

## 151162 - Ruling on Muslim praying in the house of a Christian

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### the question

Is it permissible to offer namaz in the house of a non-muslim?.

### Detailed answer

It is permissible to pray  
in the house of a Christian or anyone else who does not follow the religion  
of Islam because of the general meaning of the words of the Prophet  
(blessings and peace of Allah be upon him): "... the earth has been made for  
me a place of prostration and a means of purification, so wherever a man of  
my ummah is when the time for prayer comes, let him pray..."

Narrated by al-Bukhaari,  
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As-Sindi (may Allah have  
mercy on him) said: What we learn from the hadeeth is that the earth itself  
in its entirety is a place for prayer, unless there is any impediment in the  
presence of which prayer is makrooh or invalid, in which case the ruling is  
connected to that impediment.

End quote from Haashiyat  
as-Sindi, commentary on Saheeh al-Bukhaari, 1/140

Al-Bukhaari gave a chapter  
in his Saheeh the title "Chapter on prayer in churches", in which he  
narrated that 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said: We do not enter  
churches because of the statues on which there are images. And Ibn 'Abbaas  
used to pray in churches except a church in which there were statues.

Al-Haafiz ibn Hajar (may Allah have mercy on him) said: With regard to the fact that he said “Chapter on praying in churches”, the author of al-Muhkam said: The ruling on churches applies to churches, synagogues, monks’ cells, temples in which there are idols, fire temples and so on.

End quote from Fath al-Baari, 1/531. See also al-Insaaf by al-Mirdaawi, 1/496

If prayers offered in churches are valid, then it is more appropriate that they should be valid if offered in the house of a Christian or other non-Muslim.

The scholars of the Standing Committee (6/270) were asked: Sometimes the time for prayer comes when I am in the house of a Christian, so I take my prayer mat and pray in front of them. Is my prayer is valid, because I am in one of their houses?

They replied:

Yes, your prayer is valid; may Allah increase you in keenness to obey Him, especially by offering the five daily prayers on time. It is obligatory to try to offer them in congregation, frequenting the mosques as much as possible. End quote.

Standing Committee for Academic Research and Issuing Fatwas.

And Allah knows best.