

Want superior Conduct

What is Conduct?

The meaning of the word “Conduct” or “Character” is the manner in which a person behaves, the life style. For example, the books written on the biography of the companion of the Prophet (PBUH) is known as the “Conducts of the companions”. That means the story of the life style of the companions. The Arabic of conduct is “khuluq” in plural “Akhlaq” – which means manner and being courteous.

So, we can say that “the entire activity of life is synonymous to Conduct”. In other word Conduct is the “Sum way an individual behaves”.

Best Conduct

Good, beautiful and illuminating character is called “the best conduct”. In Arabic It is called “Husnul Khuluq”. It can be called Best Character, Good Behavior or Respectable Manner.

Prophet (PBUH) said about best conduct, “Righteousness (al-Birr) is good manners”. (Muslim)

The great scholars of Islam defined best conduct as “the religion”. According to Ibn Qayium (may Allah be pleased with him), “The person who is superior among you in terms of conduct is also superior among you in terms of righteousness”.

The necessity for best conduct

The following few Hadith will illustrate the importance of best conduct and the necessity of best character.

Mu'adh Ibn Jabal (RAA) narrates, "When I was appointed as the Governor of Yemen Prophet (PBUH) said while riding the horseback, "O Mu'adh Manifest your best character in front of people".

Abu Hurayra (RAA) reported that the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, "Do you know what it is that makes most people enter the Hell Fire?" "Allah and His Messenger know best," they said. He said, "The two leakages: 1) The genitals and 2) The mouth. Do you know what it is that makes most people enter the Garden? 1) Taqwa of Allah and 2) Good character." (Al adabul Mufrad –Imam Bukhari – 289)

Abdullah ibn Umar (RAA) narrates Prophet (PBUH) said, "The best amongst you are those that have best conduct" (Bukhari and Muslim)

Abdullah ibn Umar (RAA) narrates Prophet (PBUH) said, "The most favorite to me amongst you are those that have the best conduct" (Bukhari)

The heaviest thing on the scale is best character:

"On the day of Judgment nothing will be heavier on the scale than best conduct"

Achieving and strengthening the Best conduct:

1. **Truthfulness:** Allah (SWT) said “O you who have believed! Fear Allah and be with those who are truthful.” (Surah Tawba: 119)
Prophet (PBUH) said, “ Always speak the truth. Indeed, truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to paradise” (Bukhari and Muslim)
2. **Patience:** Allah (SWT) said, “O you who have believed, persevere and endure and remain stationed and fear Allah that you may be successful”. (Surah Al-Emran:200)
3. **Taking the balanced path:** Taking the balanced path or middle path is unique attribute that reflects upon every conduct in life. In Quran Allah (SWT) recommended taking the middle ground and avoiding extreme measures. Allah (SWT) said, “And do not utter your prayer with a much-raised voice nor be silent with regard to it, and seek a way between these”. (Surah Bani Israel: 110)
4. **Ihsan (pursuit of excellence):** Being courteous to others, sincerity, and giving others more than their dues is known as Ihsan or pursuit of excellence. In Surah Qasas Allah (SWT) said, “Allah bestowed Ihsan upon you”
5. **Giving preference to others:** Allah (SWT) said, “A share of the spoils shall also be given to those who made their abode in Madinah (the Ansar) and believed even before the arrivals of the Muhajirin and love those who migrated to

them and entertain no desire in their hearts for things given to them, and prefer those Muhajirin over themselves, even though they themselves are poor. In fact, those who are saved from the greediness of hearts, are the ones who will achieve true success.” (Surah Hashr: 9)

After migration to Madinah, the Ansar of Madinah helped the Muhajirin with everything despite their own hardship. This sincerity and sacrifice is exemplary in the history of human civilization.

6. **Modesty:** Modesty or shyness is a beautiful attribute of human being which saves one from sin and indecency. Prophet (PBUH) was very modest, even more modest than oblique virgins. (Bukhari and Muslim). Modesty is a primary branch of Faith (Iman). (Bukhari and Muslim) Modesty brings wellbeing. (Bukhari and Muslim)
7. **Guarding private parts:** Describing the characters of prosperous believers Allah (SWT) said, “They guard their private parts”. (Surah Mumin: 5) Allah (SWT) also said, “And do not approach immoralities - what is apparent of them and what is concealed”. (Surah Anam: 151)
Commanding to lead a moral and pure life, the Prophet (PBUH) said, “O the youth of Quraysh! Do not engage in adultery. Those who observe

the youth with purity and avoids immorality shall be the owners of paradise". (Bayhaqi)

8. **Trustworthiness:** Trustworthiness includes all kinds of trust. For example, commitment/responsibility of wealth, word, children, opinion, vote, etc. Allah (SWT) (SWT) said, "Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due". (Surah Nisa: 58) Prophet (PBUH) said, "He, who does not have trustworthiness, does not have belief (Iman)". (Ahmad, Tabarani)
9. **Fulfill Promise:** Allah (SWT) said, "And fulfill [every] commitment. Indeed, the commitment is ever [that about which one will be] questioned". (Surah Isra or Bani Israel: 34) Allah (SWT) said, "but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah , the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves; [and who] establishes prayer and gives zakah; [those who] fulfill their promise when they promise; and [those who] are patient in poverty and hardship and during battle." (Surah Baqarah: 177)
10. **Speak the truth:** Allah (SWT) said, "Then declare what you are commanded and turn away from the polytheists". (Surah Hijr: 94)

Allah (SWT) said, "They strive in the cause of Allah and do not fear the blame of a critic. That is the favor of Allah". (Surah Maidah: 54)

Prophet (PBUH) said," Speaking the truth in front of a tyrant is the greatest Jihad"

11. **Courage and valor:** Coward and petrified cannot survive on the true path. A believer is not afraid even at the darkest period of danger, but his faith increases. Allah (SWT) said, "Those to whom hypocrites said, "Indeed, the people have gathered against you, so fear them." But it [merely] increased them in faith, and they said, "Sufficient for us is Allah, and [He is] the best Disposer of affairs". (Surah Al-Emran: 173)
12. **Content with less:** Allah (SWT) said, "Do not strain your eyes with envy regarding the worldly benefits We have bestowed on some among them, for with these We seek to test them, the lawful provision of your lord is better and more lasting". (Surah Taha: 131)
13. **Generosity:** Describing the characteristics of the believers Allah (SWT) said, "Those who spend their wealth [in Allah 's way] by night and by day, secretly and publicly - they will have their reward with their Lord. And no fear will there be concerning them, nor will they grieve". (Surah Baqarah: 274)

Prophet (PBUH) said, "A generous person is a friend of Allah and a miser person is an enemy of Allah"

14. **Forgiveness:** Prophet (PBUH) said, "Forgive the person who is violating your rights". (Bukhari)
Allah (SWT) said, "Rather let them forgive and overlook - do you not wish that Allah should forgive you? Allah is Forgiving, Merciful". (Surah Noor: 22)
15. **Swallow Anger:** Allah (SWT) said, "They are those who spend generously in the way of Allah, whether they are in prosperity or in adversity, who swallow their anger and forgive other people for Allah loves such charitable people". (Surah Al-emran: 134)
No one likes an ill-tempered person. Anger can deviate one from the right path.
16. **Forbearance:** Forbearance or tolerance refers to the attribute that allows people to gather oneself even when the situation is unpleasant and refrain from taking revenge despite one is in a position to take perfect revenge.
This is a divine attribute of Allah (SWT) and he gave this attribute to the prophets and messengers. Allah (SWT) said, "Indeed Ibrahim was forbearing, tenderhearted and devout." (Surah Hud: 75)
17. **Politeness:** The way a person behaves reflects his personality and tells a lot about his mental

state. The beloved servants of Allah (SWT) demonstrate their inner politeness by their outward behavior. Allah (SWT) said, "The (faithful) slaves of the Beneficent are they who walk upon the earth modestly, and when the foolish ones address them answer: Peace". (Surah Furqan: 63)

"O Muhammad, it is a great Mercy of Allah that you are very gentle with them; had you been rough or hard-hearted, they would have deserted you." (Surah Al-Emran : 159)

18. **Good in response to Evil:** Allah (SWT) said, "Good deeds are not equal to the evil ones. Repel other's evil deeds with your good deeds. You will see that he with whom you had enmity, will become your close friend. But none will attain this quality except those who patiently endure and none will attain this quality except those who are truly fortunate". (Surah Ham meem as Sajda: 34,35)
19. **Self-respect and Dignity:** While describing the characteristics of the believers Allah (SWT) said, "Those are the ones who do not bear witness to falsehood and, if they ever pass by senseless play, pass with dignity". (Surah Furqan: 72)
20. **Adl and Insaf (Equity and Justice):** Allah (SWT) said, "Whenever you speak, be just, even if it affects your own relatives, and fulfill your covenant with Allah. These are the things which

He has enjoined on you so that you may be mindful". (Surah Anam: 152)

Muslims need to have the following virtues towards each other:

- 1. Remain united on the fundamentals of Islam**
- 2. Protect and safeguard the life of each other**
- 3. Not to disrespect or defame each other**
- 4. Not to belittle anyone**
- 5. Not to upset anyone**
- 6. Not to blame anyone**
- 7. Not to engage in name calling**
- 8. Not to think ill of others**
- 9. Not try to engage in finding short comings of others**
- 10. Not to Backbite**
- 11. Not to engage in slander**
- 12. Live in brotherhood and harmony**
- 13. In case of any grievance, deal with equity and justice**
- 14. Resist who violates ones right**
- 15. Help each other in noble deeds.**
- 16. Show love and compassion**
- 17. Encourage honest endeavor**
- 18. Resist evil**
- 19. Be soft-spoken**
- 20. Leave space for others in meetings and rallies**
- 21. Not to condone wrong**
- 22. Pray for each other**
- 23. Greet (say Salam to) each other**

24. Respond to greeting (Salam) in the best manner

25. Attend funeral prayers

Attributes that destroy the fort of Best Conduct:

1. **Lie:** Allah (SWT) said, “So shun the filth of idols, and shun lying speech”. (Surah Hajj: 30)

“that God's curse be upon him if he is telling a lie”. (Surah Noor: 7)

Prophet (PBUH) said, “Truth liberates people and falsehood destroys people”. (Bukhari)

Prophet (PBUH) said, Prophet (PBUH) said, “The worst of the sin is to associate anyone with Allah (SWT), disobeying parents and to give false witness (tell a lie)”. (Bukhari and Muslim)

2. **Break Promise:** Breaking promise is a symptom of hypocrisy and the characteristic of a believer is to keep promise. Allah (SWT) said, “He put hypocrisy into their hearts to last till the Day wherein they shall meet Him as a consequence of their breach of covenant with Allah and the lies they told”. (Surah Tawbah: 77)
3. **Betray Trust:** Allah (SWT) said, “O believers! Do not betray the trust of Allah and His

Rasool, nor violate your trusts knowingly".
(Surah Anfal: 27)

4. **Arrogance:** Arrogance is the main reason for most failure. Arrogance is the ornament of Allah (SWT). If anyone tries to have a claim on the jewel of Allah, he will be thrown into the hellfire. Allah (SWT) said, "You shall not walk arrogantly on the earth, for you can neither rend the earth asunder nor attain the height of the mountains".
(Surah Bani Israel: 37)
5. **Holier than thou:** It is the practice of shaytan to claim oneself as the best or pure. Allah (SWT) said, "do not claim piety for yourselves. He knows best who is really God-fearing pious". (Surah Najm: 32)
6. **Two-faced:** Allah (SWT) said, "When they meet the believers they say: "We are believers," but when they are alone with their shaitans, they say: "We are really with you, we were only mocking the believers."
(Surah Baqarah: 14)
7. **Envy:** Allah (SWT) said, "Or do they envy other people because Allah has given them from His grace? If so, let them know that We did give the Book and Wisdom to the descendants of Ibrahim (Abraham), and blessed them with a great kingdom".
(Surah Nisa: 54)

8. **Misery:** Allah (SWT) said, “And let not those who hoard up that which Allah has bestowed upon them of His bounty think that it is better for them. Nay, it is worse for them. That which they hoard will be their collar on the Day of Resurrection. Allah's is the heritage of the heavens and the earth, and Allah is Informed of what ye do”. (Surah Al-emran: 180)
9. **Extravagant:** Allah (SWT) said, “You shall give to your relatives their due and to the needy and to the wayfarers. You shall not be a spendthrift. - as spendthrifts are the brethren of shaitan and shaitan is ever ungrateful to His Rabb.” (Surah Bani Israel 26-27)
10. **Adultery/fornication:** Allah (SWT) said, “And do not approach immoralities - what is apparent of them and what is concealed”. (Surah Anam: 151)
Prophet (PBUH) said, “An Adulterer, while committing adultery, will not remain in the state of believe (Iman)”. (Bukhari, Muslim)
Prophet (PBUH) said, “Homosexuality, and other sexual perversion are worst of the sins and they have to face severe punishment”.
11. **Cheating, Deceiving and Conning:** Prophet (PBUH) said, “The place for cheats and con artists is in the hellfire” (kitabul Kaba'ir)

These are the characteristics of the hypocrites. Allah (SWT) said that the hypocrites deceive Allah and the believers continuously. (Surah Baqarah 8-16)

A believer should protect himself from any kind of deception, cheating, double dealing, conspiracy and conning.

Components for building character:

- 1. Strong Belief (Iman):** One needs to have firm conviction. Allah (SWT) said those who are the believers, they love Allah (SWT) the most. The one who has strongest belief (Iman) is the one who has the best conduct. Only a true believer can survive against all odds and manifest superior conduct.
- 2. Prayer (Salat):** Allah (SWT) said that indeed prayer (salat) shields one from immoral deeds. That is why one should always pray on time in congregation (jama'ah) with sincerity, modesty, and humility. Zakat, fasting and Hajj also helps develop good conduct.

Abu Dhar al-Gifari (RAA) narrates, once he approached Rasulullah (PBUH), " O Prophet of Allah!, give me some advice". Prophet (PBUH) said, " I am advising you to fear Allah, because it will beautify all your activities". Abuzar

(RAA) said, "Give me more Advice." He said, "Read the quran and make remembrance Allah (SWT) obligatory upon you and the world with be full of light for you". Then Abu Dhar (RAA) said, "Give me more advice". Prophet (PBUH) said, "Observe silence more (talk less) because silence and less talking keeps Shaytan away and allows you to work more on the religion'. Abu Dhar (RAA) then said, "Give me more advice". Prophet (PBUH) said," Do not pay fear any haters when working on the path of Allah (SWT)". Abu Dhar (RAA) said, "Give me more advice". Prophet (PBUH) said," When you would feel like slandering others, then abstain from that act knowing that you are imperfect and you know it". (Meshkat Hadith # 4632)

From the above Hadith we found that the components of building good characters are

- a. God fearing (Taqwah)
- b. Read Qur'an and Remembrance of Allah
- c. Speak less
- d. Laugh less
- e. Speak the truth

- f. Not being afraid of anyone when working in the path of Allah
- g. Acknowledging one's imperfection as a means of restraining from slandering
- h. Fear of death and accountability in the hereafter.
- i.

The best model for superior conduct

Prophet (PBUH) is the best model for superior character. Allah (SWT) said, "You (Muhammad) are of the highest noble character". (Surah Qalam: 4)

"You have indeed, in the life of Rasul-Allah, the 'Best Model' for him whose hope is in Allah and the Day of the Hereafter, and who engages himself much in the remembrance of Allah". (Surah Ahzab: 21)

So, we have to follow the life of Prophet (PBUH) in order to achieve superior character.

How to find out if I have the best conduct

According to Qur'an and Hadith, the person who is best according to his wife, children, kin, and neighbors, are the one who has best conduct.

Pray to Allah (SWT) for best conduct: Hazrat Ayesha (RAA) narrates, when Prophet (PBUH) used to see his reflection on the mirror, he used to say, "Oh Allah, make my character as beautiful as you have made me beautiful physically". (Adabul Mufrad Hadith # 506)

Conclusion:

The salient feature of superior conduct is to have coordination between walk and talk. Manifestation of superior conduct needs to be everywhere including home, abroad, in Masjid, in market, in business, in every sphere of life. We cannot have different faces in different places. Let us try to make our character the best character so that we can become beloved to Rasullah (PBUH) and build our home in Jannah.



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