

# **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUNNI AND WAHABI**

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*"Differences between Sunni and Wahabi"*

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# Differences between Sunni and Wahabi

The major difference between Sunni and Wahabi is the beliefs and rituals. Sunnis are in majority and almost 87% percent of Muslims around the world belong to Sunni sect whereas the members of Wahabi movement are located in Saudi Arabia and some part of the world. There are few main and major as well as many secondary differences between the Sunni and Wahabi Muslims which caused these sects to be cut off from each other and emerge independently.

## Difference 1 – Belief about Allah Almighty

**Sunni** – Sunnis believe that Allah Almighty does not resemble anything. He does not have body, eyes, hands, legs or any other part of bodies. Further he exists without a place.

**Wahabi** – Wahabis believe that Allah Almighty has body, eyes, hands and legs. Further he is sitting on the Arsh.

## Difference 2 – Status of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)

**Sunni** - Sunnis show extra special care and respect towards the holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)

**Wahabi** - Wahabis believe that holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) should be considered only as a common human being.

## Difference 3 – Status of Ahlul Baith (Family and Descendants of Holy Prophet Mohamed Peace be upon him)

**Sunni** - Sunnis strongly love Ahlul Baith and care them with special respect. They consider disrespecting Ahlul Baith is a great sin. Further, they believe that descendants of holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) are still living in the various part of world.

**Wahabi** - Wahabis consider that Ahlul Baith are just family members of holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) and no need to show special respect and no need to follow them. Further they believe that all the Ahlul Baiths were killed in Karbala and none of them living nowadays.

#### **Difference 4 – Status of Sahaba (Companions of Holy Prophet Peace be upon him)**

**Sunni** - Sunnis consider that all the Sahabas are in straight path and anyone of them can be followed. Further disrespecting a Sahaba is a big sin.

**Wahabi** - Wahabis believe that Sahabas are just human being and they should not be followed. Further Wahabis consider that most of the Sahabas have done mistakes and often criticized them.

#### **Difference 5 – Meelad & Mowlid of Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him)**

**Sunni** - Sunni Muslims celebrate the birthday of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) and arrange Meelad. Meelad is a form of gathering in which the Sunni Muslims get together and praise the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him).

**Wahabi** - Wahabi Muslims do not celebrate and practice all these events. Wahabis call these practices of events as unlawful and wrongful innovations. But funnily Wahabis celebrate the birthdays of their leaders and praise them.

#### **Difference 6 – Madhab (Jurisprudence schools of Islam)**

**Sunni** - Sunni Muslims accept the four imams of Fiqh or Islamic laws such as Hanafi, Maliki, Sha'afi and Hanbali.

**Wahabi** – Wahabis do not accept the any of above Madhab while they strongly follow the Madhab of Ibn Taymiya and Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahab.

#### **Difference 7 – Waseela (Intercession)**

**Sunni** - Sunni Muslims believe in Intercession and strongly believe that Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) will do a great Intercession in Judgment Day.

**Wahabi** - Wahabis consider Intercession is a great sin and they don't believe in great Intercession which will be done by Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him).

## Difference 8 – Visiting the holy shrines

**Sunni** - Sunni Muslims often visit the tombs of Prophets and Islamic saints. They believe that visiting the shrine is acceptable and blessed.

**Wahabi** – Wahabis believe that visiting the shrines is a great sin.

### General Differences

There are many differences present in their rituals of praying, Islamic jurisprudence, marriage ceremonies, funeral ceremonies and dresses etc. Wahabis have separate mosques and schools.

### FOOTNOTES

- Wahabis are followers of Mohammed ibn Abdul Wahab in the 18th century in Arabia and his movement came up against a lot of opposition from Sunni Muslims.
- Members of the Wahabi movement believe that their role is restorer or reformer to free Islam from innovations.
- While Sunnis believe that Wahabis are one of the misguided groups foretold by Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him). Since Sunni considered a hadith narrated by Hazrat Ibn Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) in Sahihul Bukhari was indicated about Wahabis.

Narrated by Ibn 'Umar (May Allah be pleased with him):

(The Prophet) said, "O Allah! Bless our Sham and our Yemen." People said, "Our Najd as well." The Prophet again said, "O Allah! Bless our Sham and Yemen." They said again, "Our Najd as well." On that the Prophet said, "There will appear earthquakes and afflictions, and from there will come out the side of the head of Satan."

Sahihul Bukhari  
Volume 2 : Book 17 : Hadith 147 :

**\* NOTE:** Founder of Wahabi sect, Mohammed ibn Abdul Wahab was born in Najd (presently called as Riyadh)

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