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Define Tauheed. What is its impact on individual life and society? Elaborate.

Introduction:

The concept of Tauheed is one of the basic beliefs of religion Islam. Tauheed is first part of Kalma, the gateway and core pillar of Islam. Tauheed is the greatest blessing conferred on human beings by Islam. All other beliefs culminate on this belief and according to it "Allah is one and only". It is the basic tenet to which Prophet (PBUH) asked humanity to adhere. It is the belief that Allah is one and there is no deity except for Allah All-Mighty. There are three types of Tauheed and it has various positive impacts on individual life and society.

Kinds of Tauheed

a Unity in Person

Unity in Person means that Allah is the one and only and He has no partner. Islam presented a pure and clear concept of oneness in Surah Ikhlas:

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ صَمَدٌ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ هُوَ كُنُوزٌ لَّهُ سُبُحَانَ (الفلق)

Say "He is Allah, (who is) One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent."

Hence it is completely different from Christianity and Judaism.

b Unity in Attributes

Allah alone is worthy of all the attributes as mentioned in Quran:

وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا

(Al-A'raf - 180)

"And to Allah belongs the best names, so invoke Him by them."

(Teen, 4)

فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ

"Best among the best."

Some of His attributes are: The King, The Most Merciful, The All-Mighty, The Creator etc.

c Unity in Actions

Allah alone is the creator and sustainer of everything. He alone manages everything that He has created.

كُن فَيَكُونُ (Surah Yasin (36):82)

"Be, it is."

لِلَّهِ مَلِكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا فِيهِنَّ
وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ (Al-Maida 5, 120)

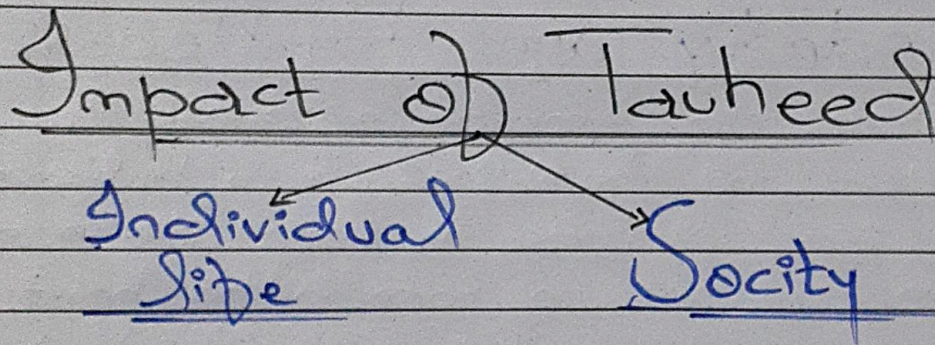
"To Allah alone belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth and everything within it. And He is most capable of everything."

Polytheism

Polytheism means associating partners with Allah that means denying the oneness of Allah All-Mighty.

Imam Taymiyah in his book "Kitab ul Tauheed" stated that pride and arrogance are also a sign of Shirk.

Shah Waliullah also considered ambiguity in faiths and humiliation of humans as kinds of polytheism.



Individual Life

a Self-Respect and Dignity

Tauheed incubates the highest degree of self-respect and dignity in a believer. He knows that none besides Him can benefit or harm a person. This conviction makes him indifferent to, and independent and fearless of, all powers other than Allah. He never bows his head or stretches out his hand to anyone else. He is not overawed by anybody's greatness.

ولقد كرّمنا بني آدم وحملناهم في البر
والبحر ورزقناهم من الطيبات وفضلناهم
على كثير ممن خلقنا تفضيلاً (Al-Isra: 70)

"Indeed, we have dignified the children of Adam, carried them on land and sea, granted them good and lawful provisions, and privileged them far above many of our creatures."

b Modesty and Humbleness

Tauheed also generates a sense of modesty and humbleness in a believer. The boisterous pride of power, wealth, or worth can have no room in his heart, because he knows that everything he has, is provided by Allah, and that Allah can take away just as He can give.

"Allah says: 'Pride is my cloak and greatness my Robe, and whoever competes with me with regard to either of them, I shall throw him into hell.' (Ibn Maajah)

c Accountability

A believer is well aware of the fact that he will be held accountable for his deeds before Allah. So, he is conscious of his actions.

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ونضع الموازين القسط ليوم القيمة فلا
تضل نفس شيئا وان كان مثقال حبة
من خردل اتينا بها ولقي بنا حسبين
(Al-Anbya, 24: 47)

"We shall set up just scales on the day of Resurrection so that none will be wronged in the least. (We shall bring forth the acts of everyone), even if it be the weight of a grain of mustard seed. We shall suffice as Reckoners."

من يعمل مثقال ذرة خيرا يره ① ومن
يعمل مثقال ذرة شرا يره ②

(Al-Zilzal: 7, 8)

"Whoever has done an atom's weight of good will see it. And whoever has done an atom's weight of evil will see it."

d Virtuous and Upright

The belief makes a believer virtuous and upright. He has a conviction that there is no other means of success and salvation for him except purity of soul and righteousness of behaviour. He believes that he can only succeed if he lives rightly and acts justly. Humans have been encouraged to pursue the path of truth and virtue through a natural inclination duly supplemented by revealed guidance preached by the Prophets of Allah.

e. Gives a purpose to life

Acknowledging Allah as the the only creator and sustainer of all existing things entails acceptance of Him as the sole deity and master who alone can determine the purpose of existence of all His creatures, including humans. The believer believes that Allah has created him, and put him on top of all other living beings. There must be a reason for his existence.

f. Patience and Trust

Tauheed produces a strong degree of determination, patience, perseverance and trust in Allah. When a believer devotes his resources to fulfilling the divine commands in order to secure Allah's pleasure, he is sure that no difficulties, impediments and oppositions can make him give up his resolution.

(Al-Baqarah: 153) ان الله مع الصبرين

"Surely Allah is with those who are patiently steadfast."

وعلى الله فليتوكل المؤمنون

"And the believers should put their trust in Allah." (Al-Imran: 122)

g. Hope

The believer is always hopeful that Allah is capable of all the magnificent actions, He will surely take care of him

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(Az-Zumar: 52) لا تقنطوا من رحمة الله

"Do not lose hope in Allah's mercy."

h Broadmindedness

A believer of Tauheed has a broader vision because he believes in Allah who is the creator of the heavens and earth, the Maker of entire universe. So, a believer can not be prejudiced or bigoted.

i Spirit of Bravery

Tauheed instills bravery in a believer. Fear of death or getting harmed and love of safety weakens a person. But, belief in Tauheed makes a person strong and brave as he knows that his life, property and everything else only belongs to Allah. No one can take anything away from him except Allah.

Impact of Tauheed on Society a Equality

Tauheed affirms that everyone is equal in the sight of Allah. It eradicates all discriminations along tribal and racial lines and creates equality in a society.

(Al-Hujurat: 13) ان اكرم عند الله اتقىم

"Surely, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you."

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Hence, piety is the only yardstick for a believer's superiority. The Prophet (PBUH) stated in his Farewell sermon:

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, and Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black, nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action."

b Brotherhood

Tauheed instills a sense of uniformity i.e. same likings for others

انما المؤمنون اخوة فاصحوا بين اخوتكم

"The believers are brothers, so make peace between your brothers."

(Al-Hujurat: 10)

c Inter-Religious Harmony

Tauheed creates the bond of inter-Religious harmony among Muslims.

The belief warns them not to be divided on the basis of sects.

ان الذين فرقو دينهم وكانوا شيعا لست منهم في شئ انما امرهم الى الله ثم ينبئ بما كانوا يعملون

"Sodeed, you 'O Prophet' are not responsible whatsoever for those who have divided their faith and split into sects. That

Judgement only rests with Allah. And He will inform them of what they used to do." (Al-Imran: 6)

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d Accountability and Social Justice

When a belief in Tauheed prevails in society in true sense, then accountability and social justice become the realistic norms of a society.

وانزلنا معهم الكتاب والميزان ليقوم
الناس بالقسط

"And with them We sent down the Scripture and the balance of Justice, so that people may administer Justice"
(Al-Quran)

Conclusion

The belief in Tauheed naturally has a great influence on the life of a believer in an individualistic and collective sense. When a Muslim knows that Allah is the One and Only, and capable of everything, the believer would put his trust in Allah only. One who firmly believes in Oneness of Allah - Al-Mighty would not indulge in any activities displeasing to Allah. Hence, the believers of Tauheed will always endeavor to lead their life by the will of Allah. So, the belief in Tauheed has several positive impacts on individuals and society right from the birth till death of a believer.