

Congregational prayers

Issue No. 1- It is Mustahab that daily obligatory prayers are performed in congregation.

Issue No. 2- Several things should be observed in congregation:

Issue No. 3- First Condition: existence of a qualified imam.

Issue No. 4- The Imam of the congregational prayers should be:

- Adult (Baligh)
- Sane
- Ithna 'Ashari Shi'ah
- 'Adil
- Of legitimate birth
- Being able to offer the prayers correctly

Furthermore, if the followers are male, the Imam also should be a male. But it is permissible for a female person to lead congregational prayers for females.

Issue No. 5- Every human being, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, is of legitimate birth, unless it is proved otherwise.

Issue No. 6- “**Idalat**” (justice) is an internal piety that prevents one from committing major sins, and repeating minor sins, and as long as we associate with someone and we do not see him committing any sin, it is sufficient.

Issue No. 7- If a person was previously known to be 'Adil (just), and if one doubts whether he is still Adil or not, he should be said to be just, unless one is sure that he is not.

Issue No. 8- Second Condition: There should be no obstruction between the Imam and the Ma'mum (follower), nor between one follower and the other followers which prevents seeing each other. However, if the follower is a woman, there is no harm, if there is an obstruction between her and men.

Issue No. 9- If the following rows are very long, and persons standing at the far end cannot see the line before, their congregation will be in order.

Issue No. 10- If a person who is standing behind a pillar is linked with the Imam by another follower from right or left sides, it will be sufficient.

Issue No. 11- Third Condition: The place where Imam stands should not be higher than the place of followers, unless the height is negligible. And, if the ground has a slope, the Imam should stand at the higher end, there will be no objection.

Issue No. 12- In the congregational prayers, there is no objection if the place where followers stand is higher than that of the Imam.

Issue No. 13- Forth Condition: There should not be too much distance between the Imam and the followers or

between the rows of followers. They should be in a manner that they are comfortable to perform Ruku and Sajdah.

Issue No. 14- If after the **Takbir** of Imam, the persons in the front rows are ready for prayers and to say Takbir, everyone can say Takbir and starts the prayers and it is not necessary to wait for the front rows to say Takbir.

Issue No. 15- Fifth Condition: The followers should not stand farther ahead than Imam. Therefore, if a follower, at the start of the congregation or during it, stands farther ahead, his prayers would be void. He should not stand in line with Imam either, rather a little farther back than the Imam.

Rules of congregational prayers

Issue No. 16- One cannot separate himself during congregational prayers into the Niyyat of Furada without any excuse.

Issue No. 17- If the follower has an excuse and makes an intention of Furada after the Imam has recited Surah al-Hamd and other Surah, it will not be necessary for him to recite Surah al-Hamd and other Surah. But if he makes an intention of Furada before the Imam has completed Surah al-Hamd and other Surah, he should recite the part that the Imam has not recited.

Issue No. 18- When the Imam is in Ruku', If a person makes the Niyyat of following him and joins him while he is still in Ruku', his prayers will be in order, whether the Imam has said the Zikr of Ruku' or not, and it will be counted as his first Rak'at.

Issue No. 19- If a person joins the Imam in the second Rak'at, he should recite Qunut and tashahhud with the Imam, and the precaution is that at the time of reciting tashahhud, he should keep the palms of his hands and the inner part of his feet on the ground and raise his knees. And after the tashahhud, he should stand up with the Imam and should recite **Surah al-Hamd** and the other Surah. And if he does not have time for the other Surah, he should complete **Surah al-Hamd** and join the Imam in Ruku'.

Issue No. 20- If a person joins the Imam when he is in the second Rak'at, he should sit after the two Sajdah in the second Rak'at, which will be the third of the Imam, and recite Wajib parts of tashahhud, and should then stand up and join the Imam. And if he does not have time to recite the Tasbihat Arba'ah thrice, he should recite it once, and then join the Imam in Ruku'.

Issue No. 21- If Imam is in the third or fourth Rak'at, and one knows that if he joins him and recite **Surah al-Hamd** he will not be able to reach him in Ruku', he should wait till Imam goes to Ruku' and then join.

Issue No. 22- If a person joins the Imam when he is in the third or fourth Rak'at, he should recite **Surah al-Hamd** and the other Surah, and if he does not have time for Surah he should recite only **Surah al-Hamd** and then join the Imam in his Ruku'.

Issue No. 23- The follower should recite all the things of the prayers himself, except **Surah al-Hamd** and the other Surah, and this is in the case of offering the first and the

second Rak'at with the Imam. However, if his first or second Rak'at coincides with the third or fourth Rak'at of the Imam while he is in Qiam (standing), he should recite **Surah al-Hamd** and the other Surah.

Issue No. 24- If the follower hears **Surah al-Hamd** and the other Surah of Imam in the first and second Rak'at of the Fajr, Maghrib and Isha prayers, he should not recite them. And if he does not hear the voice of the Imam, it is permissible for him to recite **Surah al-Hamd** and the other Surah silently. . However, in Zuhr and 'Asr prayers, he should always leave out **Surah al-Hamd** and the other Surah. But saying Zikr in a silent manner is permissible.

Issue No. 25- The follower should not say **Takbiratul Eham** before the Imam. However, there is no harm in saying other Zikrs before him, though as a recommended precaution, he should not do so if he hears the Imam's voice.

Issue No. 26- The follower should not perform all acts like Ruku' and Sajdah before the Imam. Indeed, he should perform them with the Imam or a little after him. And if, by mistake, he raises his head from Ruku' before the Imam does, he should return to Ruku', and then raise his head with Imam. In this case, the extra Ruku' will not invalidate the prayers.

Issue No. 27- If a follower, thinking that the Imam has raised his head from Sajdah, raises his head from Sajdah, he should return to Sajdah and if it happens in both the Sajdah, although the extra two Sajdah are Rukn, will not invalidate the prayers.

Issue No. 28- If a follower raises his head from Ruku' or Sajdah before Imam by mistake, and does not return to Ruku' or Sajdah either forgetfully, or thinking that he will not reach the Imam, his prayer is in order.
