

Core Curriculum

2 Foundations of Islam - Theology

2.8 **The Sharī'a: Purpose and Practice**

Sharī'a is the entirety of God's will upon humankind. The purpose of the Sharī'a is to discipline and test humankind in their obedience to God. Only through obedience to Allah can we reach salvation and nearness to Him.

The Sharī'a contains the dos and don'ts of Islam. Allah gains nothing out of our obedience and spiritual discipline, it is us who gain and benefit.

Allah commands us to the good, such as praying five times a day, or fasting during the month of Ramadan, but He also forbids evil, such as fornication, adultery, theft, alcohol and so on and so forth. All of these are there to aid our salvation.

The Sharī'a is therefore universal and can be practiced anywhere, up to a limit of course. In non-Muslim countries, most features of the Sharī'a can be practiced, such as feeding the poor or obeying and respecting one's parents.

Rules that are governmental and political in nature do not need to be implemented in non-Muslim countries.

If anything, we have to obey most secular rules when we live in non-Muslim countries, such as obeying traffic laws, or not cheating our taxes.