
Does shaking hands with a Christian or a Jew nullify Wudoo

Article taken and slightly adapted from: alifta.gov.sa
[Part No. 10; Page No. 154]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: If someone performs Wudoo' (ablution) in preparation to offer Salaah and then shakes hands with a Christian or a Jew, does this render their Wudoo' invalid? What is the ruling on inviting a Christian to have a meal in the house of a Muslim?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: If a Muslim shakes hands with a Christian, a Jew, or any other disbeliever, then his Wudoo' is not nullified. Yet it is not for him neither to shake hands with them nor to initiate greetings to them. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: [**Do not initiate greetings to the Jews or the Christians**]. Since shaking hands is much more significant than initiating greetings, Muslims are obliged not to initiate greetings nor shake hands with them. If disbelievers initiate greeting a Muslim and then shake hands with him, then there is no harm on his part to greet them in return, because he did not initiate greeting them but it is they who initiated greeting him.

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him