

American Views on Sin

Representative Survey of 1,000
Americans

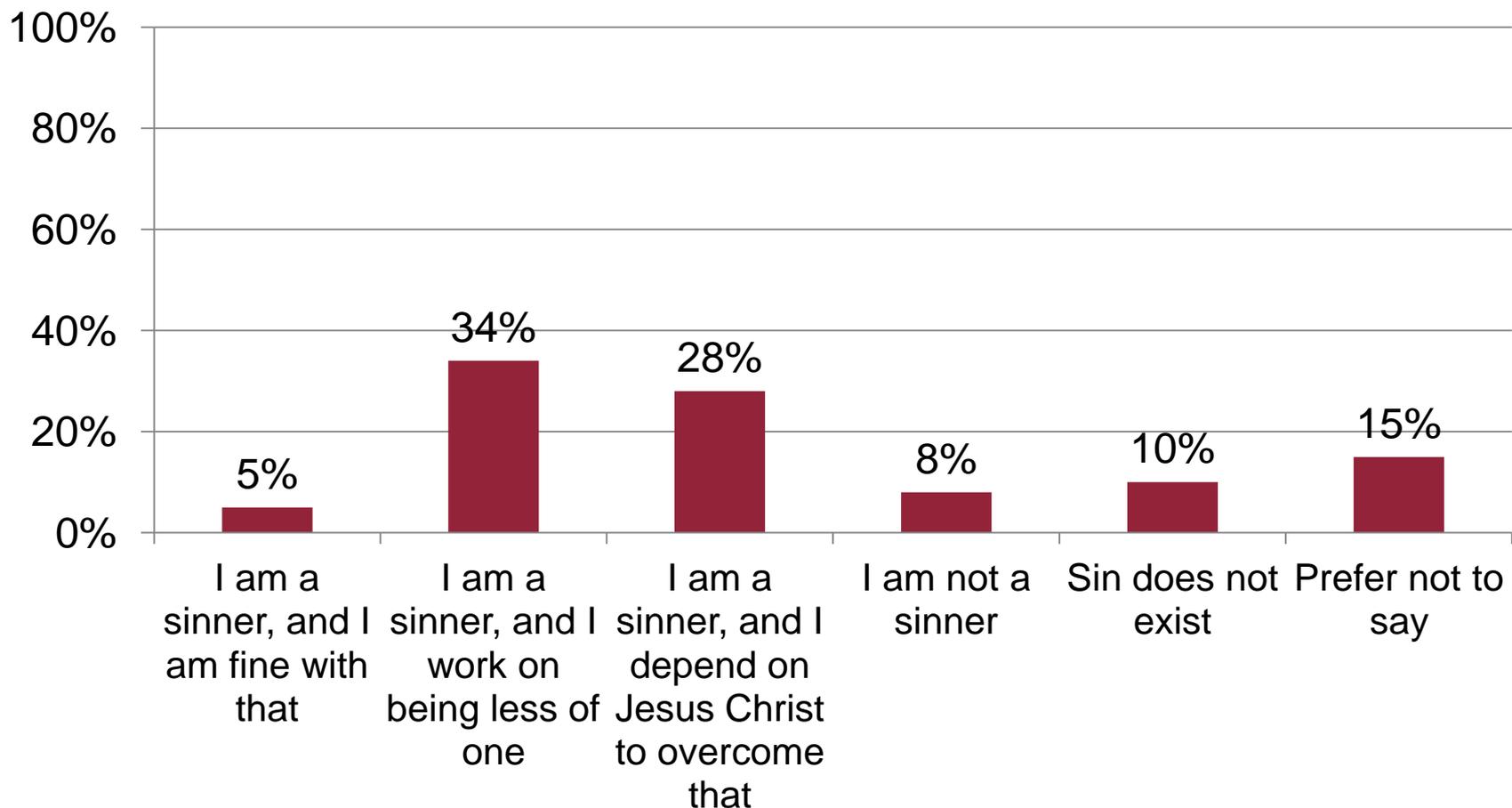
Methodology

LifeWay Research conducted the study Sept. 27 – Oct. 1, 2016. The survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, GfK provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection.

Sample stratification and weights were used for gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, metro/non-metro, education, and income to reflect the most recent US Census data. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.1 percent. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Survey Responses

34% chose “I am a sinner, and I work on being less of one; 10% do not believe sin exists



Significant Differences

Gender
Region
Age
Ethnicity
Education Level
Religious Preference
Denomination
Evangelical Beliefs
Religious Service Attendance

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, region, age, ethnicity, and education.

Gender	Region	Age	Ethnicity	Education
Male	Northeast	18-24	White, Non-Hispanic	High School graduate or less
Female	Midwest	25-34	Black, Non-Hispanic	Some college
	South	35-44	Hispanic	Bachelor's Degree
	West	45-54	Other Ethnicities	Graduate Degree
		55-64		
		65+		

Note: Region is defined by US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among religious preference, denomination, Evangelical Beliefs, and religious service attendance.

Religious Preference	Denomination	Evangelical Beliefs	Religious Service Attendance
Christian*	Catholic	Yes	Attending at least once a month
Other Religions	Protestant Christian	No	Attending less than once a month
No religion			

*includes Catholic, Protestant, Nondenominational, and Orthodox

Evangelical Beliefs

- Evangelical Beliefs are defined using the NAE LifeWay Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
 - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
 - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
 - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
 - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

“Which of the following best describes you?”

- Males (38%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I work to less of one” than females (30%)
- Females (33%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I depend on Jesus Christ to overcome that” than males (22%)
- Those in the Northeast (9%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I am fine with that” than those in the South (5%) and West (4%)
- Those in the South (34%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I depend on Jesus Christ to overcome that” than those in the Northeast (16%) and West (26%)
- Those in the Northeast (14%) and West (12%) are more likely to select “Sin does not exist” than those in the South (7%)
- Those age 25-34 are the most likely age group to select “I am a sinner, and I am fine with that” (12%)
- Those age 35-44 (39%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I work to less of one” than those 18-24 (25%)
- Those age 45-54 (35%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I depend on Jesus Christ to overcome that” than those 35-44 (21%)

“Which of the following best describes you?”

(continued)

- Those age 18-24 (16%) and 35-44 (16%) are more likely to select “Sin does not exist” than those 45-54 (6%), 55-64 (7%), and 65+ (8%)
- White, Non-Hispanics (7%) and Hispanics (6%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I am fine with that” than Black, Non-Hispanics (<1%) and Other Ethnicities (<1%)
- Other Ethnicities are the least likely ethnic group to select “I am a sinner, and I depend on Jesus Christ to overcome that” (13%)
- Other Ethnicities (18%) are more likely to select “I am not a sinner” than White, Non-Hispanics (7%) and Black, Non-Hispanics (7%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less are the least likely education category to select “Sin does not exist” (5%)
- Nonreligious (10%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I am fine with that” than Christians (3%) and Other Religions (<1%)
- Christians (38%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I work to less of one” than Nonreligious (27%)
- Christians (37%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I depend on Jesus Christ to overcome that” than Other Religions (16%) and Nonreligious (6%)

“Which of the following best describes you?”

(continued)

- Other Religions (27%) are more likely to select “I am not a sinner” than Christians (7%) and Nonreligious (6%)
- Nonreligious (32%) are more likely to select “Sin does not exist” than Christians (2%) and Other Religions (11%)
- Catholics (48%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I work to less of one” than Protestant Christians (31%)
- Protestant Christians (49%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I depend on Jesus Christ to overcome that” than Catholics (19%)
- Catholics (11%) are more likely to select “I am not a sinner” than Protestant Christians (5%)
- Catholics (5%) are more likely to select “Sin does not exist” than Protestant Christians (1%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs (1%) are less likely to select “I am a sinner, and I am fine with that” than those without Evangelical Beliefs (6%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs (16%) are less likely to select “I am a sinner, and I work to be less of one” than those without Evangelical Beliefs (38%)

“Which of the following best describes you?”

(continued)

- Those with Evangelical Beliefs (72%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I depend on Jesus Christ to overcome that” than those without Evangelical Beliefs (19%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs (<1%) are less likely to select “Sin does not exist” than those without Evangelical Beliefs (12%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more (1%) are less likely to select “I am a sinner, and I am fine with that” than those who attend a religious service less than once a month (7%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more (51%) are more likely to select “I am a sinner, and I depend on Jesus Christ to overcome that” than those who attend a religious service less than once a month (15%)
- Those who attend a religious service once a month or more (2%) are less likely to select “Sin does not exist” than those who attend a religious service less than once a month (14%)

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