

# Religious Views and Practices of the Younger Generation

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# Probe Surveys

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- 2010 Probe Survey of Culturally Captive Christians
  - Was limited to born-again Americans ages 18 through 40
  - Survey of 817 born-again millennials
- 2020 Probe Survey of Religious Views and Practices
  - Focused on all Americans from 18 through 55
  - Survey of 3,106 Americans, including 717 born-again Christian

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# Culturally Captive

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“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Colossians 2:8

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# Biblical Worldview

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- A biblical worldview is defined by six questions:
  - God is all-powerful, all knowing, creator of the universe
  - Bible is totally accurate in all of its teachings
  - Good works will earn a place in heaven
  - Jesus led a sinless life
  - Devil or Satan is a real being
  - There are moral truths that are true for everyone and for all time

# 2010 Probe Survey

- Born-again millennials fit into three categories:
  - Biblical worldview - attend church regularly.
  - No biblical worldview - attend church regularly.
  - No biblical worldview - no church attendance.



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# 2010 Probe Survey - Biblical Source

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- Born-again millennials with a biblical worldview and who attend church regularly were more likely to look to a biblical source in making decisions about family, business, or religious matters.
- About 3/4 of them did so, while only 1/3 of those who attended church regularly but did not have a biblical worldview use a biblical source.
- Very small number of the others did.
- The important issue is whether a believer has a biblical worldview.

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# 2010 Probe Survey - Cultural Practice

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- If these young people engaged in immoral or inappropriate behavior (illicit sexual activity, anger, selfishness), they were asked whether the behavior was wrong.
- Captive Christians were less likely to feel guilt about their sinful behavior.
- About 1/3 had no guilt with their sexual indiscretions. About half felt no guilt about other forms of sinful behavior.

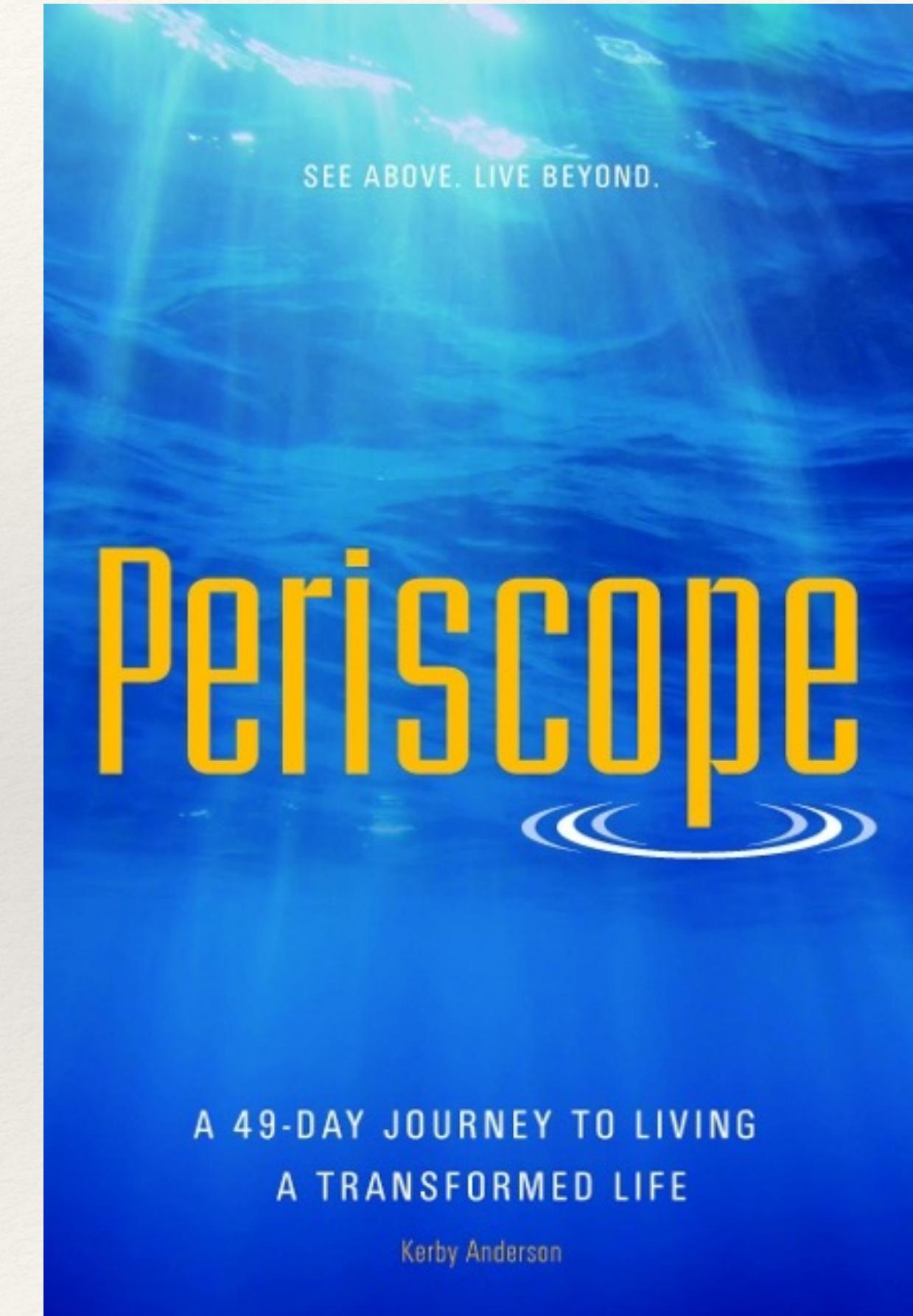
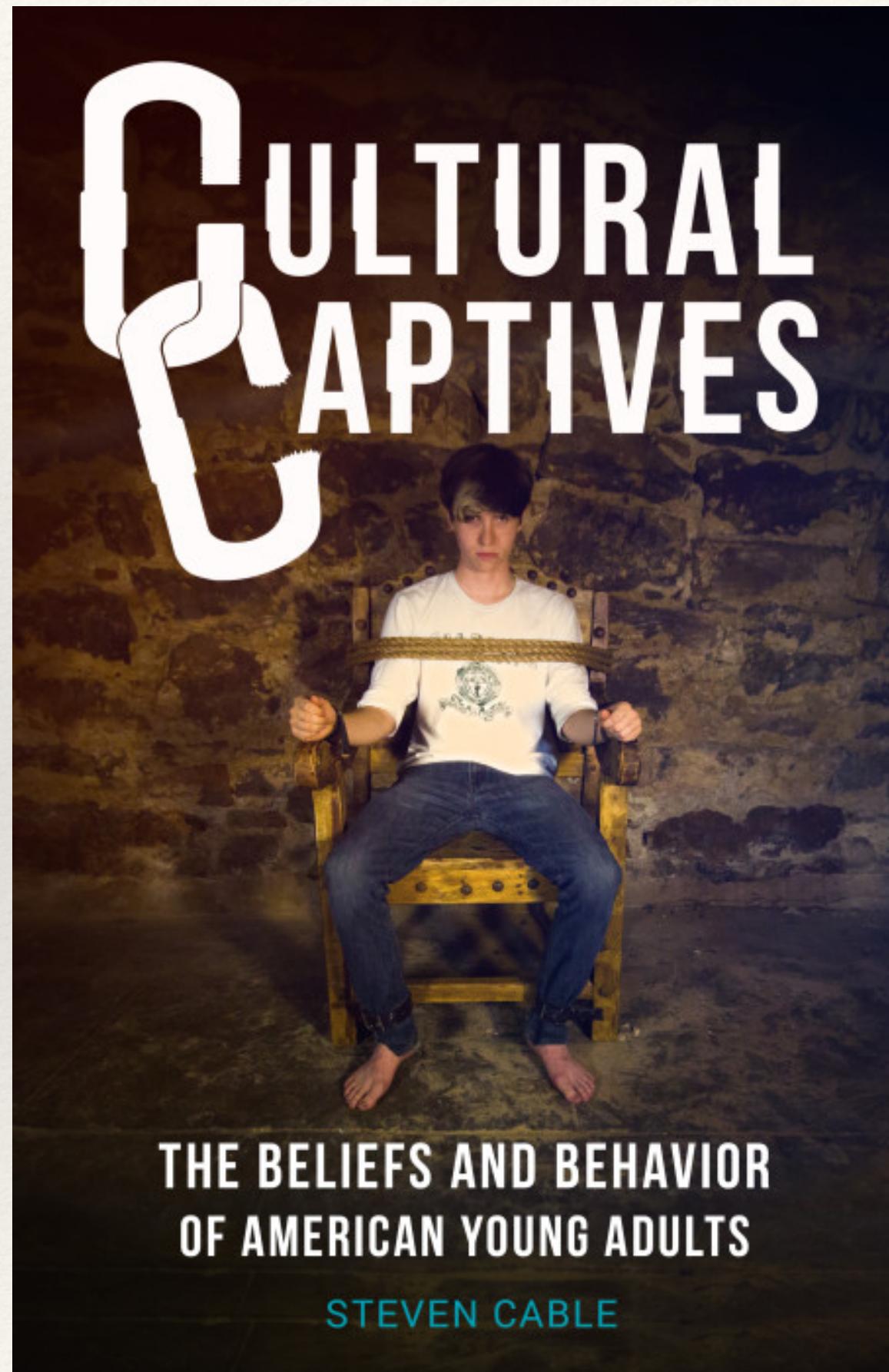
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# 2010 Probe Survey - Belief and Practice

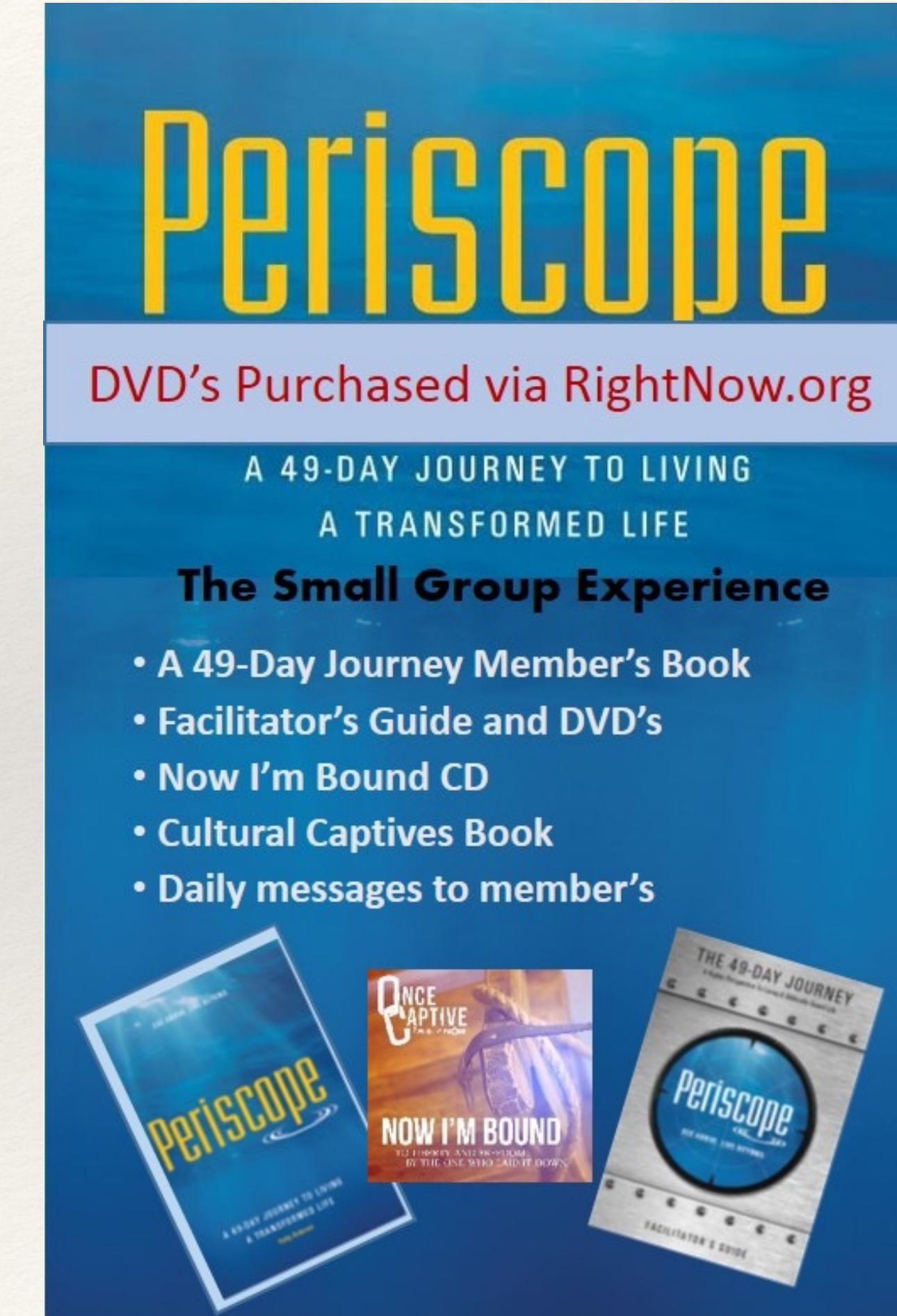
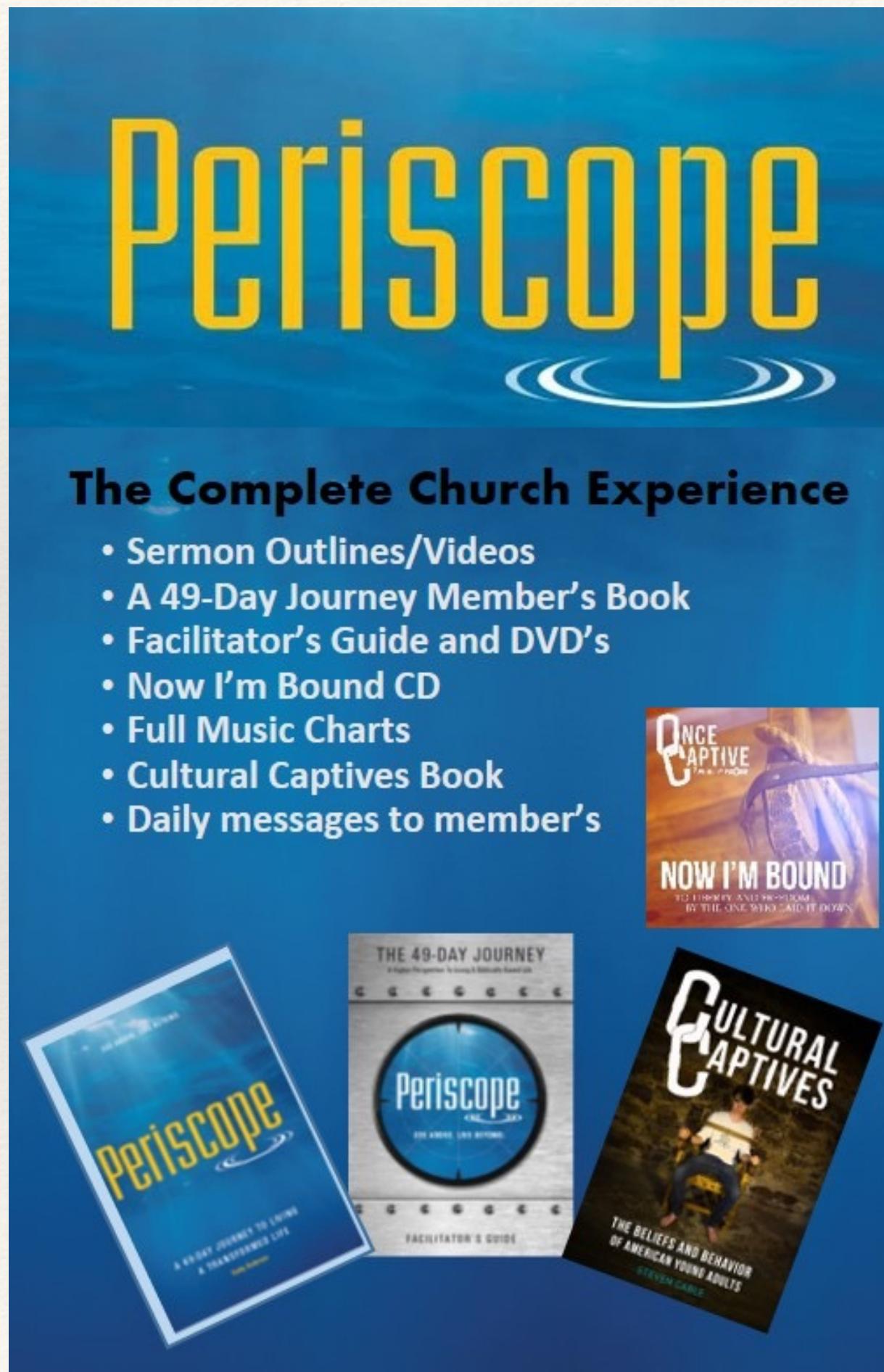
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- The percent of born-again, emerging adults with a biblical worldview and who practice a consistent set of religious practices (prayer, Bible reading, church attendance) is 14%.
- The percent of born-again, emerging adults with a biblical worldview, at least a minimal biblical practice and biblical cultural beliefs (abortion, sex outside of marriage, science and faith) is less than 2%.

# Church Program



# Church Program



# Church Program

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*"...a resource I highly recommend!"*

 DR. TONY EVANS - Pastor, speaker, author, educator, and founder and president of The Urban Alternative.

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2020 Probe Survey of  
Religious Views and Practices

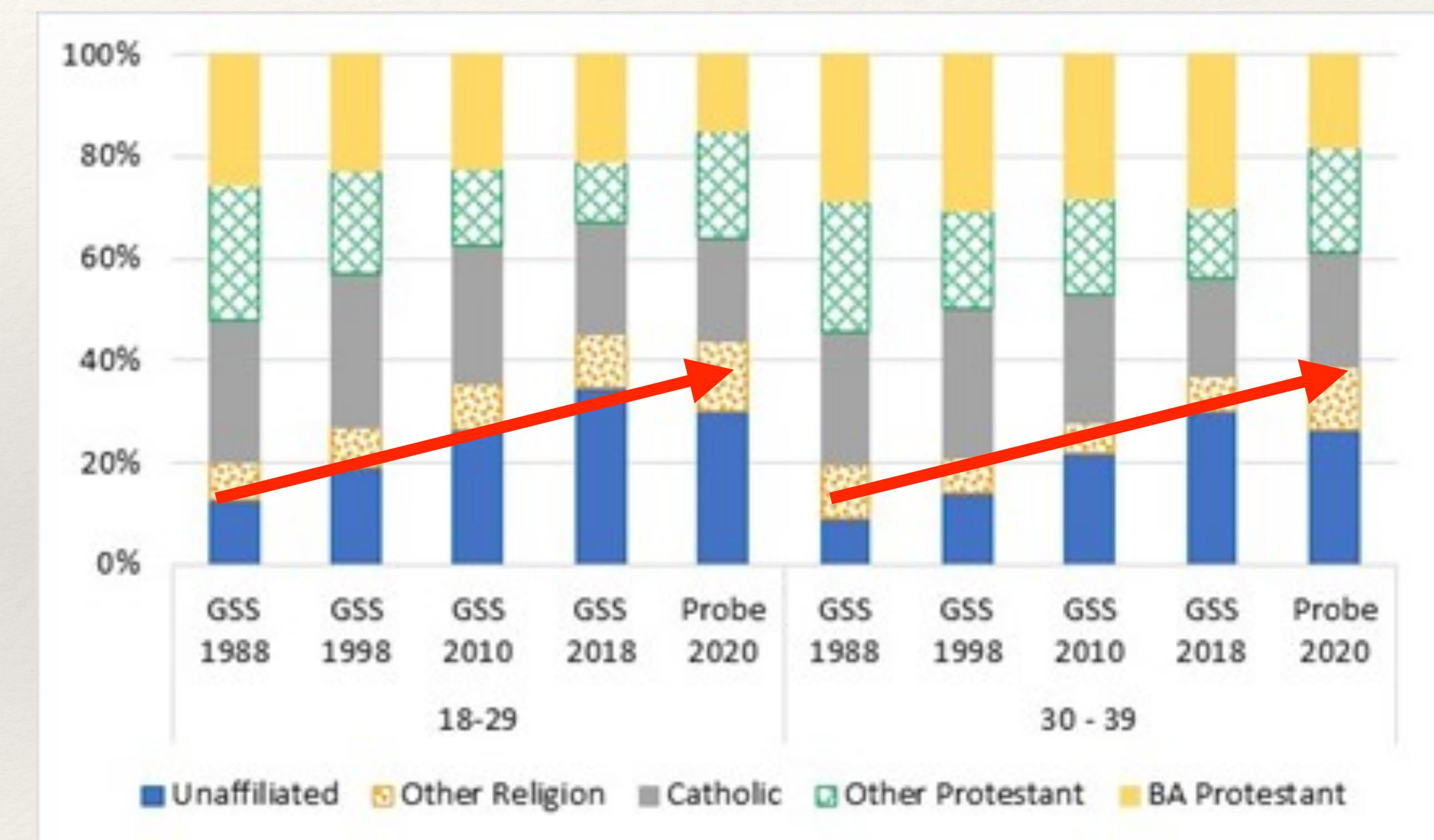
# Religious Affiliations of Young Adults

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- How have the religious affiliation of American young adults changed over the years?
- Until the 1990s, the population affiliated with each major religious group stayed fairly constant.
- Born-again protestants remained relative stable, but those affiliated with an evangelical church began to decline.
- Other protestants and Catholics declined significantly.

# Religious Affiliations of Young Adults

- Since that time, the most dramatic increase has been among the unaffiliated.
- People who select atheist, agnostic, or nothing in particular.
- The unaffiliated almost tripled from 13% to 35% of the population.



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# The Unaffiliated

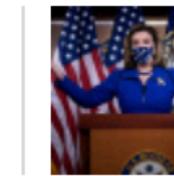
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- These unaffiliated young adults generally aren't hostile to the church and Christianity. They are merely apathetic about religious views.
- Pastors and Christian leaders have tried to put a positive spin on these statistics by reminding us that young people who graduate from high school usually take a break from church.
- But, they argue, these young adults will come back to the church as they marry and decide to have children.
- Instead, an increasing percentage are leaving the church.

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Engaging views and analysis from outside contributors on the issues affecting society and faith today.

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CP VOICES | SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021 | [CORONAVIRUS →](#)

## Sadly, no, young adults are not returning to church

By [Stephen Cable](#) and [Kerby Anderson](#), Op-ed Contributors

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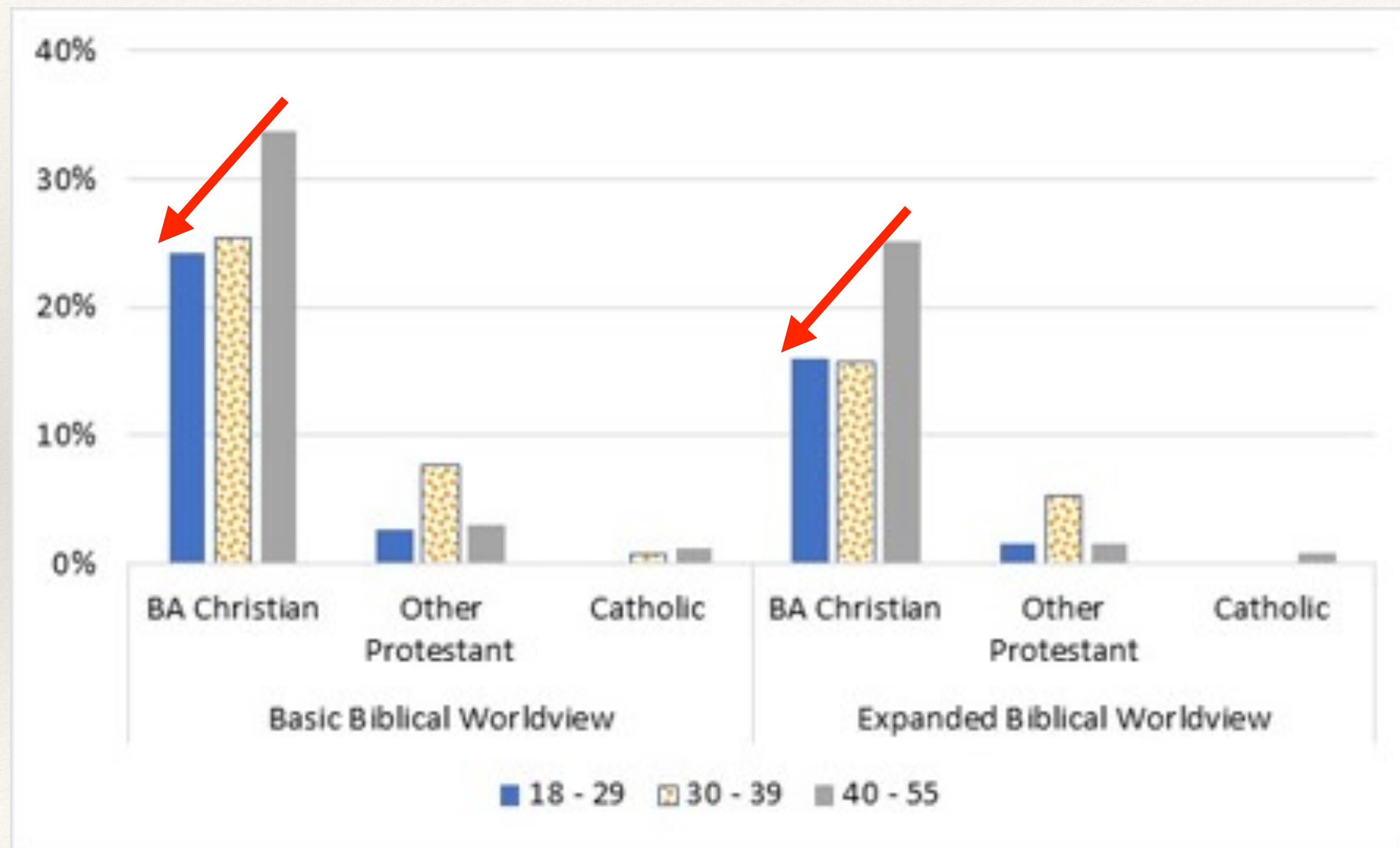
# Biblical Worldview

# Biblical Worldview

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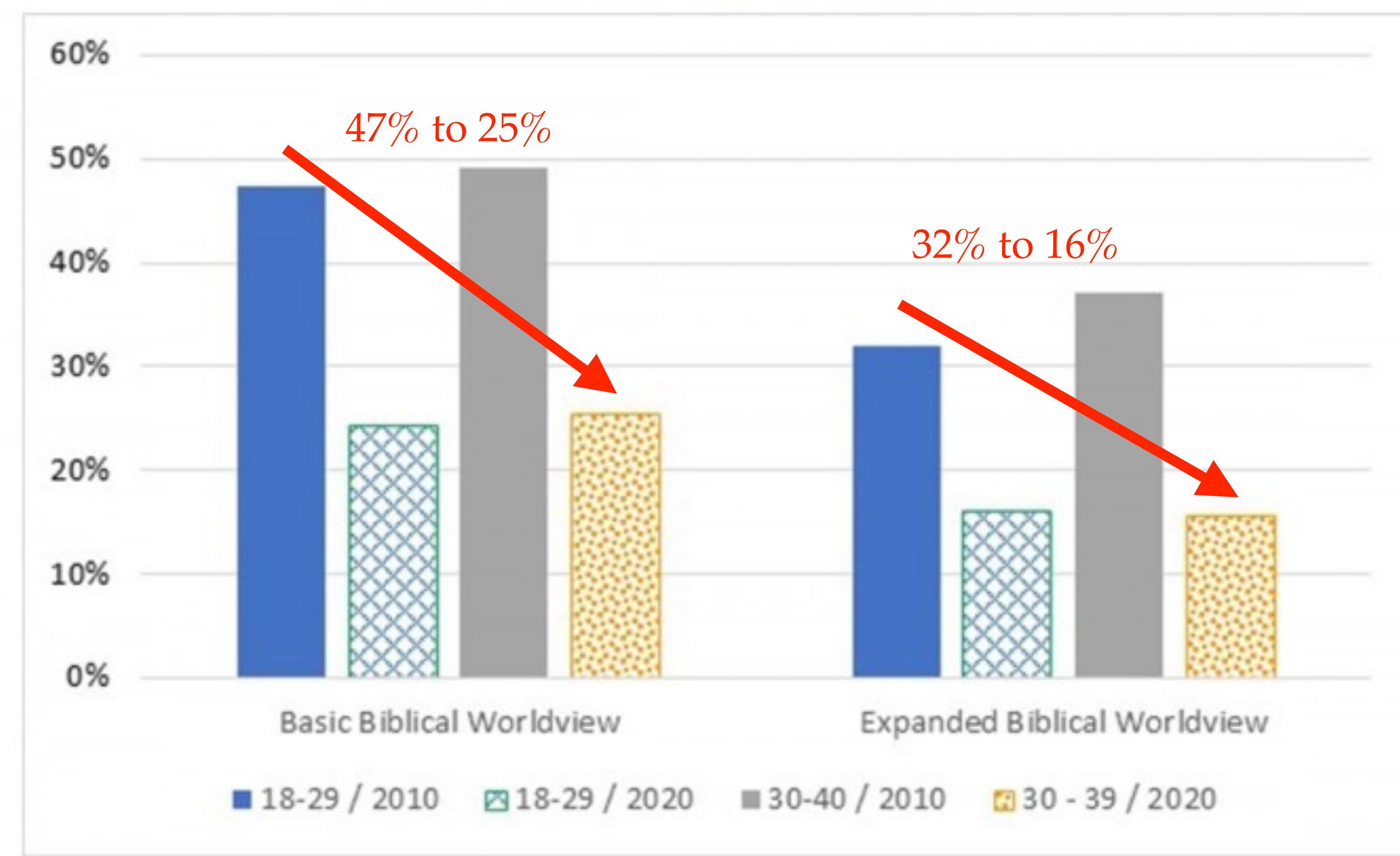
- How common is a biblical worldview among young Americans?
- In both our 2010 and 2020 surveys we included specific questions which help identify someone with a biblical worldview.
- Four questions are used to assess what we call a Basic Biblical Worldview:
  - God, Bible, Salvation, Jesus Christ
- An additional two questions are added for a Expanded Biblical Worldview:
  - Satan, Moral Truths

# Biblical Worldview



# Biblical Worldview

*Figure 5 Born Again Christian Worldview Beliefs Across 10 Years  
% of all Born Again Christians*



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# Biblical Worldview

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- At this point we should remind ourselves of an important historical fact.
- The percentage of biblical worldview Christians in the Roman Empire in AD 60 was much less than one percent.
- Three hundred years later, virtually the entire empire was at least nominally Christian.
- We must commit ourselves to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and commit ourselves to “proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9)

# God and His Relationship to the World

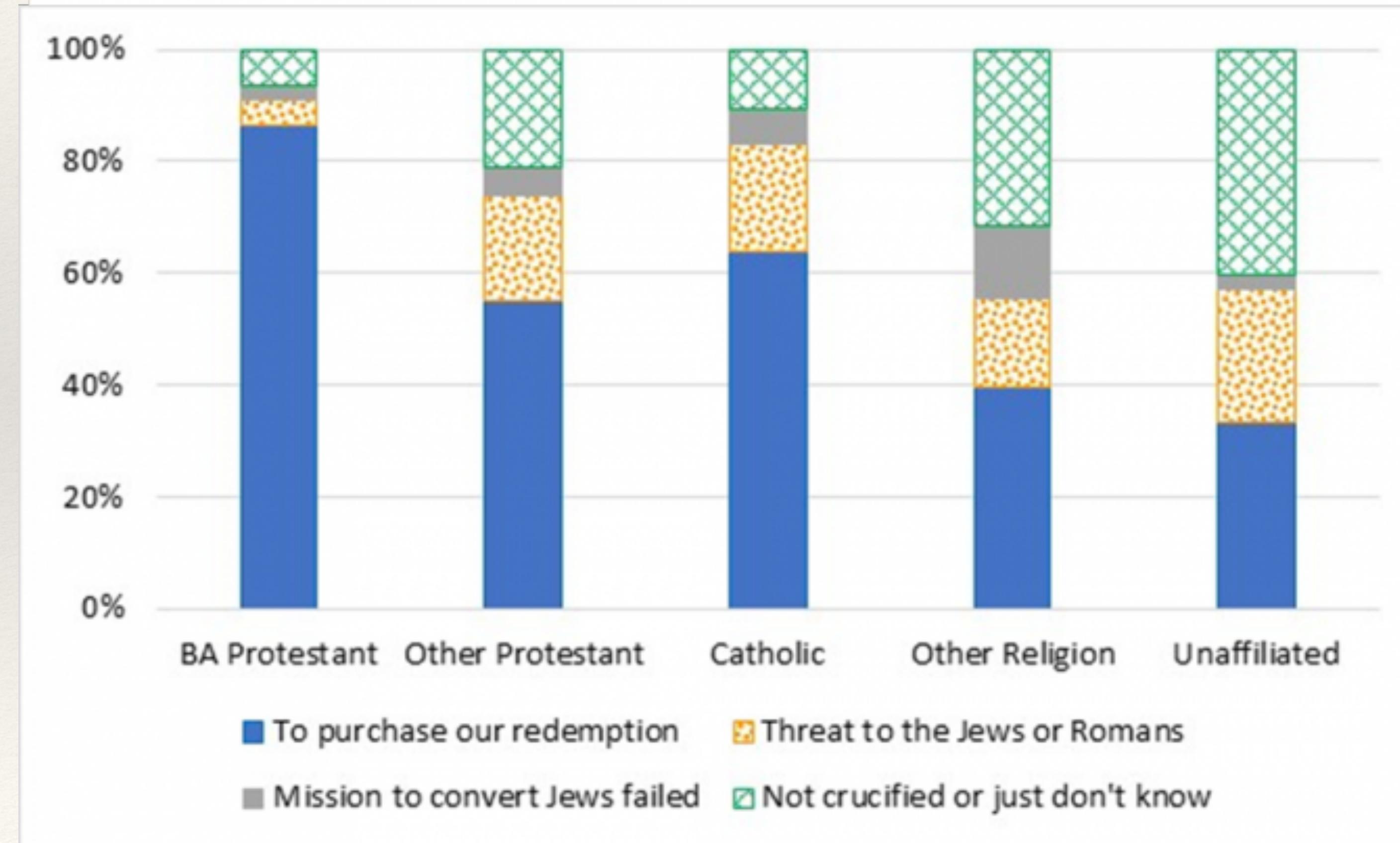
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- People have many different views of God or gods in their lives:
  - God rules, impersonal force, deism, many gods, no God, don't know
- The vast majority of born-again Christians believe in a creator God.
- Of the other groups (protestants, Catholics, other religions) about 40% believe in an active, creator God. The other 60% have another view.
- Among the unaffiliated, only 10% profess belief in a creator God.
- This means that only about one-third of Americans 55 and under believe in an active, creator God.

# Salvation and the Gospel

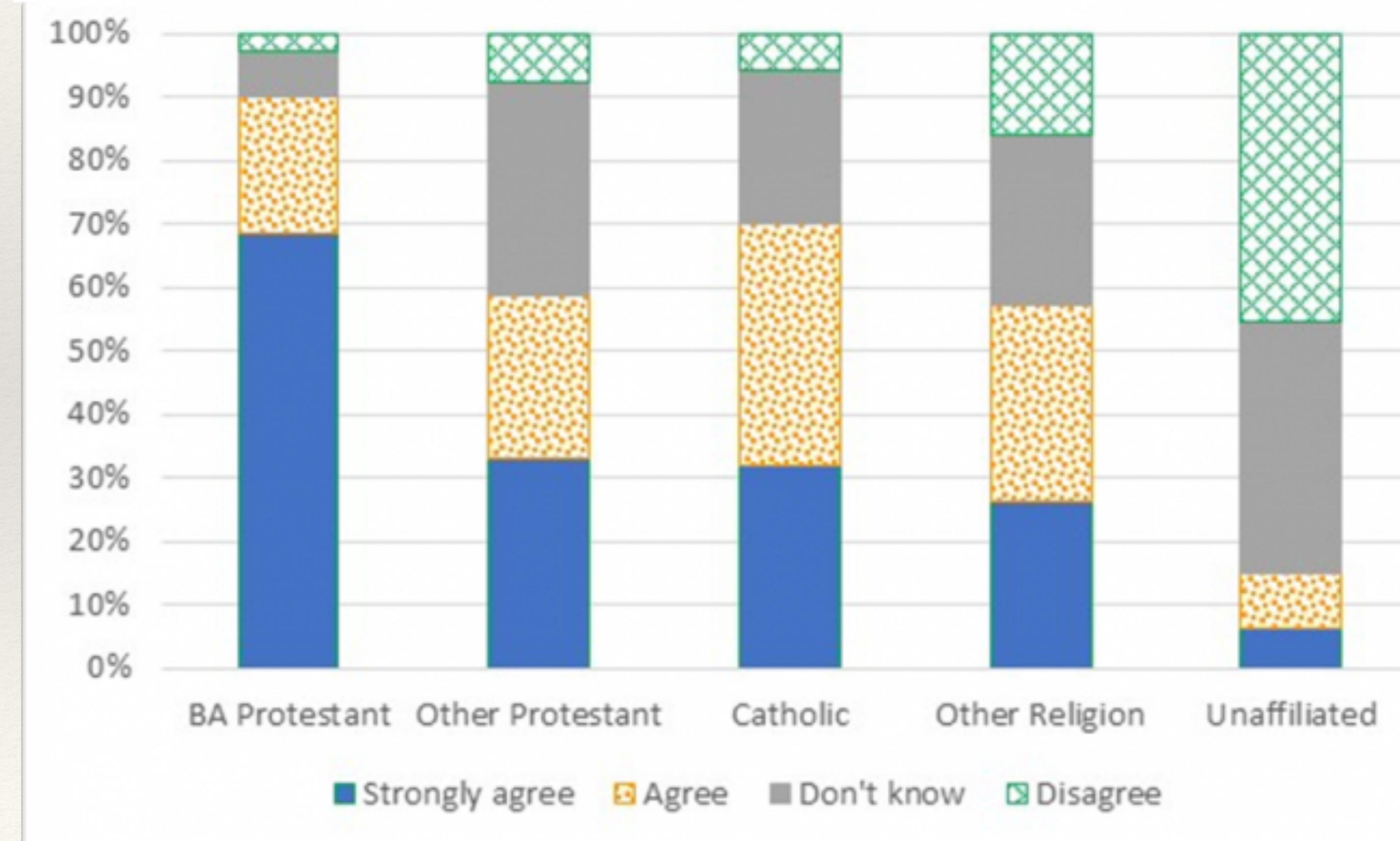
# Why Did Jesus Die?

*Figure 1 Why Did Jesus Die on a Cross?  
Americans ages 18 through 39*



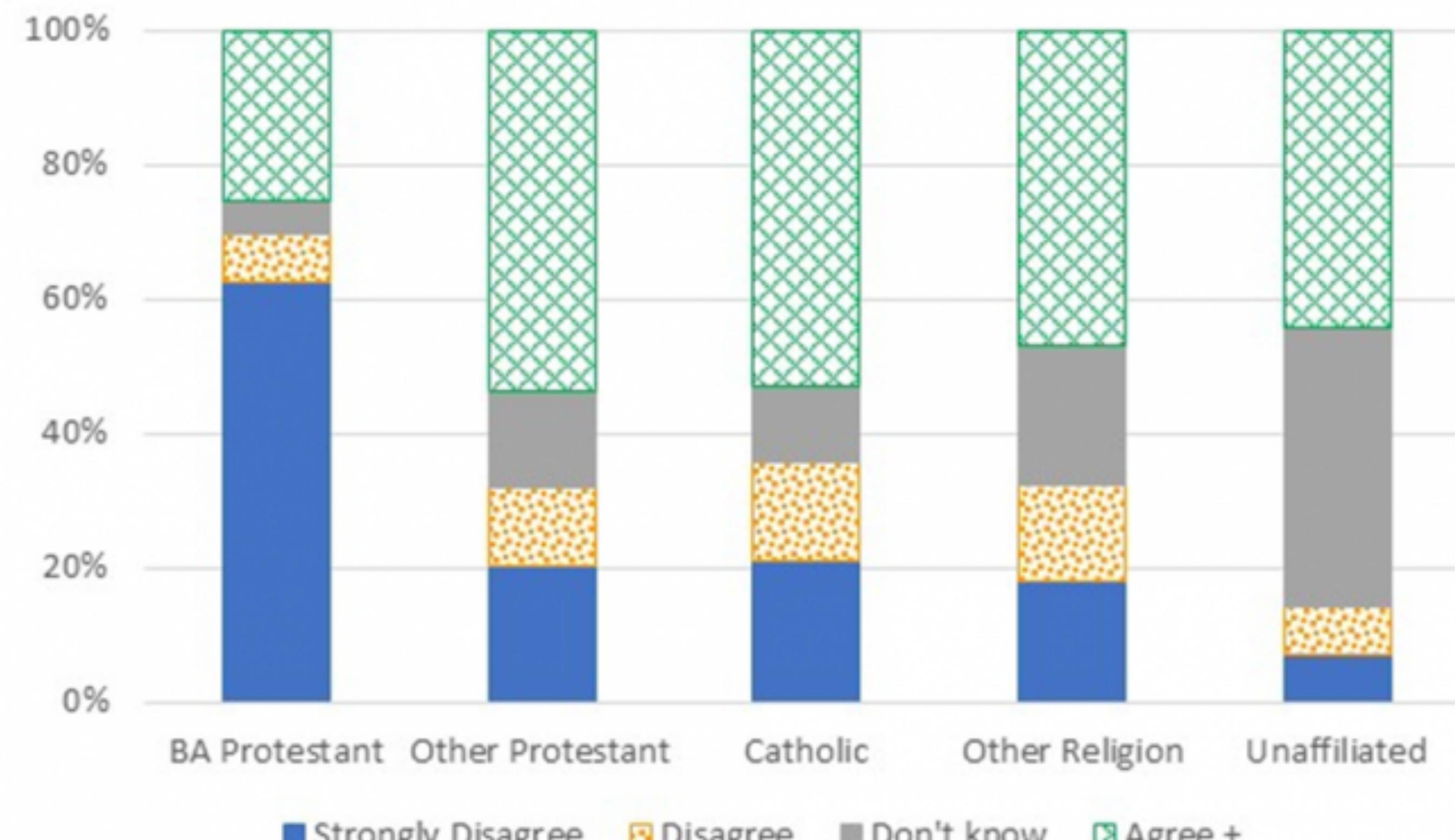
# Will Jesus Return to this Earth?

***Figure 2 Jesus Will Return to Save Us***  
*Americans Ages 18 through 39*



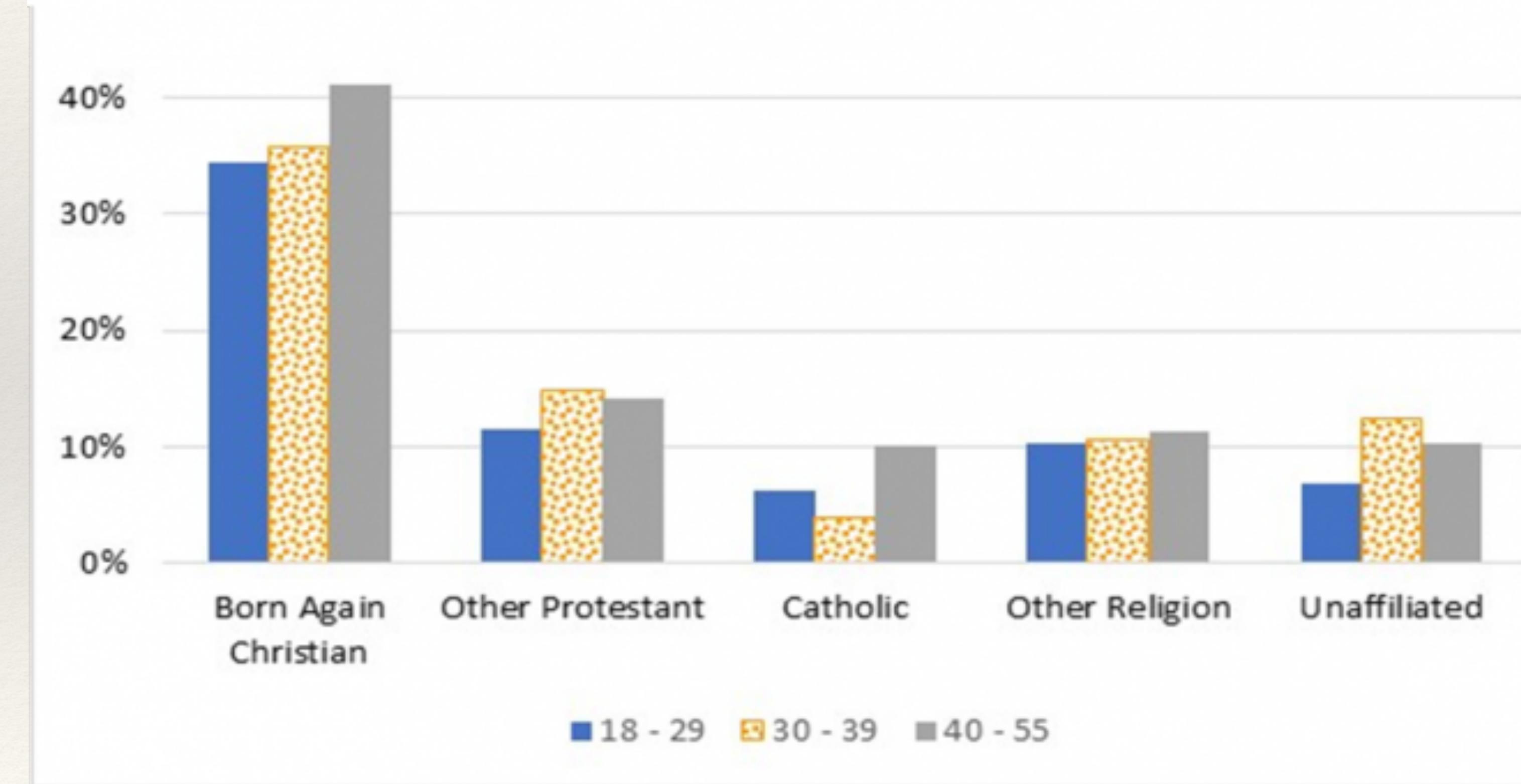
# Was Jesus Sinless?

***Figure 3 Jesus Committed Sins Like Other People***  
*Americans Ages 18 through 39*



# Are There Multiple Ways to Heaven?

*Figure 5 Muhammad, Buddha and Jesus are All Valid Ways to God: Disagree Strongly*



# THE CHRISTIAN POST



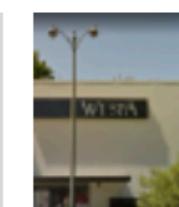
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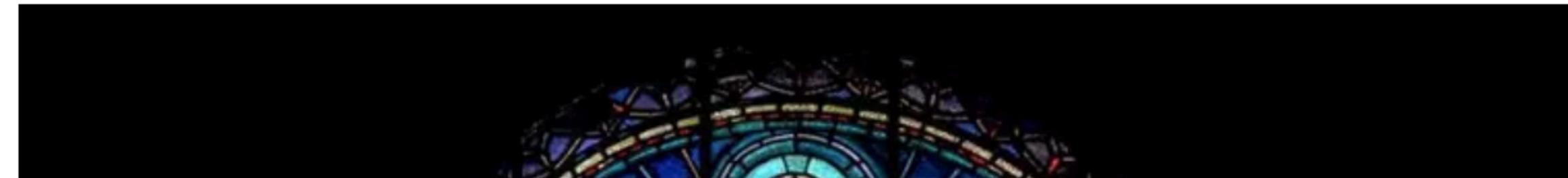
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## 60% of adults under 40 say Jesus isn't only way to salvation; equal to Buddha, Muhammad

Survey shows pluralistic worldview expanding rapidly among American Christians

By [Anugrah Kumar](#), Christian Post Contributor



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# Over 60% of born-again Christians between 18 and 39 say Jesus isn't only way to Heaven; Muhammad, Buddha also valid paths to salvation, study finds

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# New Survey Reveals 60 Percent of Christians Aged 18 - 39 Believe Jesus Not Only Way to Salvation

08-23-2021 - CBN News



# AUDIO

## A troubling new poll on salvation

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 | from Michael Harrington

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A troubling new poll on salvation

VERBATIM: The numbers come from Probe Ministries in its Religious Views & Practices Survey, and they reveal that over 60% of people who call themselves born-again Christians, between the ages of 18-to-39, believe that Jesus is NOT the only way to salvation. Probe Ministries president Kerby Anderson says "Pastors and church leaders just can't assume any longer that the members of their church or Christian organization have a biblical worldview." Michael Harrington, SRN News.



TODD CAST

**The Todd Starnes Show- President Biden has Encouraged a Society Where People Don't Want To Work**

# BREAKING: 60 Percent of 'Born Again' Millennials Don't Believe Jesus is Only Way to Heaven

Aug 24, 2021



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Jack Graham

@jackngraham

A recent study indicates 60 pct of professing born again Christians do not believe that Jesus is the only way of salvation. That Buddha and Mohammed are equal paths to Heaven. This denies Jesus as the Way Truth Life and is the spirit of the anti Christ and the pathway to Hell

6:15 AM · Aug 25, 2021 · Echofon

...



Greg Stier

@gregstier

...

This shows how desperate the need of Gospelizing this generation is, including the ones in the church!

HT Ben Bennett

[Survey: 60 Percent of Born Again Christians Under 40 Say Jesus Isn't the Only Way to Salvation | RELEVANT](#)



Survey: 60 Percent of Born Again Christians Under 40 Say Jesus Isn't the Only Way to Salvation | RELEVANT  
A new study from Probe Ministries might suggest that the doctrinal beliefs of born again Christians are shifting. That's not terribly surprising, as no

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A new survey claims a majority of Christians under 40 agreed with the statement "Buddha, Muhammad and Jesus are all valid paths to God."



Survey: 60 Percent of Born Again Christians Under 40 Say Jesus Isn't the Only Way to Salvation | RELEVANT  
A new study from Probe Ministries might suggest that the doctrinal beliefs of born again Christians are shifting. That's not terribly surprising, as no

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# Application

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- These statistics only represent about one-third of the Probe survey.
- Already we can see some important “action items” from the survey:
- We cannot assume non-Christians will be coming to church.
  - They aren’t coming. We need to go to them.
- We cannot assume that everyone inside the church has a biblical worldview.
  - Pastors and teachers need to preach the “Essential Gospel.”
  - We need to spend more time in God’s Word.



**PROBE SURVEY 2020**

# EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY

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