaning and applies to all polytheist women; the verse in Soorat al-Mâ'idah made an exception in permitting marriage to women of the People of the Book, as Allah (ﷻ) says:

«...chaste women among those who were given the scripture before you...» (al-Mâ'idah 5: 5)

«and do not give your daughters in marriage to polytheists until they believe». This is general in meaning and there are no exceptions.