

[Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh](#) (1940- ) - Saudi Grand Mufti, the leading religious figure of Saudi-based Salafi Muslims. He stresses the importance of adhering to a literal interpretation of the scripture and following Islam as it was practiced by the early generations of Muslims. His rulings are based heavily on a literal reading of the Qur'an and emphasize the need to strip away innovative cultural practices that have become a part of Muslims' lives across cultures.

"A girl aged 10 or 12 can be married. Those who think she's too young are wrong and they are being unfair to her." [2009 CNN](#)

Muslim children should be hit if they don't pray: "When he is seven, tell him to go and pray, and start hitting them when they are 10." [\(The Guardian\)](#)

Following the [Pope Benedict XVI Islam controversy](#), he called the pope's declaration "lies", adding that they "show that reconciliation between religions is impossible." [\(source\)](#)

[More](#) on his double game from American Muslim Zuhdi Jasser.