

Table Talk Afghanistan

Weigh In



As family is considered the most important aspect of Afghan life, many households are multigenerational.



Honour plays a vital role in Afghan society. Therefore, individuals have a duty to preserve the honour of their families, tribes and even religious beliefs. Because of this, Afghans hold a very collectivist mindset, prioritizing their “group” over themselves.



Females living in Afghanistan are victims of widespread gender-based violence. They are at constant risk of beatings, harassment, forced prostitution, deprivation of alimony, as well as forced and early marriages, which have recently become even more prevalent.



To be a Christian in Afghanistan means there is the constant risk of losing one's life. Many Christians keep their faith a secret, or they will risk being subjected to beatings, tortures, kidnappings and/or even threats of death.

- ◆ What does “multigenerational” mean? Make a list of pros and cons to living in a multigenerational home.
- ◆ Look up the word “honour” in a dictionary, and note its various meanings as a verb and as a noun. Does honour affect how you interact with others? Do you think that your country and its citizens value honour like those in Afghanistan? What value does God place on honour? See Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:2-3, Proverbs 15:33, Matthew 15:8-9 and Revelation 5:13.
- ◆ Between January and June 2022, there were 1,518 cases of violence against women, not accounting for those that went unreported. What does the Bible say about the value of life, more specifically, the lives of girls and women? How did Jesus treat women in the New Testament despite societal norms?
- ◆ Have you ever suffered for your faith in Jesus? What does “carrying your cross” mean to you?

Way Out

VOMC is helping to provide Dari Scriptures in print and digital formats to Afghans, while also training believers within the country for Bible translation work. Additionally, VOMC is supporting Pamir Ministries' radio program, which is regularly broadcasting the Good News of Jesus, addressing relevant social issues, and teaching believers and spiritual seekers throughout Afghanistan about the Christian faith.

One Way

The third pillar of Islam is *zakat*, which translates to “purification.” This is the practice of giving a portion (2.5 percent minimum) of one's money and other means of wealth to the poor in society. Muslims view this as a compulsory component of their faith. It is part of their practice of worship in which the followers of Islam express thanks to Allah for his blessings and recognize that all worldly possessions are from him.

While numerous Scriptures speak of giving financially in the form of tithes and offerings, Christianity does not demand the giving of a certain amount of money to the poor. The Apostle John posed this question: If we see a fellow brother in need, but don't do anything, how can we truly have the love of God in us (1 John 3:17)? Though not a requirement, Christians, like Muslims, consider giving regularly an important practice that should be done out of love (1 John 3:18), with thanksgiving (2 Corinthians 9:7), and as a way to cultivate trust in God the Father as our ultimate provider (Psalm 23; Matthew 6:33-34).

Recommended Reads

- *Tales of Persia: Missionary Stories from Islamic Iran* by William McElwee Miller.
- *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity* by Nabeel Qureshi.
- *Women Who Risk: Secret Agents of Jesus in the Muslim World* by Tom and Joann Doyle.
- *Farewell, Four Waters: One Aid Worker's Sudden Escape from Afghanistan* by Kate McCord.

Sources

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