

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

NOTE: Some questions that appear in this topline have been previously released. See Pew Research Center's reports, "[When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?](#)" and "[Why Americans Go \(and Don't Go\) to Religious Services](#)" for more information.

ASK ALL:

LIFE1 Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going IN YOUR LIFE today?

Dec 4-18

2017

18	Very satisfied
63	Mostly satisfied
15	Mostly dissatisfied
3	Very dissatisfied
<1	No answer

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF "MOSTLY POSITIVE" AND "MOSTLY NEGATIVE" IN QUESTION STEM WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER

ASK ALL:

INSTVIEW Do you have a [**RANDOMIZE ORDER:** "mostly positive or mostly negative," "mostly negative or mostly positive"] view of the following groups and institutions? [**RANDOMIZE ITEMS**]

	<u>Mostly positive view</u>	<u>Mostly negative view</u>	<u>Neither positive nor negative view</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The federal government Dec 4-18, 2017	16	57	27	<1
b. Large corporations Dec 4-18, 2017	21	39	40	<1
c. The national news media Dec 4-18, 2017	25	49	25	<1
d. Churches and religious organizations Dec 4-18, 2017	45	23	32	<1
e. Colleges and universities Dec 4-18, 2017	46	24	30	<1
f. The military Dec 4-18, 2017	63	10	27	<1

ASK ALL:

GOVT_ROLE¹ Which statement comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right?
[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]

Dec 4-18

2017

56	Government should do more to solve problems
43	Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

IMMCULT2 Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?
[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]

Dec 4-18

2017

44	The growing number of newcomers from other countries threatens traditional American customs and values
54	The growing number of newcomers from other countries strengthens American society
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

MORALISSUE Do you personally believe that each of the following is **[RANDOMIZE ORDER: “morally acceptable,” “morally wrong,”]** or is it not a moral issue?

[RANDOMIZE LIST]

	<u>Morally acceptable</u>	<u>Morally wrong</u>	<u>Not a moral issue</u>	<u>No answer</u>
NO ITEM a				
b. Having an abortion Dec 4-18, 2017	20	48	31	1
c. Homosexual behavior Dec 4-18, 2017	22	34	44	1
d. Drinking alcohol Dec 4-18, 2017	31	13	55	1

¹ GOVT_ROLE has been asked in previous Pew Research Center phone surveys. Because of mode differences (phone vs. web/mail), these question should not be treated as directly comparable to those instances when they have been asked on the phone.

ASK ALL:
EQUALITY

Which of these two statements comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right? **[DO NOT ROTATE RESPONSES]**

Dec 4-18

2017

47

Our country has made the changes needed to give blacks equal rights with whites

52

Our country needs to continue making changes to give blacks equal rights with whites

1

No answer

ASK ALL:
ENV20A

Which of these three statements about the Earth's temperature comes closest to your view? **[RANDOMIZE "The earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment" and "The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels" ; KEEP "There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer" and "Not sure" LAST]**

Dec 4-18

2017

18

The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the Earth's environment

49

The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels

12

There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer

21

Not sure

<1

No answer

ASK ALL:
GODMORAL

Which of these statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]

Dec 4-18

2017

66

It is NOT necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values

33

It is necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values

<1

No answer

ASK ALL:

SHAREVAL

How important, if at all, is it to you to belong to a community of people who share your values and beliefs?

Dec 4-18

2017

24	Very important
47	Somewhat important
20	Not too important
8	Not at all important
<1	No answer

ASK ALL:

GUIDE_1

How much, if at all, do you look to each of the following to help you make decisions about what is right and wrong?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Religious teachings and beliefs Dec 4-18, 2017	31	30	21	18	<1
b. Philosophy and reason Dec 4-18, 2017	34	48	11	6	<1
c. Practical experience and common sense Dec 4-18, 2017	74	20	4	2	<1
d. Scientific information Dec 4-18, 2017	30	46	16	8	<1

ASK ALL:

GUIDE_1 How much, if at all, do you look to each of the following to help you make decisions about what is right and wrong?

ASK IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "A LOT" IN GUIDE_1:

GUIDE_2 Which of these do you rely on the MOST to help you make decisions about what is right and wrong?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: DISPLAY SELECTED RESPONSE OPTIONS IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "A LOT" IN GUIDE_1]

BASED ON TOTAL

Summary table: Each row includes those who *only* said they rely on the corresponding item "a lot" when making decisions about right and wrong, as well as those who said they rely "a lot" on more than one source (in GUIDE_1a-d) and then indicated, in a follow-up question (GUIDE_2), that the corresponding item is the source of guidance they rely on "most" when making decisions about what is right and wrong.

Dec 4-18

2017

50	Practical experience and common sense
23	Religious teachings and beliefs
7	Philosophy and reason
6	Scientific information
14	Do not rely "a lot" on any source of guidance (in GUIDE_1a-d)/no answer (in GUIDE_2)

ASK ALL:

MEANING_1 Many things can make a person feel that their life is meaningful and fulfilling. Regardless of how much time you spend doing it, how much meaning and fulfillment, if any, does each of the following provide you?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-h]

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Your religious faith Dec 4-18, 2017	36	27	15	22	1
b. Spiritual practices, such as meditation Dec 4-18, 2017	20	35	24	21	1
c. Volunteer work Dec 4-18, 2017	20	44	22	14	1
d. Being outdoors and experiencing nature Dec 4-18, 2017	47	41	9	2	<1
e. Arts or crafts, such as painting, making music or pottery Dec 4-18, 2017	24	37	25	13	<1
f. Spending time with family Dec 4-18, 2017	69	24	5	2	<1
g. Reading Dec 4-18, 2017	37	43	16	5	<1
h. Watching television shows or videos Dec 4-18, 2017	13	42	33	11	<1

ASK ALL:

MEANING_2 Now still thinking about what gives your life meaning and fulfillment, regardless of how much time you spend doing it, how much meaning and fulfillment, if any, does each of the following provide you?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
i. Spending time with friends Dec 4-18, 2017	47	44	7	2	1
j. Your job or career Dec 4-18, 2017	34	36	15	14	1
k. Caring for pets or animals Dec 4-18, 2017	45	31	13	10	1

MEANING_2 CONTINUED...

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
l. Participating in sports or exercising Dec 4-18, 2017	22	43	23	11	1
m. Supporting a social or political cause Dec 4-18, 2017	12	39	32	17	1
n. Listening to music Dec 4-18, 2017	44	42	11	2	<1

ASK ALL:

MEANING_2o Is there something else not listed previously that gives your life a GREAT DEAL of meaning and fulfillment?

Dec 4-18

2017

27

Yes

72

No

1

No answer

ASK ALL:

MEANING_1 Many things can make a person feel that their life is meaningful and fulfilling. Regardless of how much time you spend doing it, how much meaning and fulfillment, if any, does each of the following provide you?

ASK ALL:

MEANING_2 Now still thinking about what gives your life meaning and fulfillment, regardless of how much time you spend doing it, how much meaning and fulfillment, if any, does each of the following provide you?

ASK ALL:

MEANING_2o Is there something else not listed previously that gives your life a GREAT DEAL of meaning and fulfillment?

ASK IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "A GREAT DEAL" IN MEANING_1, MEANING_2 OR MEANING_2o:

MEANING_3 What is the MOST IMPORTANT source of meaning and fulfillment in your life?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: DISPLAY SELECTED RESPONSE OPTIONS IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "A GREAT DEAL" IN MEANING_1, MEANING_2 OR MEANING_2o.]

BASED ON TOTAL

Summary table: Each row includes those who *only* said the corresponding item provides a "great deal" of meaning, as well as those who said more than one source provides a "great deal" of meaning (in MEANING_1a-h or MEANING_2i-n or MEANING_2o) and then indicated, in a follow-up question (MEANING_3), that the corresponding item is the "most important" source of meaning.

Dec 4-18

2017

40	Spending time with family
20	Your religious faith
6	Caring for pets or animals
5	Being outdoors and experiencing nature
4	Spending time with friends
4	Your job or career
3	Arts or crafts, such as painting, making music or pottery
3	Listening to music
2	Reading
1	Spiritual practices, such as meditation
1	Watching television shows or videos
1	Participating in sports or exercising
1	Volunteer work
1	Supporting a social or political cause
6	Something else
4	No reason provides a "great deal" of meaning (in MEANING_1a-h or MEANING_2i-n or MEANING_2o)/no answer (in MEANING_3)

ASK ALL:RELIMP How important is religion in your life?²

Dec 4-18

2017

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

ASK ALL:

RELIMP How important is religion in your life?

ASK IF RESPONDENT SAID RELIGION VERY IMPORTANT (RELIMP=1):

RELMOST Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**BASED ON TOTAL**

Dec 4-18

2017

35	NET Religion is very important
16	My religion is the single most important thing in my life
19	Although my religious beliefs are important, there are other things in my life that are equally important or more important
<1	No answer
65	NET Religion less than very important/no answer

Now, thinking about churches and religious organizations here in the United States...

ASK ALL:

CHURCHMORAL Do you think churches and religious organizations...

**[RANDOMIZE "Strengthen morality in society" & "Weaken morality in society,"
KEEP "Don't make much difference" LAST]**

Dec 4-18

2017

52	Strengthen morality in society
14	Weaken morality in society
33	Don't make much difference
1	No answer

² 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.

ASK ALL:

CHURCHPOL Do you think churches and religious organizations have...

[RANDOMIZE "Too much influence in politics" & "Not enough influence in politics," KEEP "About the right amount of influence in politics" LAST]

Dec 4-18

2017

41	Too much influence in politics
25	Not enough influence in politics
33	About the right amount of influence in politics
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

CHURCHUNITE Do you think churches and religious organizations...

[RANDOMIZE "Mostly bring people together" & "Mostly push people apart," KEEP "Neither" LAST]

Dec 4-18

2017

49	Mostly bring people together
23	Mostly push people apart
27	Neither
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

CHURCHIMPACT Considering everything, what impact do churches and religious organizations have on American society?

[RANDOMIZE "They do more harm than good" & "They do more good than harm," KEEP "Don't make much difference" LAST]

Dec 4-18

2017

21	They do more harm than good
55	They do more good than harm
23	Don't make much difference
1	No answer

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]³:

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]

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not <u>important</u>	No <u>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

³ Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered 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]⁴:

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]**

		Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not <u>important</u>	No <u>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

⁴ Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered 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 (IN REASONATTEND_1a-e or REASONATTEND_2f-j) or no answer (in REASONATTEND_3)

ASK IF ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR LESS OFTEN [N=2,826]⁵:

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

⁵ Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered 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 ATTEND A FEW TIMES A YEAR OR SELDOM [N=1,804]⁶:

ATTENDHOL Aside from weddings and funerals, when you attend religious services, is it...

Dec 4-18

2017

17

Almost always on religious holidays, **[IF CHRISTIAN⁷:** such as Christmas or Easter]

20

Almost always at other times

60

Sometimes for religious holidays and sometimes for other occasions

3

No answer

ASK RESPONDENTS WHO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH OR MORE OFTEN [N=1,894]⁸: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

⁶ Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered 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."

⁷ Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular."

⁸ Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered 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]⁹:

CHURCHACT Besides attending religious services, how often do you take part in other activities connected with your church or house of worship, for example, volunteering, participating in prayer groups, or sharing community meals?

Dec 4-18

2017

24	At least once a week
22	Once or twice a month
24	Several times a year
21	Seldom
8	Never
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

PRAY Other than during religious services, how often do you pray?¹⁰

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

⁹ Respondents were asked about their attendance at religious services in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered 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."

¹⁰ 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.

ASK ALL:

READBIB

How often, if at all, do you read **[Holy book: If Christian or no religion insert "the Bible"; If Jewish, insert "the Torah"; If Muslim, insert, "the Quran"; If other non-Christian affiliations insert "holy scripture"; if did not answer the question about religious affiliation, insert "the Bible"]** outside of religious services?¹¹

Dec 4-18

2017

3	Several times a day
8	Once a day
8	A few times a week
3	Once a week
8	A few times a month
32	Seldom
36	Never
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

LITERAL

Which comes closest to your views, even if none is exactly right?

[Holy book: If Christian or no religion insert "The Bible"; If Jewish, insert "The Torah"; If Muslim, insert, "The Quran"; If other non-Christian affiliations, insert "The holy scripture"; if did not answer the question about religious affiliation, insert "The Bible"]¹²

Dec 4-18

2017

25	[Holy book] is the word of God and should be taken literally, word for word
41	[Holy book] is the word of God, but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word
33	[Holy book] is a book written by people and is not the word of God
1	No answer

¹¹ Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular."

¹² Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular."

ASK ALL:

RELMEDIA How often, if at all, do you watch or listen to religious programs on TV, the radio or online?

Dec 4-18

2017

14	At least once a week
7	Once or twice a month
7	Several times a year
24	Seldom
48	Never
<1	No answer

ASK ALL AFFILIATED WITH A RELIGION¹³:

RELHELP_1 How much, if at all, do you find that your religious beliefs help you in...

BASED ON TOTAL

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>	Did not receive question because do not identify with a religion ¹⁴
a. Your family relationships Dec 4-18, 2017	30	22	8	6	<1	33
b. Your relationships with other people, such as friends and neighbors Dec 4-18, 2017	26	23	10	7	<1	33

¹³ Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular." RELHELP_1a-b was asked of everyone except those who self-identify, religiously, as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular and those who declined to answer the religious affiliation question.

¹⁴ This group includes those who declined to answer the religious affiliation question.

ASK ALL AFFILIATED WITH A RELIGION¹⁵:

RELHELP_2 How much, if at all, do you find that your religious beliefs help you in...

[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**BASED ON TOTAL**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>	Did not receive question because do not identify with a religion ¹⁶
c. The way you do your job or pursue your career Dec 4-18, 2017	23	20	11	11	1	33
d. Coping with difficult times in life Dec 4-18, 2017	42	17	4	3	<1	33
e. Doing what's right, even when it's hard Dec 4-18, 2017	40	18	5	4	<1	33

ASK ALL:

ACTVORG_1 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>
a. Church groups or other religious or spiritual organizations Dec 4-18, 2017	19	80	1
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

¹⁵ Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular." RELHELP_2c-e was asked of everyone except those who self-identify, religiously, as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular and those who declined to answer the religious affiliation question.

¹⁶ This group includes those who declined to answer the religious affiliation question.

ASK ALL:

ACTVORG_2 Are you currently active in any of the following groups or organizations, or not?
[RANDOMIZE]?

		Yes, <u>active</u>	No, not <u>active</u>	No <u>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

ASK ALL:

GOD Do you believe in God, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 99 No answer

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD (GOD=1):

GODBIBLE Which of these statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE]

- 1 I believe in God as described in the Bible
- 2 I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe
- 99 No answer

ASK IF DOES NOT BELIEVE IN GOD (GOD=2):

HGHPWR Which of these statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE]

- 1 I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe
- 2 I do not believe there is ANY higher power or spiritual force in the universe
- 99 No answer

ASK IF REFUSED GOD (GOD=99):

MISSINGGOD Which of these statements comes closest to your views, even if none is exactly right?

- 1 I believe in God as described in the Bible
- 2 I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe
- 3 I do not believe there is ANY higher power or spiritual force in the universe
- 99 No answer

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

Dec 4-18

2017

80	NET Believe in God
56	Believe in God as described in the Bible ¹⁷
23	Believe in higher power, not God of the Bible
1	Believe in God, unsure whether Biblical God or higher power
19	NET Do not believe in God
9	Do not believe in God, but do believe in a higher power ¹⁸
10	Do not believe in anything ¹⁹
<1	Do not believe in God, unclear whether believes in higher power or believes in nothing
1	No answer²⁰

¹⁷ Includes those who said they believe in God as described in the Bible in MISSINGGOD

¹⁸ Includes those who said they do not believe in God as described in the Bible but do believe in a higher power or spiritual force in MISSINGGOD

¹⁹ Includes those who said they do not believe in a higher power of any kind in MISSINGGOD

²⁰ Includes those who refused to answer both GOD and MISSINGGOD.

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER:

GODBELIEFS Which of the following, if any, do you believe about **[IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE INSERT: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe]**?

Do you believe that **[IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE INSERT: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe]**...

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

BASED ON TOTAL

	NET Believe in God or <u>higher power</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>	NET Do not believe in anything/ <u>unclear/ref</u>
a. Knows everything that goes on in the world Dec 4-18, 2017	90	71	18	1	10
b. Has the power to direct or change everything that goes on in the world Dec 4-18, 2017	90	61	27	1	10
c. Loves all people regardless of their faults Dec 4-18, 2017	90	77	11	1	10
d. Will judge all people on what they have done Dec 4-18, 2017	90	61	28	1	10

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER:

TALKGOD Do you ever try to talk to **[IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE INSERT: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe]**, or not?

BASED ON TOTAL

Dec 4-18
2017

90	NET Believe in God or higher power
74	Yes
15	No
<1	No answer
10	NET Do not believe in anything/unclear/ref

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER:

GODRESPOND Does **[IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE INSERT: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe]** ever talk directly with you, or not?

BASED ON TOTAL

Dec 4-18

2017

90	NET Believe in God or higher power
28	Yes
60	No
2	No answer
10	NET Do not believe in anything/unclear/ref

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER:

GODACT Do you think **[IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE INSERT: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe]** has ever...

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**BASED ON TOTAL**

	NET Believe in God or <u>higher power</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>	NET Do not believe in anything/ <u>unclear/ref</u>
a. Rewarded you Dec 4-18, 2017	90	67	22	1	10
b. Punished you Dec 4-18, 2017	90	40	48	1	10
c. Protected you Dec 4-18, 2017	90	77	12	1	10

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER:

GODDTRMN Do you think **[IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE INSERT: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe]** directly determines what happens in your life...

BASED ON TOTAL

Dec 4-18

2017

90	NET Believe in God or higher power
27	All of the time
21	Most of the time
18	Just some of the time
9	Hardly ever
13	Never
1	No answer
10	NET Do not believe in anything/unclear/ref

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER:

GODDTRMN Do you think [**IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE INSERT: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe**] directly determines what happens in your life...

ASK IF GOD OR HIGHER POWER DETERMINES WHAT HAPPENS IN LIFE MOST OF THE TIME, SOME OF THE TIME OR HARDLY EVER (GODDTRMN=2, 3, 4):

DTRMNALL Which things do you think [**IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe**] directly determines in your life?

BASED ON TOTAL

Dec 4-18

2017

90	NET Believe in God or higher power
27	God determines what happens in life all of the time (in GODDTRMN)
	NET God determines what happens in life most of time, some of the time or
48	hardly ever (in GODDTRMN)
2	<i>Just the little things</i>
4	<i>Just the big things</i>
41	<i>A mix of big and little things</i>
1	<i>No answer</i>
13	God never determines what happens in life (in GODDTRMN)
	No answer about whether or not God directly determines what happens in life
1	(in GODDTRMN)
10	NET Do not believe in anything/unclear/ref

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER:

GODDTRMN Do you think [**IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE INSERT: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe**] directly determines what happens in your life...

ASK IF GOD OR HIGHER POWER DETERMINES WHAT HAPPENS IN LIFE MOST OF THE TIME, SOME OF THE TIME OR HARDLY EVER (GODDTRMN=2, 3, 4):

DTRMNGOOD Do you think [**IF BELIEVES IN GOD OF BIBLE: God; IF DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GOD OF BIBLE BUT BELIEVES IN SOMETHING ELSE INSERT: the higher power or spiritual force in the universe**] determines...

BASED ON TOTAL

Dec 4-18

2017

90	NET Believe in God or higher power
27	God determines what happens in life all of the time (in GODDTRMN)
	NET God determines what happens in life most of time, some of the time or
48	hardly ever (in GODDTRMN)
5	<i>Only the good things that happen to you</i>
1	<i>Only the bad things that happen to you</i>
40	<i>A mix of good and bad things that happen to you</i>
1	<i>No answer</i>
13	God never determines what happens in life (in GODDTRMN)
	No answer about whether or not God directly determines what happens in life
1	(in GODDTRMN)
10	NET Do not believe in anything/unclear/ref

ASK ALL:

BELIEVE

Which of the following, if any, do you believe in? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Yes, <u>believe in</u>	No, don't <u>believe</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Heaven Dec 4-18, 2017	71	28	2
b. Hell Dec 4-18, 2017	60	38	2
c. Spiritual energy located in physical things, such as mountains, trees or crystals Dec 4-18, 2017	42	56	2
d. Reincarnation (people will be reborn again and again in this world) Dec 4-18, 2017	33	64	3
e. Astrology (the position of stars and planets can affect people's lives) Dec 4-18, 2017	29	70	1
f. Psychics (that some people perceive or are sensitive to supernatural forces) Dec 4-18, 2017	41	58	2

ASK IF UNAFFILIATED [N=1,321]²¹:

WHYNONE_1 In a previous survey, you told us that, when it comes to religion, you are **[IF ATHEIST, "an atheist"; IF AGNOSTIC, "agnostic", IF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, "nothing in particular"]**. How important, if at all, is each of the following reasons for why **[IF ATHEIST, "you are an atheist"; IF AGNOSTIC, "you are agnostic", IF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, "your religion is nothing in particular"]**?

[RANDOMIZE]

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not important <u>at all</u>	Undesig- <u>nated</u> ²²	No <u>answer</u>
a. I don't believe in God Dec 4-18, 2017	37	20	40	<1	2
b. I don't like religious leaders Dec 4-18, 2017	34	35	30	<1	1

²¹ Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular."

²² For some questions asked of a subset of eligible respondents and filtered on previous questions subject to backcoding, the term "undesigned" is used to denote those respondents who did not receive the question even though they should have received it.

WHYNONE_1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important at all</u>	<u>Undesig- nated²³</u>	<u>No answer</u>
c. I don't like religious organizations Dec 4-18, 2017	41	31	26	<1	2
d. I question a lot of religious teachings Dec 4-18, 2017	60	24	15	<1	1
e. Religion is irrelevant to me Dec 4-18, 2017	36	30	33	<1	1
f. I don't like the positions that churches take on social or political issues Dec 4-18, 2017	49	26	23	<1	2

²³ For some questions asked of a subset of eligible respondents and filtered on previous questions subject to backcoding, the term "undesigned" is used to denote those respondents who did not receive the question even though they should have received it.

ASK IF UNAFFILIATED AND IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "VERY IMPORTANT" IN WHYNONE_1²⁴:

WHYNONE_2 What is the MOST important reason that you are [IF ATHEIST, "an atheist"; IF AGNOSTIC, "agnostic", IF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, "nothing in particular"]?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: DISPLAY SELECTED ITEMS IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "VERY IMPORTANT" IN WHYNONE_1]

BASED ON TOTAL UNAFFILIATED [N=1,321]

Summary table: Each row includes those who *only* said the corresponding item is a "very important" reason they are an atheist/agnostic or say their religion is "nothing in particular," as well as those who said more than one reason is very important (in WHYNONE_1a-f) and then indicated, in a follow-up question (WHYNONE_2), that the corresponding item is the "most important" reason.

Dec 4-18

2017

25	I question a lot of religious teachings
22	I don't believe in God
16	I don't like the positions that churches take on social or political issues
9	Religion is irrelevant to me
6	I don't like religious organizations
2	I don't like religious leaders
19	Did not select any reason as very important (in WHYNONE_1a-f)/no answer (in WHYNONE_2)

QUESTIONS ABOUT DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION AND CHILDHOOD RELIGION NOT SHOWN. SEE [QUESTIONNAIRE](#) FOR FULL QUESTION WORDING.

²⁴ Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular."

2017 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 29 September
FINAL TOPLINE
September 14 – September 28, 2017
TOTAL N=4,867

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

FDSTMP_CPS Did anyone in your household get food stamps or use a food stamp benefit card at any time during 2016? Do not include WIC benefits.

Sept 14-

Sept 28

2017

19

Yes

80

No

1

No answer

ASK ALL:

LOCALELECT The next question is about LOCAL elections, such as for mayor or a school board. Do you...

Sept 14-

Sept 28

2017

33

Always vote in local elections

28

Sometimes vote in local elections

14

Rarely vote in local elections

24

Never vote in local elections

1

No answer