

Avoiding domestic violence BS Foad, MD 2016

1-There is no place today for wife-beating, it is against the law

A husband who beats his wife can go to jail. This will have a bad effect on the whole family

2-Some misunderstand the Qur'anic verse in surat An-Nesa'a (chapter 4) of the Qur'an:

"Men are protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means. Therefore the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in (the husband's) absence what Allah would have them guard. As to those women on whose part you feel disloyalty and ill-conduct, first admonish them, next refuse to share their beds, and last beat them lightly. But if they return to obedience seek not against them means of annoyance, for Allah is most-high, great above all."

An-Nesa'a (The Women) 4: 34

This verse only applies to certain types of women who are obstinate and refuse to come to reason and obey their husbands. It does not apply to the majority of women. Also it outlines steps taken in succession and one is not allowed to jump to wife-beating before talking in a kind caring way, and not having intimate contact. The Prophet (PBUH) wondered how can a man beat his wife, like beating a slave, then seeks intimacy with her.

The reason some men resort to violence is their wrong understanding of what a leadership position at home means. It is not an absolute authority, but it is a grave responsibility of setting an example by his character & behavior and he is accountable to Allah. He needs to respect and honor his wife and seek her opinion before making decisions. No one is better than another person because of gender, race, position or money. *Rather it is our faith, character, Taqwa and sincere service to Allah that brings us closer to Him.*

"Those who respond to their Lord, and establish regular prayer; and who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation; and who spend out of what We bestow on them for sustenance." Ash-Shura 40: 38

"Indeed the most honored amongst you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous" Al-Hujerat 49: 13

3-The relationship between husband and wife is based on kindness, love, mercy and tranquility and is a blessing from Allah:

"And among His signs is that he created for you, from among yourselves, spouses, that you may find peace & tranquility with them, and established your relationship on the basis of kindness, love and mercy. Indeed in this are signs for those who reflect." Ar-Rum (The Romans) 30: 21. The Qur'an orders Muslim men to treat their wives with kindness & equity: "And live with them on terms of kindness and equity" An-Nesa'a (Women) 4: 19. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) advised men to treat their wives well, and said: (The best among you is the best to his wife and family) Termedhi & Ibn Majjah.

4-There are bad effects for domestic violence. The **wife** who is beaten feels humiliated and her human dignity offended, and is resentful and full of anger and hatred towards her husband. How can she then respect or love her husband who abused her? The **children** who witnessed their mother being abused grow up with emotional scars and lose their sense of security, and some later on may abuse their own wives.

5-How can we prevent such a tragedy? We need to understand the root causes of domestic violence:

- Do not allow our anger to color our judgment or prompt us to use physical violence
- Understand God's blessings and that a wife is a person to be honored, cared for and loved, not to be humiliated
- Seek consultation before making important decisions -Understand our responsibility as leaders in our family
- We are not better than our wives, we both work hard to make life better for our family