Christ's Call to Join His New Trit

Family loyalty is prized above everything else by most Muslims. It is even more important than devotion to Islam itself. What people often fail to recognize is that, as Muslims, they are part of a tribe that is not original to their ancestors. According to Islamic history, when Muhammad spoke to the various Arab tribes in the Arabian Peninsula, the command to Muslims was that obedience to God and His Apostle was more important than family and one's own life. Muslims were commanded to reject their own flesh and blood if they were not believers:

O believers, take not your fathers and brothers to be your friends, if they prefer unbelief to belief; whosoever of you takes them for friends, those -- they are the evildoers. (Sura 9:23)

As these commands were obeyed, a new tribe was started that consisted of obedience to what Muhammad said and did. That new tribe eventually saw entire Arab tribes join their ranks to create the Islamic nation. As this growth occurred, the previous tribal loyalties began to take precedence over obedience to Islam but with an important change these tribes adopted a Muslim identity even if they were not devout.

Most people do not think of Jesus Christ as the founder of a new tribe or nation but He truly is! Consider what Jesus said:

Anyone who loves his fatheror mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 10:37-39)

Jesus Christ demands our complete loyalty and devotion to Him. Family loyalty cannot be more important to us if we want to follow Him. In this way, those who accept the "callof Christ" form a new tribe:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter2:9-10)

What then does Jesus Christ offer that would be worth committing your life to, at the expense of your family and your own life? Any call to suffer and potentially die for someone must have something worthwhile in exchange. Consider the good news of Jesus Christ's message:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." (Luke 5:20)

You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:14-15) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I willgive you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30)

The call of Christ, for the one who accepts it, includes:

- Eternal life
- Forgiveness of sins
- Friendship with God
- Rest for the soul

Are these the kinds of things that you desire? Many people would love to have the assurance that God has forgiven their sins and that they will live forever in the presence of God.

Are you then willing to join Jesus Christ's new tribe?

It is at this point that many people reject the call of Christ. The fear of what would happen to them if they exchanged their identity and family loyalty are obstacles much too great to overcome in their own minds. Perhaps this is the case with you. Before you completely dismiss Christ's call, consider that people just like you, from the same religious background and family loyalties have gladly surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ. They found that pleasing God was more important than pleasing their families, their community, and themselves. The fear of God was more important to them than the fear of people.

If you reject call of Jesus Christ you are spurning the only way a person can be justified from sin and escape the wrath (anger) of God. God loves you so much that He became a man, lived a sinless life (the life that you and I were supposed to live), shed His blood on the cross as the Lamb of God to atone for sin (similar to when Abraham offered the ram in place of his son), and rose from the dead. Now, all who believe in the God-man, Jesus Christ, will receive the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and become God's friend like Abraham.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come afterme, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. (Matthew 16:24-27)

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. (John 7:16-18)

www.TaoandTawheed.com www.Arabic-English-Tracts.com Email: info@TaoandTawheed.com

العصبية القبلية من اهم القيّم التي يتبعها المسلمون. و في كثيرا من الاحيان تطبّق اكثر من التعاليم الدينية. و المسلمون لا يعون بأن انتماءهم للاسلام يعني انتماءهم الى قبيلة لم تكن لهم سابقاً. حسب التريخ الاسلامي، عندما خاطب محمد، نبي الاسلام، القبائل في شبه الجزيرة محمد، نبي الاسلام، والقبائل في شبه المزيرة من اهتمامهم بعانلاتهم و انفسهم. و ان المسلمين أمروا بان يتخلوا حتى عن اصولهم و فرو عهم اذا لم يؤمنوا:

"يَالَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لمَا تَثَخِذُوا آبَاءَكُمْ <mark>وَإِحْوَانِكُ</mark>مْ أُوِّلْيَاء<mark>َ إِنْ اسْتَحَبُّوا</mark> الكُفْرَ عَلَى اللِيمَان وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فُوْلَاكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ"، سورة التوبة آية 23

و عندما استجاب المسلمون لاوامر نبي الاسلام ظهرت قبيلة جديدة تضمّ كل اتباع هذا الدين. و هذه القبيلة احتوت جميع القبائل العربية بكل طبقاتها و انشأت الامة الاسلامية. و بعد هذا الانجاز ، بدأت العصبية القبلية تظهر من جديد على حساب العصبية للدين. و لكن بتغير قليل، و ذلك بانهم اصبغوها بصبغة دينية، حتى لو انهم غير ملتزمين بهذا الدين.

> معظم الناس لا يعتقدون بان المسيح قد انشأ قبيلة او امة جديدة و لكن في الواقع انه انشأها. اسمع ما قاله المسيح:

³⁷ مَنْ أَحَبَّ أَبَاهُ أَوْ أَمَّهُ أَكْثَرَ مِنِّي فَلا يَسْتَحِقَّنِي، وَمَنْ أَحَبَّ أَبْنَا أَو ابْنَهَ أَكْثَرَ مِنِّي فَلا يَسْتَحِقَّنِي. ³⁸وَمَنْ لا يَحْمِلُ صلِيبَهُ وَيَثْبَعْنِي فَلا يَسْتَحِقَّنِي. ⁹⁶ مَنْ أَرَادُ أَنْ يَحْفَظ حَيَاتَهُ، يَفَقِدُهَا. أَمَّا مَنْ فَقَدَ حَيَاتَهُ فِي سَبِيلِي، فَإِنَّهُ يَحِدُهَا. متى 39-37:10

اكد المسيح بان الطاعة و الولاء له فقط. و طغى ولاءه على العصبية القبليّة و بهذا من استجاب للمسيح فقد انضم الى قبيلته الجديدة:

⁹أماً أنتُمُ فَاتَكُمْ جَمَاعَة مُحْتَارَةً، مَمَلَكَة أَحْبَارِ، أَمَّة مُقَدَّسَةً، وَشَعْبٌ يَنتَمِي لِلَهِ، لِكِيُّ تُحْبِرُوا النَّاسَ بِعَطَائِمِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي دَعَاكُمْ مِنَ الظُّلَامِ إِلَى نُورِهِ البَاهِرِ. ¹⁰لأَنَّكُمْ فِي الْمَاضِي لَمْ تَكُونُوا شَعْبَ اللهِ، أَمَّا الآنَ فَأَنتُمْ شَعْبُهُ. فِي المَاضِي خُلتُمْ غَيَّرَ مَرْحُومِينَ، أَمَّا الآنَ فَقَدْ رَحِمَكُمُ اللهُ. رسالةُ بُطرُسَ الرَّسول الأولى 2:9-10

و ما عرضه المسيح علينا هو افضل من حياتنا و عائلاتنا و كل ما لدينا. و ان اية تضحية يقدّمها لنا شخص ما بحياته تُجزى بالاحسان فعلى الشخص تقبّل التضحية حتى يستفيد منها. استمع الى الاخبار الحلوة التي اتى بها المسيح:

"أَنَا هُوَ الْقِيَامَةُ وَالْحَيَّاةُ. مَنْ آَمَنَ بِي وَلَوْ مَاتَ فَسَيَحْيَا. ²⁶ وَمَنْ كَانَ حَيًّا وَآَمَنَ بِي فَلْنْ يَمُوتَ أَبَدًا. هَلْ تُؤْمِنِينَ بِهَذَا؟" يحنا 25-12-26

²⁰ فلمًا رَأى إيمَانَهُمْ قَالَ لِلرَّجُل: "يَا عَزِيزِي، مَعْفُورَةٌ لَكَ دُنُوبُكَ. " لوقا 20:5

¹⁴ إنْ عَمِلْتُمْ بوَصَايَايَ فَأَنْتُمْ أُحبَّانِي.
¹⁵ أَنَا لا أَدْعُوكُمْ عَبِيدًا بَعْدَ الآنَ، لأَنَّ العَبْدَ لا يَعْرفُ مَا يَعْدَلُ سَيَّدُهُ. إِنَّمَا دَعَونتُكُمْ أُحبَّانِي، لأَنَّ مَا يَعْدلُ سَيَّدُهُ. إِنَّمَا دَعَونتُكُمْ أُحبَّانِي، لأَنَّ عَرَقَتْتُكُمْ بَكُلَّ مَا سَمِعْتُهُ مِنْ أَبِي. يحنا 15-14:15

دعوة المسيح للانضمام الى قبيلته (جماعته) الجديدة

²⁷ خِرَافِي ثُصْغِي إلى صَوْتِي، وَأَنَا أَعْرِفُهَا وَهِيَ تَتْبَعْنِي.

⁸⁸ وَأَنَا أَعْطِيهَا حَيَاةَ الْخُلُودِ، فَلا تَهْلِكُ أَبَدًا، وَلا يَخْطِفُهَا أَحَدٌ مِنْ يَدِي. يحنا 27:10-28

²⁸ تَعَالوا لِي يَا جَمِيعَ المُتْعَبِينَ وَالَّذِينَ أَحْمَالَهُمْ تَقِيلَهُ، وَأَنَا أ<mark>ريحُكُمْ.</mark> ²⁹ لِحْمِلُوا نِيرِي، وتَعَلَّمُوا مِنِّي لأَنِّي وَدِيعٌ وَمُتَوَاضِعُ القَّلْبِ، فَتَجَدُوا رَاحَة لِنُفُوسِكُمْ. ³⁰ لأَنَّ نِيرِي سَهَلٌ وَحِمَلِي خَفِيفٌ." متى 28:11

يهب المسيح لمن يتقبّل دعوته ب:

<mark>الح</mark>ياة الخ<mark>الدة</mark> الغفران جعلهم اخلاء لله كالنبي <mark>ابر اهي</mark>م السكينة

هل تحبّ ان تحصل عل<mark>ى كل ذ</mark>لك؟ كل الناس يتمنون من الله ان يُغفر لهم كل خطاياهم <mark>و يظ</mark>لهم بحضوره يوم الدين.

هل تريد ان تكون من المرضيين من قبيلة المسيح الجديدة؟

و في هذه اوقات، كثيراً من الناس قد رفضوا هبة المسيح. ان الخوف الذي ينتابهم من تغيير هويتهم و قبيلتهم يشكّل عقبة لا يستطيعون تحمّلها. ربما تشعر انت بذلك. و قبل ان ترفض دعوة المسيح، انظر لمن كان قبلك. فهم كانوا من نفس الدين و لهم قبيلتهم قد سلّموا انفسهم للمسيح بكل سرور. و قد وجدوا انّ ارضاء الله كان اهم من ارضاء عائلاتهم و بقبيلتهم و حتى انفسهم. فانّ رهبة الله اهم اكثر من رهبة الناس.

لو رفضت دوعة المسيح او هباته فائك تبعد عن الطريق الوحيد الذي يمكن ان تسلكه لغفر خطاياك و تجنّب غضب الله. انّ الله يحبك لدرجة انه اصبح رجلاً و عاش حياةً طاهرة، كما يجب علينا و عليك ان نعيشها، و ضحى بنفسه على الصليب كحمل افتداه الله قرباناً لنا، كما عرض على ابر اهيم فدية لولده، و بعد ذلك قام من الاموات. و الآن كل من آمن بتجسد الله كانسان، اي المسيح ستُغفر له كل خطايا و يعيش حياةً خالدة ملازمة لله، كعائلة متحابة كما كان ابر اهيم، خليل الله.

⁴² مَّمَّ قَالَ يَسُوعُ (اي المسيح) لِتَلامِيذِهِ: "مَنْ أَرادَ أَنْ يَتَبَعَنِي، فَيَجِبُ عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يَتَخَلَّي عَنْ ذَاتِهِ، وَيَحْمِلُ صَلِيبَهُ وَيَتَبَعَنِي. ²⁵ لأَنَّ مَنْ أَرَاد أَن يُلْقِدَ حَيَّاتَهُ يَقَقِدُهَا، أَمَّا مَنْ فَقَدَ حَيَاتَهُ فِي سَبِيلِي فَائَهُ يَحِدُهَا. ²⁶ لأَنَّهُ مَاذَا يَسْتَقِيدُ الإِنْسَانُ لو رَبِحَ العَالَمُ كُلُّهُ، لكَنَّهُ ضَيَّعَ فَقُسَهُ؟ أَوْ مَاذَا يُمُكُنُ أَنْ يُقَدَّمَ الإِنسَانُ فَذَيَة عَنْ نَفْسِهِ؟ ²⁷ لأَنَّ ابْنَ الإِنْسَانَ سَيَاتِي مَعَ مَلاَئِكَتِهِ فِي جَلال أَبِيهِ، ويَجَازِي كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ حَسَبَ عَمَلِهِ. مَتَى 21:42-27

¹⁶ أَجابَهُمْ يَسُوعُ (اي المسيح): "تَعْلِيمِي لَيْسَ مَنِّي، بَلْ مِنَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَنِي. ¹⁷ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ مَشْبِيْةَ اللهِ، يَعْرَفُ إِذَا كَانَ تَعْلِيمِي مِنَ اللهِ، أَوْ أَنِّي أَتَكَلَّمُ مِنْ نَفْسِي. ¹⁸ مَنْ يَتَكَلَّمُ مِنْ نَفْسِهِ يَطْلُبُ المَدِيحَ لِنَفْسِهِ، أَمَّا مَنْ يَطْلُبُ المَدِيحَ لِمَنْ أَرْسَلَهُ، فَهُو صَادِقٌ لا شَرَّ قَيْهِ. يحنا 16:7هـ18

www.TaoandTawheed.com

www.Arabic-English-Tracts.com Email: info@TaoandTawheed.com