

# Misconception: A man and woman cannot be alone together



Background: Some think that in islam unmarried men and women are completely restricted and cannot be alone together under any circumstances.

The Quran gives an example in which an engaged couple may meet in secret only if they have something righteous to discuss:

And there is no sin upon you if you openly propose marriage to these women, or you keep it between yourselves. God knows that you will be thinking of them, but do not meet them secretly, unless you have something righteous to discuss... [2:235]

Amongst other examples, Abraham and his wife were in the presence of male guests in their home, freely participating in conversation, laughing [11:69-76].

There is also a clear example in The Quran of Moses speaking to two unmarried women in public, one of whom he married later:

And when he came to the water of Madyan, he found on it a group of men watering, and he found besides them two women keeping back (their flocks). He said: What is the matter with you? They said: We cannot water until the shepherds take away (their sheep) from the water, and our father is a very old man. So he watered (their sheep) for them, then went back to the shade and said: My Sustainer! surely I stand in need of whatever good Thou may send down to me. Then one of the two women came to him walking bashfully. She said: My father invites you that he may give you the reward of your having watered for us... [28:23-25]

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