The Prayer in Light of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Shaykh Sulaymān Ar-Ruhaylī said:

Is it obligatory to attend the congregational prayer when the mosques reopen in spite of the virus?

The elderly, those with chronic diseases, those taking medicine that weaken the immune system, and those that have Coronavirus cases in their area are to pray in their houses due to the presence of what prevents them from attending the congregational prayer. As for other than them from the men, then it is obligatory for them to attend the congregational prayer as long as they are able to follow the precautionary measures.

Translator: Yasar A. Rahman
11:54pm - 27/05/2020 • https://twitter.com/solyman24/status/1265748215657365504?&s=21
The Prayer in Light of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Shaykh Sulaymān Ar-Ruhaylī said:
Standing closely together in a row when praying without leaving any gaps.

The congregational prayer is of great importance and status. And this is why in order to preserve the congregational prayer, the Prayer of Fear is prayed in congregation even though this leads to changing the actual way a prayer is normally performed. Likewise to uphold the congregational prayer, when one joins the congregational prayer late, he prays behind the Imām in spite of there being a change in the form of his own prayer. Therefore it is only more appropriate that it be permissible to change the way a row is formed in prayer for the purpose of preserving the congregational prayer. So keeping a distance when praying in congregation is legislated and it is not an innovation.

Translator: Yasar A. Rahman
12:07am 28/05/2020 • https://twitter.com/solyman24/status/1265751492058889843?sf=21

Official English Account of Shaykh Sulaymān Ar-Ruhaylī, Professor at The Islamic University of Madīnah + Teacher at Masjid Nabawī ﷺ + Imām & Khatīb Masjid Qubā, Madīnah
The Prophet (ﷺ) forbade that a man cover his mouth when praying, and it was graded Hasan by Al-Albānī. The jurists have explicitly mentioned that it is Makrūh (disliked / disapproved) to cover one's face in prayer, and the [three] Imāms, Ibn Bāz, Al-ʿUthaymīn and Al-Fawzān are all in agreement regarding this, except when one is ill (e.g. a cold) or when there is a need to do so. There is a principle that states: "A matter ceases to be Makrūh if there is a need". So it is permissible to wear a mask without any dislike (when praying under these circumstances).

Translator: Yasar A. Rahman
11:30pm - 27/05/2020 • https://twitter.com/solyman24/status/1265742241399783425?s=21
The Prayer in Light of the Coronavirus Pandemic: Wearing Gloves

Shaykh Sulaymān Ar-Ruhaylī said:

Majority of the jurists have stated that prostration on a Hā'il (something placed on the ground or worn on the hands which prevents the direct contact of the palms with the ground) is valid, and some among them hold it to be Makrūh (disliked / disapproved).

It has been reported by both Al-Bukhārī & Muslim that if one of the Companions was unable to prostrate on the ground directly due to the extreme heat, he would spread out his Thawb (garment that he was wearing) and prostrate upon it.

Therefore it is permissible to wear gloves when praying without any dislike if there is a need to do so. And Ibn Bāz issued a Fatwa' saying that it is permissible to do so both for men and women.

Translator: Yasar A. Rahman

12:07pm - 28/05/2020 • https://twitter.com/solyman24/status/1265745631383093251?s=21