

Selected Charts from “What Americans Really Believe: New Findings from the Baylor Surveys of Religion” (2008, Baylor University Press) by Dr. Rodney Stark, Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences and Co-Director of the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University

For more on the Baylor Surveys of Religion:
[http://www.isreligion.org/research/surveysofreligion.](http://www.isreligion.org/research/surveysofreligion)

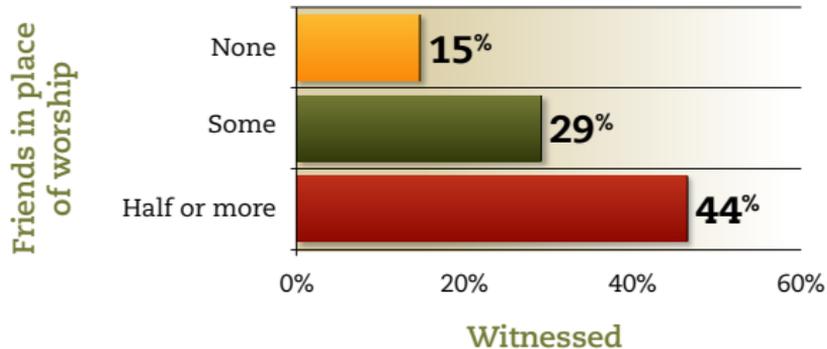


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Table 16

Congregational Friendships and Witnessing

“How many of your friends attend your place of worship?”



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Table 18

On the “Bright Side”

Megachurches

Small Congregations

Heaven “absolutely” exists



Very, or quite, certain you will get into heaven



The Rapture will “absolutely” take place



Agree: “God rewards the faithful with major successes”



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Table 19

On the “Dark Side”

Megachurches

Small Congregations

Hell “absolutely” exists

90%

69%

Devil/Satan “absolutely” exists

83%

66%

Agree that God “is angered by human sin”

72%

67%

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Table 20

Personal Commitment

Megachurches

Small Congregations

Attend services weekly or more often

46%

39%

Tithe

46%

36%

Pray at least once a day or more often

60%

61%

Read the Bible daily

33%

32%

Attend a Bible-study group

52%

43%

Table 21

Religious and Mystical Experiences

Megachurches

Small Congregations

Index of Religious and Mystical Experience:

High



Medium



Low



None



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Table 22

Intimacy

Megachurches

Small Congregations

Half or more of their friends attend their congregations

41%

25%

Have no friends in their congregations

12%

22%

Table 23

Outreach

Megachurches

Small Congregations

In the past month did you:

Witness/share your faith with friends

83%

52%

Witness/share your faith with strangers

53%

35%

Table 24

Volunteerism

Megachurches**Small Congregations**

I do volunteer work for the community, not through my place of worship

40%**31%**

I do volunteer work for the community, through my place of worship

41%**34%**

During the past month participated in faith-based programs not affiliated or sponsored by a congregation (e.g., prison ministry, homeless shelter, etc.)

18%**9%**

Table 25

Demographics

Megachurches

Small Congregations

Age of church members: 70 and over

6% 12%

Age of church members: 50-59

26% 35%

Church affiliation with liberal Protestant denominations

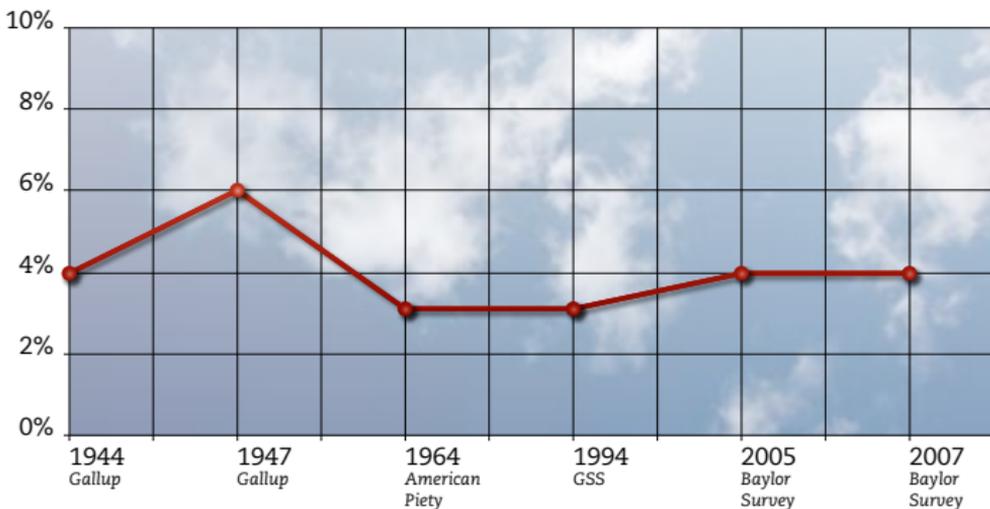
21% 47%

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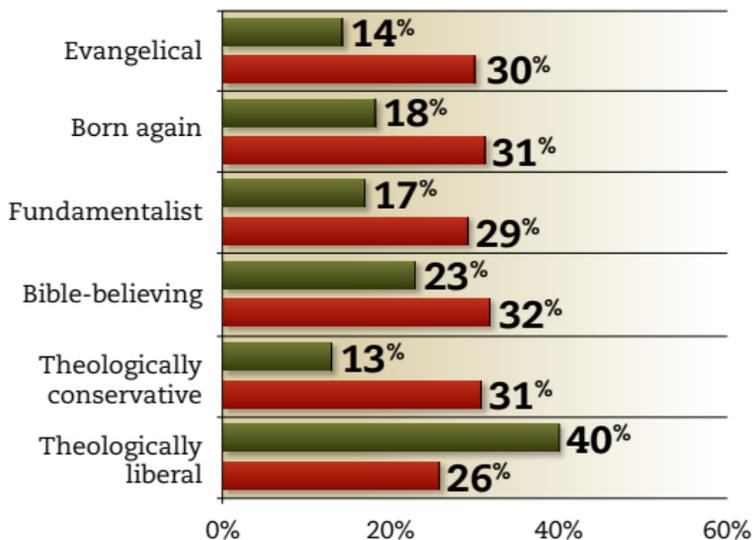
Table 52

Percent of those who do not believe in God by year

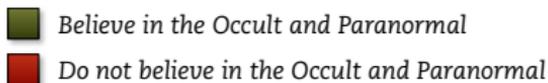


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Table 54**Religious Self-Identity and Belief in the Occult and Paranormal**

Percent high on the index



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