

*Bismillahir Rahmanir
Raheem*

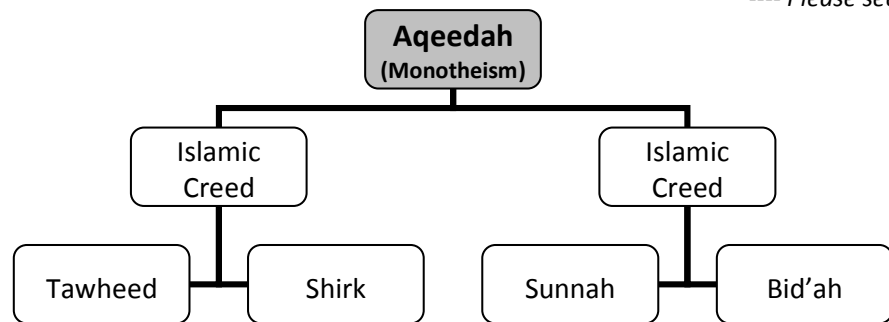


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Tawheed & Shirk

Literally Tawheed means "unification" (making something one) or "asserting oneness", and it comes from the Arabic verb (wahhada) which itself means to unite, unify or consolidate. However, when the term Tawheed is used in reference to Allah (i.e. Tawheedullaah), it means the realizing and maintaining of Allah's unity in all of man's actions which directly or indirectly relate to Him. It is the belief that Allah is One, without partner in His dominion and His actions (Ruboobeeyah), One without similitude in His essence and attributes (Asmaa wa Sifaat), and One without rival in His divinity and in worship (Ulooheeyah/'Ibadah).

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From the Qur'an:

Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created, He has created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. (Sura Al-Alaq 96: 1-3)

From the Hadith:

Narrated 'Umar bin Al-Khattab (ra): I heard Allah's Apostle saying, "The reward of deeds depends upon the intentions and every person will get the reward according to what he has intended. So whoever emigrated for worldly benefits or for a woman to marry, his emigration was for what he emigrated for." Sahih Bukhari Hadith # 1

Sunnah & Bid'ah

Allah ordered Muslims not to divide themselves into sects. Innovations and divisions in matters of religion and worship within Islam are considered to be Contamination, error, and deviation.

Earlier heinous deviations from monotheism, such as worshiping creation, resulted in condemnation by Allah. (However, innovations in other matters, such as science and technology to improve life, are greatly encouraged.) Allah, The Most Compassionate, has told us through His last Prophet Muhammad (Blessings and peace be upon him), when Muhammad (bpuh) was nearing the end of his life, that He had completed the religion of Islam. "This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion." (Sura Maeda 5: 3)

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Categories of Tawheed

These three aspects form the basis for the categories into which the science of Tawheed has been traditionally divided. The three overlap and are inseparable to such a degree that whoever omits any one aspect has failed to complete the requirements of Tawheed. The omission of any of the above mentioned aspects of Tawheed is referred to as "Shirk" (lit. sharing); the association of partners with Allah, which, in Islamic terms, is in fact idolatry.

The three categories of Tawheed are commonly referred to by the following titles:

1. Tawheed ar-Ruboobeeyah (Maintaining the Unity of Lordship)
2. Tawheed al-Asmaa was-Sifaat (Maintaining the Unity of Allah's Names and Attributes)
3. Tawheed al-'Ibadah (Maintaining the Unity of Allah's Worship)

The division of Tawheed into its components was not done by the Prophet (bpuh) or by his companions, as there was no necessity to analyze such a basic principle of faith in this fashion. However, the components are all implied in the verses of the Qur'an and in the explanatory statements of the Prophet (bpuh) and his companions.

Classification of Tawheed

By way of individual (Bipartite)	By way of Allah (Tripartite)
A) Affirmation & Recognition (By Heart)	1) Lordship OR Ruboobeeyah (By Heart)
	2) Names & Attributes OR Asmaa' was-Sifaat
B) Action & Deeds (By Limbs)	3) Worship OR Ulooheeyah (By Limbs)

What is Shirk?

In Islam, shirk is the sin of idolatry or polytheism, i.e., the deification or worship of anyone or anything other than the singular God (Allah), or more literally, the establishment of "partners" beside Allah. It is the vice that is opposed to the virtue of Tawheed (monotheism).

In Islam, shirk is an unforgivable crime (sin); Allah may forgive any sin that someone may commit during his lifetime except shirk. Allah says in The Quran:

"Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him; but He forgives anything else, to whom he pleases; to set up partners with Allah is to devise a sin most heinous indeed". (Sura An Nisa, 4: 48)

Greater and lesser Shirk

The Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) has classified shirk into two categories:

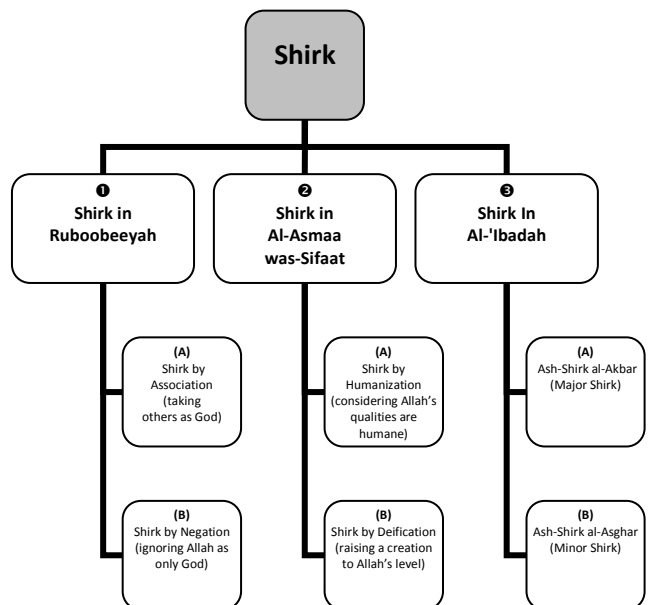
- A. **Greater (Major) shirk (Shirk-al-Akbar): open and apparent**
- B. **Lesser (Minor) shirk (Shirk-al-Asghar): concealed or hidden**

Greater Shirk:

Greater shirk or Shirk-al-Akbar means open polytheism. Muhammad (bpuh) describes major shirk in two forms:

1. To associate anyone with Allah Ta'ala as His partner (i.e., to believe in more than one Allah).
2. To associate Allah's attributes with someone else. (i.e. believing that someone else shares Allah's attributes, knowledge or power)

Classification of Shirk



List of some Shirk

Due to lack of knowledge many people do shirk during Ibadah. Following are some practical examples: **These crimes (Shirk) some Muslims commit in the name of Islam.**

1. Some people think Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) has not died, he is still alive, which is Shirk.
2. Some people believe that Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) was made from Noor of Allah, which is Shirk.
3. Some people ask something (Shafa'at) to Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam), which is Shirk.
4. To ask something from Allah via Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) is Shirk.
5. Allah would not create this universe unless He wished to create Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam). Such a belief is Shirk.
6. To make Du'a facing the grave is Shirk.
7. Bowing down to anybody or anything other than Allah is Shirk.
8. Bowing down to the Sayyed or Peer is Shirk.
9. Bowing down to the graves of ancestors is Shirk.
10. Bowing down to the graves of even the Prophet (saws), Ali (ra), Faatemah (ra), Abdur Qader Zilani, Khaja Baba or any other Awliya etc is Shirk.
11. Believing that the dead people in their graves can hear and answer your duas is Shirk.
12. Believing that anybody other than Allah can do any harm or good is Shirk.
13. Believing that anybody other than Allah knows or sees everything is Shirk.
14. Believing that anybody other than Allah listens to your prayers is Shirk.
15. Believing that anybody other than Allah can help you is Shirk.
16. Believing that anybody other than Allah can guide you is Shirk.
17. Believing that anybody can influence Allah to give you health is Shirk.
18. Believing that anybody can influence Allah to give you wealth is Shirk.
19. Believing that anybody can influence Allah to give you children is Shirk.
20. Believing that anybody can influence Allah to help you is Shirk.
21. Believing that anybody has any power with Allah is Shirk.
22. Believing that anybody has any power with Allah to take you out of the fire of hell is Shirk.
23. Believing that anybody has any power with Allah on the Day of Judgment is Shirk.
24. Believing that anybody has any power to change the decision of Allah is Shirk.
25. To worship anybody with Allah is Shirk.
26. To invoke anybody with Allah is Shirk.
27. To raise anybody to the rank of Allah is Shirk.
28. To give any of Allah's attributes to anybody else is Shirk.
29. To believe that anybody has the power to bring about any miracles on his own is Shirk.
30. To go to somebody to convey your message or supplication to Allah is Shirk.

Be careful about Shirk

Cinema, music, dancing, etc., are not approved by Islam because those are in most cases, indecent. Such things take the heart away from the remembrance of Allah, these are machinations of the Shaitan. These must be avoided. Rock music is particularly objectionable because these songs in many cases adore the Shaitan which is Shirk. Hindi cinema and serials are particularly harmful to Islamic faith because those entertainments start and continue to show Hindu Idols (gods, goddesses) and their culture, watching of which is Haram, and gradually weakens the Imaan. Many songs contain wordings contrary to Islamic belief which is Shirk. Muslims are not allowed to celebrate Halloween, Christmas, Santa Claus, Christmas tree and the yule log, which are related to Shirk.

The Dangers of Innovations in Islam (Bid'ah)

Muslims must recognize that any change in matters of worship is strictly forbidden. No change introduced by humankind, who is constantly under the influence of Satan, could ever add anything positive and would only contribute to the degradation of the completed and perfected religion established by Allah.

All innovations in matters of religion lead to straying, and all straying leads to hellfire. People must not allow any deviation (addition or deletion), even as small as one degree, in matters of worship. If any changes are allowed, those deviations will be compounded by future generations, and the result will be another manmade religion, not the Islam as it was perfected by Allah, The Truth. To build a faith using a 'shopping cart' approach or the blind following of any religious leader is in-admissible.

The changing of Allah's laws is forbidden in Islam. Allah condemns religions leaders who alter divine principles. One who attempts to make changes places himself or herself on the same level with Allah, committing polytheism. An example of this would be to make the killing of innocents lawful. The laws of Allah are perfect and do not need to be 'modernizes' by anyone. Allah allows us the freedom to obey or disobey Him by choosing to follow His faith or to follow our own desires. However, He forbids us to change His religious principles.

(It is interesting to note that crescent moon is not representative of the religion of Islam, as the Prophet Muhammad (Blessings and peace be upon him) never used or mentioned it. It was a pagan symbol and an innovation brought about by later generations as a political symbol. Sadly, it is commonly adopted and mistaken as an Islamic symbol.)

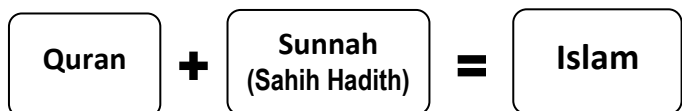
Rasul Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam said: "Beware of newly invented matters, for every invented matter is an innovation and every innovation is a going astray and every going astray is in the Hellfire". (Abu Dawud, Tirmithi)

Due to lack of knowledge many people do Bid'ah as their Ibadah. Following are some practical examples of some "ibadah" which, according to authentic sources from early years of Islamic, were not practiced by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), or any of his Sahabis (ra) or Tabeyees (companion of Sahabees) or Tabe-tabeyees (companions of the Tabevees).

List of Some Bid'ah Activities

- Milad.
- Eid Milad un Nabi - Birthday of Muhammad (pbuh).
- Shab e Baraat and acts of worship associated to this day.
- Shab e Miraj -The night of ascension and acts of worship associated to this night.
- Quran Khwani at death.
- Reading Kalimah on beads at death.
- Reading sura Yasin a number of times after at the funeral.
- Teeja/Soyem -3rd day of death.
- Barsi-Death anniversary.
- Chaleeswan – 40th day of death.
- Reading Naats at the body of the dead.
- Writing Kalima on the shroud (Kafn).
- Reading innovated Durood and Duas.
- Giving kiss to the Quran.
- Reciting Durood before the Adhan.
- Making congregational dua after every congregational salah.
- Speaking out the niyyah (intention) of salah by saying e.g., "I make intention of four rakat fard, for zuhr, for Allah, My face is facing the Qiblah, Allahu Akbar", etc.
- Reading the innovated dua of the neah (intention) at seher time for fasting.
- Khatme Younus (to read 125,000 times dua Younus).
- Sobina Khatom.
- Pray 40 rakat salah in Madina (Masjid-e Nabai).

What is Islam?



Whatever Rasul Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam did in his life and narrated (through Sahih/authentic Hadith) that is Islam, and whatever he did not do in his life, that is not Islam, that is Bida'h. Practising Bid'ah will lead to Jahannam.

Knowledge on Hadith

In Islamic terminology, the term *Hadith* refers to reports of statements or actions of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh), or of his tacit approval or criticism of something said or done in his presence.

Hadith Qudsi: Hadith Qudsi (Sacred Hadith) is a sub-category of Hadith which are sayings of Muhammad (bpuh). Muslims regard the Hadith Qudsi as the words of Allah, repeated by Muhammad and recorded on the condition of a sanad.

Note: Hadith (Singular number) Ahadith (Plural number)

Ahadith Narrated by Sahaba (ra)

Name of the Sahaba (RA)	Number of Hadith Narrated
Abu Hurayra	5,374
Aysha Siddiqa	2,210
Abdullah Ibn Abbas	1,660
Abdullah Ibn Umar	1,630
Jabir Ibn Abdullah	1,540
Anas Ibn Malik	1,286
Abu Sayeed Khudri	1,170
Abdullah Ibn Masud	848
Abdullah Ibn Amr Ibn Aas	700

Lifetime of the 6 Prominent Hadith Compilers

Sl.	Name	Born in (City)	Hijri/CE	Died in (City)	Hijri/CE
1	Bukhari	Bukhara (Uzbekistan)	194/810	Khartank (Samarkand), Uzbekistan	256/870
2	Muslim	Nishapur (Khurasan), Iran	204/820	Nishapur (Iran)	261/875
3	Abu Dawood	Shistan (Iran)	202/817	Basra (Iraq)	275/888
4	Nasaee	Nasa (Khurasan), Iran	215/830	Mecca (Saudi Arabia)	303/915
5	Tirmithi	Tirmiz (Iran)	209/828	Tirmiz (Iran)	279/896
6	Ibne Majah	Kazvin (Iran)	209/828	Kazvin (Iran)	273/890

Number of Ahadith Collected, Rejected and Accepted

Sl.	Name of the Ahadith collector	Total number of Ahadith he collected	Percentage he rejected	Number of strong Ahadith he accepted
1	Bukhari	600,000	99.54	2,762
2	Muslim	300,000	98.55	4,348
3	Tirmithi	300,000	98.96	3,115
4	Abudawood	500,000	99.04	4,800
5	Ibn Maja	400,000	99.00	4,000
6	Nasai	200,000	97.83	4,321
Total		2,300,000	98.98%	23,346 (1.02%)

Lifetime of the 4 Imams

Sl.	Name	Born in (City)	Hijri/CE	Died in (City)	Hijri/CE
1	Imam Abu Hanifa (Noman Ibn Thabit)	Kufa (Iraq)	80/700	Baghdad (Iraq)	150/767
2	Imam Malik Ibn Anas	Medina (Saudi Arabia)	93/715	Medina (Saudi Arabia)	179/795
3	Imam Muhammad Ibn Idris ash-Shafi	Gazza (Palestine)	150/767	Fustat (Egypt)	204/820
4	Ahmad Ibn Hanbal	Baghdad	164/780	Baghdad	241/855

Islamic Manners/Etiquette (Islamic Adab)

1. When the name of Allah is cited, say: *Subhanahu wa ta'ala* (Allah is Holy, He is Great)
2. When the name of Prophet Muhammad is spoken or heard, say: *Sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam* (Allah's blessings and peace be upon him)
3. When the name of any other Prophet is spoken or heard, say: *Alaihes Salam* (Allah's peace be upon him)
4. When the name of a Sahabi (Companion) of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) is spoken or heard, say: *Radhiallahu anhu* (May Allah be pleased with him) Sahaba is plural of Sahabi, meaning Companions.
5. In case of a female Companion (Sahabia) say: *Radhiallahu anha* (May Allah be pleased with her)
6. While starting any activity, say: *Bismillah* (I am beginning it in the name of Allah)
7. While entering your own house or apartment, say: *Bismillah*. (In the name of Allah)
8. When a good news is heard, or gratitude to Allah is to be expressed for any reason, say: *Alhamdulillah* (All praises belong to Allah alone)
9. When someone departs from you; say: *Fi-amanillah* (I place you to the safety and protection of Allah)
10. When something strange is heard, say: *Subhanallah* (Allah is Holy, Allah is Great)
11. To express gratitude to anyone for something good/nice done to you, say: *Jazakallahu Khairan* (May Allah grant you better rewards)
12. When entangled in a problem, say: *Tawakkalullah* (I depend upon Allah)
13. When sleep is broken in the morning, say: *Lailaha illallah* (There is none to be worshipped except Allah)
14. While sneezing, say: *Alhamdulillah* (All praises belong to Allah alone)
15. For the answer of *Alhamdulillah*, say: *Yarhamukal-lah*. (May Allah have mercy upon you)
16. While in pain, say: *Ya Allah* (O Allah)
17. For any promise, or for intending to do anything in future, say: *Insha Allah* (If Allah wishes)
18. If any objectionable thing is done, or you come across any obscene/hateful thing, or hear hateful/obscene news, say: *Astagh firullah* (O Allah! I seek your pardon)
19. While expressing hate for anything, say: *Nauzubillah* (seek Allah's shelter)
20. When death-news of a Muslim (male or female) is heard, say: *Inna lillahe wa inna ilaihe raje'un* (We are for Allah and we will return to Him)
21. Not to sever connection with blood relations. To fulfill the obligations due to the relations.
22. (a) To maintain good personal character; (b) never to break a trust; (c) never to misappropriate (embezzle) other's money or property; (d) never to break a contract or promise.
23. (a) To behave politely with others; (b) to treat others or decide matters with justice (Insaaf); (c) to pay, repay whatever is due to others on time.
24. (a) to maintain personal hygiene and cleanliness 24/7; (b) to keep own surroundings neat and clean, free from dirt and bad smell all the time; (c) to put on clean and odor-free dress; (e) to brush teeth regularly; (f) to use perfume (fragrance).
25. To help the poor (relative and others), orphans, sick, women and children, wayfarers, etc. Not to rebuke a person asking for help.
26. To take best care of the parents, listen to their orders, never to misbehave with them, show them due respects in all matters, make them comfortable in all respects. Children disobedient to their parents cannot expect to enter Jannat (Heaven, Paradise), says a Hadith of Rasulallah.
27. To take care of near relations and neighbors, help them when asked for.
28. To have patience and depend on Allah (Tawakkaul) on all matters.
29. To respect the elders, love the children, to give service to the old people and the sick.
30. To use the right hand while giving something to and taking some thing from others.

Question & Answer Section

Q 10. What are the three questions that the angels will ask in the grave?

Ans: (1) Who is your Rabb? Answer: Allah
(2) What is your Deen? Answer: Islam
(3) Who is your Rasul? Answer: Muhammad

Q 11. What are the 5 questions that each person will face on the Day of Judgment?

Ans: (1) How did you pass your life on earth?
(2) How did you use your youthful days?
(3) How did you earn your lively hood?
(4) How did you spend your earnings?
(5) Did you practice the Islamic ilm (knowledge) you acquired on earth?

Q 12. What is Jihad means in Islam?

Ans: Jihad means struggle (effort). Not war, Not fighting, Not killing, Not murdering or Not suicide bombing.

Q 13. Who was Jesus?

Ans: Jesus (Issa according to the Qur'an) was a Prophet of Allah and a servant of God (Allah). He was not a son of God.

Q 14. Was Prophet Isa (Jesus) crucified and killed?

Ans: No. Allah saved him and raised him up to His Kingdom. Someone in the likeness of Prophet Isa was crucified.

Q 15. What is Isra' and Miraaj?

Ans: **Isra:** The night journey when Allah took the Prophet (bpuh) from the sacred mosque in Makkah to the spot where the Al-Aqsa mosque is, in Jerusalem, in a very short time.

Miraaj: The journey after Isra when Allah took the Prophet (bpuh) to the seven Heavens to His presence. Five times daily Salat was commanded by Allah during the Miraj (Fajr, Zuhr, 'Asr, Maghrib, 'Isha).

Q 16. When is a Sura called a "Makkyia" (Makkan) Surah?

Ans: When its beginning was revealed at Makka before Hijra. Of the 114 Chapters in the Qur'an, 85 are Makkan.

Q 1. When is a Sura called a "Madanya" (Madinian) Surah?

Ans: When its beginning was revealed after Hijra to Medina, even if some ayat were revealed before Hijra. Of the 114 Chapters in the Qur'an, 29 are Madinian.

Q 2. What are the main topics of the Makkan Chapters?

Ans: a) Allah and His unity (Tawheed). b) Resurrection and judgment. c) Righteous conduct, etc.

Q 3. Where is Allah?

Ans: Above the Arsh (Throne). Please note that there is a misconception in Muslim community 'Allah is every where' this is completely wrong.

Q 4. What is Ghibat (Backbiting) and its consequences?

Ans: Ghibat is a major sin. Ghibat is to say something about someone which they would not like you to mention, even if it is true. If it is false, then additionally it is slander which is severely punishable by Allah.

Q 5. What is Kufr?

Ans: Kufr means disbelief in Allah or covering up the truth.

Q 6. Has the Qur'an been revealed for the Muslims only or for the whole humanity?

Ans: Qur'an has been revealed for the whole humanity.

Q 7. Who is a Sahabi (Plural Sahaba)?

Ans: Sahabi means a Companion. Sahabi (singular of Sahaba) is the one who was in the company of the Prophet Muhammad or just seen him (and is a known Muslim who understood his religion and accepted it.)

Q 8. Should Muslims follow the Sunnah of the Prophet (bpuh)?

Ans: Yes, as the Qur'an confirms: "Certainly, there is for you (Muslims), in the Messenger of Allah, an excellent example (role model)." (Wuswatun Hassanah: Qur'an 33:21)

Q 9. What is Hadith Qudsi?

Ans: A saying of the Prophet (bpuh) with reference to (quoting) Allah's words.

Some Tips for Young Muslims

Social Web Tips for Youth

1. **Think about what you post.** Sharing provocative photos or intimate details online, even in private emails, can cause you problems later on. Even people you consider friends can use this info against you, especially if they become ex-friends.
2. **Read between the “lines.”** It may be fun to check out new people for friendship or romance, but be aware that, while some people are nice, others act nice because they’re trying to get something. Flattering or supportive messages may be more about manipulation than friendship or romance.
3. **Don’t talk about sex with strangers.** Be cautious when communicating with people you don’t know in person, especially if the conversation starts to be about sex. Don’t lead them on – you don’t want to be the target of a predator’s grooming. If they persist, call your local police or contact CyberTipline.com.
4. **Avoid in-person meetings.** The only way someone can physically harm you is if you’re both in the same location, so – to be 100% safe – don’t meet them in person. If you really have to get together with someone you “met” online, don’t go alone. Have the meeting in a public place, tell a parent or get some other solid backup, and bring some friends along.
5. **Be smart when using a cell phone.** All the same tips apply with phones as with computers. Except phones are with you wherever you are, often away from home and your usual support systems. Be careful who you give your number to and how you use GPS and other technologies that can pinpoint your physical location.

Be Safe from Cyber Bullying

What is Cyber Bullying? Cyber bullying, also known as electronic bullying or online social cruelty is defined as bullying: a) through email b) through instant messaging c) in a chat room d) on a website or gaming site e) through digital messages or images sent to a cellular phone.

Although sharing certain features in common with traditional bullying, cyber bullying represents a unique phenomenon that has only recently begun to receive attention in both the popular press and in academic circles. Cyber bullying not only looks and feels a bit different than traditional bullying, but presents some unique challenges in dealing with it.

Who Cyber Bully? Both boys and girls cyber bully, although it appears that girls are more likely to engage in cyber bullying and be targeted by cyber bullying than their male counterparts. This is a difference from traditional bullying, where we find boys engaging in bullying behaviors or being targeted in higher numbers than girls.

How can we prevent Cyber Bullying?

- a. Don’t engage in or support mean material, gossip, or rumors posted online, or talk about it at school.
- b. Support a classmate being targeted online by posting positive messages!
- c. If you know the person being targeted, invite him/her to spend time with you.
- d. Tell an adult at home and at school.
- e. Print the evidence to share with an adult.
- f. Confront the student who is cyber bullying if it is safe, and make it clear that you think their behavior is wrong.
- g. Remember that we are not invisible online, and anything we post can be traced back to us. Monitor your online reputation.