

## Can Muslims befriend Christians and Jews?

It is very common saying by non Muslims that "Muslims are not allowed to befriend Christians and Jews." They cite this verse below from the Qur'an to make their point.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا الْيَهُودَ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ أَوْلِيَاءَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ

[\[5:51\]](#) "O ye who believe, take not the Jews and the Christians for guardians. They are protectors of one another. And whoever among you takes them for guardians is indeed one of them. Verily, Allah guides not the unjust people."

Since the Qur'an was revealed in Arabic, let first understand that the term wali (Arabic ولي , plural Awliyā أولياء) means supporter, guardian or protector and not a FRIEND. The word Awliya in its different forms appears in the Qur'an over 200 times whereas the word friend (Sadiq or Sahib) is mentioned 17 times and in several chapters in the Qur'an.

With his wisdom, Allah Almighty did not use the term friend in that verse as opposed to guardian because the two terms are NOT interchangeable. Plus, Allah is perfect, and He makes no mistakes.

One might ask why the Qur'an mentioned not to take Christians and Jews as guardians and protectors? The answer is simple. Since Christians and Jews are different in their beliefs from Muslims, one's allegiance should be to the Muslims. There is NO restriction on having friends who are Christians or Jews and that is not what the verse in the Qur'an implied or meant.

For example, US law states' access to classified information may only be granted to employees who are United States citizens. Also, people who are seeking top secret level clearance can be denied

clearance if the spouse or cohabitant is a foreign national. That does not mean foreign nationals are bad or not trustworthy.

No! It means America is best protected by its own people. Australia, Great Britain, Switzerland, and China for example do not allow non-citizens to join their military. See, no one dares to mock or attack any of those countries. So, it's not only the Qur'an that takes safety and security matters very seriously.

Believe it or not, the Qur'an even disallows Muslims to take immediate family members as guardians, if they are not Muslims. The Quranic verse [\[9:23\]](#),

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا آبَاءَكُمْ وَإِخْوَانَكُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ إِنِ اسْتَحَبُّوا الْكُفْرَ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ  
وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنكُمْ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ

Allah forbids Muslims from taking their fathers, sons, wives, or any member of their tribe as "protectors" if they are not Muslims.

That said, Islam orders that parents be treated kindly and graciously even if they are non-Muslims.

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ  
كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا آفٌ وَلَا تَنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا

"Your Lord has decreed that you worship Him and that you be kind to parents. -----" [\(Al-Isra: 23\)](#)

Finally, the Qur'an commands Muslims,

لَا يَنْهَاكُمُ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوكُم مِّن دِيَارِكُمْ أَن تَبَرُّوهُمْ  
وَتُقْسِطُوا إِلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ

"Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being 'RIGHTEOUS' toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly [\[60:8\]](#)."

Inviting non-Muslims for food and accepting invitation is permissible as long as the food and drinks are Islamically permissible i.e. no pork and alcohol.

It should be noted here that visiting non-Muslim patients are also encouraged, because it is a sign of courtesy and righteousness. "Allah (SWT) regards on who pays a visit to a patient as if he is paying a visit to Him, the Most Exalted."

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ married a Jewish woman name Saffiyya. I should emphasize here that he married her after she accepted Islam. So, if Islam would allow the Prophet ﷺ to do that, then does it make sense that Muslims are not to be friends with Christians, Jews, or anybody they wish to be with?

So concluding, Muslims are not allowed to befriend Christians and Jews is utterly insane.