

# AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES REPORT

## AUSTRALIANS & RELIGION: "CHRISTIAN", "SPIRITUAL" & "NONE"

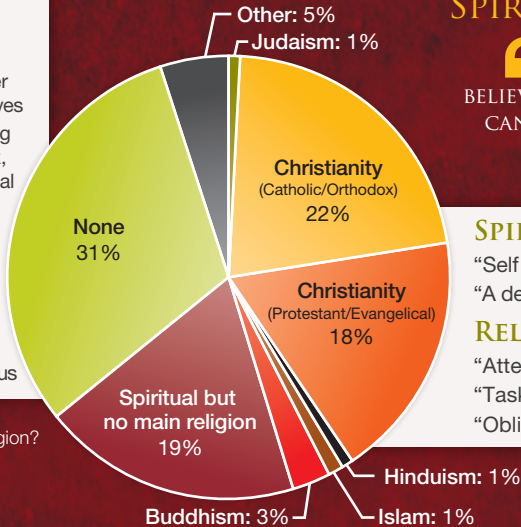
Overall, **1 IN 2** Australians do not identify with a religion

**40%** Consider themselves as Christian, identifying as Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant or Evangelical

**31%** Do not identify with any religion or spiritual belief

**19%** Spiritual, not religious

Q: What is your religion?



“ JUST BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD, I STILL THINK I CAN HAVE THAT CONNECTION TO PEOPLE AND THINGS IN A SPIRITUAL WAY...” ”

### SPIRITUALITY:

“Self awareness”  
“A deeper connection”

### RELIGION:

“Attendance”  
“Tasks”  
“Obligation”

This Australian Communities Report commissioned by Olive Tree Media analyses attitudes towards religion and Christianity in 21st century Australia.



“ I DON'T GO TO CHURCH, I LIKE LOOKING INTO RELIGIONS, I WANT TO BAPTISE MY SON CATHOLIC. ”

### Religious

### Christian (Protestant/Evangelical)



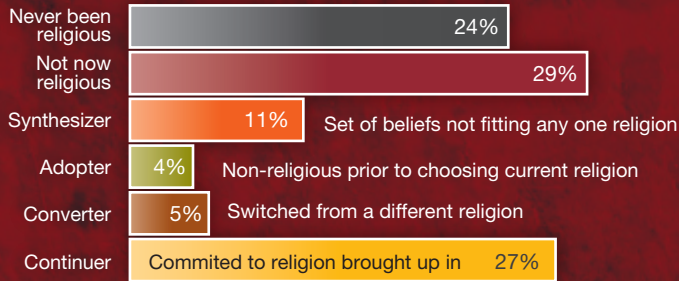
RELIGIOUS IDENTITY, BUT LESS ACTIVITY

MAINSTREAM CHRISTIANS ARE BOTH MORE ACTIVE AND LESS ACTIVE

Q: How active are you in practicing your religion?

# INFLUENCES ON RELIGIOUS VIEWS

## OUTGROWING RELIGION

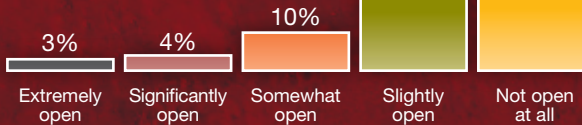


Q: What best describes your current religious status?

“ I WENT TO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL SO WE HAD TO GO TO CHURCH... IT FADED OUT WHEN I GOT OLDER, IN MY LIFE AND MY FAMILY'S AS WELL... ”

“ THE CHURCH NEEDS TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT IT IS NOT THAT THEY ARE ENFORCING SOMETHING ON THE SOCIETY LET THEM KNOW THAT IT'S ABOUT FAITH ”

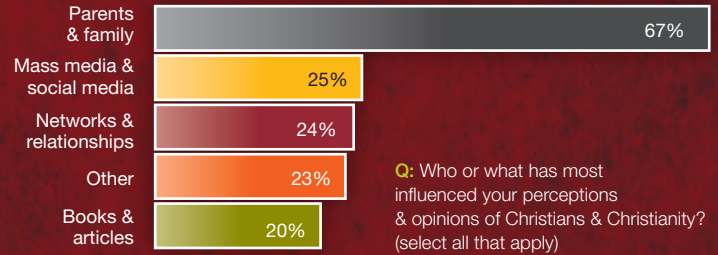
## HALF OF AUSSIES "NOT OPEN AT ALL"



BUT ALMOST HALF ARE TO SOME EXTENT "OPEN"

Q: How open are you to changing your religious worldview?

## FAMILY IS FORMATIVE



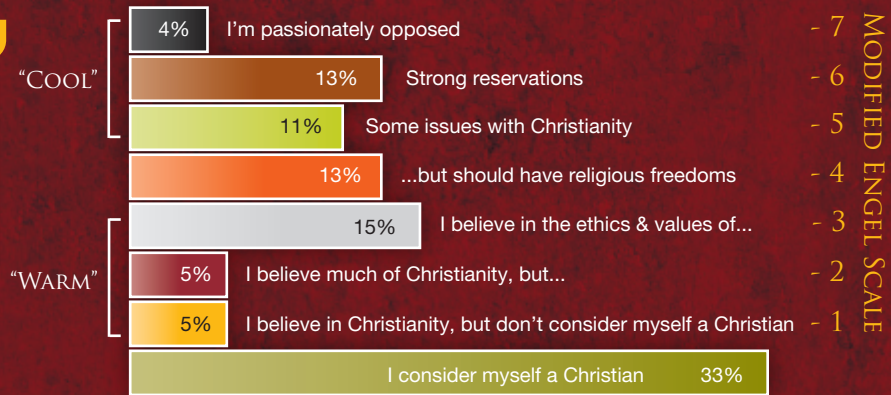
Q: Who or what has most influenced your perceptions & opinions of Christians & Christianity? (select all that apply)

## RELIGIOUS CONVERSATIONS: NOT ROUTINE, BUT NOT TABOO



Q: Do you ever talk about spirituality or religion when you gather with friends?

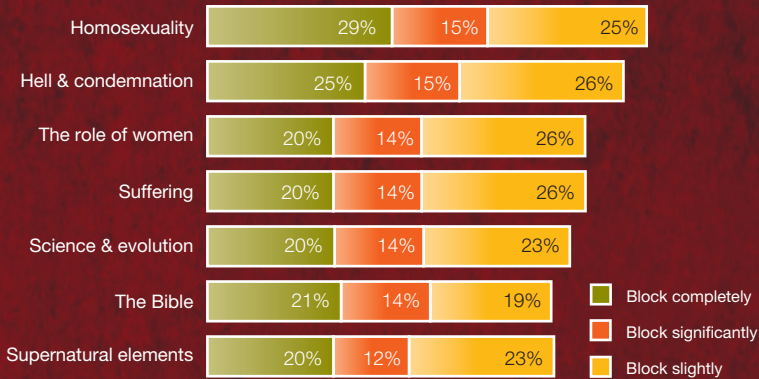
## SIGNIFICANT "WARMTH" TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY



Q: What best describes your current beliefs & attitudes towards Christianity?

# CHRISTIANITY'S BELIEF BLOCKERS

## DOCTRINE & PRACTICE



Q: To what extent do the following block or engage you...?

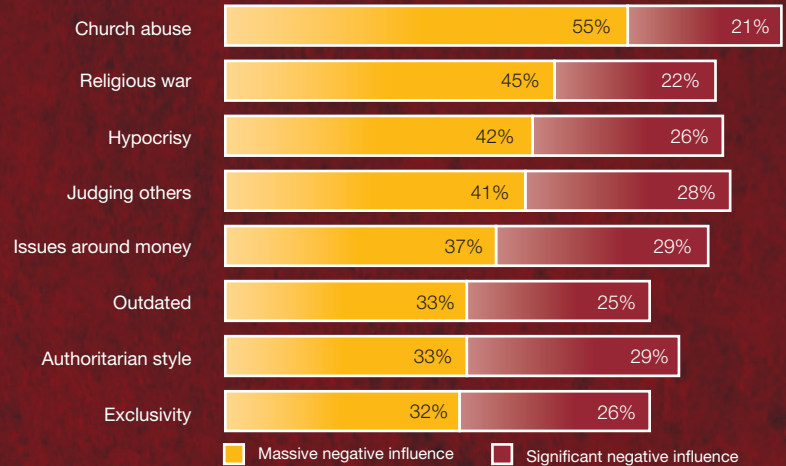
“ THEY SHOULD PUT A MESSAGE ACROSS THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BASH PEOPLE OVER THE HEAD FOR NOT COMING IN TEN YEARS ”

“ MY BELIEF IS THAT GOD WILL SEND YOU SOMEWHERE ELSE, BUT NOT ACTUALLY TO HELL. ”

## CHRISTIANITY'S TOP TEN BELIEF BLOCKERS (“NOT CHRISTIAN”, “OPEN” & “BLOCK COMPLETELY”)

1. Church abuse
2. Hypocrisy
3. Judging others
4. Religious views
5. Suffering
6. Issues around money
7. Outdated
8. Hell & condemnation
9. Homosexuality
10. Exclusivity

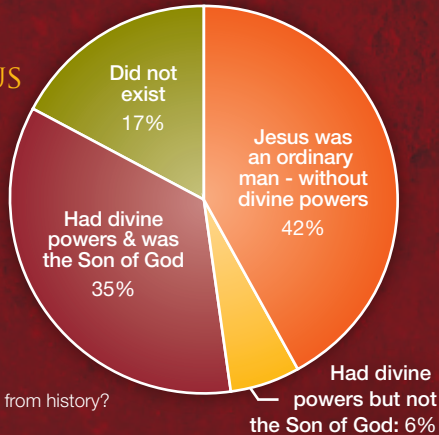
## CHRISTIANITY & THE CHURCH



Q: To what extent do the following attract or repel you...?

# BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS

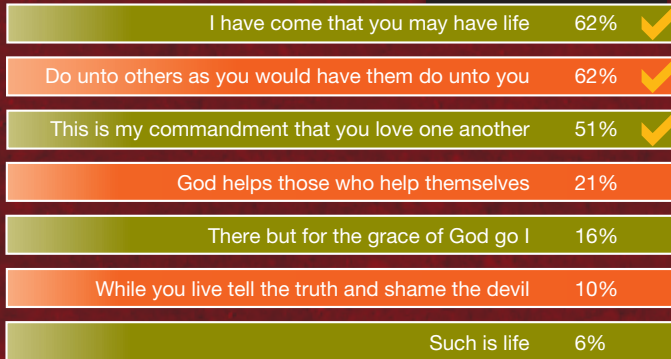
## SIGNIFICANT BELIEF IN JESUS



Q: Was Jesus a real person from history?

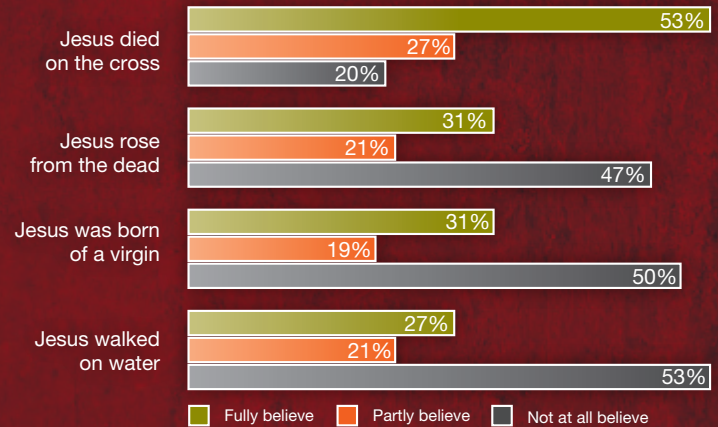
## SURPRISING KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS' MESSAGES

Quote Jesus said?



Q: Which of the following statements can be accurately attributed to Jesus?

## REASONABLE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MIRACULOUS



Legend: Fully believe (Green), Partly believe (Orange), Not at all believe (Grey)

Q: To what extent do you believe the following?

## WHEN DID JESUS LIVE?

