

He is asking about Sufism and the Jamaa ' at al-Tableegh

Is the “ Da ’ wah and Tableegh ” group one of the misguided groups? And what about Sufism?.

Praise be to Allaah.

It is important for us to understand, firstly, that the words “ Tasawwuf ” and “ Sufism ” are modern terms which refer to something that is not automatically approved of in sharee ’ ah as the words eemaan (faith), Islam and ihsaan are. Neither is it automatically condemned like the words kufr, fusooq (immorality) and ‘ asyaan (disobedience, sin).

In such cases, we need to find out more about what is meant by such words before we can pass comment. Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allaah have mercy on him) said: “ The words al-faqr and al-tasawwuf (i.e., Sufism) may include some things that are loved by Allaah and His Messenger, and these are things that are enjoined even if they are called faqr or tasawwuf, because the Qur ’ aan and Sunnah indicate that they are mustahabb and that is not altered if they called by other names. That also includes actions of the heart such as repentance and patience. And it may include things that are hated by Allaah and His Messenger, such as some kinds of belief in incarnation and pantheism, or monasticism that has been innovated in Islam, or things that go against sharee ’ ah and have been innovated, and so on. These things are forbidden no matter what names they are given... And

---

it may include limiting oneself to a certain style of clothing or certain customs, ways of speaking and behaving, in such a way that anyone who goes beyond it is regarded as an outsider, although this is not something that has been stipulated in the Qur ' aan or Sunnah; rather it may be something that is permissible or it may be something that is makrooh, and this is a bid ' ah that is forbidden. This is not the way of the friends of Allaah (awliya ' Allaah); such things are innovations and misguidance that exists among those who claim to follow the Sufi path. Similarly, among those who claim to be servants of knowledge there are innovations that involve beliefs and words that go against the Qur ' aan and Sunnah, using phrases and terminology that have no basis in sharee ' ah. Many such things happen among those people.

The wise believer agrees with all people in that in which they are in accordance with the Qur ' aan and Sunnah and obey Allaah and His Messenger, but he does not agree with that in which they go against the Qur ' aan and Sunnah and disobey Allaah and His Messenger. He accepts from every group that which was taught by the Messenger... when a person seeks the truth and justice, based on knowledge, he is one of the successful friends of Allaah and His victorious party...

Al-Fataawa, 11/280-290.

But what Shaykh al-Islam

said about the view of Sufis depending on their situation is almost too theoretical for our times, when the objectionable matters that he referred to have become part of the path of those who call themselves Sufis nowadays,

in addition to the different occasions they celebrate such as the Mawlid, and their exaggeration about their living shaykhs, and their attachment to shrines and graves, where they pray and circumambulate the graves and make

vows to them, and other well-known practices of theirs. Because of these

---

matters, the correct approach now is to warn against them with no reservations. This is what was agreed upon by the Standing Committee in their answer to a question about the ruling on the Sufi tareeqahs that exist nowadays. They said:

Usually those that are called Sufis nowadays follow bid ' ahs (innovations) that constitute shirk, as well as other kinds of bid ' ah, such as when some of them say " Madad ya sayyid (Help, O Master) ", and call upon the qutubs ( " holy men " ), and recite dhikr in unison using names by Allaah has not called Himself, like saying " Huw, Huw (He, He) " and " Ah, Ah (a contraction of the word ' Allaah ' ) ". Whoever reads their books will be aware of many of their innovations that constitute shirk, and other evils.

With regard to the Jamaa ' at al-Tableegh, this is one of the groups that is active in the field of da ' wah, calling people to Allaah. They do a great deal of good and make commendable efforts. How many sinners have

repented at their hands, and how many have now become devoted to worship of

Allaah. But this group is not free of some innovations in knowledge and action, to which the scholars have drawn attention. But whatever the case they cannot be described as being one of the misguided groups. We have quoted above the words of Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah: The wise believer

agrees with all people in that in which they are in accordance with the Qur ' aan and Sunnah and obey Allaah and His Messenger, but he does not agree

with that in which they go against the Qur ' aan and Sunnah. For more information on this group, see the answer to questions no.

[8674](#) and [39349](#).