Perceptions of Alcohol

-- Protestant Pastors and Laity --



Spring 2007

Methodology – Pastor and Laity

- Phone survey conducted April-May 2007
 - 1,004 Protestant laity
 - 1,005 Protestant senior pastors
- Sample sizes for total laity and pastors provide 95% confidence that sampling error does not exceed ±3.1%
- Breakouts of totals are provided for Southern Baptist (SBC) senior pastors (sample size 405-max. sampling error <u>+</u>4.9%) and SBC laity (sample size 205-max. sampling error <u>+</u>6.9%)
- Laity sample consists of adults (18 and over) who attend church at least 5 times a year and whose religious preference is Protestant

Methodology – SBC Seminary Graduates

All 1998-2004 Masters level seminary graduates from Golden Gate, New Orleans, Midwestern, Southeastern, Southwestern, and the Canadian Baptist Seminary were invited to answer related questions. A limited subset of Southern graduates were available for the study



Key Findings

Personally Drink Alcohol

- Fewer Protestant senior pastors and laity drink alcohol than American adults in general
- Protestant laity are much more likely to drink alcohol than Protestant senior pastors
- Southern Baptist pastors and laity are less likely to drink alcohol than other Protestant pastors and laity

Key Findings

Protestant Opinions About Alcohol

- There is more agreement of opinion about alcohol among Protestant senior pastors than among laity
- Southern Baptist pastors and laity are less likely to condone drinking alcohol than other Protestant pastors and laity
- There is little difference of opinion about alcohol among laity by age or gender despite a greater number of men and younger laity who drink

Key Findings

Protestant Opinions About Alcohol

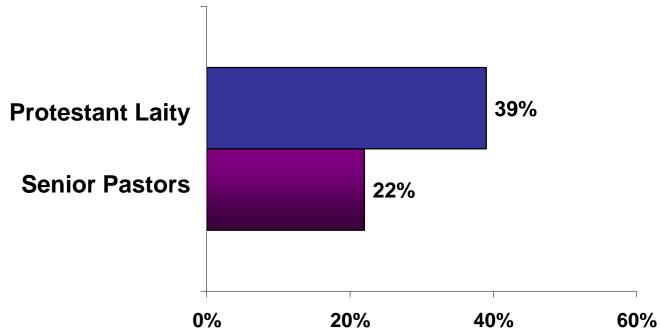
- More than 4 out of 5 pastors and laity agree
 Scripture indicates people should never get
 drunk, but less than a third say it forbids drinking
- The majority of pastors and laity do not consider drinking alcohol a sin, but they do agree it could cause other believers to stumble or be confused
- About half of pastors and laity indicate Christians should not drink alcohol and that abstaining could attract non-believers to Jesus Christ

Use of Alcohol Among Protestant Pastors and Laity

Personally Drink Alcohol

Protestant laity are much more likely to drink alcohol than senior pastors but less likely than the average American

Yes, personally drink alcohol

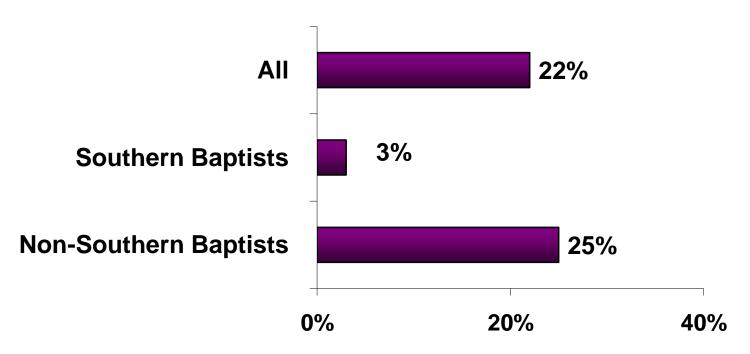


According to a Gallup Poll conducted July 12-15, 2007, 64% of Americans age 18 and older say they drink alcoholic beverages, and 36% say they totally abstain.



Southern Baptist senior pastors are much less likely to drink alcohol than other Protestant pastors

Senior Pastors

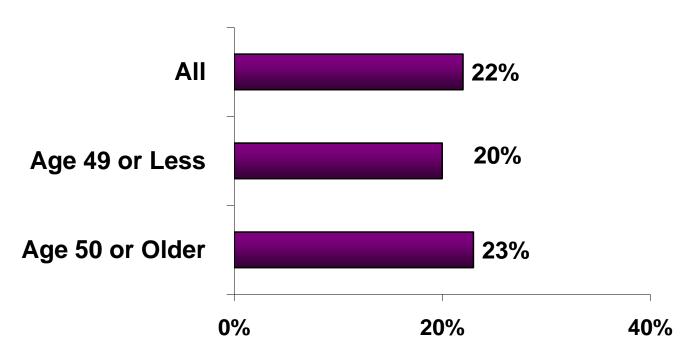


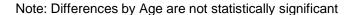


Senior Pastors by Age

Older pastors are just as likely to drink alcohol as younger Protestant pastors

Senior Pastors

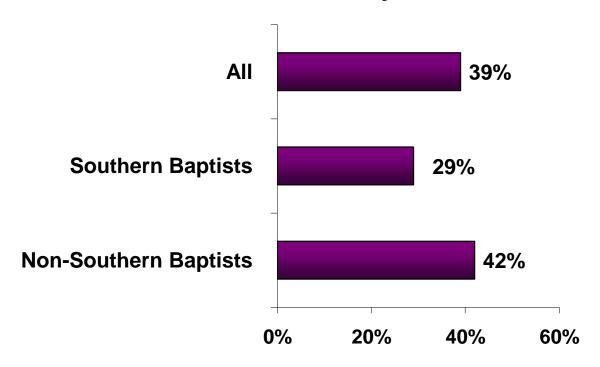




Protestant Laity by Denomination

Southern Baptist laity are less likely to drink alcohol than non-SBC laity

Protestant Laity

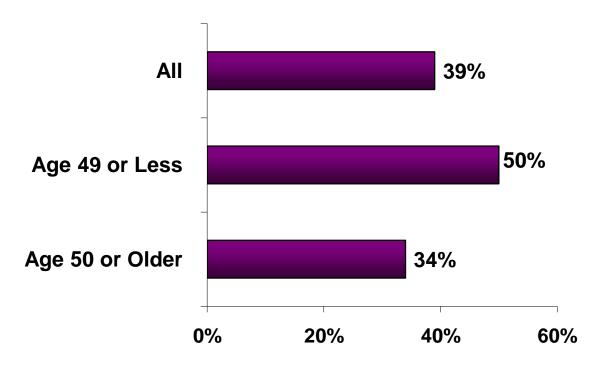




Protestant Laity by Age

Older laity are less likely to drink alcohol than younger laity

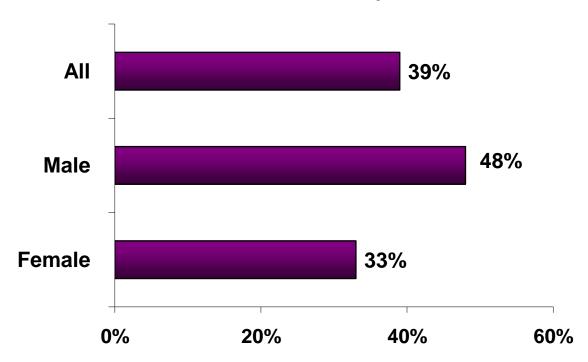
Protestant Laity

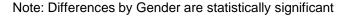


Protestant Laity by Gender

Similar to trends among all Americans, Protestant men are more likely to drink alcohol than Protestant women

Protestant Laity





Perceptions of Alcohol Among Protestant Senior Pastors

Senior Pastors

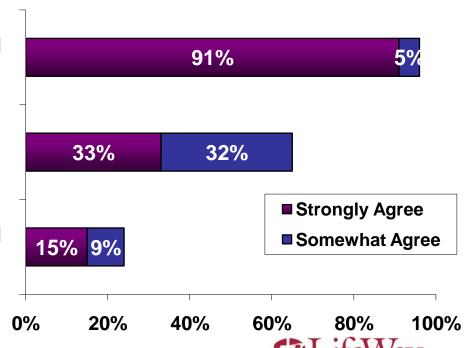
Almost all senior pastors agree Scripture forbids getting drunk, but few agree it indicates people should never drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with statements about Scripture's view of alcohol

Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk

Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin

Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol



More pastors who are Southern Baptist agree Scripture indicates people should never get drunk

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk"



Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant

Senior Pastors by Age

Older and younger pastors do not differ in their agreement that Scripture indicates people should never get drunk

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk"



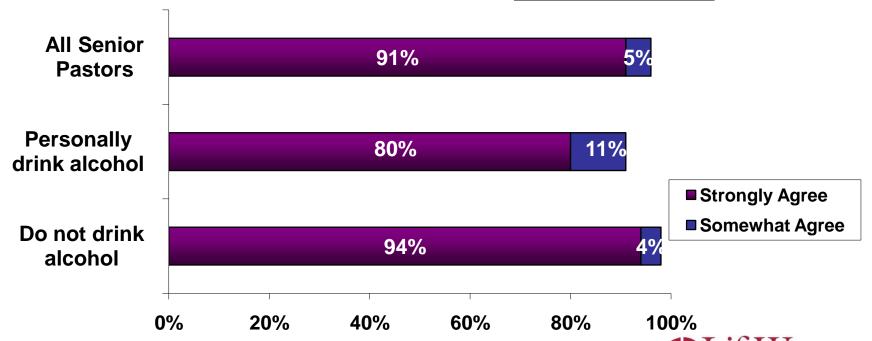
Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

Senior Pastors by Behavior

More pastors who do not drink agree Scripture indicates people should never get drunk

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk"



Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

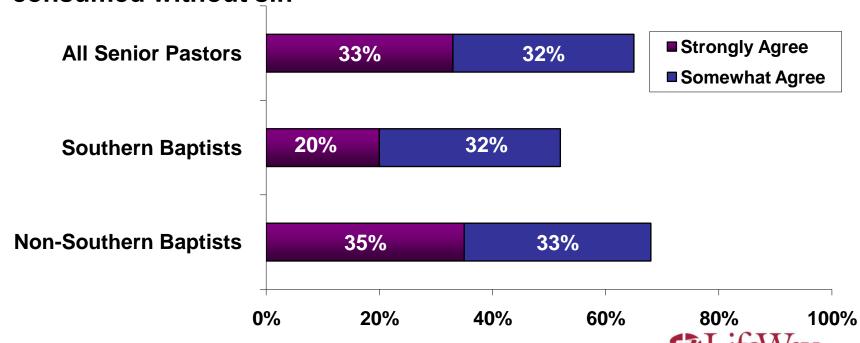
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More pastors who are non-Southern Baptist agree Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that <u>all</u> beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"



Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant

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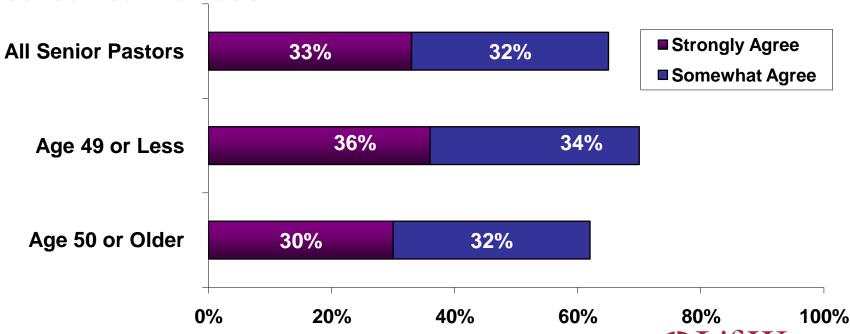
Biblical Solutions for Life

Senior Pastors by Age

More younger pastors agree Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that <u>all</u> beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"



Note: Differences by Age are statistically significant

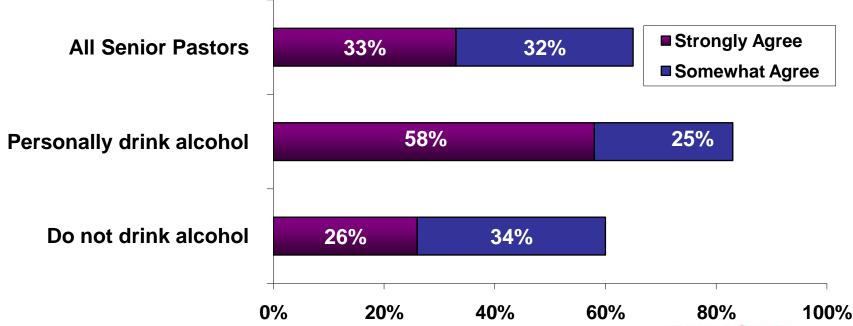
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree

Senior Pastors by Behavior

More pastors who drink agree Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that <u>all</u> beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"



Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

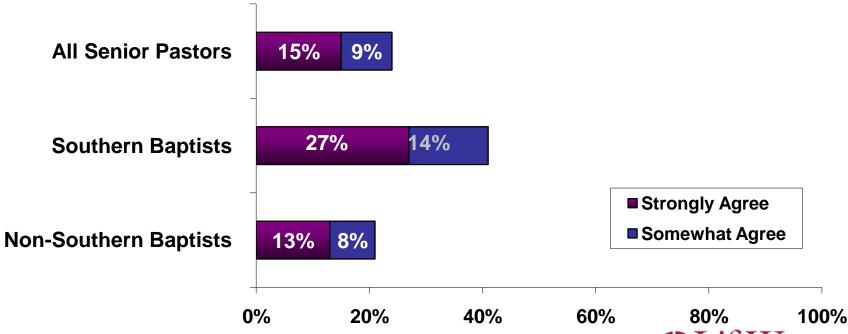
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree



More pastors who are Southern Baptist agree Scripture indicates people should never drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol"



Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant

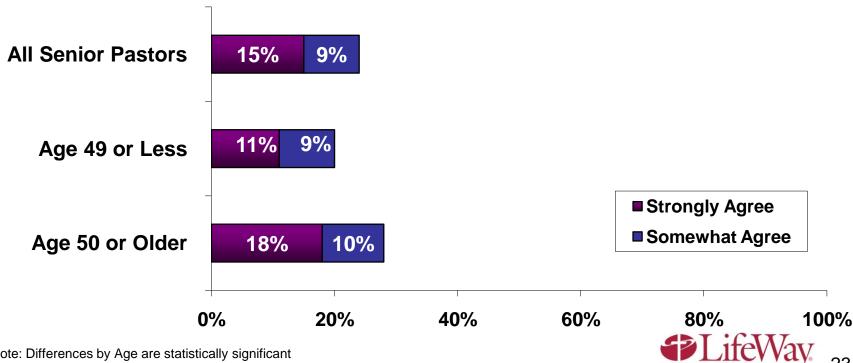
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Senior Pastors by Age

More older pastors agree Scripture indicates people should never drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol"



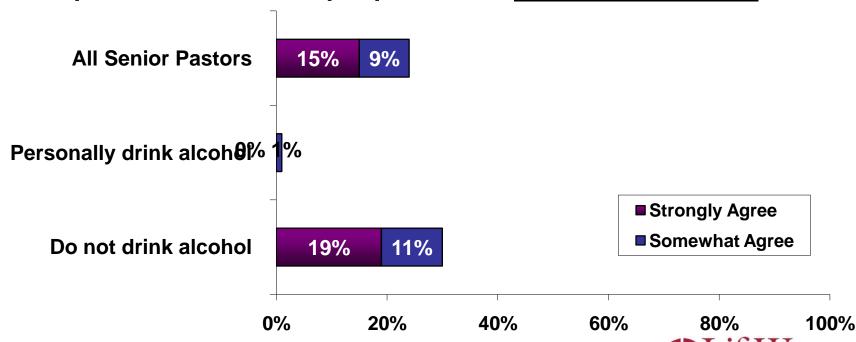
Note: Differences by Age are statistically significant

Senior Pastors by Behavior

More pastors who do not drink agree Scripture indicates people should never drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol"



Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

RESEARCH

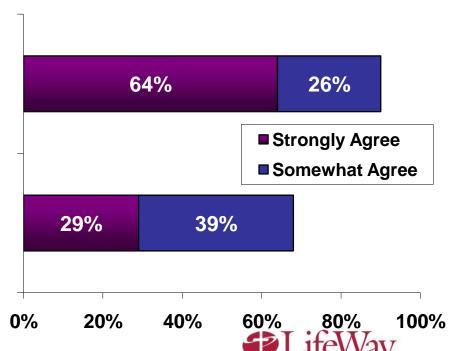
Senior Pastors

Most senior pastors agree Christians are at liberty to drink alcohol, but 90% agree social drinking can cause others to stumble

Senior pastor agreement with statements about Christians partaking of alcohol

When a Chistian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused

When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty

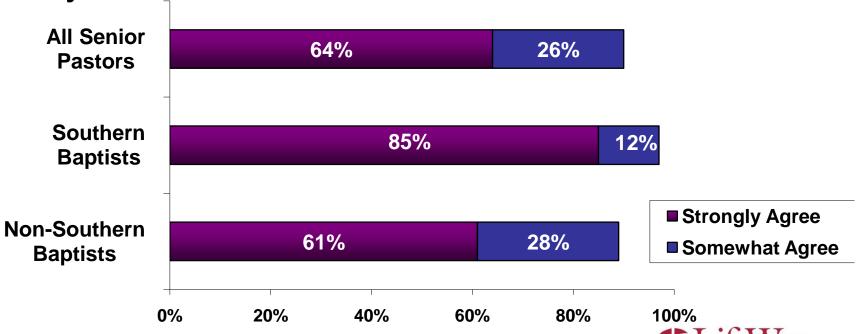


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More pastors who are Southern Baptist agree social drinking can cause other believers to stumble

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused"



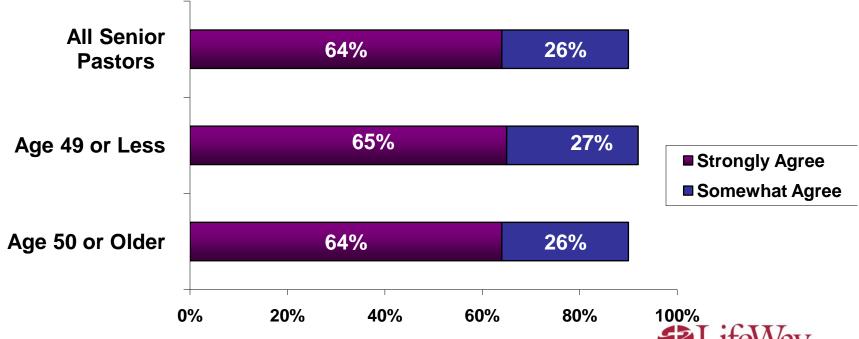
Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant

Senior Pastors by Age

Older and younger pastors do not differ in their agreement that social drinking can cause other believers to stumble

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused"



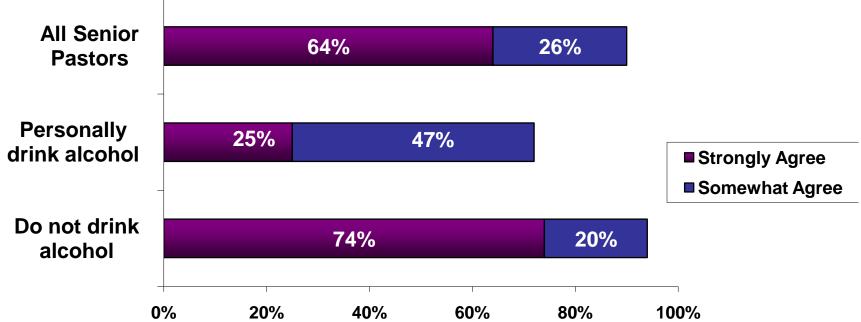
Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

Senior Pastors by Behavior

More pastors who do not drink agree social drinking can cause other believers to stumble

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused"

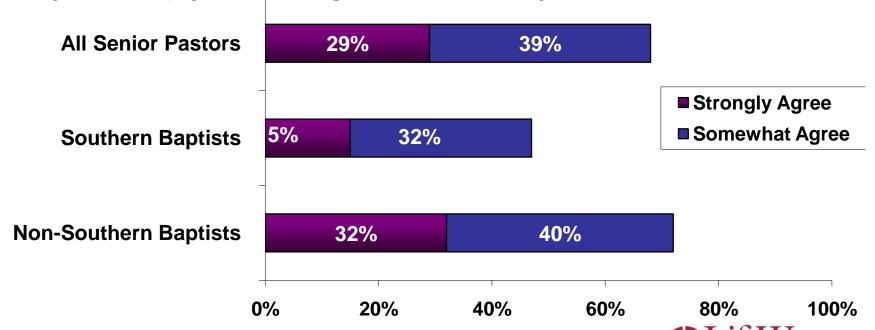


Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

More pastors who are non-Southern Baptist agree reasonable consumption is a biblical liberty

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty"



Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant

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Senior Pastors by Age

More younger pastors agree reasonable consumption is a biblical liberty

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty"



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Biblical Solutions for Life

Note: Differences by Age are statistically significant

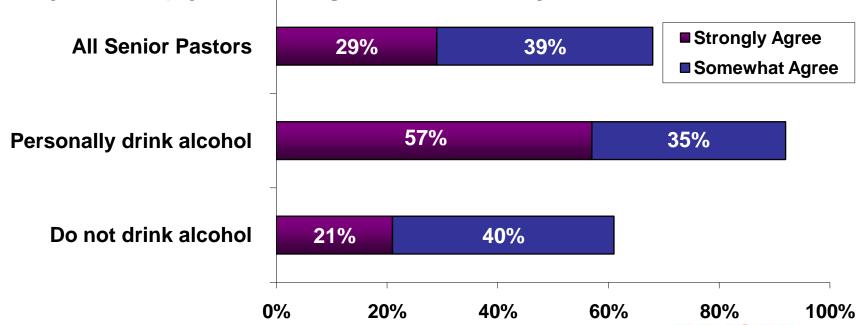
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree

Senior Pastors by Behavior

More pastors who drink alcohol agree reasonable consumption is a biblical liberty

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty"



Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

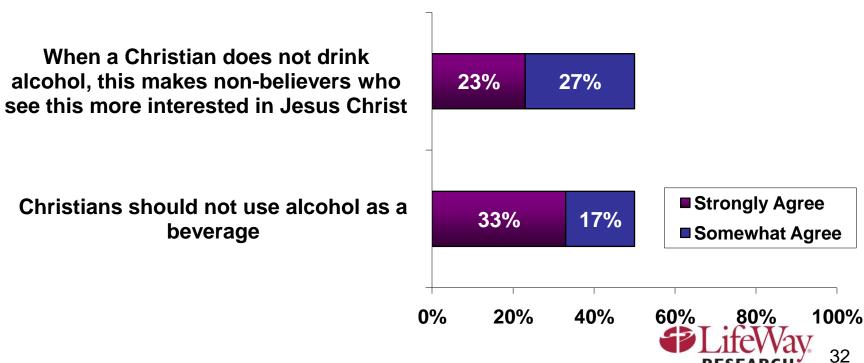
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree



Senior Pastors

Half of senior pastors agree Christians should not drink and that abstaining may attract non-believers to Jesus Christ

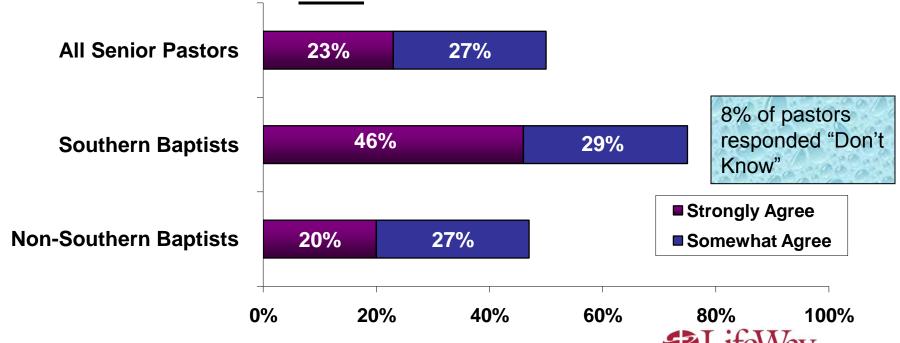
Senior pastor agreement with statements about Christians abstaining from alcohol



More pastors who are Southern Baptist agree not drinking alcohol attracts non-believers to Jesus Christ

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian does <u>not</u> drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this <u>more</u> interested in Jesus Christ"



Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant

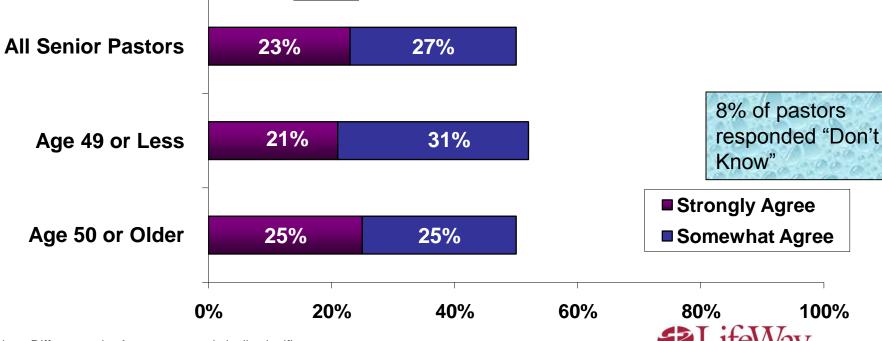
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Senior Pastors by Age

Older and younger pastors do not differ in their agreement that not drinking alcohol attracts non-believers to Jesus Christ

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian does <u>not</u> drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this <u>more</u> interested in Jesus Christ"



Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

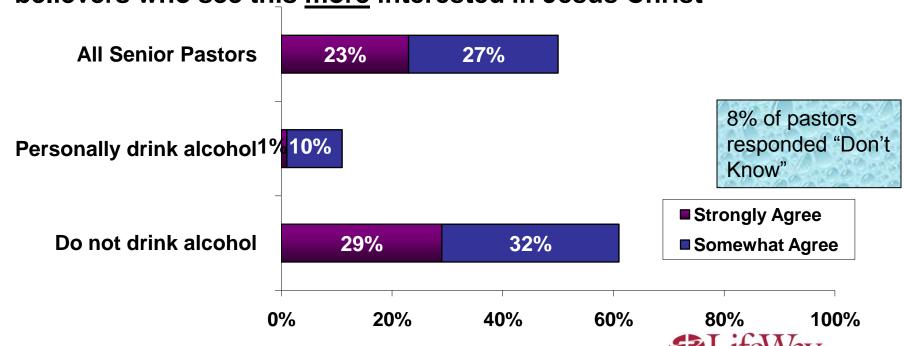
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Senior Pastors by Behavior

More pastors who do not drink alcohol agree not drinking alcohol attracts non-believers to Jesus Christ

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian does <u>not</u> drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this <u>more</u> interested in Jesus Christ"

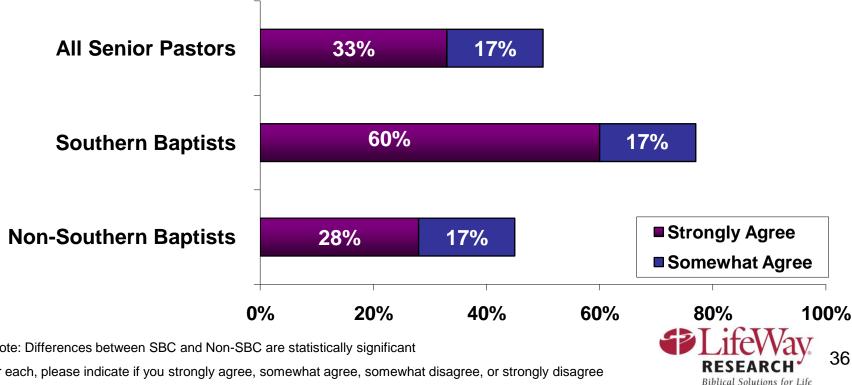


Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

More pastors who are Southern Baptist agree Christians should not drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage"



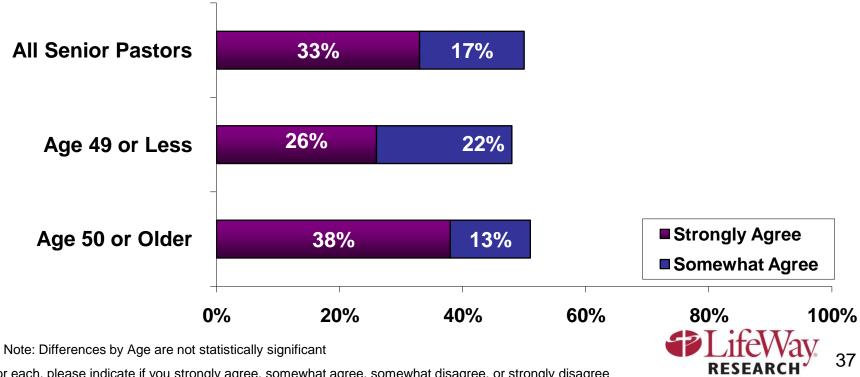
Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant

Senior Pastors by Age

Older and younger pastors do not differ in their agreement that Christians should not drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage"

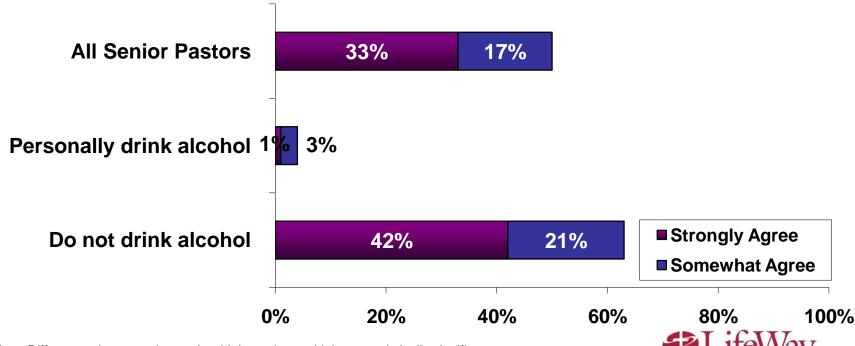


Senior Pastors by Behavior

More pastors who do not drink alcohol agree Christians should not drink alcohol

Senior pastor agreement with the statement:

"Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage"



Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

Perceptions of Alcohol Among Protestant Laity

Protestant Laity

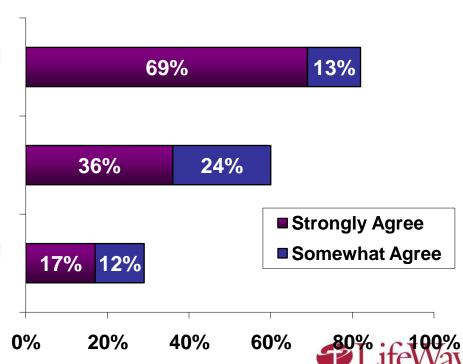
Most laity agree Scripture forbids getting drunk, but less than a third agree it indicates people should never drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with statements about Scripture's view of alcohol

Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk

Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin

Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol

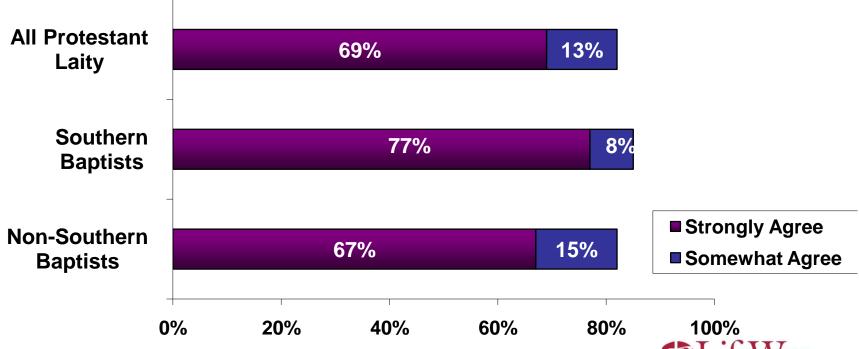


Protestant Laity by Denomination

SBC and Non-SBC laity agree Scripture indicates people should never get drunk

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk"



Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are not statistically significant

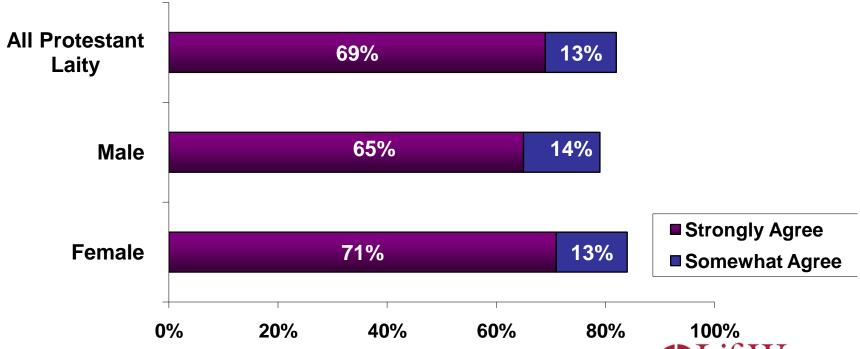
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree

Protestant Laity by Gender

Both male and female laity agree Scripture indicates people should never get drunk

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk"



Note: Differences between males vs. females are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Age

Older and younger laity do not differ in their agreement that Scripture indicates people should never get drunk

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk"



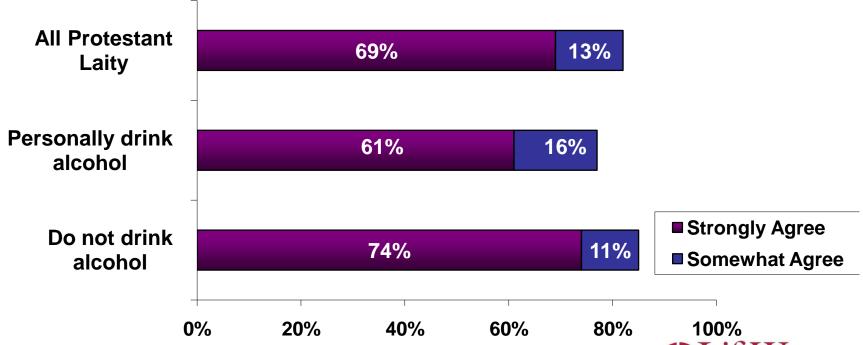
Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Behavior

More Protestant laity who do not drink alcohol agree Scripture indicates people should never get drunk

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk"



Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree

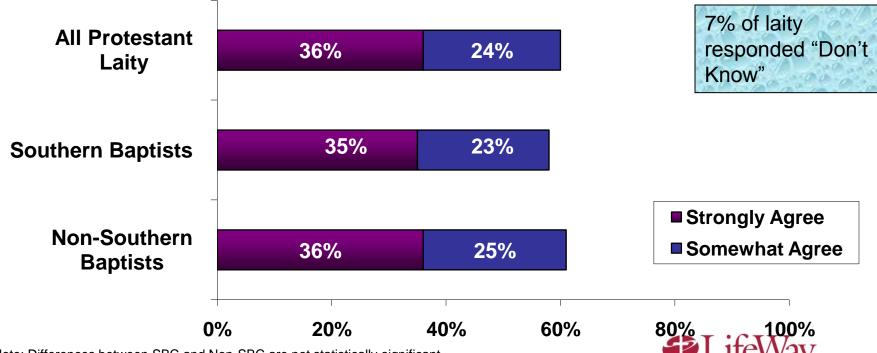


Protestant Laity by Denomination

SBC and Non-SBC laity do not differ in their agreement that Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that <u>all</u> beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"



Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Gender

Male and female laity do not differ in their agreement that Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that <u>all</u> beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"



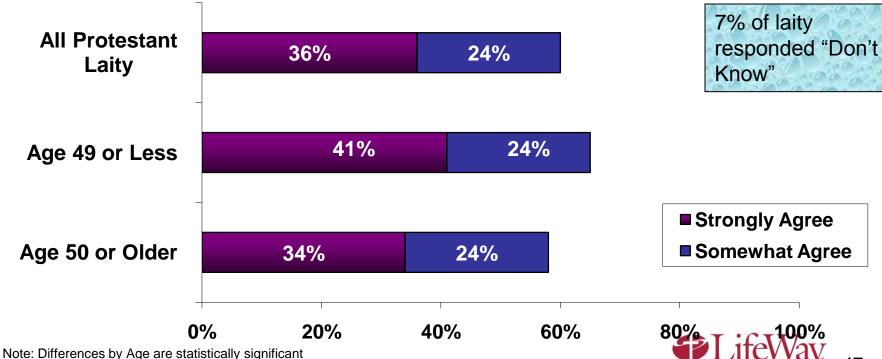
Note: Differences between males vs. females are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Age

More younger laity agree Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that <u>all</u> beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"

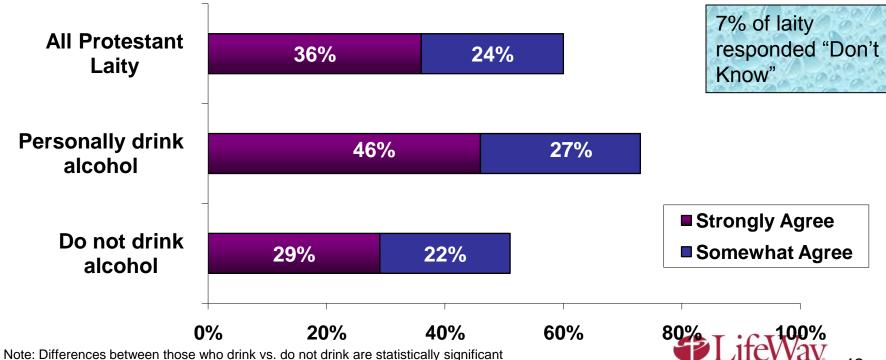


Protestant Laity by Behavior

More laity who personally drink alcohol agree Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that <u>all</u> beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"

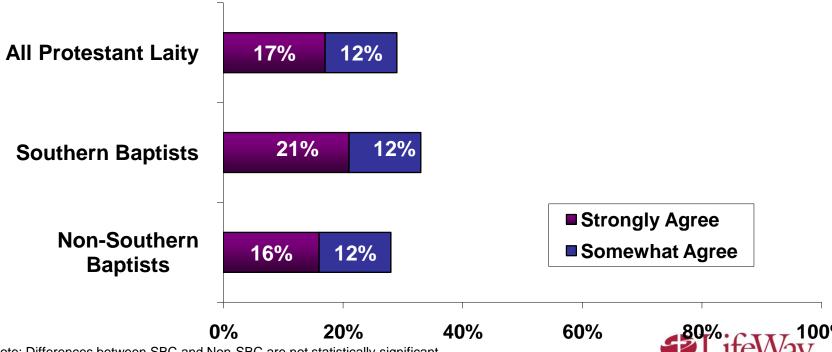


Protestant Laity by Denomination

Both SBC and Non-SBC laity have a low level of agreement that Scripture indicates people should never drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol"



Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are not statistically significant

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Protestant Laity by Gender

Both male and female laity have a low level of agreement that Scripture indicates people should never drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol"



Note: Differences between males vs. females are not statistically significant

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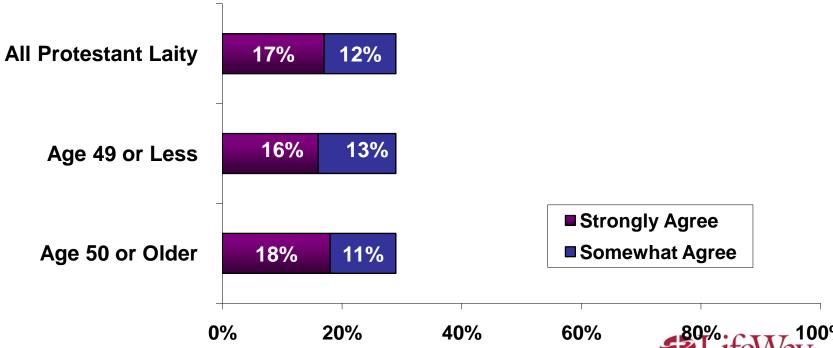
Biblical Solutions for Life

Protestant Laity by Age

Both older and younger laity have a low level of agreement that Scripture indicates people should never drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol"



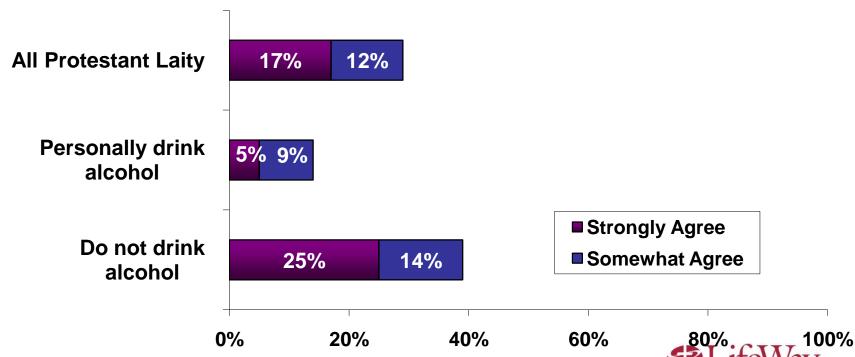
Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Behavior

Although still a minority, more laity who do not drink agree Scripture indicates people should never drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol"



Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

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Biblical Solutions for Life

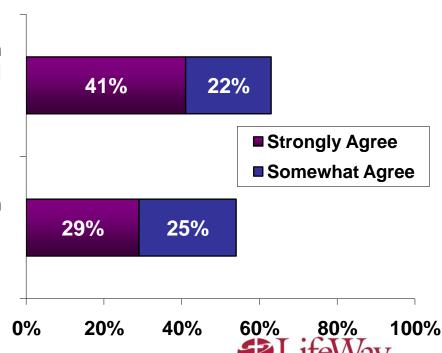
Protestant Laity

Half of laity agree Christians are at liberty to drink alcohol, but 63% agree social drinking can cause others to stumble

Protestant laity agreement with statements about Christians partaking of alcohol

When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused

When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty



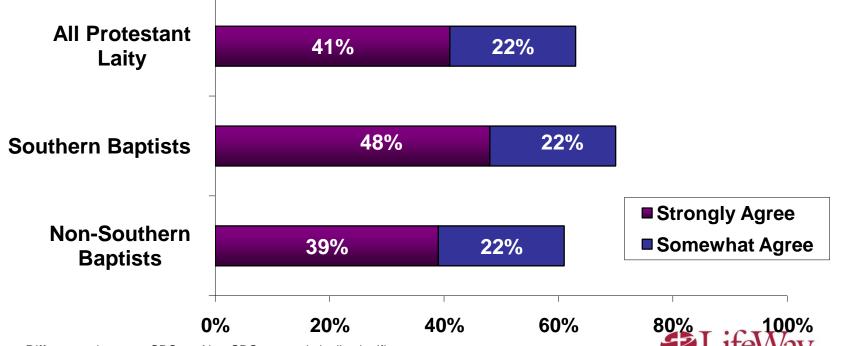
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Protestant Laity by Denomination

More laity who are Southern Baptist agree social drinking can cause other believers to stumble

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused"



Note: Differences between SBC vs. Non-SBC are statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Gender

Male and female laity do not differ in their agreement that social drinking can cause other believers to stumble

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused"



Note: Differences between males vs. females are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Age

Older and younger laity do not differ in their agreement that social drinking can cause other believers to stumble

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused"



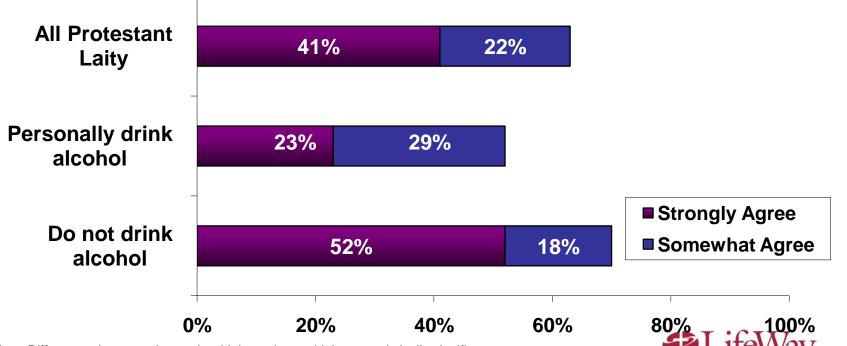
Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Behavior

More laity who do not drink alcohol agree social drinking can cause other believers to stumble

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused"



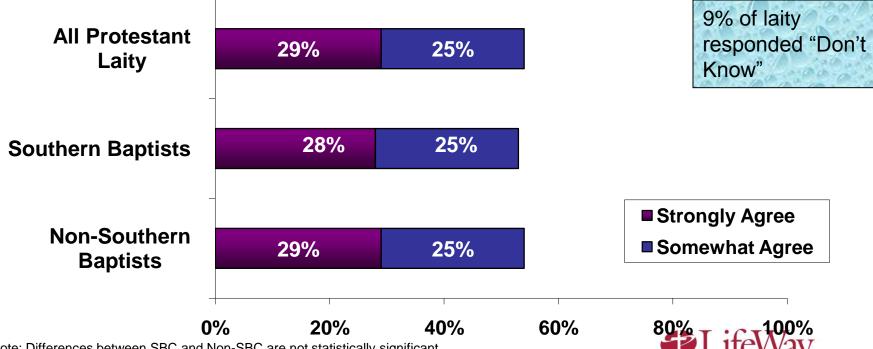
Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Denomination

SBC and Non-SBC laity do not differ in their agreement that reasonable consumption is a biblical liberty

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty"



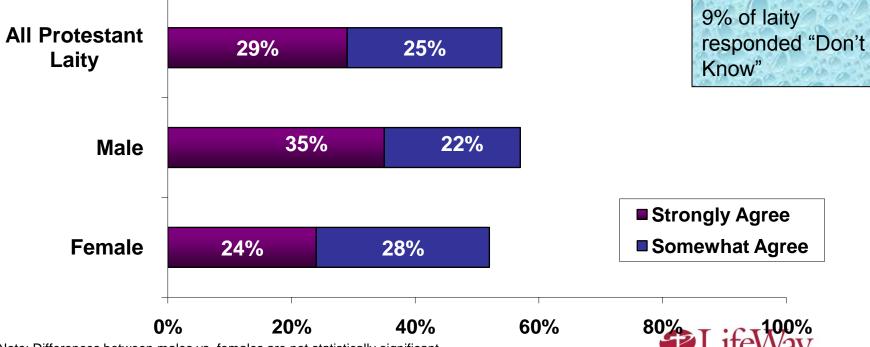
Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Gender

Male and female laity do not differ in their agreement that reasonable consumption is a biblical liberty

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty"



Note: Differences between males vs. females are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Age

Older and younger laity do not differ in their agreement that reasonable consumption is a biblical liberty

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty"



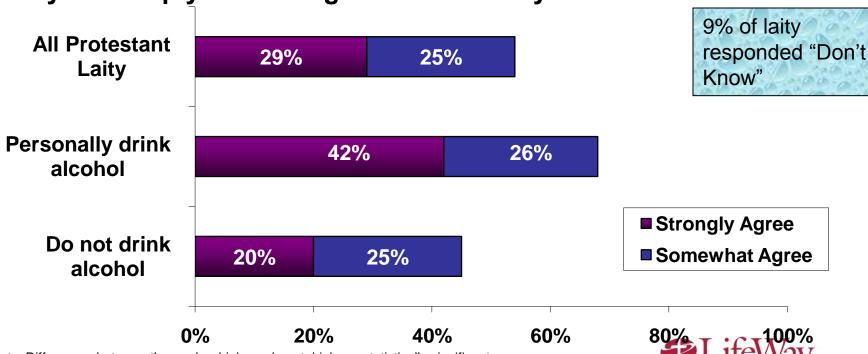
Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Behavior

More laity who drink alcohol agree reasonable consumption is a biblical liberty

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty"

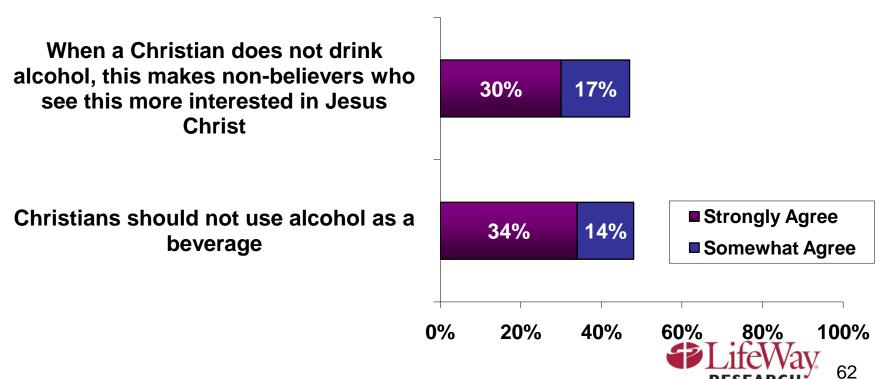


Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

Protestant Laity

Almost half of laity agree Christians should not drink and that abstaining may attract non-believers to Jesus Christ

Protestant laity agreement with statements about Christians abstaining from alcohol

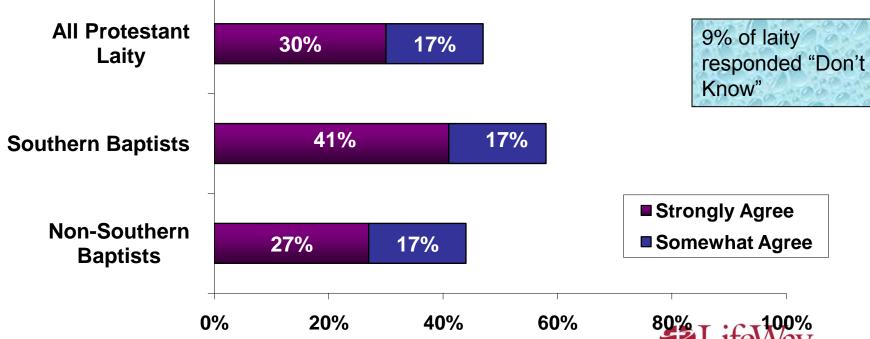


Protestant Laity by Denomination

More laity who are Southern Baptist agree not drinking alcohol attracts non-believers to Jesus Christ

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian does <u>not</u> drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this <u>more</u> interested in Jesus Christ"



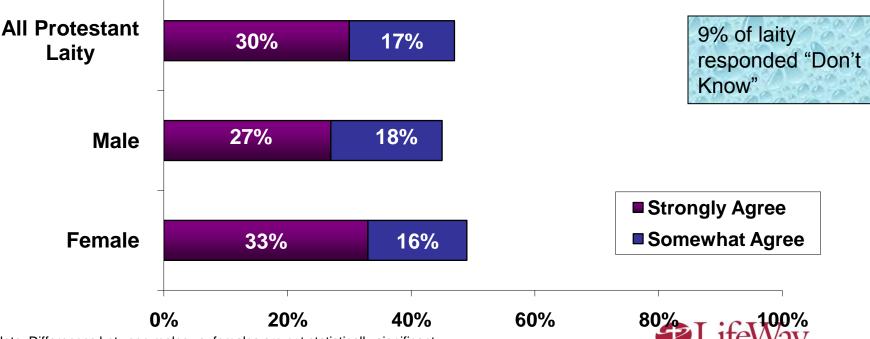
Note: Differences between SBC vs. Non-SBC are statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Gender

Male and female laity do not differ in their agreement that not drinking alcohol attracts non-believers to Jesus Christ

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian does <u>not</u> drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this <u>more</u> interested in Jesus Christ"



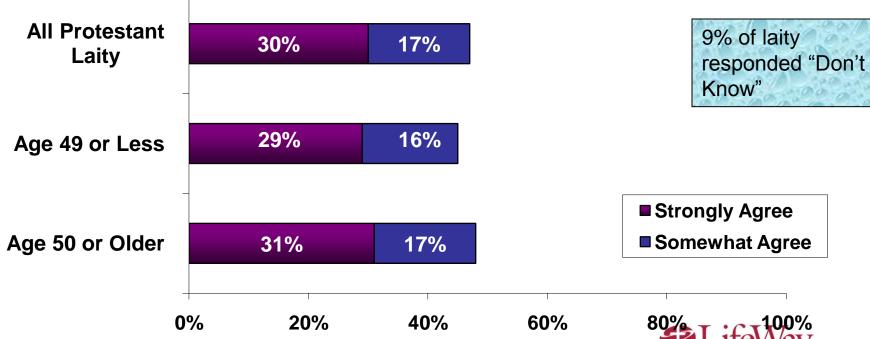
Note: Differences between males vs. females are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Age

Older and younger laity do not differ in their agreement that not drinking alcohol attracts non-believers to Jesus Christ

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian does <u>not</u> drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this <u>more</u> interested in Jesus Christ"



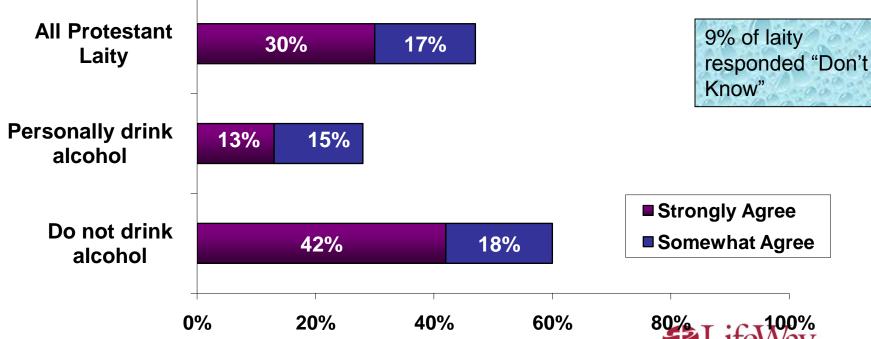
Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Behavior

More laity who do not drink alcohol agree not drinking alcohol attracts non-believers to Jesus Christ

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"When a Christian does <u>not</u> drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this <u>more</u> interested in Jesus Christ"



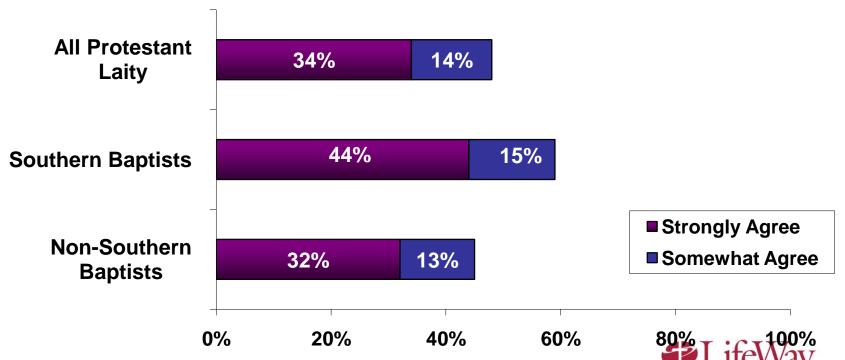
Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Denomination

More laity who are Southern Baptist agree Christians should not drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage"



Protestant Laity by Gender

Male and female laity do not differ in their agreement that Christians should not drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage"



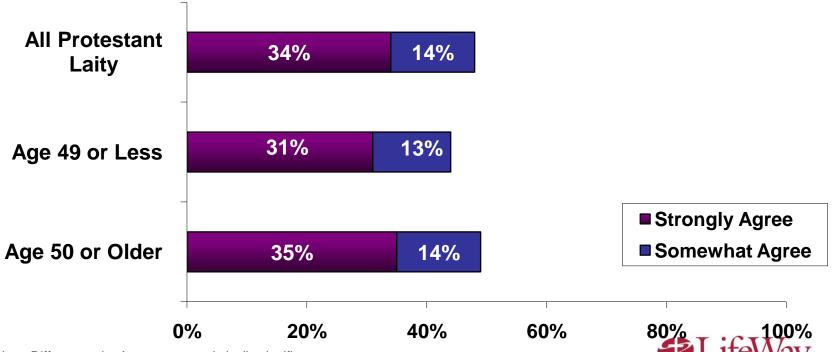
Note: Differences between males vs. females are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Age

Older and younger laity do not differ in their agreement that Christians should not drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage"



Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

Protestant Laity by Behavior

More laity who do not drink alcohol agree Christians should not drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement:

"Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage"



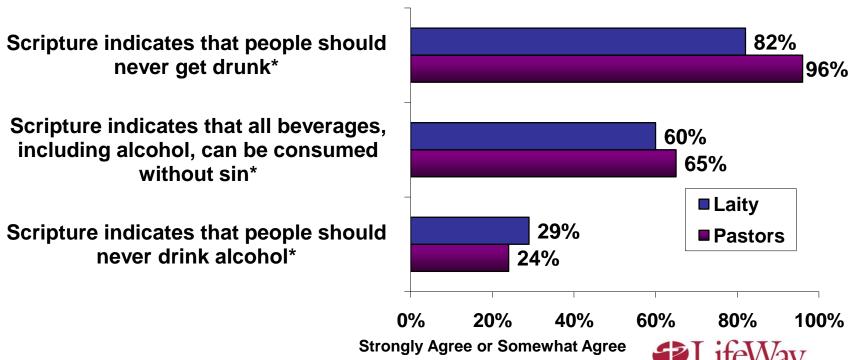
Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant

RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

Differences Between Pastors and Laity

More senior pastors than laity agree Scripture forbids getting drunk, but more laity agree people should never drink alcohol

Differences between senior pastors and laity agreement about Scripture's view of alcohol

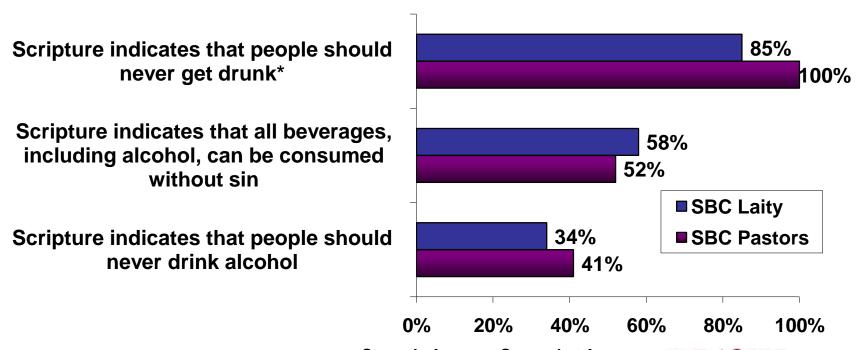


^{*}Difference between senior pastors and laity is statistically significant
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree

Differences SBC Pastors vs. Laity

Fewer Southern Baptist laity than senior pastors agree Scripture forbids getting drunk

Differences between senior pastors and laity agreement about Scripture's view of alcohol



Strongly Agree or Somewhat Agree



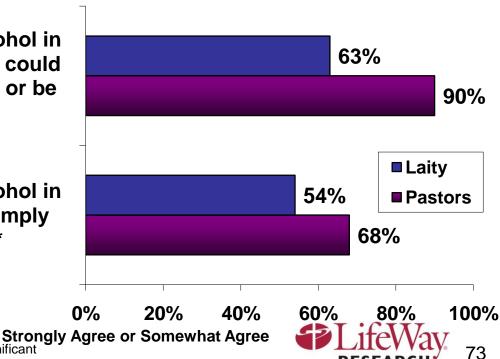
Differences Between Pastors and Laity

More senior pastors than laity agree Christians are at liberty to drink alcohol and that it can cause others to stumble

Differences between senior pastors and laity agreement about Christians partaking of alcohol

When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused*

When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty*



Biblical Solutions for Life

*Difference between senior pastors and laity is statistically significant

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree

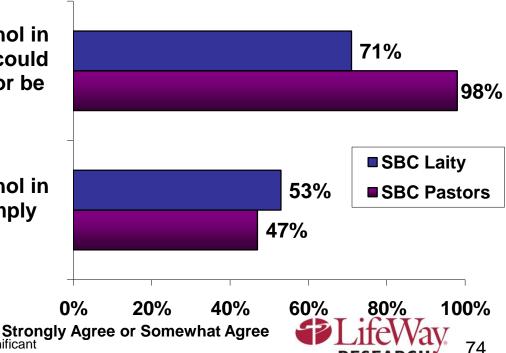
Differences SBC Pastors vs. Laity

Southern Baptist senior pastors are much more likely than laity to agree social drinking could cause others to stumble

Differences between senior pastors and laity agreement about Christians partaking of alcohol

When a Christian partakes of alcohol in a social setting, it is a liberty that could cause other believers to stumble or be confused*

When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty



Biblical Solutions for Life

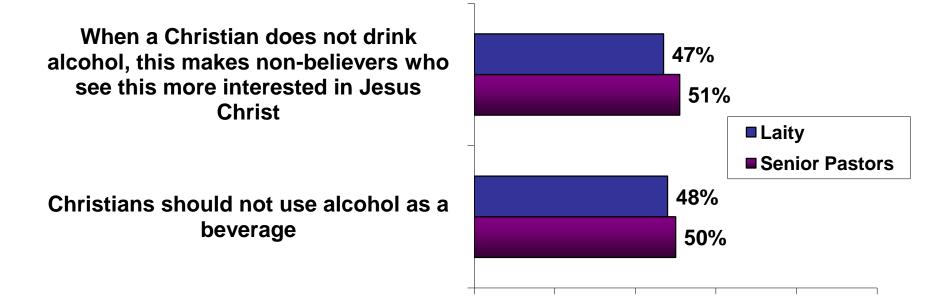
*Difference between senior pastors and laity is statistically significant

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree

Differences Between Pastors and Laity

Similar percentages of senior pastors and laity agree that Christians should not drink

Differences between senior pastors and laity agreement with Christians abstaining from alcohol



0%

20%

40%

60%

80%

Biblical Solutions for Life

100%

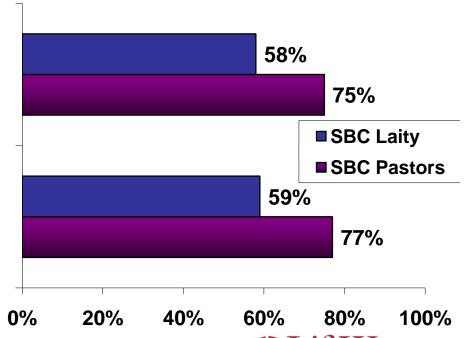
Differences SBC Pastors vs. Laity

Southern Baptist senior pastors are much more likely than laity to agree that Christians should not drink

Differences between senior pastors and laity agreement with Christians abstaining from alcohol

When a Christian does not drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ*

Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage*



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SBC Seminary Graduates

Fewer SBC seminary graduates "strongly agree" but a similar number who work in the SBC agree that Christians should not drink

Southern Baptist agreement with the statement:

"Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage"

