Pastors’ Views on Marriage

Survey of American Protestant Pastors
Methodology

● The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 – September 24, 2019. Comparisons are made with a survey with the same methodology conducted August 29 – September 11, 2018.

● The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size.

● 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 ±3.3%

● Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
Survey Responses
24% see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married

Among Protestant Pastors

Q15: "I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married."
2019 compared with 2018

Among Protestant Pastors

Q: “I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married.”
32% see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender

Among Protestant Pastors

Q16: “I see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender.”
2019 compared with 2018

Among Protestant Pastors

Q: "I see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender."

2019 compared with 2018

2019: 22% Strongly Agree, 10% Somewhat Agree, 9% Somewhat Disagree, 54% Strongly Disagree, 5% Not Sure
2018: 18% Strongly Agree, 10% Somewhat Agree, 8% Somewhat Disagree, 58% Strongly Disagree, 6% Not Sure
Significant Differences

- Pastor
- Ethnicity
- Age
- Gender
- Education Level
- Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline Church
- Region
- Denomination
- Average Attendance
Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor’s ethnicity, age, gender, education, and self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Self-Identified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>No College Degree</td>
<td>Evangelical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>Mainline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Ethnicity</td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td></td>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church’s region, denomination, and attendance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>50-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>250+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian/Reformed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian/Church of Christ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Region is defined by US Census locations.
“I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married.”

- White pastors (27%) are more likely to “Agree” than African American pastors (15%) and pastors of Other ethnicities (6%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (27%) and 55-64 (28%) are more likely to “Agree” than pastors age 45-54 (17%)
- Female pastors are more likely to “Agree” than male pastors (59% v. 18%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (32%) or a Doctoral degree (27%) are more likely to “Agree” than those with no college degree (6%) or a Bachelor’s degree (9%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to “Agree” than Evangelical pastors (47% v. 8%)
- Pastors in the Northeast are the most likely to “Agree” (39%)
- Lutherans (35%), Methodists (47%) Presbyterian/Reformed (49%), and Christian/Church of Christ (20%) are more likely to “Agree” than Baptists (3%) and Pentecostals (1%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (33%) are more likely to “Agree” than those with attendance of 100-249 (21%) and 250+ (14%)
“I see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender.”

- White pastors (34%) are more likely to “Agree” than African American pastors (22%) and pastors of Other ethnicities (15%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (35%) and 55-64 (35%) are more likely to “Agree” than pastors age 65+ (24%)
- Female pastors are more likely to “Agree” than male pastors (64% v. 26%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (39%) or a Doctoral degree (36%) are more likely to “Agree” than those with no college degree (12%) or a Bachelor’s degree (16%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to “Agree” than Evangelical pastors (54% v. 18%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (45%) are more likely to “Agree” than those in the South (27%) and Midwest (34%)
- Lutherans (49%), Methodists (62%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (53%) are more likely to “Agree” than Baptists (6%), Pentecostals (2%), and Christian/Church of Christ (24%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (40%) and 50-99 (35%) are more likely to “Agree” than those with attendance of 100-249 (27%) and 250+ (20%)
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