

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

3760 - Can a woman lead prayer if she knows more Qur'aan?

the question

AsSalaam ALaik,

Who leads the prayer between husband and wife if the wife knows much more of the Quran than the man ?

The one who knows more Quran leads ?

Or the man leads ?

Please let me know ASAP.

Jazakallahu Khairan.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Ibn Hazam (may Allaah have mercy on him) said in his book Al-Muhallaa bi'l-Aathaar, 317:

"... It is not permissible for a woman to lead a man or men in prayer, and there is no dispute on this matter. Also, it has been reported that a woman invalidates a man's prayer if she passes in front of him, which we will discuss further in a later chapter, in sha Allaah. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) also said, "The imaam is a protection (or a shield)," and ruled that (women) should definitely be behind men in prayer. The imaam should stand in front of the congregation or with them in the same row, as we have already mentioned. From these texts it is clear that it is not correct for a woman to lead a man or men in prayers."

(al-Muhallaa, part 2, Salaat al-Jamaa'ah).

'Ali ibn Sulaymaan al-Mardaawi al-Hanbali (may Allaah have mercy on him) said: "With regard to

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his saying 'It is not right for a woman to lead a man in prayer', and this applies whatever the case."

(Al-Insaaf, part 2, Baab Salaat al-Jamaa'ah).

And Allaah knows best.