In The Name of Allaah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy.

Wael Aleji and David Alton [may Allaah guide them] stated, "With sectarian and religious conflicts ravaging through different parts of the world, including in the Middle East, and with many scholars holding the Abrahamic faiths responsible for a long history of bloodshed, can the three faiths bring a new hope for a long-lasting peace for the world?"

**Response:** Indeed, religious sectarianism and conflict is an old affair and it first occurred as a result of the deviation of a group - amongst humankind - from the pure religion ordained by Allaah. Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] said:

Mankind وَمَلَ كَانَ ٱلنَّاسُ إِلَّا أُمَّةً وَأَحِدَةً فَٱخْتَاَفُولاً وَلَوْلاَ كَالِمَةٌ سَبَقَتَ مِن رَّبِكَ لَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ فِيمَا فِيهِ يَخْتَافُولاً were but one community (i.e. on one religion – Islamic Monotheism), then they differed (later), and had not it been for a Word that went forth before from your Lord, it would have been settled between them regarding what they differed]. [Surah Yunus. Verse 19]

Ibn Abbaas [may Allaah be pleased with him and his father] said, "There were ten generations between Nooh and Aadam – all of them used to be upon the true path [i.e. upon Islaam – worshipping Allaah alone], then they differed and started worshipping idols, false deities and images, so Allaah sent Messengers with clear proofs and evidences. (1) Shirk [polytheism or ascribing partners with Allaah in worship] first started amongst the people of Nuh when they exaggerated (the status) of the righteous people and turned away from the call of their Prophet out of pride. Allaah said that Nuh said that his people said:

[اَلُواْ لَا تَذَرُنَّ ءَالِهَتَكُمْ وَلَا تَذَرُنَّ وَلَا سُوَاعًا وَلَا يَغُوثَ وَيَعُوقَ وَنَسَرًا] And they have said, "You shall not leave your gods, nor shall you leave Wadd, nor Suwa', nor Yaghuth, nor Ya'uq, nor Nasr"]. (2)

Al-Bukhaari [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said, "It has been narrated from Ibn Abbaas [may Allaah be pleased with him and his fathe] that these were the names of pious people amongst the people of Nuh, and when they died, shaytaan inspired their people to (prepare) and place idols at the places where they used to sit, and to call those idols by their names. They did so, but did not worship them until those people (who initiated them) had died and the origin of the idols had become obscure, whereupon people began worshipping them. (3)

Then Mr Aleji and Mr Alton stated: "And with many scholars holding the Abrahamic faiths responsible for a long history of bloodshed, can the three faiths bring a new hope for a long-lasting peace for the world. There is no doubt that the answer for us is yes, the Abrahamic faiths have coexisted peacefully and respectfully at some points in history and there are many historical and theological evidence to back these claims".

**Response:** Indeed, it is incumbent upon Mr Aleji and Mr Alton to either distinguish between truth and falsehood in this affair if they are able to do so or refrain from speaking in affairs related to the religion ordained by Allaah if they are not able to do so. Imaam Ibnul

Qayyim [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said, "It is obligated on you to give detail and make a distinction, because unrestricted and general (statements) without clarification has indeed corrupted this existence (i.e. the world), and misguided the intellects and views (of the people) in every era". Al-Allaamah Saaleh Al-Fawzaan [may Allaah preserve him] commented on this statement and stated, "There has to be detail explanation. The one who is not proficient in giving detail should keep quiet because benefit is not acquired from his speech. And every time error occurs, its cause is due to an absence of detail explanation regarding truth and falsehood. There has to be detail explanation and distinction and not to mix up [affairs]. Indeed, it may be that there is something of truth and falsehood in an opponent's statement, so all of it is neither deemed to be false nor truth; rather there has to be a distinction between its truth and falsehood. All of it is neither rejected nor accepted; rather a distinction is made regarding the truth and what is correct and the falsehood and error in it. And if you are not proficient in giving detail, then you should not enter into this field". (4)

Therefore, it was incumbent upon Mr Aleji and Mr Alton to either explain in detail and make a distinction, because there is a clear distinction between those who still adhere to the path of Prophet Ibraaheem [peace be upon him] and those who have deviated from his path. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

شَرَعَ لَكُم مِّنَ ٱلدِّينِ مَا وَصَّىٰ بِهِۦنُوخًا وَٱلَّذِىٓ أَوۡحَيۡنَاۤ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيۡنَا بِهِ ٓ إِبۡرَأَهِيمَ وَمُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰۤ أَنُ أَقِيمُواْ ٱلدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُواْ فِيهِۚ كَبُرَ عَلَى ٱلْمُشۡرِكِينَ مَا تَدۡعُوهُمۡ إِلَيْهِۚ ٱللَّهُ يَجۡتَبَىۤ إِلَيْهِ مَن يَشَآءُ وَمَهۡدِىٓ إِلَيْهِ مَن يُنِيبُ

وَمَا تَفَرَّقُوۤاْ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعۡدِ مَا جَآءَهُمُ ٱلۡعِلَمُ بَغۡيًّا بَيۡنَهُمۡۚ وَلَوۡلَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتۡ مِن رَبِّكَ إِلَىۤ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمُّى لَّقُضِىَ بَيۡنَهُمۡۚ وَإِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ أُورِثُواْ ٱلۡكِتَبَ مِنْ بَعۡدِهِمۡ لَفِى شَكُّ مِّنُهُ مُرِيبِ

He (Allaah) has ordained for you the same religion (Islaam) which He ordained for Nooh (Noah), and that which We have inspired in you (O Muhammad), and that which We ordained for Ibraheem (Abraham), Moosaa (Moses) and 'Iesa (Jesus) saying you should establish religion (i.e. to do what it orders you to do practically), and make no divisions in it (religion) (i.e. various sects in religion). Intolerable for the polytheists is that to which you (O Muhammad) call them. Allaah chooses for Himself whom He wills, and guides unto Himself who turns to Him in repentance and in obedience.

And they divided not till after knowledge had come to them, through selfish transgression between themselves. And had it not been for a Word that went forth before from your Lord for an appointed term, the matter would have been settled between them. And verily, those who were made to inherit the Scripture [i.e. the Tauraat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel)] after them (i.e. Jews and Christians) are in grave doubt concerning it (i.e. Allaah's true religion, Islaam or the Qur'aan).

So unto this (religion of Islaam, alone and this Qur'aan) then invite (people) (O

Muhammad), and Istaqim [(i.e. stand firm and straight on Islaamic Monotheism by performing all that is ordained by Allaah (good deeds, etc.), and by abstaining from all that is forbidden by Allaah (sins and evil deeds, etc.)], as you are commanded, and follow not their desires but say: "I believe in whatsoever Allaah has sent down of the Book [all the holy Books, this Qur'aan and the Books of the old from the Taurýt (Torah), or the Injeel (Gospel) or the Pages of Ibraahim (Abraham)] and I am commanded to do justice among you, Allaah is our Lord and your Lord". [Surah Ash -Shurah. Verses 13-15]

Shaikhul Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah [may Allaah have mercy upon him] said, "Indeed, Allaah has ordained for us (Muslims) the same Religion which He ordained for Ibraaheem, Musa and Eesaa, and that we should establish this Religion and make no divisions in it; just as Allaah stated in another ayah:

So set you (O Muhammad) your face towards the religion of pure Islaamic Monotheism Hanifa (worship none but Allaah Alone) Allaah's Fitrah (i.e. Allaah's Islaamic Monotheism), with which He has created mankind. No change let there be in Khalqillaah (i.e. the Religion of Allaah Islaamic Monotheism), that is the straight religion, but most of men know not. (Always) Turning in repentance to Him (only), and be afraid and dutiful to Him; and perform As-Salaat (Iqaama-As-Salaat) and be not of Al-Mushrikoon (the disbelievers in the Oneness of Allah, polytheists, idolaters, etc.). Of those who split up their religion (i.e. who left the true Islaamic Monotheism), and became sects, [i.e. they invented new things in the religion (Bid'ah), and followed their vain desires], each sect rejoicing in that which is with it". [Surah Ar-Rum. Verses 30-32]

And Allaah [The Exalted] said:

O (you) Messengers! Eat of the Tayyibaat [all kinds of Halaal (legal) foods which Allah has made legal (meat of slaughtered eatable animals, milk products, fats, vegetables, fruits, etc.], and do righteous deeds. Verily! I am Well-Acquainted with what you do. And verily! This your religion (of Islamic Monotheism) is one religion, and I am your Lord, so keep your duty to Me. But they (men) have broken their religion among them into sects, each group rejoicing in its belief. [Surah Al-Muminoon. Verses 51-53]

So, Allaah informed us about the splitting of those who inherited the Scripture, such as the splitting of the Jews and the Christians. The Jews and the Christians split (into sects), such as the 'Nastooriyyah', the 'Yaqoobiyyah' and the 'Malakiyyah'. Allaah [Glorified be He and free is He from all imperfections] said: [ وَإِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ أُورِثُواْ ٱلْكِتَـٰبَ مِنْ بَعُدِهِمَ لَفِي شَلِّ مِّنْ مُعُدِهِمَ لَفِي شَلِّ مِّنْ مُعُدِهِمَ لَفِي شَلِّ مَّنْ مُعُدِهِمَ لَفِي شَلِيْ مُرِيبٍ — And verily, those who were made to inherit the Scripture [i.e. the Tauraah (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel)] after them; that is those ones who split (their Religion), are in GRAVE DOUBT concerning it (i.e. Allaah's true religion Islam or the Qur'aan)].

This is normally the inclination of the Jews and the Christians! They are in grave doubt concerning Allaah's true Religion. Allaah [Glorified be He and free is He from all imperfections] said:

وَلَقَدُ ءَاتَيْنَا مُوسَى ٱلۡكِتَـٰبَ فَٱخۡتُلِفَ فِيهِۚ وَلَـوُلَا كَلِمَةٌ شَبَقَتْ مِن رَّبِّكَ لَقُضَى بَيُنَهُمْ قَاإِنَّهُمْ لَفِى شَكُّ مِّنَهُ ]

— Indeed, We gave the Book to Moosaa (Moses), but differences arose therein, and had it not been for a Word that had gone forth before from your Lord, the case would have been judged between them, and indeed they are in grave doubt concerning it (this Qur'aan)]. [surah Hud. Verse 110]

And Allaah [The Exalted] said:

<u>over another man (and they killed that man)</u>, and those who differ therein are full of doubts. They have no (certain) knowledge, they follow nothing but conjecture. For surely; they killed him not [i.e. 'lesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary)]: But Allaah raised him ['lesa (Jesus)] up (with his body and soul) unto Himself (and he is in the heavens). And Allaah is Ever All Powerful, All Wise. [Surah An-Nisaa. Verse 157]

Allaah [Glorified be He and free is He from all imperfections] said:

So unto this (religion of Islaam, alone and this Qur'aan) then invite (people) (O Muhammad), and Istaqim [(i.e. stand firm)], as you are commanded. And follow not their desires- Meaning, the desires of the Jews, the Christians and idol worshippers.

And regarding the statement [وَقُلُ عَامَنتُ بِمَاۤ أَنزَلَ ٱللّهُ مِن كِتَـٰتٍ But say, "I believe in whatsoever Allaah has sent down of the Book (all the holy Books, this Qur'aan and the Books of the old from the Tauraat (Torah), or the Injeel (Gospel) or the Pages of Ibraaheem (Abraham)]", this verse is truth, because Allaah commanded Muhammad [peace annd blessings of Allaah be upon him] and all the creation (mankind and jinn) to have belief in all that Allaah has revealed. Likewise, the statement, "And I (Muhammad) am commanded to do justice among you", this is

truth, because Allaah commanded Muhammad to do justice among all the creation. And regarding the statement, "Allaah is our Lord and your Lord. For us our deeds and for you your deeds", this is a declaration of Muhammad's [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] innocence from the idol worshippers and the People of the Scripture, and it is similar to the statement, "And if they belie you (O Muhammad), say: 'For me are my deeds and for you are your deeds! You are innocent of what I do, and I am innocent of what you do!". [Surah Yunus. Verse 41] (5)

Therefore, this - in brief - is the first affair Mr Aleji and Mr Alton must bear in mind when speaking abour religious sectarianism, conflict and Prophet Ibraaheem [peace be upon him]. Religious sectarianism and conflict first occurred due to the deviation of a group of people who innovated in religion that which Allaah has not ordained. Also many of the people who received the Scripture before Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] deviated from the path of Prophets Ibraaheem, Moosaa and Eesaa [may peace and blessings of Allaah be upon them]. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

Say (O Muhammad): "O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians): Come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but Allah, and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah. Then, if they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims]. [Surah Aal Imraan. Verse 64]

Meaning: say to the people of the scripture – the Jews and Christians, [اقَعَلَيْهُ اللهُ عَلِمَةُ اللهُ اللهُ وَاللهُ اللهُ اللهُ

and that none of us shall take others as lords besides – وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَغُضًا أَرْبَابُا مِّن دُونِ ٱللَّهِ Allaah]; rather all obedience is to be devoted to Allah and His Messengers. [فَإِن تَوَلِّوْاْ فَقُولُواْ ٱشَّهَدُواْ — Then, if they turn away, say: "Bear witness that we are Muslims]. (6)

O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Why do you dispute about Ibrahim (Abraham), while the Taurat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel) were not revealed till after him? Have you then no sense?

Verily, you are those who have disputed about that of which you have knowledge. Why do you then dispute concerning that which you have no knowledge? It is Allah Who knows, and you know not.

Ibrahim (Abraham) was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a true Muslim Hanifa (Islamic Monotheism – to worship none but Allah Alone) and he was not of the idol worshippers.

Verily, among mankind who have the best claim to Ibrahim (Abraham) are those who followed him, and this Prophet (Muhammad) and those who have believed (Muslims). And Allah is the Wali (Protector and Helper) of the believers. [Surah Aal Imraan. Verses 65-68]

Allaah [The Exalted] said:

لَمْ يَكُنِ ٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ مِنْ أَهْلِ ٱلْكِتَاْبِ وَٱلْمُشْرِكِينَ مُنفَكِّينَ حَتَّىٰ تَأْتِيَهُمُ ٱلْبَيِّنَةُ
رَسُولُ مِّنَ ٱللَّهِ يَتْلُواْ صُحُفًّا مُّطَهَّرَةً
فِيهَا كُتُبُ قَيِّمَةٌ

وَمَا تَفَرَّقَ ٱلَّذِينَ أُوتُواْ ٱلْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَآءَتُهُمُ ٱلْبَيِّنَةُ

وَمَآ أُمِرُوٓا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا ٱللَّهَ مُخُلِصِينَ لَهُ ٱلدِّينَ حُنَفَآءَ وَيُقِيمُوا ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ وَيُؤَتُوا ٱلزَّكُوٰةَ وَذَالِكَ دِينُ ٱلْقَيِّمَةِ
إِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ مِنْ أَهْلِ ٱلْكِتَنبِ وَٱلْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَلِدِينَ فِيهَأَّ أُوْلَنبِكَ هُمْ شَرُّ ٱلْبَرِيَّةِ
إِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ مِنْ أَهْلِ ٱلْكِتَنبِ وَٱلْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَلِدِينَ فِيهَأَّ أُوْلَنبِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ ٱلْبَرِيَّةِ
إِنَّ ٱللَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ وَعَمِلُواْ ٱلصَّلِحَاتِ أُوْلَنبِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ ٱلْبَرِيَّةِ

جَزَآؤُهُمْ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّتُ عَدُنٍ تَجْرِى مِن تَحْتِهَا ٱلْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَآ أَبَدُّا رَّضِيَ ٱللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُواْ عَنْهُ ۚ ذَالِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ ۥ

Those who disbelieve from among the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) and among Al-Mushrikun, were not going to leave (their disbelief) until there came to them clear evidence. A Messenger (Muhammad) from Allah, reciting (the Qur'an) purified pages [purified from Al-Batil (falsehood, etc.)]. Containing correct and straight laws from Allah. And the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) differed not until after there came to them clear evidence. (i.e. Prophet Muhammad) and whatever was revealed to him). And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), and perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat) and give Zakat: and that is the right religion. Verily, those who disbelieve (in the religion of Islam, the Qur'an and Prophet Muhammad ()) from among the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) and Al-Mushrikun

will abide in the Fire of Hell. They are the worst of creatures. Verily, those who believe [in the Oneness of Allah, and in His Messenger (Muhammad) including all obligations ordered by Islam] and do righteous good deeds, they are the best of creatures. Their reward with their Lord is 'Adn (Eden) Paradise (Gardens of Eternity), underneath which rivers flow, they will abide therein forever, Allah Well-Pleased with them, and they with Him. That is for him who fears his Lord. [Surah Al-Bayyinah]

The Messenger Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] said, "By Him in Whose hand is the life of Muhammad, he who amongst the community of Jews or Christians hears about me, but does not affirm his belief in that with which I have been sent and dies in this state (of disbelief), he shall be but one of the denizens of Hell-Fire". [Saheeh Muslim. Number 153]

As for the bloodshed that occurred and continues between people, then indeed there is no doubt that this - sometimes - occurs due to the transgression of those who initiate hostilities in the name of religion or those who initiate hostilities due to greed, a desire to manipulate and loot the resources of other nations due to what their man made ideologies lead them to. The extremists and wicked proponents of religious innovations amongst the Muslims, such as Daish and their ilk commit atrocities in the name of Islam and the secularists of the West invade countries and commit atrocities in the name of upholding the so called values of the so called Free World! We declare our innocence from all these people because Islam has a clear path regarding war and peaceful co-existence. Read here by Shaikh Abu Khadeejah [may Allaah preserve him]:

https://www.abukhadeejah.com/the-life-of-the-muhammad-in-madinah-treaties-conquests-and-his-death/

https://www.abukhadeejah.com/treaties-with-the-non-muslims-do-they-necessitate-allegiance/

https://www.abukhadeejah.com/having-alliance-with-the-non-muslims-is-of-two-types-misunderstanding-this-affair-leads-people-astray/

https://www.abukhadeejah.com/salafi-shaikh-fawzaan-on-jihaad-in-our-times-and-the-guidelines-of-jihaad-according-to-islam/

https://www.abukhadeejah.com/living-with-non-muslims-in-the-west-with-fine-conduct/

Then Mr Aleji and David Alton stated, "Monotheism is one of the most common themes between the three Abrahamic religions and that is why they, sometimes, are called the monotheistic religions because they believe in the unitary nature of God. In Exodus 20:2-17, the first commandment reads, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me." This was confirmed in the New Testament in Mark 12:28-31 when one of the teachers of the law came and heard Jesus debating, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Jesus answered, "The most important one is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Four centuries later, the church reaffirmed this concept through the Nicaeno-Constantinopolitan

Creed which begins with, "We believe in one God, the father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen." The same concept is cited in the Quran in Surat Al-Hashr 59: 22: "He is God, other than whom there is no deity, Knower of the unseen and the witnessed. He is the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful."

There are several significant facts in history that support our argument, such as the origin of the Arabic word "Tawheed" which means "unity or unitary." Both Ethiopian and Eritrean Orthodox Churches call themselves "The Orthodox Tewaheedo Church." The word "Tewaheedo" is a Ge'ez word meaning "unity or unitary" (the Ge'ez language is the ancient Nilo-Saharan language of Ethiopia and Eritrea). A similar word exists in Arabic "Tawheed" with the same meaning.

**Response:** Firstly, what is Monotheism and Tawheed?

Monotheism in the English language means the belief that there is only one god. (7) This is not what pure Monotheism (Tawheed or belief in one god) means in the message of the Messengers [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon them]. In the Arabic language, Tawheed means to make something one, for example when it is said, "He is one of his tribe" if there is no one similar to him. In the Islamic legislation (i.e. sacred texts - Qur'aan and Sunnah), it means to single out Allaah in Lordship, single out Allaah in His Names and Attributes, and single out Allaah in worship. So, in the Arabic language, it means the oneness of something that has no likeness to others and in the sacred texts it means Allaah is the One and Only without any similarities to anyone or anything, that He alone is the possessor of Lordship and He alone has the right to be worshipped. (8)

Affirming or (the belief) that "there is only one god" is not enough to make a person an adherent of monotheism or Tawheed! Al-Allaamah Saaleh Al-Fawzaan [may Allaah preserve him] said, "Indeed, Tawheed is of two types: Tawheed Fil Ma'rifah Wal Ith'baat and it is Tawheed Ar-Ruboobiyyah [The Oneness of Allaah's Lordship], which includes affirmation that Allaah alone is the Creator, the One in control over the entire affairs of the universe, the giver of life and death, the One who bestows all good and repels harm. The polytheists used to affirm (this category of Tawheed) even though they associated partners with Allaah in worship, just as Allaah [The Most High] stated about them:

Say (O Muhammad): "Who provides for you from the sky and from the earth? Or who owns hearing and sight? And who brings out the living from the dead and brings out the dead from the living? And who disposes the affairs?" They will say: "Allah." Say: "Will you not then be afraid of Allah's Punishment (for setting up rivals in worship with Allah)?" [Surah Yoonus' Verse 31]

The likes of these verses are many and in them are clear clarifications that the polytheists used to affirm this category of Tawheed, but they used to wilfully deny the other

category- Tawheed Al Ibaadah, which is to single out Allaah in every act of worship, and this necessitates the statement 'There is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah". And because of this, the Prophet [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] asked the polytheists to testify and believe that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah, but (Allaah said that they replied):

[طُّهَ اَ إِنَّ هَا اَلَّهُ اَ إِنَّ هَا اَلْكَا اَلَّهُ اَ إِلَّهُ اَ إِلَّهُ اَ إِنَّ هَا اَلْكَا الْشَيْءُ عُجَابٌ Has he (Muhammad) made the aliha (gods) (all) into One Ilah (God – Allah). Verily, this is a curious thing!" [Surah Saad' Verse 5]

That is because they knew that whoever says "There is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah", then indeed he has acknowledged that everything worshipped besides Allaah is false and affirmed that only Allaah has the right to be worshipped; because the meaning of Allaa [i.e. god] is Al-Ma'bood [i.e. an object of worship]. As for worship, it is a comprehensive term for everything that Allaah loves and is pleased with- [including] statements and actions, whether inward [i.e. acts of worship of the heart, such as love, fear, hope etc] or outward [i.e. apparent acts of worship carried out by the limbs].

Therefore, whoever utters this statement "There is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah", but then he invokes others besides Allaah, indeed he has contradicted himself. An affirmation of Tawheed Ar-Ruboobiyyah [ i.e. that Allaah alone is the Creator, the One in control over the entire affairs of the universe, the giver of life and death, the One who bestows all good and repels harm] necessitates that a person should also affirm in his heart and by way of his actions that Allaah alone is the deity worthy of worship. And due to this, the Messengers used to command their nations to affirm that Allaah alone is the deity worthy of worship by reminding them about what they have already affirmed regarding Tawheed Ar-Ruboobiyyah, just as Allaah [The Most High] said:

Such is Allah, your Lord! La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Creator of all things. So, worship Him (Alone), and He is the Wakil (Trustee, Disposer of affairs, Guardian, etc.) over all things. [Surah Al-An'aam' Verse 102]

[Allaah (Th Most High) said]:

And verily, if you ask them: "Who created the heavens and the earth?" Surely, they will say: "Allah (has created them)." Say: "Tell me then, the things that you invoke besides Allah, if Allah intended some harm for me, could they remove His harm, or if He (Allah) intended some mercy for me, could they withhold His Mercy?" [Surah Az-Zumar' Verse 38] (9)

Therefore, we remind Mr Aleji and Mr Alton that Tawheed (Monotheism) is not merely

belief in one god in the pure message of the Messengers, rather it means to single out Allaah in worship and this was the basis of the pure message of all the Messengers. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghut (all false deities, etc. i.e. do not worship Taghut besides Allah)." Then of them were some whom Allah guided and of them were some upon whom the straying was justified. So travel through the land and see what was the end of those who denied (the truth). [Surah An-Nahl. Aayah 36]

And with regards to Verse 22 Surah Al-Hahsr, we quote - for Mr Aleji and Mr Alton - the verses before and after this verse so that the full context of the subject matter is manifested. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

He is Allah, than Whom there is La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He) the All-Knower of the unseen and the seen (open). He is the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. He is Allah than Whom there is La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He) the King, the Holy, the One Free from all defects, the Giver of security, the Watcher over His creatures, the All-Mighty, the Compeller, the Supreme. Glory be to Allah! (High is He) above all that they associate as partners with Him. He is Allah, the Creator, the Inventor of all things, the Bestower of forms. To Him belong the Best Names . All that is in the heavens and the earth glorify Him. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise. [Surah al-Hashr. Verses 22-24]

**Firstly,** this is the full context of the subject matter that surrounds the verse quoted by these two elders [may Allaah guide them to the truth Aameen].

Secondly, the statement Laa Ilaaha Illaa Huwa does not mean "He is God, other than whom there is no deity", but rather the statement Laa Ilaaha Ilal laah has two pillars - negation of servitude to everything besides Allaah and affirmation that Allaah alone is worthy of that. This is why the one who testifies sincerely that there is no deity worthy of worship in truth except Allaah, he will neither invoke except Allaah nor offers sacrifice, nor vows except to Allaah. He does not devote any act of worship except to Allaah alone. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

Say (O Muhammad): "Verily, my Salad (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the 'Alumni (mankind, jinn's and all that exists). He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims." [Surah Al-

Therefore, due to this it is known that merely uttering Laa ilaaha illal laah is not enough; rather one has to know its meaning, understand what it establishes, fulfil its goals and aims by singling out Allaah as the only true deity and devotes all aspects of the religion to Allaah alone. As for the one who says Laa ilaaha illal laah and then nullifies it with his statement or actions, such as the one who invokes other than Allaah, saying, "O such and such person! Help me". "O such and such person! Rescue me, I seek refuge with you, I turn to you for help" or he offers sacrifice or vows to other than Allaah, then this nullifies Laa ilaaha illal laah because it only benefits the one who utters it whilst understanding its meaning, fulfils what it establishes- its purpose and goals, singles out Allaah as the only true deity and devotes all aspects of the religion to Him alone without partner. (10)

As for the Christians and Jews of our era, then indeed there is no doubt that they have abandoned the path of the Prophets - either due to violating Tawheed or disbelieving in the final Messenger Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him]. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

وَقَالُواْ اَتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَانُ وَلَدًا

لَقَدْ جِنْتُمْ شَيَّا إِذًّا

تَكَادُ السَّمَاوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْهُ وَتَنشَقُّ الْأَرْضُ وَتَخِرُ الَجِبَالُ هَدًا

أَن دَعَوْاْ لِلرَّحْمَانِ وَلَدًٰا

وَمَا يَنْمَنِى لِلرَّحْمَانِ أَن يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا

إِن كُلُّ مَن فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا عَاتِي الرَّحْمَانِ عَبْدًا

لِقَدْ أَحْصَانُهُمْ وَعَدَّهُمْ عَدًّا

وَكُلُّهُمْ ءَاتِه يَوْمَ الْقَتَامَة فَدَدًا

And they say: "The Most Beneficent (Allaah) has begotten a son (or offspring or children). Indeed you have brought forth (said) a terrible evil thing. Whereby the heavens are almost torn, and the earth is split asunder, and the mountains fall in ruins, that they ascribe a son (or offspring or children) to the Most Beneficent (Allaah). But it is not suitable for (the Majesty of) the Most Beneficent (Allaah) that He should beget a son (or offspring or children). There is none in the heavens and the earth but comes unto the Most Beneficent (Allaah) as a slave. Verily, He knows each one of them, and has counted them a full counting. And everyone of them will come to Him alone on the Day of Resurrection (without any helper, or protector or defender)". [Surah Maryam. Verses 88-95] Read full articles on the following links:

https://salaficentre.com/2020/07/02/4-the-three-monotheistic-religions-brief-observations-on-this-statement-uttered-by-writers-who-are-ignorant-about-islaam-and-misguided-modernists-speaking-in-the-name-of-islaam/

https://salaficentre.com/2020/07/10/9-the-three-monotheistic-religions-brief-observations-on-this-statement-uttered-by-writers-who-are-ignorant-about-islaam-and-misguided-modernists-speaking-in-the-name-of-islaam/

Then whilst haphazardly seeking to compare pure Islamic monotheism to the so called monotheism of the people of the Scripture in our era, Mr Wael Aleji David Alton stated, "These links become more meaningful when we remember that Christianity reached Ethiopia in the 1st century, and the first Arab Muslim refugees arrived in Ethiopia in the 7th century fleeing persecution in the Arabic peninsula, many of whom returned after living in Ethiopia for many years, "Tawheed" is a core concept in Islamic theology or Figh".

Firstly, read the story of Najaashee [may Allaah have mercy upon him]: https://salaficentre.com/2020/07/16/11-the-three-monotheistic-religions-brief-observations-on-this-statement-uttered-by-writers-who-are-ignorant-about-islaam-and-misguided-modernists-speaking-in-the-name-of-islaam/ The Christian King of Ethopia at the time abandoned his Christianity - whose authencity cannot be compared in the twinkling of an an eye to the Christianity of the Christians in our era - and embraced Islaam, therefore, the Christians of our era have no other choice -willingly without being forced - but to embrace Islam. The Messenger Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] said: "By the one in whose hand is the soul of Muhammad, none from this nation of Jews and Christians hears of me, and then dies without having faith in my message, but that he will be an inhabitant of Hellfire." [Saheeh Muslim Number 153]

As for the statement, "Tawheed" is a core concept in Islamic theology or Fiqh", then indeed Mr Aleji and Mr Alton did not distinguish the Tawheed propagated by the Messengers from the misguidance of the Christians of our era - those who invoke Eesaa and his mother [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon them]. Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] said:

لَّقَدُ كَفَرَ ٱلَّذِينَ قَالُوۤاْ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ ثَالِثُ ثَلَئَةٍ وَمَا مِنْ إِلَٰهٍ إِلَّا إِلَهُ وَأُحِدُّ وَإِن لَّمْ يَنتَهُواْ عَمَّا يَقُولُونَ لَيَمَسَّنَ ٱلَّذِينَ كَفَرُواْ مِنْهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

مَّا ٱلْمَسِيحُ ٱبْنُ مَرْيَمَ إِلَّا رَسُولُ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِن قَبْلِهِ ٱلرُّسُلُ وَأُمُّهُ ﴿صِدِّيقَةٌ كَانَا يَأْكُلَانِ ٱلطَّعَامُّ ٱنظُرَ كَيْفَ نُبَيِّنُ لَهُمُ ٱلْأَيْتِ ثُمَّ ٱنظُرُ أَنِّنَ يُؤْفَكُونَ

Surely, they have disbelieved who say: "Allah is the Messiah ['lesa (Jesus)], son of Maryam (Mary)." But the Messiah ['lesa (Jesus)] said: "O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Verily, whosoever sets up partners in worship with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the Zalimun (polytheists and wrong-doers) there are no helpers.

Surely, disbelievers are those who said: "Allah is the third of the three (in a Trinity)." But there is no ilah (god) (none who has the right to be worshipped) but One Ilah (God -Allah). And if they cease not from what they say, verily, a painful torment will befall the disbelievers among them. Will they not repent to Allah and ask His Forgiveness? For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

The Messiah ['lesa (Jesus)], son of Maryam (Mary), was no more than a Messenger; many were the Messengers that passed away before him. His mother [Maryam (Mary)] was a Siddiqah [i.e. she believed in the words of Allah and His Books (see Verse 66:12)]. They both used to eat food (as any other human being, while Allah does not eat). Look how We make the Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) clear to them, yet look how they are deluded away (from the truth). [Surah Al-Maa'idah Verses 72-75]

As for the term **Fiqh** - **Understanding**, Al-Allaamah Rabee Bin Haadee al-Madkhalee [may Allaah preserve him] stated, "The Fiqh Al-Akbar - The Greater Understanding]- is the understanding of Tawheed and Eemaan, and the Fiqh Al-kabeer - [The Great Understanding] - is the Fiqh by way of which we can distinguish between Halaal and Haraam, truth and falsehood. We derive it from the book of Allaah, the sunnah of the Messenger [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] and the understanding of our pious predecessors. We utilise their understanding to aid us [in our] understanding as well as what they left behind for us in the Arabic language, Usoolul Fiqh, Usoolul Hadeeth, the science by way of which Ahaadeeth are declared authentication or weak. All these affairs must be acquired by the students of knowledge and they cannot do without it.

The person who studies Fiqh and does not give importance to the proofs- does not distinguish between what is authentic and weak – will fall into very big mistakes, for he might worship Allaah based on a weak or fabricated hadeeth. Therefore, he must distinguish between authentic and weak hadeeth. Ahmad Ibn Ishaaq [rahimahullaah] – an Imaam of Fiqh and Hadeeth-said: "The one who does not distinguish between authentic and weak hadeeth is not a scholar." And why is that [the case]? Because he might worship Allaah, declare something halaal or haraam based on weak or fabricated Ahaadeeth, so he harms himself and the people. Whoever is deprived of proofs will be misled from the right path and this is a principle cited in every affair related to the religion. Therefore, it is obligated on you to acquire understanding of the religion based on the path of the pious predecessors". (11)

Then Mr Wael Aleji and Mr David Alton [may Allaah guide them] stated, "Living in peace and harmony does not necessitate believing in each other's religions, but it rather requires loving and respecting each other and celebrating religious diversity as a positive contribution to the beauty and development of any society".

**Response:** Yes indeed, we must live in peace and harmony, and there is no compulsion in religion. Allaah [The Mighty and Majestic] said:

There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut [i.e. every other thing that is worshipped or invoked besides Allaah] and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower. [Surah Al-Baqarah Verse 256]

As for the statement "loving and respecting each other and celebrating religious diversity as a positive contribution to the beauty and development of any society", this requires clarification because it enters into the subject matter of Al-Walaa Wal-Baraa [Love and Hate For The Sake of Allaah]. The Messenger [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] said, "Whoever loves for Allah, hates for Allah, gives for Allah and withholds for Allah has surely perfected Imaan". [Abu Dawud. Number 4681. Declared authentic by Imaam Al-Albaanee in Saheeh Al-Jaami As-Sagheer. Number 5965]

## **Types of Loyalty to Non-Muslims**

The Loyalty That Would Remove a Person From The Fold of Islaam: The precise principle regarding this loyalty and allegiance is when a person loves and supports the religion of the disbelievers and their creed. Whoever loves a disbeliever due to his religion or creed, or helps a disbeliever due to his religion or creed, then indeed he has fallen into this type loyalty and allegiance. Read more here: https://www.abukhadeejah.com/having-alliance-with-the-non-muslims-is-of-two-types-misunderstanding-this-affair-leads-people-astray/

The second type of loyalty is related to dealing with them in trade, visiting them and they visit you, giving gifts to one another etc This does not remove a person from the fold of Islam, rather at times it is permissible, such as being kind to a disbeliever who is not at war with the Muslim state, just as Allaah [The Exalted] said:

Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you on account of religion and did not drive you out of your homes. Verily, Allah loves those who deal with equity. [Surah Al-Mumtahina. Verse 8]

Sometimes, this loyalty is forbidden, such as imitating their specific traits [i.e. either their un-Islamic customs and habits, whether clothing, appearance, behaviour or religious practices]. The Prophet [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] said, "Whoever imitates a people is from them". [Read more heres: https://www.abukhadeejah.com/tag/imitating-non-muslims/]

Sometimes this loyalty is recommended such as being kind to a disbeliever to draw his heart to Islaam and calling him to Islam, and at other times this loyalty is obligatory, such as kind treatment to non-Muslim parents. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

وَإِن جَنهَدَاكَ عَلَىٰٓ أَن تُشْرِكَ بِى مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ فَلَا تُطِعُهُمَا ۖ وَصَاحِبُهُمَا فِي الدُّنْيَا مَعُرُوفًا ۗ وَاتَّبِعْ سَبِيلَ مَنْ أَنَابَ إِلَىَّ ثُمَّ إِلَىَّ ثُمَّ إِلَىَّ مُرْجِعُكُمْ فَأَنْبَنُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ وَالْبَاعِنَ مَا كُنتُمْ وَالْبَاعِمُ وَالْمَاكِنَةُمُ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى مُوالِدَ مَنْ اللَّهُ عَلَى اللَّهُ عَلَ

And We have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in two years give thanks to Me and to your parents, unto Me is the final destination. But if they (both) strive with you to make you join in worship with Me others that of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not, but behave with them in the world kindly, and follow the path of him who turns to Me in repentance and in obedience. Then to Me will be your return, and I shall tell you what you used to do. [Surah Lugmaan. Verses 14-15]

## A Muslim Helps Without Intending to Aid The Disbeliever's Religion or Creed

Prophet Moosaa [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] helped the disbeliever who was from his nation against a person from the people of Firawn. Allaah [The Exalted] said:

And he entered the city at a time of unawareness of its people, and he found there two men fighting, — one of his party (his religion — from the Children of Israel), and the other of his foes. The man of his (own) party asked him for help against his foe, so Musa (Moses) struck him with his fist and killed him. He said: "This is of Shaitan's (Satan) doing, verily, he is a plain misleading enemy." [Surah Al-Qasas. Verse 15] (12)

Imaam Abdul Azeez Bin Baaz [may Allaah have mercy upon him] stated regarding the relationship between between a Muslim and a Non-Muslim: "He [i.e. the Muslim] must not oppress him - neither physically nor with regards to his wealth and honour. If the Non-Muslim is citizen in the Islamic state, one who has been given temporary permission to reside in a Muslim land or one who (or his government) has a peace treaty with the Muslims, then he must be given his rights. He must not be oppressed with regards to his wealth, such a theft, treachery nor deception". (13)

## Read more here:

https://www.abukhadeejah.com/treaties-with-the-non-muslims-do-they-necessitate-allegiance/

https://www.abukhadeejah.com/the-prophet-of-islam-would-not-kill-diplomats-ambassadors-emissaries-or-foreign-delegations-even-if-they-were-sent-by-the-worst-of-his-enemies/

Finally, this is enough InShaaAllaah and may Allaah guide these two elders to the truth Aameen. We do not doubt their desire for peace and harmony, but that should neither lead to propagating erroneous views regarding Tawheed (Monotheism) nor ambiguous statements regarding love, hate, respect and celebrating religious diversity. As for the fascists, the terrorsits amongst the Muslims, such as Al-Qaida and their Ilk, the far-right and all other racists, the white supremacists, the spiteful neocolonialists, militant secularists and militant liberalists, may Allaah

guide them or return their plots to them, uproot their evil and protect us from their falsehood, oppression and treachery Aameen.

More artcles here:

https://salaficentre.com/2020/07/12/10-the-three-monotheistic-religions-brief-observations-on-this-statement-uttered-by-writers-who-are-ignorant-about-islaam-and-misguided-modernists-speaking-in-the-name-of-islaam/

https://salaficentre.com/2020/07/16/11-the-three-monotheistic-religions-brief-observations-on-this-statement-uttered-by-writers-who-are-ignorant-about-islaam-and-misguided-modernists-speaking-in-the-name-of-islaam/

https://salaficentre.com/2020/08/31/32-the-three-monotheistic-religions-brief-observations-on-this-statement-uttered-by-writers-who-are-ignorant-about-islaam-and-misguided-modernists-speaking-in-the-name-of-islaam-rebuttal-against/

https://salaficentre.com/2020/07/18/13-the-three-monotheistic-religions-brief-observations-on-this-statement-uttered-by-writers-who-are-ignorant-about-islaam-and-misguided-modernists-speaking-in-the-name-of-islaam-hiraclius-invite/

https://salaficentre.com/2020/09/02/33-the-three-monotheistic-religions-brief-observations-on-this-statement-uttered-by-writers-who-are-ignorant-about-islaam-and-misguided-modernists-speaking-in-the-name-of-islaam-the-likeness-of/

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[Ref 1: Misbaah Al-Muneer Fee Ta'dheeb Tafseer Ibn Katheer]

[Ref 2: Surah Nuh Ayah 23]

[Ref 3: Bukhaari 6/4920]

[Ref 4: An Excerpt from At-Ta-leeqaat Al-Mukhtasar Alaa Al-Qaseedah an-Nooniyyah: Vol: 1 page: 216]

[Ref 5: An Excerpt from Al-Jawaabus Saheeh Liman Baddala Deenul Maseeh pages 23-27]

[Ref 6: Tafsir As-Sadi]

[Ref 7: https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/monotheism ]

[Ref 8: For a detailed discussion, refer to Mawsoo'ah Al-Aqeedah Wal-Adyaan Wal-Firaq Wal-Madhaahib Al-Mu'aasirah. Vol 2. pages 772-807]

[Ref 9: An Excerpt from Muhaadaraat Fil Aqeedah Wad-Da'wah' pages 11-12. slightly paraphrased]

[Ref 10: Explanation of Important Lessons For The Muslim Ummah. pages 44-45. Maktabah Malik Al-Fahad 1436AH. (2015)]

[Ref 11: Marhaban Yaa Taalibal Ilm' pages 245-247. Slightly paraphrased]

[Ref 12: [Ref 1: Al-Walaa Wal Baraa. pages 114-. Publisher Daar Al-Istiqaamah. 1st Edition 1427AH (2006)]

[Ref 13: https://binbaz.org.sa/fatwas/879/%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%85-%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%B1 ]