# Perceptions of Alcohol <br> -- 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 $\pm 3.1 \%$
- Breakouts of totals are provided for Southern Baptist (SBC) senior pastors (sample size 405max. sampling error $\pm 4.9 \%$ ) and SBC laity (sample size 205-max. sampling error $\pm 6.9 \%$ )
- 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
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## 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


## Senior Pastors by Denomination

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


RESEARCH

# Perceptions of Alcohol Among <br> Protestant Senior Pastors 

t LifeWay

## 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



## Senior Pastors by Denomination

 More pastors who are Southern Baptist agree Scripture indicates people should never get drunkSenior pastor agreement with the statement:
"Scripture indicates that people should never get drunk"


## 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"


## 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"


## Senior Pastors by Denomination

## More pastors who are non-Southern Baptist

 agree Scripture indicates it is not a sin to drink alcoholSenior pastor agreement with the statement: "Scripture indicates that all beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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


## Senior Pastors by Denomination

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


## 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"


## 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"


## Senior Pastors by Denomination

 More pastors who are non-Southern Baptist agree reasonable consumption is a biblical libertySenior pastor agreement with the statement: "When a Christian partakes of alcohol in reasonable amounts, they are simply exercising a biblical liberty"


## Senior Pastors by Age

## More younger pastors agree reasonable consumption is a biblical liberty



## 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"


## 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


## Senior Pastors by Denomination

 More pastors who are Southern Baptist agree not drinking alcohol attracts nonbelievers to Jesus ChristSenior pastor agreement with the statement:
"When a Christian does not drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ"


## 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 not drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ"


## 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 nonbelievers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ"


## Senior Pastors by Denomination

## 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"


## 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"


## 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


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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 all beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"


## 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 all beverages, including alcohol can be consumed without sin"


## 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 all 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 all 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"



## Protestant Laity

## Almost half of laity agree Christians should not drink and that abstaining may attract non-believers to Jesus Christ <br> 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 not drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ"


## 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 not drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ"


## 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 not drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ"


## 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 not drink alcohol, this makes nonbelievers who see this more interested in Jesus Christ"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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"


## 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

## 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



## 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


## Differences SBC Pastors vs. Laity

## Southern Baptist senior pastors are much more likely than laity to agree social drinking could cause others to stumble <br> Differences between senior pastors and laity agreement about Christians partaking of alcohol



## 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


## 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


## 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"


