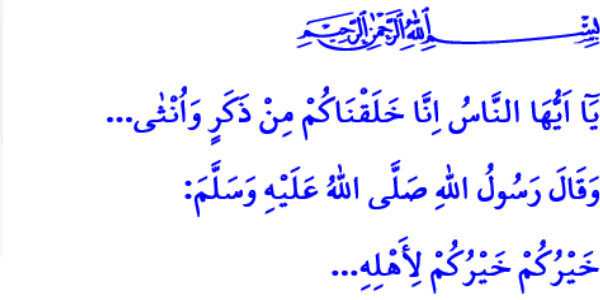


MAN AND WOMAN: DIGNIFIED BEINGS WORTHY OF REVERENCE

**Dear Muslims!**

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, "O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female..."ⁱ

In the hadith I have read, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, "The best of you is he who is best to his family..."ⁱⁱ

Dear Muslims!

One of the aims of our supreme religion Islam is to build a strong family structure based on love and respect, loyalty and trust. In this context, Islam imposes individual responsibilities on each family member.

The responsibility of the spouses towards each other is not to turn marriage into a competition, but to see each other as Allah's entrustment. It is to support one another in wealth and dearth, in good times and in sorrow. The responsibility of parents is to teach their children our national and spiritual values. It is to spare time for them, to show them love and to offer them a safe and peaceful family environment. The responsibility of children is to respect the rights of their parents. It is to speak kindly with them, to treat them with mercy. It is

to not even say "uff!" to them, and to seek their supplications.

Dear Believers!

Our Almighty Lord (swt) has created us as men and women. Women, as women, and men, as men, are dignified beings worthy of all kinds of respect. All of the deviant approaches that aim to disrupt the pure human nature, created by our Almighty Lord (swt) as the most honored of beings, interfere with the creation of human by ignoring the divine will. Gender selection is not an area of personal freedom. Behaviors aimed at disrupting human nature can never be legitimised by hiding behind the rhetoric of freedom. Improper understandings and preferences that are incompatible with our religion's view of women and men disrupt the family structure, destroy the human generation and lead the society to disaster.

Dear Muslims!

Let us know the value of our family, which is our paradise on earth. Let us be vigilant against all kinds of harmful trends that threaten our family structure. Let us sincerely adhere to the principles enjoined by our religion in family life as in every field. Let us make more effort to make kindness and grace, compassion and affection, modesty and chastity prevail in our family.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following supplication in the Holy Quran: "Our Lord! Bless us with pious spouses and offspring who will be the joy of our hearts, and make us models for the righteous."ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Hujurat, 49/13.

ⁱⁱ Tirmidhi, Manaqib, 63.

ⁱⁱⁱ Furqan, 25/74.