Perceptions of Alcohol
-- Protestant Pastors and Laity --

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life

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 ±4.9%) and SBC laity (sample size 205-max. sampling error ±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
Do you personally drink alcohol?

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

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.
Senior Pastors by Denomination

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

Note: Difference between SBC vs. Non-SBC is statistically significant.

Do you personally drink alcohol?
Older pastors are just as likely to drink alcohol as younger Protestant pastors.

Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant.

Do you personally drink alcohol?
Southern Baptist laity are less likely to drink alcohol than non-SBC laity.

Protestant Laity by Denomination

Note: Difference between SBC vs. Non-SBC is statistically significant

Do you personally drink alcohol?
Older laity are less likely to drink alcohol than younger laity

Note: Differences by Age are statistically significant

Do you personally drink alcohol?
Similar to trends among all Americans, Protestant men are more likely to drink alcohol than Protestant women.

Note: Differences by Gender are statistically significant.

Do you personally drink alcohol?
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**: 91% Strongly Agree, 5% Somewhat Agree
- **Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin**: 33% Strongly Agree, 32% Somewhat Agree
- **Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol**: 15% Strongly Agree, 9% Somewhat Agree

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
Senior Pastors by Denomination

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”

### Senior pastor agreement with the statement: “Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk”

- **All Senior Pastors**: 91% Strongly Agree, 5% Somewhat Agree
- **Southern Baptists**: 98% Strongly Agree, 1% Somewhat Agree
- **Non-Southern Baptists**: 90% Strongly Agree, 6% Somewhat Agree

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

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

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

- **All Senior Pastors**:
  - Strongly Agree: 91%
  - Somewhat Agree: 5%

- **Personally drink alcohol**:
  - Strongly Agree: 80%
  - Somewhat Agree: 11%

- **Do not drink alcohol**:
  - Strongly Agree: 94%
  - Somewhat Agree: 4%

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 non-Southern Baptist agree Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol.

Senior pastor agreement with the statement: “Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin”

- **All Senior Pastors**: 33% Strongly Agree, 32% Somewhat Agree
- **Southern Baptists**: 20% Strongly Agree, 32% Somewhat Agree
- **Non-Southern Baptists**: 35% Strongly Agree, 33% Somewhat Agree

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

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
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 all 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 all beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin”

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

Note: Differences between those who drink vs. do not drink are statistically significant.
Senior Pastors by Denomination

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”

Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant

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

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

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
Senior Pastors by Denomination

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

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

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

Note: Differences by Age are statistically significant

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

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*”

![Bar chart showing percentages of senior pastors who strongly agree and somewhat agree with the statement for those who drink vs. do not drink alcohol.]

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.
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.

- When a Christian does not drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ (23% strongly agree, 27% somewhat agree).
- Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage (33% strongly agree, 17% somewhat agree).

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
Senior Pastors by Denomination

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 not drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Senior Pastors</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Baptists</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Southern Baptists</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8% of pastors responded “Don’t Know”

Note: Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are statistically significant
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree
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 not drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ”

- **All Senior Pastors**: 23% Strongly Agree, 27% Somewhat Agree
- **Age 49 or Less**: 21% Strongly Agree, 31% Somewhat Agree
- **Age 50 or Older**: 25% Strongly Agree, 25% Somewhat Agree

8% of pastors responded “Don’t Know”

Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant.
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 not drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ”

All Senior Pastors

- Strongly Agree: 23%
- Somewhat Agree: 27%
- 8% responded “Don’t Know”

Personally drink alcohol

- Strongly Agree: 10%

Do not drink alcohol

- Strongly Agree: 29%
- Somewhat Agree: 32%

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 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

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

Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant

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

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

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: 69% Strongly Agree, 13% Somewhat Agree
- Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin: 36% Strongly Agree, 24% Somewhat Agree
- Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol: 17% Strongly Agree, 12% Somewhat Agree

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Protestant Laity</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Baptists</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Southern Baptists</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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.”

- All Protestant Laity: 69% Strongly Agree, 13% Somewhat Agree
- Male: 65% Strongly Agree, 14% Somewhat Agree
- Female: 71% Strongly Agree, 13% Somewhat Agree

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Protestant Laity</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personally drink alcohol</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not drink alcohol</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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 all beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin”

- All Protestant Laity: 36% Strongly Agree, 24% Somewhat Agree
- Southern Baptists: 35% Strongly Agree, 23% Somewhat Agree
- Non-Southern Baptists: 36% Strongly Agree, 25% Somewhat Agree

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.
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 all beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin”

- All Protestant Laity: 36% strongly agree, 24% somewhat agree.
- Male: 39% strongly agree, 24% somewhat agree.
- Female: 34% strongly agree, 25% somewhat agree.

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

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
More younger laity agree Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcohol

Protestant laity agreement with the statement: 
“Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Protestants</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 49 or Less</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 50 or Older</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7% of laity responded “Don’t Know”

Note: Differences by Age are statistically significant
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree
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 all 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
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

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.”

Differences between SBC and Non-SBC are not statistically significant.

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

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

- All Protestant Laity: 17% Strongly Agree, 12% Somewhat Agree
- Age 49 or Less: 16% Strongly Agree, 13% Somewhat Agree
- Age 50 or Older: 18% Strongly Agree, 11% Somewhat Agree

Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant.
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

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

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

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Biblical Solutions for Life®
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”

All Protestant Laity

- Strongly Agree: 41%
- Somewhat Agree: 22%

Southern Baptists

- Strongly Agree: 48%
- Somewhat Agree: 22%

Non-Southern Baptists

- Strongly Agree: 39%
- Somewhat Agree: 22%

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

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

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

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

All Protestant Laity

- Strongly Agree: 41%
- Somewhat Agree: 22%

Male

- Strongly Agree: 37%
- Somewhat Agree: 24%

Female

- Strongly Agree: 44%
- Somewhat Agree: 21%
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.
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”

- All Protestant Laity: 41% Strongly Agree, 22% Somewhat Agree
- Personally drink alcohol: 23% Strongly Agree, 29% Somewhat Agree
- Do not drink alcohol: 52% Strongly Agree, 18% Somewhat Agree

Notes:
- 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
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.
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.
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.

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

- **All Protestant Laity**
  - Strongly Agree: 29%
  - Somewhat Agree: 25%

- **Personally drink alcohol**
  - Strongly Agree: 42%
  - Somewhat Agree: 26%

- **Do not drink alcohol**
  - Strongly Agree: 20%
  - Somewhat Agree: 25%

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
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:

- **When a Christian does not drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ**
  - 30% Strongly Agree
  - 17% Somewhat Agree

- **Christians should not use alcohol as a beverage**
  - 34% Strongly Agree
  - 14% Somewhat Agree

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.
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 not drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ*”

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

For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree
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 **not** drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this **more** interested in Jesus Christ”

Note: Differences between males vs. females are not statistically significant.
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 not drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ”

- All Protestant Laity: 30% Strongly Agree, 17% Somewhat Agree
- Age 49 or Less: 29% Strongly Agree, 16% Somewhat Agree
- Age 50 or Older: 31% Strongly Agree, 17% Somewhat Agree

9% of laity responded “Don’t Know”

Note: Differences by Age are not statistically significant.
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 **not** drink alcohol, this makes non-believers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ.”

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 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”

- **All Protestant Laity**
  - Strongly Agree: 34%
  - Somewhat Agree: 14%

- **Southern Baptists**
  - Strongly Agree: 44%
  - Somewhat Agree: 15%

- **Non-Southern Baptists**
  - Strongly Agree: 32%
  - Somewhat Agree: 13%

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

- All Protestant Laity: 34% Strongly Agree, 14% Somewhat Agree
- Male: 31% Strongly Agree, 14% Somewhat Agree
- Female: 37% Strongly Agree, 13% Somewhat Agree

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

- **All Protestant Laity**: 34% Strongly Agree, 14% Somewhat Agree
- **Age 49 or Less**: 31% Strongly Agree, 13% Somewhat Agree
- **Age 50 or Older**: 35% Strongly Agree, 14% Somewhat Agree

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”

- All Protestant Laity:
  - Strongly Agree: 34%
  - Somewhat Agree: 14%

- Personally drink alcohol:
  - Strongly Agree: 12%
  - Somewhat Agree: 11%

- Do not drink alcohol:
  - Strongly Agree: 49%
  - Somewhat Agree: 15%

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 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

**Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk***
- Laity: 96%
- Pastors: 82%

**Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin***
- Laity: 65%
- Pastors: 60%

**Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol***
- Laity: 24%
- Pastors: 29%

*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

- Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk*
  - 85% (SBC Laity) vs. 100% (SBC Pastors)
- Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol, can be consumed without sin
  - 58% (SBC Laity) vs. 52% (SBC Pastors)
- Scripture indicates that people should never drink alcohol
  - 34% (SBC Laity) vs. 41% (SBC Pastors)

*Difference between senior pastors and laity is statistically significant

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

*Difference between senior pastors and laity is statistically significant

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

*Difference between senior pastors and laity is statistically significant.
Similar percentages of senior pastors and laity agree that Christians should not drink alcohol as a beverage.

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

Differences between senior pastors and laity agreement with Christians abstaining from alcohol are not statistically significant.
Southern Baptist senior pastors are much more likely than laity to agree that Christians should not drink 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*

*Differences between senior pastors and laity is statistically significant

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

Note: Difference in agreement between senior pastors and All SBC seminary graduates is statistically significant
For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree