

*AEI POLL COMPILATION*  
*THE FAITH ANGLE CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE*  
*DECEMBER 4, 2006*

**Religious Faith and Practice**  
**(percentages)**

**Historical Comparisons**

**Question: Do you happen to be a member of a church or synagogue?**

		Member of church or synagogue	Not a member
1937	Gallup	73	27
2006	Gallup	64	36

**Question: Did you, yourself, happen to attend church or synagogue in the last seven days, or not?**

		Attended church or synagogue in last 7 days	Did not
1939	Gallup	41	59
2006	Gallup	40	60

**Question: How important would you say religion is in your own life – very important, fairly important, or not very important?**

		Very important	Fairly important	Not very important
1952	Gallup	75	20	5
2006	Gallup	57	26	16

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

		Increasing	Losing
1957	Gallup	69	14
2006	Gallup	40	53

**Question: Do you happen to have a Bible at home?**

		Yes
1954	Gallup	92
2000	Gallup	93

**Question: Do you happen to be in a Bible study group?**

		Yes
1978	Gallup	19
2000	Gallup	14

**Question: What is your religious preference -- Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, or an Orthodox church such as Greek or Russian Orthodox Church? (Pew)**

		Protestant	Catholic	Jewish	Muslim	Mormon	Orthodox	Other	None
1948	Gallup	69	22	4	NA	NA	NA	NA	2
2006	PSRA/Pew	56	23	2	1	1	1	3	11

NOTE: Question wording differed in 1948.

No religious preference: Gallup 1968 3 2005 10

**Question: How often do you attend church or synagogue -- at least once a week, almost every week, about once a month, seldom, or never?**

		Once a week	Almost every week	About once a month	Seldom	Never
1992 Jan	Gallup	31	9	15	29	16
2006 Sept	Gallup	30	14	15	25	15

**Question: Would you describe yourself as “born-again” or evangelical?**

		Yes	No
1991	Gallup	41	54
2006	Gallup	41	54

**Question: As I read from a list, please tell me which if any of the following descriptions apply to you. Does this apply to you?**

		SRB/Pew	
		Yes	No
2006 Jul			
	Pentecostal Christian	16	79
	Charismatic	19	70
	Liberal or Progressive Christian	40	53

**Question: Which of the following best describes you – you have always had the same religious preference, you have switched from one religious preference to another, or you have moved away from any religion whatsoever?**

		Always Same		Switched away		Moved away	
2006 Jun	Gallup	72	15			10	

**Question: Which of the following statements comes closest to your belief about God – 1. You believe in God, 2. You don’t believe in God, but you believe in some other universal spirit or higher power, or 3. You don’t believe in either?**

		God	Spirit	Neither
2006	CBS News	82	9	8

**Question: Which one of the following best describes you?**

		Zogby International Self-identified			
		National	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
2004 Nov					
	A Religious...				
	Conservative	25	54	2	15
	Moderate	28	30	23	33
	Liberal	20	2	42	16
	Not religious	20	9	26	26

## George Bush’s Faith

**Question: Do you think George W. Bush mentions his religious faith and prayer too much, too little, or about the right amount?**

		Too much	Too little	Right amount
2003 Jul	PSRA/Pew	14	11	62
2004 Aug	PSRA/Pew	24	11	53
2005 Jul	PSRA/Pew	28	10	52
2006 Jul	SRB/Pew	24	14	52

**Question: Some people like the way George W. Bush talks about his strong religious beliefs in public. What about you?**

		I like it	Bothers me somewhat
2003 Feb	CBS News	63	24
2004 May	CBS News	51	36

**Question: In making policy decisions do you think Bush relies on his religious beliefs too much, about the right amount, or too little?**

		Too Much	Right Amount	Too Little
2003 Jun-Jul	PSRA/Pew	10	58	21
2004 Aug	PSRA/Pew	26	38	28

**Question: Do you think the [Religious Right/Big Business] has too much, the right amount, or too little influence in the Bush administration?**

		Religious Right has...			Big Business has...			
		Too much influence	Right amount	Too little influence	Too much influence	Right amount	Too little influence	
2001 Mar	CBS/NYT	22	31	19	2002 Jan	61	22	6
2002 Nov	CBS/NYT	22	39	20	2003 Jan	64	24	4
2003 Jan	CBS/NYT	21	44	21	2003 May	57	22	7
2003 May	CBS/NYT	21	40	22	2004 Jan	64	23	5
2005 Apr	Gallup	39	39	18		--	--	--

## Religion in Public Life

**Question: Which of the following is closer to your view: religion is under attack in America today, religion has too much influence in America today or the current standing of religion in America is just about right?**

	Religion in America today		
	Under Attack	Too Much Influence	Just About Right
National	49	17	22
Attends services weekly	61	10	18
Less than weekly	41	23	14

**Question: Do you agree or disagree that courts have gone too far in taking religion out of public life?**

	Agree	Disagree
National	77	17
Attends services weekly	87	8
Less than weekly	70	23

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

	Increasing	Losing
2006 Jul SRB/Pew	34	59

NOTE: Of the 34 percent who said "increasing," 21 percent said that this was a good thing, 11 percent a bad thing. Of the 59 percent who said "losing," 6 percent said that it was a good thing, 50 percent a bad thing.

**Question: In your opinion, should churches and other houses of worship keep out of political matters – or should they express their views on day-to-day social and political questions?**

	Keep out	Express views
1957 Mar Gallup	44	48
1968 Feb Gallup	53	40
1996 Jun PSRA/Pew	43	54
2000 Sept PSRA/Pew	45	51
2001 Mar PSRA/Pew	43	51
2003 Jul PSRA/Pew	44	52
2004 Aug PSRA/Pew	44	51
2005 Jul PSRA/Pew	44	51
2006 Jul SRB/Pew	46	51

**Question: Do you agree or disagree that all religion should be excluded from public life?**

	Agree	Disagree
2005 Nov Fox News/Opinion Dynamics		
National	15	81
Attends services weekly	10	88
Less than weekly	20	75

**Question: Do you think people who have strong religious beliefs are discriminated against in this country?**

	Yes	No
2004 Nov CBS News	36	55
2006 Apr CBS News	48	43

**Question: At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on government leaders and institutions such as the President, Congress, and the Supreme Court, or losing its influence?**

	Increasing	Losing
2006 Jul SRB/Pew	42	45

NOTE: Of the 42 percent who said "increasing," 15 percent said this was a good thing, 24 percent a bad thing. Of those who said "losing," 8 percent said it was a good thing, 36 percent a bad thing.

**Question: Do you consider the United States a Christian nation?**

	Yes	No
1996 Jun PSRA/Pew	60	34
2002 Mar PSRA/Pew	67	25
2005 Mar PSRA/Pew	71	26
2006 Jul SRB/Pew	67	28

**Question: Do you believe that religion plays too big a role in American political and cultural life today, too small a role, or is it about right?**

	Too big	Too small	About right
2006 PSRA/Newsweek	29	37	29
Evangelicals	14	62	21
Non-evangelicals	31	29	33

**Question: Do you feel that the [Democratic party/Republican party] is generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion?**

		Democratic party is			Republican party is		
		Friendly	Neutral	Unfriendly	Friendly	Neutral	Unfriendly
2003 Jul	PSRA/Pew	42	36	12	52	27	10
2004 Aug	PSRA/Pew	40	34	13	52	24	10
2005 Jul	PSRA/Pew	29	38	20	55	23	9
2006 Jul	SRB/Pew	26	42	20	47	28	13

**Question: Between now and the 2000 political conventions, there will be discussion about the qualifications of presidential candidates – their education, age, religion, race, and so on. If your party nominated a generally well-qualified person for president who happened to be [INSERT] would you vote for that person? [Gallup data are the first and most recent asking.]**

Would vote for a Jew for president				Would vote for an Atheist for president				Would vote for a Baptist for president			
		Yes	No			Yes	No			Yes	No
1937 Feb	Gallup	46	47	1958 Jul-Aug	Gallup	18	75	1958 Jul-Aug	Gallup	92	2
1999 Feb	Gallup	92	6	1999 Feb	Gallup	49	48	1999 Feb	Gallup	94	4

  

Would vote for a Catholic for president				Would vote for a Mormon for president				Do you think you could vote for a Mormon candidate for president or not?			
		Yes	No			Yes	No			Yes	No
1937 Feb	Gallup	60	30	1967 Apr	Gallup	75	17				
1999 Feb	Gallup	94	4	1999 Feb	Gallup	79	17	2006 Jun	LAT/Bloomberg	51	37

NOTE: Not all groups shown.

### Journalists and the Public

**Question: Which comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right? 1. It is not necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values. 2. It is necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values.**

		Is it necessary to believe in God to be moral	
		Yes	No
2002 (Public)	PSRA/Pew	58	40
2004 (Journalists)	PSRA/Pew	6	91

**Question: Which comes closer to your own views even if neither is exactly right? Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society OR homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society.**

		Homosexuality Should Be	
		Accepted	Discouraged
2002 (Public)	PSRA/Pew	51	42
2004 (Journalists)	PSRA/Pew	88	5

### A Look Ahead – College Students’ Attitudes

**Question: At the present time do you think religion is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?**

		Influence	
		Increasing	Losing
2006	Harvard	43	48

**Question: Since entering college have you become more religious, less religious, or stayed about the same?**

		More religious	Less religious	Stayed about the same
		2006	Harvard	17

**Question: How important would you say religion is in your own life?**

		Important	
		Very/Fairly	Not very/Not at all
2004	Harvard	76	24
2005	Harvard	72	27
2006	Harvard	70	29

**Question: Since entering college have you become more spiritual, less spiritual, or stayed about the same?**

		More spiritual	Less spiritual	Stayed about the same
		2006	Harvard	25

NOTE: The Harvard Institute of Politics survey is of nationwide college students.