

Loving to Look at Impermissible Pictures is Shirk of Desire

Explained by Shaykh Fawzan

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question : Noble Shaykh, may Allah grant you success. Is loving to look at impermissible pictures which appear on the cell phones and internet, and always desiring this; considering as Shirk, in which the person is a slave to these pictures?

Shaykh Fawzan : Yes. It is Shirk of desire. It is Shirk of desire because he craves these pictures, thus they take hold of his heart, consequently he pursues them. This is a type of minor Shirk.

Question : The follow up question, may Allah preserve you, what is your advice with regards to a successful remedy for the individual who has been tested with this?

Shaykh Fawzan : To stay far away from looking at these pictures, wherever they may be. Stay far away from looking at them.

﴿قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ﴾

“Tell the believing men to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things)” (Soorah An-Nūr 24:30)

Therefore, he lowers his gaze and he does not look at these things.

﴿إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا﴾

“Verily, the hearing, and the sight, and the heart, of each of those you will be questioned.” (Soorah Al-'Isrā' 17:36)

You will be questioned about your sight (what you looked at) and your hearing and your heart.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

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