

Let's Talk Türkiye

Did You Know?

Turkey has been spelled and pronounced Türkiye (Tur-kee-yeah) in Turkish since the country became a republic in 1923. The country requested that the rest of the world adopt the same spelling and pronunciation in 2021. The following year, the country became officially known as Türkiye among the United Nations.

One Way

The belief in the Holy Spirit is a doctrine that both Muslims and Christians hold, but the understanding of His nature and purpose differs significantly between the two religions.

The nature of the Holy Spirit from a Muslim point of view is much like the Islamic perception of Jesus' divinity. According to Islam, the Holy Spirit is a messenger created by God. Muslims do not believe that the Holy Spirit is God, but rather the angel Gabriel. Thus, the Holy Spirit has little significance or purpose in their daily lives.

In comparison, the nature and purpose of the Holy Spirit differ dramatically with Christianity. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is not merely a messenger, but an integral member of the Trinity – along with God the Father and Jesus the Son – each one equally part of the Triune Godhead. Most significantly, the Holy Spirit takes up residence within each believer. This allows Him to fulfill significant roles in their lives, including that of Teacher, Comforter, Counsellor, Advocate..., ultimately empowering them to live like Jesus.

Way Out ●●●●●●●●

With Christians representing only 0.2 percent of the Turkish population, finding Scripturally sound mentorship can be challenging. One of the projects VOMC supports helps believers in Türkiye mature in their faith and supplies them with the tools they need to share the Gospel with those around them. If you would like to contribute to this project, you may do so through our *Equipping the Saints Fund*: vomcanada.com/donate

This month, pray that the Lord will reveal one key thing from His Word to you. Then pray for an opportunity to share with someone else what you've learned.

Weigh In

1. Formerly spelled "Turkey," the country of Türkiye shares its name with a well-known poultry entrée that is often served during holidays. The turkey was named after this country because of a misconception about the animal's origin.

Research the reason why the turkey (bird) was named after this country. Would it be better if the name was changed to reflect the turkey's true origin rather than the misconception? Defend your answer.

2. Türkiye is part of two continents, Europe and Asia. Around 97 percent of the nation resides in Asia, while the rest is considered to be located in Europe. These zones are separated by a passage of water named the Bosphorus Strait.

Because of the unique geographic position of Türkiye, it's known as the bridge between Europe and Asia. Therefore, this Middle Eastern country is home to a melting pot of cultures and serves as a transportation hub for trade. Name some other benefits of being in a nation spanning across two continents.

3. A rich history of early Christianity exists in Türkiye. The Apostle Paul established churches that still exist in many cities of present-day Türkiye. Several of these historic sites are preserved and toured to this day.

Throughout history, many of these Biblical cities were abandoned and/or reduced to ruins, one being Ephesus. Read Revelation 2:1-7. Do you think members of the Ephesian church heeded Jesus' warning, or was the downfall of their church caused by something else? Research and defend your answer.

4. Turkish ID cards declare a person's religious affiliation. When employers or governing officials scan the cards and see the Christians' identities, there is a high likelihood that these believers will face discrimination.

A Christian's identity in Christ should be obvious by their actions. Is this statement true or false? If true, consider how your faith is being reflected by your actions. Would others recognize that you belong to Christ, or would they be surprised to learn of your Christian faith?

Recommended Reads:

- *A Child's Geography - Volume 2: Explore the Holy Land* by Ann Voskamp and Tonia Peckover (Children/Homeschools)
- *God's Hostage* by Andrew Brunson (Adult)
- *A Day in Istanbul: A Young Explorer Travel Guide to Istanbul (City Explorer)* by Read With You Center for Excellence in STEAM Education (Children)

Sources:

- <https://travelasker.com/turkey-a-unique-country-spanning-two-continents>
- <https://mustansarjavid.medium.com/religious-wisdom-the-role-of-the-holy-spirit-in-islam-and-christianity-df6fe25c823c>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-greece/ephesus>
- <https://theworldpursuit.com/facts-about-turkey/>