

Newsweek Poll
A Post-Christian Nation?
Princeton Survey Research Associates International

Final Topline Results
(4/3/09)

N = 1,003 adults, 18+
Margins of error: plus or minus 3.5
Interviewing dates: 4/1-2/09

Notes: Data are weighted so that sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density.

Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error. Sample size and margins of error for these subgroups are included in a separate methodology statement.

An asterisk () indicates a value less than 1%.*

Questions 1 and 2 asked in random order.

1. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	22	69	9	=100
TRENDS ¹				
1/14-15/09	20	72	8	=100
12/3-4/08	21	72	7	=100
10/08-09/08 Financial meltdown	10	86	4	=100
6/18-19/08	14	80	6	=100
2/6-7/08	24	69	7	=100
8/1-2/07	24	69	7	=100
7/11-12/07	27	68	5	=100
7/2-3/07	24	67	9	=100
6/18-19/07	26	68	6	=100
5/2-3/07 Bush veto of Iraq funding bill	25	71	4	=100
3/28-29/07	28	66	6	=100
3/14-15/07	28	64	8	=100
1/24-25/07	30	61	9	=100
1/17-18/07	30	62	8	=100
12/6-7/06	31	59	10	=100
10/26-27/06	31	61	8	=100
10/5-6/06 Foley scandal	25	67	8	=100
8/10-11/06	26	67	7	=100
5/11-12/06 NSA wiretapping	23	71	6	=100
3/16-17/06	30	64	6	=100
11/10-11/05	26	68	6	=100
9/8-9/05 Hurricane Katrina	28	66	6	=100
8/2-4/05	36	54	10	=100
10/21-22/04	40	56	4	=100
5/13-14/04 Prisoner abuse scandal	30	62	8	=100
4/8-9/04	36	59	5	=100
1/8-9/04	46	47	7	=100
12/18-19/03 Saddam's capture	46	47	7	=100
10/9-10/03	40	54	6	=100
4/03 Iraq War begins	50	41	9	=100
7/02	46	46	8	=100
9/01 Terrorist attacks	57	34	9	=100
6/01	43	52	5	=100
1/01	55	41	4	=100
6/00	47	45	8	=100
8/99	56	39	5	=100
9/98	54	42	4	=100
1/97	38	58	4	=100
3/96	28	70	2	=100
6/95	25	73	2	=100
8/94	24	71	5	=100
6/92 Recession	14	84	2	=100
3/91 Gulf War Victory	66	31	3	=100
9/90	37	58	5	=100
9/88	56	40	4	=100
11/85	51	46	3	=100

¹ Full trendline from 11/06 to present; earlier trends selected. Trends from 4/03, 6/00-6/01 and 6/95-8/99 from Pew Research Center; 11/85-6/92 from Gallup.

Questions 1 and 2 asked in random order.

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

		3/4-5/09	George W. Bush 4/12-13/01	Bill Clinton 4/22-23/93	George H.W. Bush ² 4/10 – 16/89	Ronald Reagan 4/3-6/81	Jimmy Carter 4/1-4/77
<u>Total</u>							
61	Approve	58	57	52	58	67	67
27	Disapprove	26	28	32	16	18	14
<u>12</u>	Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>19</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

3. We'd like your opinion of the way Barack Obama is handling certain aspects of his job. (First,) what about...
(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)?

ALWAYS READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling this issue or problem?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. The economy	48	41	11	=100
b. The situation in Iraq	57	27	16	=100
c. The situation in Afghanistan	55	27	18	=100
d. Taxes	48	37	15	=100
e. The federal budget deficit	42	45	13	=100
f. Major U.S. banks and other financial institutions in danger of failing	40	49	11	=100
g. U.S. auto companies in danger of going bankrupt	43	47	10	=100
h. The mortgage crisis and home foreclosures	47	41	12	=100

4. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Michelle Obama?

<u>Current</u>		3/4-5/09	9/10-11/08
62	Favorable	69	50
10	Unfavorable	13	34
*	Never heard of	1	1
<u>28</u>	Can't rate/Refused	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100

5. Now thinking about the state of the economy... Would you say the national economy today is in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape, or poor shape?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	*	4	24	71	1	=100
TRENDS						
3/4-5/09	1	2	12	84	1	=100
1/8-9/04	2	25	46	26	1	=100
11/6-7/03	1	23	43	33	*	=100
5/1-2/03	2	18	49	30	1	=100
7/18-19/02	1	20	48	30	1	=100
7/11-12/02	2	21	48	28	1	=100
9/96	6	32	43	18	1	=100
1/96	3	25	43	28	1	=100
1/93	1	11	45	42	1	=100

² George H. W. Bush, Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter trends taken from Gallup.

6. Over the next 12 months, do you think economic conditions in the country as a whole will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	47	22	28	3	=100
TRENDS					
3/4-5/09	37	29	32	2	=100
1/8-9/04	41	12	43	4	=100
11/6-7/03	41	16	39	4	=100
5/1-2/03	46	11	41	2	=100
7/18-19/02	45	15	37	3	=100
7/11-12/02	45	16	35	4	=100
1/10-12/01	18	33	44	5	=100
7/00	15	24	55	6	=100
10/98	16	22	57	5	=100
2/89	25	22	49	4	=100

7. How confident are you that Barack Obama will be able to turn around the economy? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

<u>Current</u>		<u>3/4-5/09</u>	<u>1/14-15/09</u>
25	Very confident	25	23
39	Somewhat confident	40	48
15	Not too confident	16	17
16	Not at all confident	17	9
<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

8. What is your opinion of the Obama administration's efforts to help major U.S. banks and other financial institutions in danger of failing? In general, do you think the administration is...(READ)

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
34	Taking the right approach, OR	16	53	25
15	Is not doing what is needed to fix the problem, OR	18	12	17
42	Should not be using government resources for this purpose?	62	25	49
<u>9</u>	Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100

9. What is your opinion of the Obama administration's efforts to help U.S. auto companies in danger of going bankrupt? In general, do you think the administration is...(READ)

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
34	Taking the right approach, OR	13	50	29
16	Is not doing what is needed to fix the problem, OR	20	15	16
43	Should not be using government resources for this purpose?	65	27	48
<u>7</u>	Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100

10. Is it your impression that Republicans who have opposed Barack Obama's economic proposals have a plan of their own for turning the economy around, or not?

<u>Current</u>		<u>3/4-5/09</u>
29	Yes, have a plan of their own	31
58	No, do not	58
<u>13</u>	Don't know	<u>11</u>
100		100

11. Now turning to other issues... Barack Obama has announced that he will remove most U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of next year, that is, 2010. Which of the following best describes your opinion of Obama's timetable for troop withdrawal from Iraq... **(READ)**

46	It is about right, OR
28	U.S. troops should come home sooner OR
19	U.S. troops should stay longer?
<u>7</u>	Don't know
100	

12. Do you agree or disagree with Barack Obama's recent decision to increase U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan?

61	Agree
29	Disagree
<u>10</u>	Don't know
100	

13. Is it your impression that Republicans critical of the way Barack Obama has been dealing with Al Qaeda and other foreign threats have workable proposals of their own for dealing with this situation?

31	Yes, have workable proposals
52	No, do not
<u>17</u>	Don't know
100	

14. Now I'm going to read you some statements and ask how much you agree or disagree with each one. Here's the (first/next) statement...(INSERT—ASK ITEMS IN ORDER). Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely disagree?

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			DK
	Total	Com- pletely	Mostly	Total	Com- pletely	Mostly	
a. Prayer is an important part of my daily life							
CURRENT TOTAL	78	48	30	21	9	12	1=100
TRENDS ³							
12/12/06-1/9/07	78	45	33	21	8	13	1=100
August 2003	81	51	30	18	8	10	1=100
August 2002	79	52	27	21	8	13	*=100
Late Sept. 1999	78	55	23	21	6	15	1=100
Nov. 1997	78	53	25	21	7	14	1=100
July 1994	78	52	26	22	8	14	*=100
Nov. 1991	80	50	30	19	6	13	1=100
May 1990	77	46	31	22	6	16	1=100
May 1988	78	46	32	21	6	15	1=100
May 1987	76	41	35	23	6	17	1=100
b. I never doubt the existence of God							
CURRENT TOTAL	85	64	21	13	7	6	2=100
TRENDS							
12/12/06-1/9/07	83	61	22	14	7	7	3=100
August 2003	87	69	18	12	6	6	1=100
August 2002	88	70	18	11	5	6	1=100
Late Sept. 1999	88	69	19	10	4	6	2=100
Nov. 1997	88	71	17	11	3	8	1=100
July 1994	88	72	16	11	5	6	1=100
Nov. 1991	88	71	17	11	3	8	1=100
May 1990	87	60	27	11	3	8	2=100
Feb. 1989	88	66	22	10	4	6	2=100
May 1988	87	63	24	11	4	7	2=100
May 1987	88	60	28	10	3	7	2=100
c. School boards ought to have the right to fire teachers who are known homosexuals							
CURRENT TOTAL	25	17	8	66	46	20	9=100
TRENDS							
12/12/06-1/9/07	28	18	10	66	39	27	6=100
August 2003	33	21	12	62	37	25	5=100
August 2002	36	23	13	59	33	26	5=100
Late Sept. 1999	32	20	12	62	36	26	6=100
Nov. 1997	33	20	13	63	34	29	4=100
July 1994	39	24	15	58	29	29	3=100
May 1993	34	17	17	60	26	34	6=100
June 1992	40	24	16	55	28	27	5=100
Nov. 1991	39	23	16	56	28	28	5=100
May 1990	49	29	20	45	21	24	6=100
Feb 1989	48	28	20	47	21	26	5=100
May 1988	51	29	22	43	18	25	6=100
May 1987	51	27	24	42	14	28	7=100

Continued on next page

³ All trends from Pew Research Center.

Q.14 continued

14. Now I'm going to read you some statements and ask how much you agree or disagree with each one. Here's the (first/next) statement...(INSERT—ASK ITEMS IN ORDER). Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely disagree?

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Com- pletely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Com- pletely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>DK</u>
d. I have old-fashioned values about family and marriage							
CURRENT TOTAL	74	52	22	22	12	10	4=100
TRENDS							
12/12/06-1/9/07	76	41	35	21	9	12	3=100
August 2003	80	46	34	18	7	11	2=100
August 2002	84	49	35	14	5	9	2=100
Late Sept. 1999	84	53	31	14	5	9	2=100
Nov. 1997	85	50	35	14	6	8	1=100
July 1994	84	53	31	14	4	10	2=100
Nov. 1991	81	49	32	18	8	10	1=100
May 1990	87	49	38	12	4	8	1=100
Feb. 1989	83	46	37	15	6	9	2=100
May 1988	85	50	35	13	4	9	2=100
May 1987	87	45	42	11	2	9	2=100

15. At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?

	<u>Increasing Influence</u>	<u>Losing Influence</u>	<u>(VOL.) Same</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	19	68	6	7	=100
TRENDS ⁴					
12/4-7/08	27	67	2	3	=100
5/10-13/07	34	62	2	2	=100
4/18-21/05	50	46	1	3	=100
2/17-19/03	46	48	3	3	=100
3/5-18/01	37	55	4	4	=100
March 2000	37	58	0	5	=100
June 1998	37	56	4	3	=100
March 1994	27	69	2	2	=100
March 1988	36	49	6	9	=100
July 1984	42	39	14	6	=100
Dec. 1978	37	48	10	5	=100
Dec. 1974	31	56	8	5	=100
April 1968	19	67	8	7	=100
Feb. 1965	33	45	13	8	=100
Feb. 1962	45	32	17	7	=100
March 1957	69	14	10	6	=100

⁴ March 2001 trend from Pew Research Center. All other trends from Gallup.

16. Do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that religion is (increasing/losing) influence?

Based on those who think religion is increasing/losing influence

<u>Increasing Influence</u>	<u>Losing Influence</u>	
74	9	Good thing
22	81	Bad thing
2	6	(VOL.) Mixed/Some good, some bad
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	Don't know
100	100	
(n=186)	(n=700)	

17. Do you believe that religion can answer all or most of today's problems, or that religion is largely old-fashioned and out of date?

	<u>Can Answer</u>	<u>Old- Fashioned</u>	<u>(VOL.) Other</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	48	25	16	11	=100
TRENDS ⁵					
12/4-7/08	53	28	19 ⁶	--	=100
5/10-13/07	62	26	12	--	=100
4/18-21/05	58	23	19	--	=100
2/17-19/03	58	27	15	--	=100
2/19-21/01	63	22	15	--	=100
March 2000	66	21	13	--	=100
June 1998	63	20	17	--	=100
March 1994	64	20	16	--	=100
March 1988	57	20	23	--	=100
June 1984	56	21	23	--	=100
Dec. 1982	60	22	18	--	=100
Feb. 1981	65	15	20	--	=100
Dec. 1974	62	20	18	--	=100
March 1957	82	7	11	--	=100

18. Do you consider the United States a Christian nation, or not?

<u>Current</u>		<u>7/9-10/08</u>	<u>March 2005⁷</u>	<u>March 2002</u>	<u>June 1996</u>
62	Yes, would	69	71	67	60
32	No	26	26	25	34
<u>6</u>	Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100

⁵ All trends from Gallup.

⁶ Other volunteered responses include *Don't know* responses for all trends.

⁷ March 2005, March 2002 and June 1996 trends from Pew Research Center.

19. Please tell me if you think each of the following has too much influence on AMERICAN POLITICS today, too little influence, or about the right amount. (First,) what about... **(ALWAYS ASK ITEM a FIRST, THEN READ AND RANDOMIZE)? READ AS NECESSARY:** Does this group have too much influence on American politics today, too little influence, or about the right amount?

	<u>Too much Influence</u>	<u>Too little Influence</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Organized religion					
CURRENT TOTAL	26	31	36	7	=100
TRENDS					
7/9-10/08	33	25	34	8	=100
3/28-29/07	32	31	29	8	=100
b. Evangelical Christian conservatives					
CURRENT TOTAL	33	20	31	16	=100
c. Seculars or non-believers who don't follow any religion					
CURRENT TOTAL	34	20	34	12	=100

20. Please tell me if you think the influence on American politics of each of the following has increased in recent years, decreased, or stayed about the same. (First,) what about... **(ALWAYS ASK ITEM a FIRST, THEN READ AND RANDOMIZE)? READ AS NECESSARY:** Has the influence of this group on American politics increased, decreased, or stayed about the same (in recent years)?

	<u>Increased Influence</u>	<u>Decreased Influence</u>	<u>Stayed about the same</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Organized religion					
CURRENT TOTAL	23	33	39	5	=100
TREND					
3/28-29/07	36	23	37	4	=100
b. Evangelical Christian conservatives					
CURRENT TOTAL	26	25	37	12	=100
c. Seculars or non-believers who don't follow any religion					
CURRENT TOTAL	40	11	40	9	=100

21. How much influence do you think Evangelical Christian conservatives have had on the REPUBLICAN PARTY in general -- too much influence, too little, or about the right amount?

	<u>Too much Influence</u>	<u>Too little Influence</u>	<u>Right Amount</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	37	17	33	13	=100
Republicans	15	26	45	14	=100
Democrats	50	12	25	13	=100
Independents	37	18	35	10	=100
TRENDS ⁸					
7/9-10/08	38	17	33	12	=100
11/2-3/06	34	23	26	17	=100

⁸ Trend questions asked about "the religious right and Christian Conservative movement."

22. How much influence do you think secular persons or non-believers who don't follow any religion have had on the DEMOCRATIC PARTY in general -- too much influence, too little, or about the right amount?

	<u>Too much Influence</u>	<u>Too little Influence</u>	<u>Right Amount</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	34	15	39	12	=100
Republicans	62	8	20	10	=100
Democrats	20	22	45	13	=100
Independents	31	14	46	9	=100
TREND					
7/9-10/08	26	19	36	19	=100

23. Now I have a few questions about religion and spirituality as it applies to you... How important would you say religion is in your own life... **(READ)**

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Fairly Important</u>	<u>Not very Important</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	60	25	13	2	=100
Republicans	66	25	7	2	=100
Democrats	60	25	14	1	=100
Independents	52	28	18	2	=100
Total Christians	67	26	6	1	=100
Evangelical Prot.	89	8	1	2	=100
Non-Evan. Prot.	54	37	7	2	=100
Catholics	55	34	11	*	=100
Total Non-Christians	53	23	24	0	=100
Non-Believers	15	20	60	5	=100
TREND					
12/4-7/08	54	26	19	1	=100
2007	56	26	17	1	=100
2005	59	25	16	*	=100
2003	61	24	15	*	=100
2001	58	28	14	*	=100
2000	59	29	12	*	=100
1998	61	27	12	1	=100
1996	57	28	15	*	=100
1994	58	29	12	1	=100
1993	59	29	12	*	=100
1992	58	29	12	1	=100

24. In general, do you think of yourself as... . . . spiritual but NOT religious, religious but NOT spiritual, religious AND spiritual, or NOT spiritual and NOT religious?

	<u>Spiritual but not religious</u>	<u>Religious but not spiritual</u>	<u>Religious & spiritual</u>	<u>Not spiritual/ not religious</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	30	9	48	9	4	=100
Total Christians	28	8	56	4	4	=100
Evangelical Prot.	23	6	69	1	1	=100
Non-Evan. Prot.	31	9	46	7	7	=100
Catholics	26	11	56	3	4	=100
Total Non-Christians	42	15	28	10	5	=100
Non-Believers	44	1	4	48	3	=100
TREND						
8/2-4/05	24	9	55	8	4	=100

- 25a. What is your present religion? Do you consider yourself Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, some other religion, Atheist, Agnostic, or do you have no religion?
- 25b. [IF OTHER RELIGION] Is that a Christian faith, or a non-Christian faith?
- 26a. [IF CHRISTIAN] Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox – such as Greek or Russian Orthodox – or something else?
- 26b. [IF PROTESTANT/OTHER RELIGION/DK] Would you describe yourself as a “born-again” or evangelical Christian, or not?

<u>Current</u>		<u>3/28-29/07</u>
81	Total Christian	82
29	Evangelical Protestant	35
25	Non-Evangelical Protestant	21
22	Roman Catholic	21
1	Mormon	2
1	Orthodox	*
3	Other Christian/Christian unspecified	3
6	Total Non-Christian	5
1	Jewish	2
2	Muslim	1
1	Hindu	*
1	Buddhist	1
1	Other	1
11	Agnostic/Atheist/No religion	10
2	Religion Undesignated	3
100		100

- 27a. [IF HAVE CURRENT RELIGION] Comparing your religion today with the religion in which you were raised by your parents or family, is your present religion the same or mostly the same or different?
- 27b. [IF NON-BELIEVER] Thinking back to when you were growing up, did your parents or family raise you in a religion, or not?

Current Religion vs. Childhood Religion

66 Same/Mostly the same
 33 Different
1 Undetermined
 100

- 28a. Were you raised Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, some other religion, Atheist, Agnostic, or in no religion?
- 28b. [IF RAISED OTHER RELIGION] Were you raised in a Christian or a non-Christian faith?
- 29a. [IF RAISED CHRISTIAN] Were you raised Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox – such as Greek or Russian Orthodox – or something else?
- 29b. [IF RAISED PROTESTANT/OTHER RELIGION/DK] Were you raised as a “born-again” or evangelical Christian, or not?

<u>Current Religion</u>	<u>Childhood Religion</u>	
81	85	Total Christian
29	25	Evangelical Protestant
25	30	Non-Evangelical Protestant
22	26	Roman Catholic
1	1	Mormon
1	1	Orthodox
3	2	Other Christian/Christian unspecified
6	5	Total Non-Christian
1	1	Jewish
2	2	Muslim
1	1	Hindu
1	1	Buddhist
1	*	Other
11	8	Agnostic/Atheist/No religion
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Religion Undesignated
100	100	

30. Thinking again about your present religion... How much influence, if any, do your religious beliefs or feelings about religion have on your political party affiliation and voting preferences? Is this... **(READ)**

	<u>A Major Influence</u>	<u>A Minor Influence</u>	<u>Not an Influence</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	25	26	46	3	=100
Republicans	41	25	32	2	=100
Democrats	21	26	50	3	=100
Independents	22	25	51	2	=100
Total Christians	29	26	42	3	=100
Evangelical Prot.	48	22	28	2	=100
Non-Evan. Prot.	16	28	50	6	=100
Catholics	22	29	46	3	=100
Total Non-Christians	11	27	58	4	=100
Non-Believers	7	21	70	2	=100

- D2. Now I have just a few more questions so we can describe the people who took part in our survey... Regardless of how you might have voted in recent elections, in politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Total Christians</u>	<u>Evan. Prot.</u>	<u>Non- Evan. Prot.</u>	<u>Catholics</u>	<u>Total Non- Christians</u>	<u>Non- Believers</u>
22	Republican	25	33	22	17	8	13
41	Democrat	40	35	39	50	52	35
32	Independent	31	27	36	28	29	44
2	(VOL.) No party/Not interested in politics	2	2	2	3	4	4
*	(VOL.) Other party	*	1	0	0	0	2
3	Don't know	2	2	1	2	7	2
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT: That completes the interview. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Newsweek Poll
A Post-Christian Nation?
Princeton Survey Research Associates International

Methodology Statement
(4/3/09)

This poll was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International from April 1-2, 2009. Telephone interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of 1,003 adults, 18 years and over, including 801 adults from national random digit dial (RDD) sample and an additional 202 18-44 year olds screened from national RDD sample. Results are weighted so that the sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density. The overall margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for results based on 1,003 adults. Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error.

SAMPLE SIZE/MARGIN OF ERROR FOR SUBGROUPS:

256	Republicans (plus or minus 6.9)
370	Democrats (plus or minus 5.8)
328	Independents (plus or minus 6.1)
186	Those who think religion's influence is increasing (Q15) (plus or minus 8.2)
700	Those who think religion is losing influence (Q15) (plus or minus 4.2)
817	Total Christians (plus or minus 3.9)
280	Evangelical Protestants (plus or minus 6.6)
277	Non-Evangelical Protestants (plus or minus 6.6)
205	Catholics (plus or minus 7.9)
53	Total Non-Christians (plus or minus 15.5)
111	Non-Believers (plus or minus 10.5)

In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting surveys can also introduce error or bias to poll results.