

rather it is essential to be sincere in that claim. The sign of such sincerity is following His Messenger (ﷺ) in all matters, in word and deed, in both major and minor issues of religion, inwardly and outwardly; if an individual follows the Messenger, this indicates that he is sincere in his claim to love Allah (ﷻ), and Allah will love him, forgive his sins, have mercy on him and guide him in all that he does and does not do. But the one who does not follow the Messenger does not truly love Allah, because loving Allah requires him to follow His Messenger; so long as that is not the case, this indicates that that love is not present and that he is lying in his claim. Even if that love did exist, it would not benefit him without fulfilling the necessary conditions. This verse sets the standard against which all people may be measured; the extent to which they follow the Messenger is indicative of their faith and love for Allah, and any shortcoming in that reflects a shortcoming in loving Allah.



﴿ قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ ۖ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴾ (سورة آل

عمران: ٣٢)

3:32. Say: Obey Allah and the Messenger: But if they turn away, Allah does not love the disbelievers.

This is a command from Allah to His slaves in very general terms. The command is to obey Him and His Messenger, by means of which one enters faith and embraces belief in the oneness of Allah; all minor issues regarding actions and words, both visible and hidden, are based on that. Indeed, obedience to Him and to His Messenger includes avoiding that which He has prohibited, because avoiding it in obedience to the command of Allah is part of obeying Him. Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, it is they who are the successful.