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The first question in Fatwa no. (2017):

**Q:** What is your ruling on an innovator in religion, who invents a Bid'ah (innovation in religion) that involves Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah), in which he seeks help from the dead Awliya' (pious people) and prays in their shrines, hoping that they will give him their blessing. He married a woman, after her last husband divorced her; he used to have sexual intercourse with her secretly time after time, until she got pregnant from him, so he quickly contracted marriage with her after her pregnancy became obvious. This marriage was carried out without Guidance from Allah. She gave birth to a baby girl, who is two years old now, then he repented to Allah for such Bid'ahs and firmly adhered to the Sunnah of our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and read, "Fath Al-Majid Sharh Kitab Al-Tawhid" and other books by Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jama'ah (those adhering to the Sunnah and the Muslim community). He has repented for having committed Zina (illegal sexual intercourse) and other abominations. His wife is now pregnant and he is asking about what should he do? Is there any expiation for committing Zina? What should he do with his relatives who are still adhering to their polytheistic innovations? Please give me your legal opinion.

**A1: First:** Undoubtedly, Shirk is the gravest of major sins and Bid'ahs introduced into religion and is one of the most hideous crimes. Zina is one of the abominations and among the gravest of major sins; whoever has committed it should rid himself of it, shun it completely and beg forgiveness from Allah. He should repent for the crimes in which he indulged; perhaps Allah may accept his repentance. If he has already repented to Allah and begged His Forgiveness, we hope that Allah

accepts his repentance, forgive him his sins, protect him in future and turn his bad deeds into good deeds. But he must feel great regret, repent a lot, beg for forgiveness and do a lot of good deeds, for they wipe out evil deeds.

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He must not follow the footsteps of Satan, for he commands people to commit vice and sin; Allah, may He be Glorified and Exalted, says: ﴿ And those who invoke not any other god along with Allah, nor kill such person as Allah has forbidden, except for just cause, nor commit illegal sexual intercourse — and whoever does this shall receive the punishment. ﴾ The torment will be doubled to him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein in disgrace; ﴿ Except those who repent and believe, and do righteous deeds; for those, Allah will change their sins into good deeds, and Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. ﴾ And whosoever repents and does righteous good deeds; then verily, he repents towards Allah with true repentance. 》(Al-Furqan, 25: 68-71) and Allah, may He be Glorified and Exalted, also says: ﴿ O you who believe! Follow not the footsteps of Satan. And whosoever follows the footsteps of Satan, then, verily, he commands Al-Fahsha' [i.e. to commit indecency (illegal sexual intercourse)], and Al-Munkar [i.e. to do evil and wicked deeds]. 》(Al-Nur, 24: 21) This man must praise and thank Allah for finding his way back to the right path after going astray.

**Second:** He must exert his utmost efforts to guide his kindred and the rest of his people and call them to pure Tawhid (monotheism), and make them renounce Bid'ahs and superstitions. He must awaken in them the desire to hold fast to the Book of Allah and the Sunnah, and to act upon them, for preaching may prove fruitful. They may respond and repent to Allah for associating others with Him and for the rest of their invented practices. Thus, together they become one united force supporting the Call to Truth. And Allah is the One Whose help is sought.

**Third:** If what happened in consequence of behaving like the people of Jahiliyyah (pre-Islamic time of ignorance), before the mission of the Prophet (peace be upon him), committing what they committed, and he contracted his marriage with the previously mentioned woman during the days of his Jahiliyyah (ignorance), his repentance for having committed this sin is considered an abandonment of Shirk and immorality and the start of a new Islamic life.

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Thus, he acknowledges the marriage-contract that he has concluded with the woman during the days of their ignorance, if she was like him when they contracted marriage and then she repented from the Shirk and immorality she had committed; for the Prophet (peace be upon him) used to acknowledge those who embrace Islam from among the disbelievers with their past marriage-contracts, contracted during Jahiliyyah, and he neither asked them about the details upon which these contracts were entered into, nor did he renew their marriage-contracts for them and he considered whatever offspring they had as their (legitimate) children. All they had to do was to follow a bad deed with a good deed and do a lot of righteous acts and avoid all the evils which Allah has prohibited.

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

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