

# FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

## *Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims*

### **Lesson 26: But My Family Will Reject Me!**

You may receive emails from internet contacts who fear that their family will reject them if they turn to Christ. In Muslim cultures, family relationships usually play a very important role in the life of an individual, especially in major decisions like deciding whom to marry. It's understandable, therefore, that a person's family would be offended if they feel that their son or daughter (for example) has disowned them and joined a foreign religious community!

If someone writes with this concern, it is important to encourage him or her that their changed life will be a testimony to their family. As the seeker allows God to work in their life, God's Spirit will change their heart and their outward behavior will begin to reflect the inward change. As they begin to live out the fruit of the Spirit, their family should notice the change and appreciate it.

It is also important for the seeker to realize that they don't need to completely turn against their culture, family and heritage. Not everything in Muslim culture is bad. It is important for us, as Online Missionaries, not to place prejudice in the minds of seekers. Muslim culture does have its problems, but so does every culture, even those most influenced by Christianity.

For example, as an internet contact begins to follow Christ, she could decide that she will continue wearing the same conservative clothing she always did, rather than switch to western clothing that her family perceives as immodest. Even though she has freedom in Christ to wear modest clothing even if it is not the most extreme *burka* (Islamic total covering), this decision may help her family to appreciate the change in her life as a good thing.

It's always good to point to Scripture. The Bible teaches us that there will be difficulties and persecution if we follow Christ:

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me." (Matt 16:24)*

*I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Cor. 12:10)*

*Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Tim 3:12)*

*God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful. (Rev 14:12)*

As Online Missionaries, we cannot do what in-person missionaries can do to help a new believer practically whose family opposes their faith in Christ. We have to accept the

limitations of our medium and disciple them the best we can online. We cannot solve all their problems for them, but we can teach them to trust the Lord who saved them and who loves them and promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5).

*Send comments/questions to [flmcomments@nayaajeevan.org](mailto:flmcomments@nayaajeevan.org)*