

The second question of Fatwa no. 16654

**Q 2: A Christian man accepted Islam and became a true Muslim, and his wife also accepted Islam with him. He studied the matters of religion thoroughly, learnt the Qur'an and mastered it. When the people saw his efforts in Islam, they took him as an Imam (the one who leads congregational Prayer). However, they doubt the validity of his leadership, as he has not renewed his marriage contract, having been married with a contract written according to Christian standards. Does Islam acknowledge the contracts that were written before it?**

**A:** If a Kafir (disbeliever) and his wife accept Islam, whether Christians or otherwise, they do not have to renew their marriage contract; their former contract is acknowledged.

In the era of the Prophet (peace be upon him), the Kafirs and their wives used to accept Islam, and none of them was asked to renew their marriage contract. If the man is a true Muslim, there is no harm in offering Salah (Prayer) behind him.

May Allah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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