

Pastor Views on Divorce

Survey of 1,000 Protestant Pastors

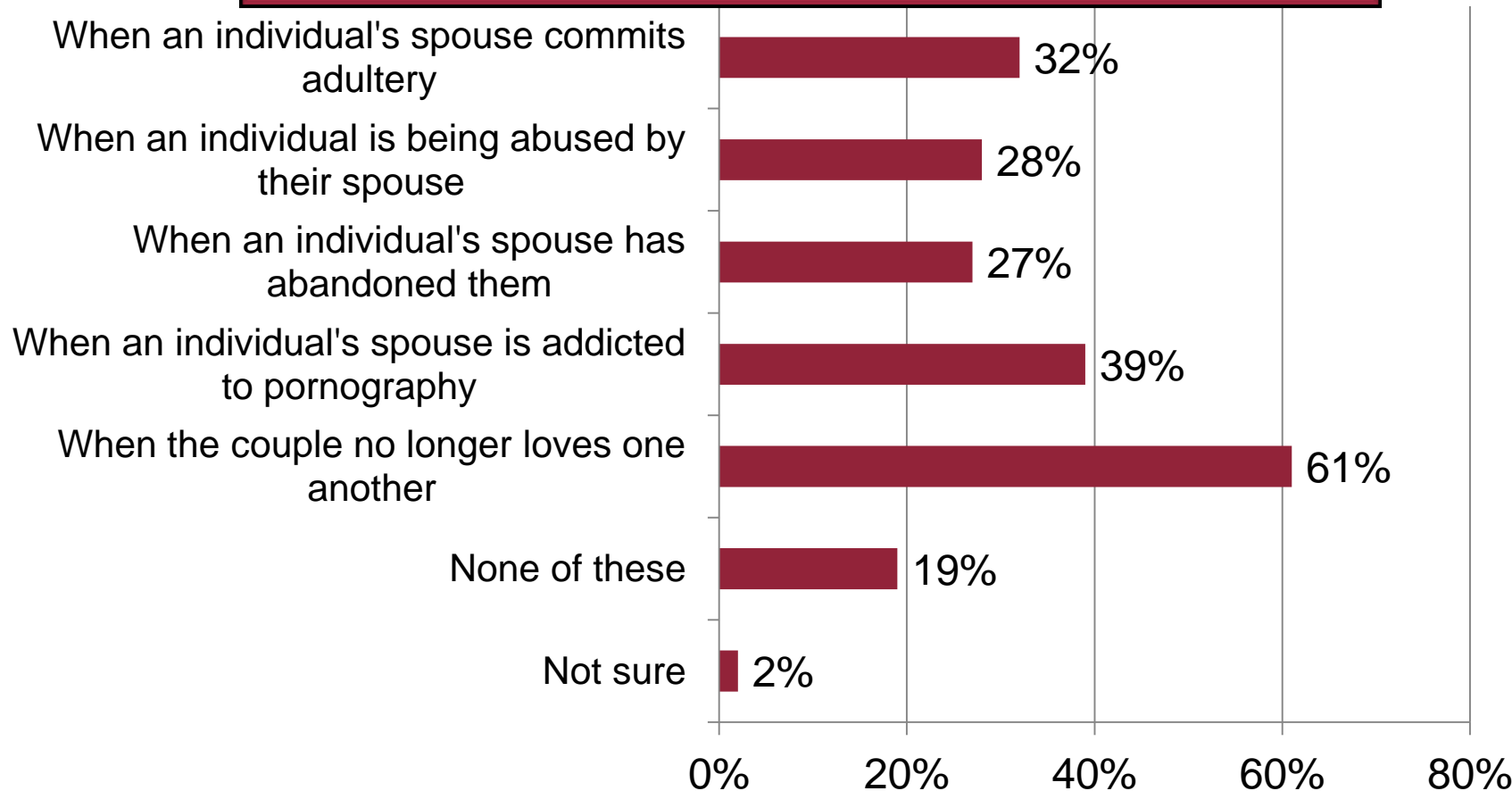
Methodology

- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted September 11-18, 2014
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample drawn from a list of all Protestant churches
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.1\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses

61% believe it is a sin to divorce when a couple no longer loves one another

Among Protestant Pastors



Q: "Do you consider divorce a sin in any of the following cases?"

Significant Differences

Church

Average Attendance
Region

Pastor

Age
Ethnicity
Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline
Education Level

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among region of the country, age, average attendance, and education level.

Region	Attendance	Age	Education Level
Northeast	0-49	18-44	No College Degree
Midwest	50-99	45-54	Bachelor's
South	100-249	55-64	Master's (including M.Div)
West	250+	65+	Doctorate (including Ph.D, D.min)

Note: Region is defined by US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity and those self-identifying as Evangelical or Mainline.

Pastor's Ethnicity	Self-Identify
African-American	Evangelical
White, non-Hispanic	Mainline

Note: Additional ethnic groups were identified, but did not have sufficient sample size for comparison

“Do you consider divorce a sin in any of the following cases?”

“When an individual’s spouse commits adultery”

- Pastors in churches 0-49 (36%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than churches 100-249 (28%)
- Those age 65+ (48%) are most likely to answer “Yes”
- Those age 18-44 (24%) are less likely to answer “Yes” than those age 55-64 (33%)
- African-American pastors (52%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than White pastors (30%)
- Those with a doctoral degree (42%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than those with a Bachelor’s (26%) or Master’s (31%)

“When an individual is being abused by their spouse”

- Pastors in churches 0-49 (35%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than churches 100-249 (25%)
- Those age 65+ (41%) are most likely to answer “Yes”
- African-American pastors (47%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than White pastors (26%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (37%) are most likely to answer “Yes”

“Do you consider divorce a sin in any of the following cases?” continued

“When an individual’s spouse has abandoned them”

- Pastors in churches 0-49 (37%) are most likely to answer “Yes”
- Those age 65+ (41%) are most likely to answer “Yes”
- African-American pastors (44%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than White pastors (26%)
- Those with a doctoral degree (34%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than those with a Bachelor’s (24%)

“When an individual’s spouse is addicted to pornography”

- *No significant differences*

“When the couple no longer loves one another”

- Pastors in churches 50-99 (56%) are less likely to answer “Yes” than churches 100-249 (66%)
- Those age 65+ (45%) are least likely to answer “Yes” , followed by those age 55-64 (57%)
- Evangelicals (66%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than Mainlines (52%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s (69%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than those with a Master’s (58%) and those with a Doctoral degree (56%)

“Do you consider divorce a sin in any of the following cases?” continued

“None of these”

- Pastors in churches 50-99 (24%) are more likely than churches 100-249 (16%)
- Evangelicals (14%) are less likely than Mainlines (28%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (22%) are more likely than those with a Bachelor’s (13%)

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