



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014

The State of Theology

Theological Awareness Benchmark Study

Research Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Executive Summary	3
Methodology	6
<i>Quantitative Findings</i>	
Beliefs about God	8
Beliefs about Goodness and Sin	13
Beliefs about Salvation and Religious Texts	15
Beliefs about Heaven and Hell	20
Beliefs about the Church	22
Beliefs about Authority	25

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ligonier Ministries is “committed to faithfully presenting the unvarnished truth of Scripture to help people grow in their knowledge of God and His holiness.” Anecdotal evidence has shown an increasing lack of theological understanding in America, both outside and inside the church. Ligonier Ministries wanted to understand with accuracy the extent of the need to improve that understanding.

Ligonier Ministries commissioned a research study by LifeWay Research to measure the theological awareness of adult Americans. Ligonier Ministries identified specific doctrines and heresies that they wanted to test. LifeWay Research helped refine these questions and to conduct a survey of 3,000 Americans.

Questions focused on seven key doctrinal areas and included a number of specific areas where Americans differ from historic and orthodox views.

BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

While the majority of Americans believe God is perfect, the answers reveal that Americans want God on their own terms. Some results reflect healthy thinking, but many of the results show the lack of orthodox thinking about God. This is especially true of questions related to the Trinity. 1-in-5 Americans deny that Jesus is the God-man. One third of Americans think the Father is more divine than the Son. The member of the Trinity that is the least understood in the United States is the Holy Spirit. Nearly two thirds (63%) think the Holy Spirit is a force and not a person.

- 63% of Americans agree “God is a perfect being and cannot make a mistake.”
- Two-thirds of Americans (66%) agree “God continues to answer specific prayers.”
- 6-in-10 Americans (60%) agree with the doctrine that says “Jesus is fully God and has a divine nature, and fully man and has a human nature.”
- 19% of Americans agree “Jesus is the first creature created by God.”
- More than two-thirds of adult Americans (68%) agree “Biblical accounts of the physical (bodily) resurrection of Jesus are completely accurate. This event actually occurred.”
- 69% of Americans agree “The Holy Spirit indwells every true Christian.”
- More than 6-in-10 Americans deny the doctrine of the personhood of the Holy Spirit. 64% agree “The Holy Spirit is a force, not a personal being.”
- One quarter of adults in the U.S. admit they are not sure about the heresy “The Holy Spirit is less divine than God the Father and Jesus”

BELIEFS ABOUT GOODNESS AND SIN

One of the most troubling findings in the survey is the lack of understanding Americans have regarding sin and the total depravity of human beings. Actually, the majority of Americans perceive goodness to be a better description of people.

- Only 16% agree with the doctrine that says “People do not have the ability to turn to God on their own initiative.”
- Instead of acknowledging depravity, the majority of Americans believe the good in people can outweigh the bad:
 - ~ 67% agree “Everyone sins at least a little, but most people are by nature good.”
 - ~ 4-in-10 agree “God loves me because of the good I do or have done.”

BELIEFS ABOUT SALVATION AND RELIGIOUS TEXTS

Orthodox Christians believe in the exclusivity of belief in Jesus Christ for salvation. While the majority of Americans believe that salvation is in “Christ alone,” many also nod to other sources of salvation or believe people can contribute to salvation, through their own effort. Less than half of Americans agree with orthodox doctrines related to the Bible. While more than 4-in-10 agree the Bible is accurate and the written word of God, a similar number believe the Bible is not true literally and is open to each person’s own interpretation. What the Bible has to say on ethical issues is blatantly rejected by 42% of those surveyed. As with the views of God, Americans, whether evangelical or not, want salvation and the Bible on their own terms.

These questions also reveal a deeply confused public and church population. The survey reveals that 61% affirm that God has authority over creation. That same majority, however, thinks they are in control of their own salvation.

- The majority of Americans (53%) agree with the doctrine that “Salvation is found through Jesus Christ alone.”
- But 45% agree that “there are many ways to get to heaven” and 3-in-10 agree “people will have a second chance to follow God after they die.”
- Many Americans appear to place confidence in their own efforts for salvation rather than God’s grace. This is seen among 71% of Americans who agree “an individual must contribute his/her own effort for personal salvation.” Similarly, 64% of Americans agree “a person obtains peace with God by first taking the initiative to seek God and then God responds with grace.”

- 48% agree “The Bible alone is the written word of God.”
- 43% agree “The Bible is 100% accurate in all that it teaches.”
- 41% agree “The Bible, like all sacred writings, contain helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.”
- 45% agree “The Bible was written for each person to interpret as they choose.”

BELIEFS ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL

Two thirds of Americans believe heaven exists and almost as many agree hell is real. But the question remains who will be in hell? The majority of Americans think people are by nature good and that God is not that wrathful at all.

- Two thirds of Americans (67%) agree “Heaven is a real place, not just a concept.”
- 61% of Americans agree “Hell is a real place, not just a concept.”
- 55% agree “God shows His wrath.”

BELIEFS ABOUT THE CHURCH

Less than half of Americans see the church as a necessity. The majority of adults do not see authority in sermons. One of the most overwhelming responses of the entire survey was the 68% who disagreed strongly that the local church has authority to declare whether they are a Christian or not. Less than one in ten agreed.

While the survey reveals that 57% of Americans speak of the value of church history, the survey reveals that the strong majority, 70%, have no place for church history in their personal discipleship.

- 52% of Americans agree “Worshiping alone or with one’s family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church.”
- 56% agree “My pastor’s sermons are not authoritative over my life.”
- 57% disagree with the sentiment “There is little value in studying and/or reciting creeds and catechisms.”

BELIEFS ABOUT AUTHORITY

Ethical issues such as sex outside of marriage being sinful tracks most closely with beliefs about the authority of the Bible. In addition, more Americans believe God has authority over people. They also see God as attentive.

- 70% of Americans disagree that “God is unconcerned with my day-to-day decisions.”
- 6-in-10 Americans (61%) agree “God has authority over people because He created human beings.”
- 49% agree “The Bible has the authority to tell us what we must do.”
- 48% agree “Sex outside of marriage is a sin.”

METHODOLOGY

The Theological Awareness Benchmark Study was conducted by LifeWay Research. The objective of the study was to quantify among a national sample of Americans indicators of theological understanding today. The project was designed with a large sample to allow for comparisons between groups within Christian churches and those outside the Christian faith.

The project was commissioned by Ligonier Ministries to ascertain the state of theological awareness and belief among Americans, including several subsets of Americans (particularly Evangelicals).

The quantitative survey of American adults was conducted using a large, national online panel. Quotas were in place to ensure the sample was demographically balanced on gender, age, ethnicity, education, census region, and religious preference. Completion rates among non-Christians were effected by the tremendous number of theology questions outside their beliefs. However, slight weights were used to balance religion and gender and to remove constant raters. 3,000 surveys were completed between February 25–March 5, 2014. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed +1.8%. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Ligonier Ministries identified specific doctrines and, in some cases, beliefs historically considered Christian heresies, it wanted to test. LifeWay Research helped refine these questions to ensure the following principles were followed throughout the questionnaire:

- Multiple questions were asked on each topic,
- Each doctrine or heresy was tested by stating it as fact and asking respondents to indicate their level of agreement,
- Phrasings that can introduce bias were excluded,
- Questions in which the desired response is agreement and questions in which the desired response is disagreement were mixed throughout the survey,
- The questions used words that would be understood by the typical American.

QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS

BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

God is a perfect being and cannot make a mistake

Agree strongly	48%
Agree somewhat	15%
Disagree somewhat	13%
Disagree strongly	10%
Not sure	14%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (89%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (52%) and Non-Christians (23%). Black Protestants (71%) and Evangelicals (77%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (44%) and Mainlines (45%).

God does not determine all that happens, He simply knows it in advance

Agree strongly	22%
Agree somewhat	27%
Disagree somewhat	15%
Disagree strongly	19%
Not sure	17%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (31%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (25%) and Non-Christians (13%). Black Protestants (30%) and Evangelicals (31%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (21%) and Mainlines (21%).

God continues to answer specific prayers

Agree strongly	38%
Agree somewhat	29%
Disagree somewhat	11%
Disagree strongly	10%
Not sure	13%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (78%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (39%) and Non-Christians (18%). Black Protestants (51%) and Evangelicals (65%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (32%) and Mainlines (33%).

God is the author of Scripture

Agree strongly	28%
Agree somewhat	19%
Disagree somewhat	17%
Disagree strongly	20%
Not sure	16%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (77%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (24%) and Non-Christians (13%). Evangelicals (59%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (37%), Catholics (16%), and Mainlines (20%)

There is one true God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

Agree strongly	50%
Agree somewhat	21%
Disagree somewhat	5%
Disagree strongly	9%
Not sure	15%

Non-Christians (31%) are more likely to be Not Sure than Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (1%) and Other Christians (10%). Catholics (26%) and Mainlines (27%) are more likely to Somewhat Agree than Black Protestants (18%) and Evangelicals (14%).

Biblical accounts of the physical (bodily) resurrection of Jesus are completely accurate. This event actually occurred

Agree strongly	45%
Agree somewhat	23%
Disagree somewhat	9%
Disagree strongly	9%
Not sure	15%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (91%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (48%) and Non-Christians (19%). Evangelicals (76%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (59%), Catholics (42%), and Mainlines (41%).

Jesus is the first creature created by God

Agree strongly	9%
Agree somewhat	10%
Disagree somewhat	15%
Disagree strongly	49%
Not sure	17%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (66%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (48%) and Non-Christians (45%). Black Protestants (17%) and are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (9%), Evangelicals (11%), and Mainlines (6%).

Jesus is fully God and has a divine nature, and Jesus is fully man and has a human nature

Agree strongly	37%
Agree somewhat	23%
Disagree somewhat	10%
Disagree strongly	12%
Not sure	18%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (77%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (40%) and Non-Christians (15%). Black Protestants (12%) and are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Catholics (5%), Evangelicals (7%), and Mainlines (5%).

God the Father is more divine than Jesus Christ

Agree strongly	16%
Agree somewhat	17%
Disagree somewhat	14%
Disagree strongly	30%
Not sure	23%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (60%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (24%) and Non-Christians (27%). Black Protestants (25%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (17%), Evangelicals (17%), and Mainlines (15%).

The Holy Spirit is a force, not a personal being

Agree strongly	31%
Agree somewhat	32%
Disagree somewhat	8%
Disagree strongly	13%
Not sure	15%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (35%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (8%) and Non-Christians (14%). Black Protestants (46%) and are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (37%), Evangelicals (35%), and Mainlines (31%).

The Holy Spirit indwells every true Christian

Agree strongly	38%
Agree somewhat	30%
Disagree somewhat	8%
Disagree strongly	8%
Not sure	16%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (79%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (41%) and Non-Christians (15%). Evangelicals (66%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (49%), Catholics (38%), and Mainlines (32%).

The Holy Spirit gives a spiritual new birth or new life before a person has faith

Agree strongly	21%
Agree somewhat	26%
Disagree somewhat	15%
Disagree strongly	15%
Not sure	24%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (32%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (7%) and Non-Christians (23%). Evangelicals (22%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Black Protestants (12%) , Catholics (4%), and Mainlines (7%).

The Holy Spirit is less divine than God the Father and Jesus

Agree strongly	4%
Agree somewhat	11%
Disagree somewhat	21%
Disagree strongly	40%
Not sure	25%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (72%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (36%) and Non-Christians (31%). Evangelicals (57%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Black Protestants (36%), Catholics (36%), and Mainlines (33%)

BELIEFS ABOUT GOODNESS AND SIN

Everyone sins at least a little, but most people are by nature good

Agree strongly	21%
Agree somewhat	46%
Disagree somewhat	16%
Disagree strongly	13%
Not sure	4%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (12%) are less likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (22%) and Non-Christians (24%). Evangelicals (29%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Black Protestants (15%), Catholics (5%), and Mainlines (7%).

People do not have the ability to turn to God on their own initiative

Agree strongly	7%
Agree somewhat	9%
Disagree somewhat	26%
Disagree strongly	50%
Not sure	8%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (21%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (5%) and Non-Christians (5%). Black Protestants (63%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Catholics (50%), Evangelicals (47%), and Mainlines (50%).

Even the smallest sin deserves damnation

Agree strongly	10%
Agree somewhat	8%
Disagree somewhat	16%
Disagree strongly	59%
Not sure	7%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (40%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (6%) and Non-Christians (4%). Evangelicals (39%) are less likely to Strongly Disagree than Black Protestants (56%), Catholics (70%), and Mainlines (66%).

God loves me because of the good I do or have done

Agree strongly	15%
Agree somewhat	25%
Disagree somewhat	17%
Disagree strongly	34%
Not sure	9%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (75%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (28%) and Non-Christians (28%). Black Protestants (19%) and Catholics (20%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Evangelicals (10%) and Mainlines (11%).

BELIEFS ABOUT SALVATION AND RELIGIOUS TEXTS

The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true

Agree strongly	17%
Agree somewhat	24%
Disagree somewhat	16%
Disagree strongly	32%
Not sure	10%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (80%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (30%) and Non-Christians (14%). Catholics (17%) and Mainlines (18%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (8%) and Evangelicals (5%).

The Bible was written for each person to interpret as they choose

Agree strongly	14%
Agree somewhat	31%
Disagree somewhat	19%
Disagree strongly	26%
Not sure	10%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (66%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (22%) and Non-Christians (15%). Evangelicals (48%) and are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Black Protestants (35%), Catholics (18%), and Mainlines (18%).

The Bible alone is the written word of God

Agree strongly	30%
Agree somewhat	18%
Disagree somewhat	19%
Disagree strongly	21%
Not sure	12%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (79%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (27%) and Non-Christians (11%). Evangelicals (62%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (46%), Catholics (17%), and Mainlines (22%).

The Bible is 100% accurate in all that it teaches

Agree strongly	27%
Agree somewhat	16%
Disagree somewhat	21%
Disagree strongly	25%
Not sure	12%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (78%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (23%) and Non-Christians (9%). Evangelicals (61%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (43%), Catholics (12%), and Mainlines (17%).

The Book of Mormon is a revelation from God

Agree strongly	3%
Agree somewhat	7%
Disagree somewhat	12%
Disagree strongly	42%
Not sure	36%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (73%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (34%) and Non-Christians (42%). Black Protestants (51%) are more likely to be Not Sure than Catholics (42%), Evangelicals (26%), and Mainlines (38%).

There will be people in heaven who have never heard of Jesus Christ

Agree strongly	20%
Agree somewhat	20%
Disagree somewhat	11%
Disagree strongly	30%
Not sure	19%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (56%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (27%) and Non-Christians (24%). Black Protestants (14%) and Evangelicals (12%) are less likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (27%) and Mainlines (23%).

A person obtains peace with God by first taking the initiative to seek God and then God responds with grace

Agree strongly	27%
Agree somewhat	37%
Disagree somewhat	13%
Disagree strongly	11%
Not sure	12%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (38%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (31%) and Non-Christians (15%). Black Protestants (45%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Evangelicals (36%), Catholics (28%), and Mainlines (26%).

An individual must contribute his/her own effort for personal salvation

Agree strongly	38%
Agree somewhat	33%
Disagree somewhat	9%
Disagree strongly	13%
Not sure	7%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church once a month or more (38%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (7%) and Non-Christians (12%). Black Protestants (54%) and Catholics (49%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Evangelicals (38%) and Mainlines (32%).

Salvation always begins with God changing a person so that they will turn to Him in faith

Agree strongly	16%
Agree somewhat	25%
Disagree somewhat	26%
Disagree strongly	21%
Not sure	12%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (32%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (16%) and Non-Christians (8%). Black Protestants (28%) and Evangelicals (28%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (11%) and Mainlines (13%).

People will have a second chance to follow God after they die

Agree strongly	11%
Agree somewhat	19%
Disagree somewhat	15%
Disagree strongly	30%
Not sure	25%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (74%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (23%) and Non-Christians (23%). Evangelicals (57%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Black Protestants (33%), Catholics (13%), and Mainlines (20%).

Salvation is found through Jesus Christ alone

Agree strongly	35%
Agree somewhat	18%
Disagree somewhat	17%
Disagree strongly	18%
Not sure	12%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (87%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (33%) and Non-Christians (13%). Evangelicals (3%) are less likely to Strongly Disagree than Black Protestants (8%), Catholics (18%), and Mainlines (14%).

There are many ways to get to heaven

Agree strongly	21%
Agree somewhat	23%
Disagree somewhat	12%
Disagree strongly	30%
Not sure	14%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (80%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (24%) and Non-Christians (19%). Catholics (31%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Mainlines (22%), Black Protestants (16%), and Evangelicals (7%).

BELIEFS ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL

Heaven is a real place, not just a concept

Agree strongly	47%
Agree somewhat	20%
Disagree somewhat	8%
Disagree strongly	8%
Not sure	17%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (91%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (51%) and Non-Christians (19%). Evangelicals (79%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (71%), Catholics (44%), and Mainlines (40%).

Hell is a real place, not just a concept

Agree strongly	41%
Agree somewhat	20%
Disagree somewhat	10%
Disagree strongly	12%
Not sure	18%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (88%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (44%) and Non-Christians (14%). Black Protestants (68%) and Evangelicals (75%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (35%) and Mainlines (32%).

God shows His wrath

Agree strongly	27%
Agree somewhat	28%
Disagree somewhat	17%
Disagree strongly	15%
Not sure	13%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (64%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (26%) and Non-Christians (12%). Black Protestants (53%) and Evangelicals (52%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (17%) and Mainlines (19%).

There will be a time when Jesus Christ returns to judge all the people who have lived

Agree strongly	42%
Agree somewhat	21%
Disagree somewhat	9%
Disagree strongly	12%
Not sure	16%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (83%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (45%) and Non-Christians (17%). Black Protestants (64%) and Evangelicals (70%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (37%) and Mainlines (37%).

BELIEFS ABOUT THE CHURCH

Worshiping alone or with one's family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church

Agree strongly	20%
Agree somewhat	32%
Disagree somewhat	19%
Disagree strongly	18%
Not sure	10%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (47%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (14%) and Non-Christians (13%). Mainlines (44%) are more likely to Somewhat Agree than Black Protestants (24%), Catholics (36%), and Evangelicals (27%).

My pastor's sermons are not authoritative over my life

Agree strongly	23%
Agree somewhat	33%
Disagree somewhat	20%
Disagree strongly	12%
Not sure	13%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (27%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (9%) and Non-Christians (9%). Catholics (45%) and Mainlines (46%) are more likely to Somewhat Agree than Black Protestants (31%) and Evangelicals (28%).

My local church has the authority to declare that I am not a Christian

Agree strongly	4%
Agree somewhat	5%
Disagree somewhat	13%
Disagree strongly	68%
Not sure	10%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (76%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (70%) and Non-Christians (62%). Americans age 18-34 (61%) are less likely to Strongly Disagree than those age 35-49 (72%), 50-64 (71%), and 65+ (73%).

The church should be silent on issues of politics

Agree strongly	22%
Agree somewhat	21%
Disagree somewhat	24%
Disagree strongly	23%
Not sure	11%

Non-Christians (36%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (8%) and Other Christians (17%). Evangelicals (40%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Black Protestants (27%), Catholics (19%), and Mainlines (16%).

There is little value in studying and/or reciting creeds and catechisms

Agree strongly	11%
Agree somewhat	16%
Disagree somewhat	34%
Disagree strongly	24%
Not sure	16%

Non-Christians (20%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (14%) and Other Christians (5%). Black Protestants (35%) and Catholics (32%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Evangelicals (27%) and Mainlines (24%).

Recite or use historical Christian creeds in personal discipleship

Yes	30%
No	70%

Other Christians (40%) are more likely to use creeds than Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (34%) and Non-Christians (11%). Catholics (52%) and Mainlines (48%) are more likely to use creeds than Black Protestants (23%) and Evangelicals (26%).

BELIEFS ABOUT AUTHORITY

God is unconcerned with my day-to-day decisions

Agree strongly	8%
Agree somewhat	12%
Disagree somewhat	23%
Disagree strongly	47%
Not sure	9%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (84%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Other Christians (49%) and Non-Christians (28%). Black Protestants (69%) and Evangelicals (73%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Catholics (41%) and Mainlines (41%).

God has authority over people because He created human beings

Agree strongly	36%
Agree somewhat	25%
Disagree somewhat	14%
Disagree strongly	14%
Not sure	11%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (76%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (37%) and Non-Christians (17%). Black Protestants (61%) and Evangelicals (63%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Catholics (28%) and Mainlines (30%).

The Bible has the authority to tell us what we must do

Agree strongly	27%
Agree somewhat	22%
Disagree somewhat	20%
Disagree strongly	21%
Not sure	10%

Non-Christians (40%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (2%) and Other Christians (15%). Evangelicals (60%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (47%), Catholics (12%), and Mainlines (20%).

Humans exist to bring God glory and to enjoy Him

Agree strongly	34%
Agree somewhat	25%
Disagree somewhat	14%
Disagree strongly	12%
Not sure	15%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (77%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (34%) and Non-Christians (15%). Evangelicals (61%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (52%), Catholics (27%), and Mainlines (27%).

Sex outside of marriage is a sin

Agree strongly	31%
Agree somewhat	17%
Disagree somewhat	17%
Disagree strongly	26%
Not sure	10%

Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (77%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Other Christians (29%) and Non-Christians (14%). Non-Christians (42%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than Self-identified Evangelicals who attend church Once a month or more (3%) and Other Christians (23%). Evangelicals (63%) are more likely to Strongly Agree than Black Protestants (50%), Catholics (17%), and Mainlines (21%).