

Extremism in Takfeer

Study Notes
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Note: The revision notes below should not be solely relied upon. They are to be utilised along with their corresponding explanations delivered during the lessons.

PRINCIPLE TWO

The issue of *Takfeer* is grave, so one should be cautious in this matter and not rush to pronounce the Muslim leaders as *kaafirs*. The issue of *takfeer* should be taken very seriously and not bear on emotional happenings. There is a great possibility the person being labelled may not deserve it.

EVIDENCE FOR PRINCIPLE TWO

Firstly to show that there is a possibility that a person may show apparent disbelief but really his heart is full of belief, and it would be very dangerous for one to pronounce *takfeer* upon him without establishing what he truly believes first. Allaah says:

"Whoever disbelieved in Allaah after his belief, except him who is forced thereto, whilst his heart is at rest with faith (*imaan*) but such as open their hearts to disbelief - on them is wrath from Allaah and theirs will be a great torment." [An-Nahl (16):106]

The statement of the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam):

"He who says to his brother: O disbeliever, then it returns upon one of them."
[Bukhaaree, Muslim and Muwatta Imaam Maalik]

Also his (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) saying:

"And he who accuses a believer of *kufr* then it is like killing him." [Bukhaaree]

Also his (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) saying:

".....Except if you see clear open *kufr*, given to you as evidence from Allaah.."
[Muslim, An-Nasaa'ee]

And his (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) saying:

"if a man says the people are destroyed, then he has destroyed them..." [Muslim]

Also his (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) saying:

"Everything of a Muslim is sacred to a Muslim: his property, honour, and blood. It is enough evil for a man to despise his Muslim brother."
[Aboo Daawood: 4868]

And his (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) saying:

"I warn you of suspicion, for indeed suspicion is the most lying speech."
[Agreed upon]

And his (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) saying:

"Whoever accuses a man of *kufr*, or says enemy of Allaah, and he is not that, then it returns upon him." [Agreed upon]

And his (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) saying:

"If anyone guards a believer from a hypocrite, Allaah will send an angel who will guard his flesh on the day of judgment from the fire of *Jahannam*; but if anyone attacks a Muslim, saying something by which he wishes to disgrace him he will be restrained by Allaah on the bridge over *Jahannam* till he is accounted for what he said." [Aboo Daawood: 4865]

And the saying of Shaykhul-Islam Ibnu Taymiyyah (rahimahullaah):

"I am one of the most severe in forbidding that a person in particular be labelled with disbelief, or sin or disobedience until it is known that the proof has been established upon him...." [Al Fatawa 3/229 and see Al Fatawa 3/282, 283 (a principle with Ahlus-Sunnah)]