

Rulings of Eid

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Sheikh M. S. Al-Munajjid, a prominent Saudi Islamic lecturer and author outlines the rulings pertaining to Eid¹:

“1. Fasting: It is *Haram* to fast on the days of *‘Eid* because of the *Hadith* of Abu Sa‘Eid Al-Khudri, may Allah be pleased with him, in which he said that the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, forbade fasting on the day of *Fitr* and the day of *Adha*. (Reported by Muslim, 827)

2. Offering *‘Eid* Prayers: Some of the scholars say that *‘Eid* Prayers are *Wajib* (obligatory) – this is the view of the Hanafi scholars and of Sheikh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah. Some scholars say that *‘Eid* Prayer is *Fard Kifaya* (a communal duty, binding on the Muslims as a group, and it is fulfilled if a sufficient number of people perform it, thereby absolving the rest of sin). This is the view of the Hanbalis. A third group say that *‘Eid* Prayer is *Sunnah Mu‘akkadah*. This is the view of the Malikis and Shafi‘is.

3. Offering Supererogatory Prayers: There are no Supererogatory Prayers to be offered either before or after the *‘Eid* Prayer, as Ibn ‘Abbas reported that the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, used to come out on the day of *‘Eid* and pray two *Rak‘ahs*, with nothing before or after them. This is the case if the Prayer is offered in an open area. If, however, the people pray the *‘Eid* Prayer in a mosque, then they should pray two *Rak‘ahs* for *Tahiyat Al-Masjid*.

4. Women attending the *‘Eid* Prayers: According to the Sunna of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, everyone is urged to attend *‘Eid* Prayer, and to co-operate with one another in righteousness and piety. The menstruating woman should not forsake the remembrance of Allah or places of goodness such as gatherings for the purpose of seeking knowledge and remembering Allah – apart from mosques. Women, undoubtedly, should not go out without the Hijab.”

¹ Islamonline fatwa: *‘Eid*: Etiquette & Rulings dated 29 January 2004