

9933 - A boy leading a woman in prayer and vice versa

the question

can my 7yr old lead me in salaah? can i lead him in salaah being his mother? note:he learnt how to pray by copying me and following me in salaah

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

It is OK for a boy who understands the prayer to lead others in prayer, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "People should be led in prayer by the one who knows the most Qur'aan among them." (Narrated by Muslim, al-Masaajid wa Mawaadi' al-Salaah, 1078). And it was narrated in Saheeh al-Bukhaari that 'Amr ibn Salamah al-Jarami said: "My father came from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and said that he had heard the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) say, 'When the time for prayer comes, let the one among you who knows the most Qur'aan lead you in prayer.' They looked and they did not find anyone who knew more Qur'aan than me, so they made me lead them in prayer, and I was a boy of six or seven years." (al-Maghaazi, 3963. See Fataawa al-Lajnah al-Daa'imah, 7/389-390)

The evidence to be found in the hadeeth is that these Sahaabah asked 'Amr ibn Salamah to lead them in prayer when he was six or seven years old. This indicates that a boy who has reached the age of discernment can lead the prayers. If that were not permitted, there would have been Revelation to say that it was not allowed. (Ahkaam al-Imaamah wa'l-l'timaam fi'l-Salaah by 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Muneef).

If your son fulfils all the conditions and obligations of the prayer, then there is nothing wrong with him leading you.

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:

Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

With regard to a woman leading a boy in prayer, this is not permissible, because he comes under the same rulings as a man. What is permitted is for a woman to lead other women in prayer, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) commanded Umm Waraqah bint 'Abd-Allaah ibn Nawfal to lead the members of her household - i.e., the women - in prayer. (Narrated by Abu Dawood, al-Salaah, Imaamat al-Nisaa', 500, Classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Sunan Abi Dawood, 553).