

**2017 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL (ATP)  
WAVE 30 December  
FINAL TOPLINE  
December 4-18, 2017  
TOTAL N=4,729**

**PRECEDING QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

RELIMP How important is religion in your life?<sup>1</sup>

Dec 4-18  
2017

35	Very important
26	Somewhat important
18	Not too important
21	Not at all important
<1	No answer

**INTERVENING QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

Thinking now about your attendance at religious services...

**ASK RESPONDENTS WHO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH OR MORE OFTEN [N=1,894]<sup>2</sup>:**

REASONATTEND\_1 People attend religious services for many reasons. How important, if at all, is each of the following reasons for why you personally attend religious services?

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE a-e]**

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. To become closer to God Dec 4-18, 2017	81	13	4	1
b. To be part of a community of faith Dec 4-18, 2017	57	32	10	1
c. To continue my family's religious traditions Dec 4-18, 2017	37	35	27	1
d. To meet new people or to socialize Dec 4-18, 2017	19	47	34	1
e. Because I feel a religious obligation to go Dec 4-18, 2017	31	36	32	1

<sup>1</sup> For a variety of methodological reasons (e.g., differences in weighting procedures, mode of survey administration, etc.), figures are not directly comparable to estimates from telephone surveys, including Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Studies.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answer the question about religious attendance in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question in an earlier survey. The religious attendance question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 wave was "Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? More than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, never."

**ASK RESPONDENTS WHO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH OR MORE OFTEN [N=1,894]<sup>3</sup>:**

REASONATTEND\_2 And now, still thinking about why you attend religious services, how important, if at all, is each of the following reasons for why you personally attend religious services? **[RANDOMIZE]**

		<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
f.	For comfort in times of trouble and sorrow Dec 4-18, 2017	66	28	5	1
g.	To make me a better person Dec 4-18, 2017	68	24	7	1
h.	I find the sermons valuable Dec 4-18, 2017	59	34	6	1
i.	To please my family, spouse or partner Dec 4-18, 2017	16	25	57	1
j.	So my children will grow up with a moral foundation Dec 4-18, 2017	69	21	9	1

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<sup>3</sup> Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answer the question about religious attendance in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question in an earlier survey. The religious attendance question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 wave was "Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? More than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, never."

**ASK IF RESPONDENT SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "VERY IMPORTANT" IN REASONATTEND\_1 OR REASONATTEND\_2:**

REASONATTEND\_3 What is the MOST IMPORTANT reason you attend religious services?

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: DISPLAY SELECTED ITEMS IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "VERY IMPORTANT" IN REASONATTEND\_1 OR REASONATTEND\_2]**

**BASED ON THOSE WHO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH OR MORE OFTEN [N=1,894]**

**Summary table: Each row includes those who named *only* the corresponding item as a "very important" reason for regularly attending religious services, as well as those who named more than one reason as "very important" in REASONATTEND\_1a-e or REASONATTEND\_2f-j and then indicated, in a follow-up question (REASONATTEND\_3), that the corresponding item is the "most" important reason they attend religious services.**

Dec 4-18

2017

61	To become closer to God
8	To make me a better person
6	To be part of a community of faith
5	For comfort in times of trouble and sorrow
4	So my children will grow up with a moral foundation
4	I find the sermons valuable
2	To please my family, spouse or partner
2	To continue my family's religious traditions
1	Because I feel a religious obligation to go
<1	To meet new people or to socialize
6	No reason is very important <b>(IN REASONATTEND_1a-e or REASONATTEND_2f-j)</b> or no answer <b>(in REASONATTEND_3)</b>

**ASK IF ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR LESS OFTEN [N=2,826]<sup>4</sup>:**

NOATTEND In a previous survey you indicated that you **[IF ATTENDS A FEW TIMES A YEAR:** “only attend religious services a few times a year”, **IF SELDOM ATTENDS:** “seldom attend religious services”, **IF NEVER ATTENDS:** “never attend religious services”]. How important, if at all, is each of the following reasons for why you **[IF ATTENDS A FEW TIMES A YEAR:** “only attend religious services a few times a year”, **IF SELDOM ATTENDS:** “seldom attend religious services”, **IF NEVER ATTENDS:** “never attend religious services”]?

**[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. I am not a believer Dec 4-18, 2017	28	21	48	3
b. I don't have the time Dec 4-18, 2017	12	28	58	2
c. I haven't found a church or other house of worship I like Dec 4-18, 2017	23	26	50	1
d. There isn't a church or other house of worship for my religion in my area Dec 4-18, 2017	7	15	76	2
e. I don't like the sermons Dec 4-18, 2017	18	26	55	2
f. I don't feel welcome Dec 4-18, 2017	14	22	62	2
g. I'm in poor health or find it difficult to get around Dec 4-18, 2017	9	13	76	2
h. I practice my faith in other ways Dec 4-18, 2017	37	29	33	1

**INTERVENING QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>4</sup> Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answer the question about religious attendance in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question in an earlier survey. The religious attendance question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 wave was “Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? More than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, never.”

**ASK RESPONDENTS WHO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH OR MORE OFTEN [N=1,894]<sup>5</sup>:**

ATTENDEXP How often do you experience each of the following when you attend religious services?  
[RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Often but not always</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. A sense of God's presence Dec 4-18, 2017	51	29	14	3	3	<1
b. A sense of connection to a longstanding tradition Dec 4-18, 2017	36	24	25	8	6	1
c. A sense of community with people who share your religion Dec 4-18, 2017	41	32	19	5	2	1

**INTERVENING QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PRAY Other than during religious services, how often do you pray?<sup>6</sup>

Dec 4-18

2017

29	Several times a day
15	Once a day
14	A few times a week
3	Once a week
5	A few times a month
17	Seldom
17	Never
1	No answer

<sup>5</sup> Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answer the question about religious attendance in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question in an earlier survey. The religious attendance question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 wave was "Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? More than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, never."

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**INTERVENING QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

ACTVORG\_1 Are you currently active in any of the following groups or organizations, or not?  
[RANDOMIZE]

**ACTVORG\_1a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

	<u>Yes, active</u>	<u>No, not active</u>	<u>No answer</u>
b. A book club or study group Dec 4-18, 2017	11	88	1
c. A performing arts, singing or dance group Dec 4-18, 2017	7	92	1
d. A professional association, trade association or union Dec 4-18, 2017	16	83	1
e. A parent group or youth organization, such as PTA, scouts or youth sports Dec 4-18, 2017	9	90	1

**ASK ALL:**

ACTVORG\_2 Are you currently active in any of the following groups or organizations, or not?  
[RANDOMIZE]?

	<u>Yes, active</u>	<u>No, not active</u>	<u>No answer</u>
f. A social club, sorority or fraternity Dec 4-18, 2017	8	91	1
g. A veterans group such as American Legion or VFW Dec 4-18, 2017	5	94	1
h. A hobby group or club Dec 4-18, 2017	19	80	1
i. A charitable or volunteer organization Dec 4-18, 2017	18	80	1
j. A community group or neighborhood association Dec 4-18, 2017	15	84	1

**ASK ALL:**

ACTVORG\_2k Are you currently active in any other group or organization not already listed?

Dec 4-18

2017

10	Yes, active
90	No, not active
1	No answer

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RELPER AND SPIRPER****ASK ALL:**

RELPER To what extent do you consider yourself a RELIGIOUS person? Are you...

Dec 4-18

2017

13	Very religious
37	Somewhat religious
23	Not too religious
26	Not at all religious
<1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

SPIRPER To what extent do you consider yourself a SPIRITUAL person? Are you...

Dec 4-18

2017

28	Very spiritual
43	Somewhat spiritual
18	Not too spiritual
11	Not at all spiritual
<1	No answer

**REMAINING QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**