

# Protestant Pastors Views on Ministry

Survey of 1,000 Protestant Pastors



# Methodology

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- ❑ The telephone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted August 17 – 24, 2011
- ❑ The calling list was randomly drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Up to six calls were made to reach a sampled phone number
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted to reflect the geographic distribution of Protestant churches

# Methodology Continued

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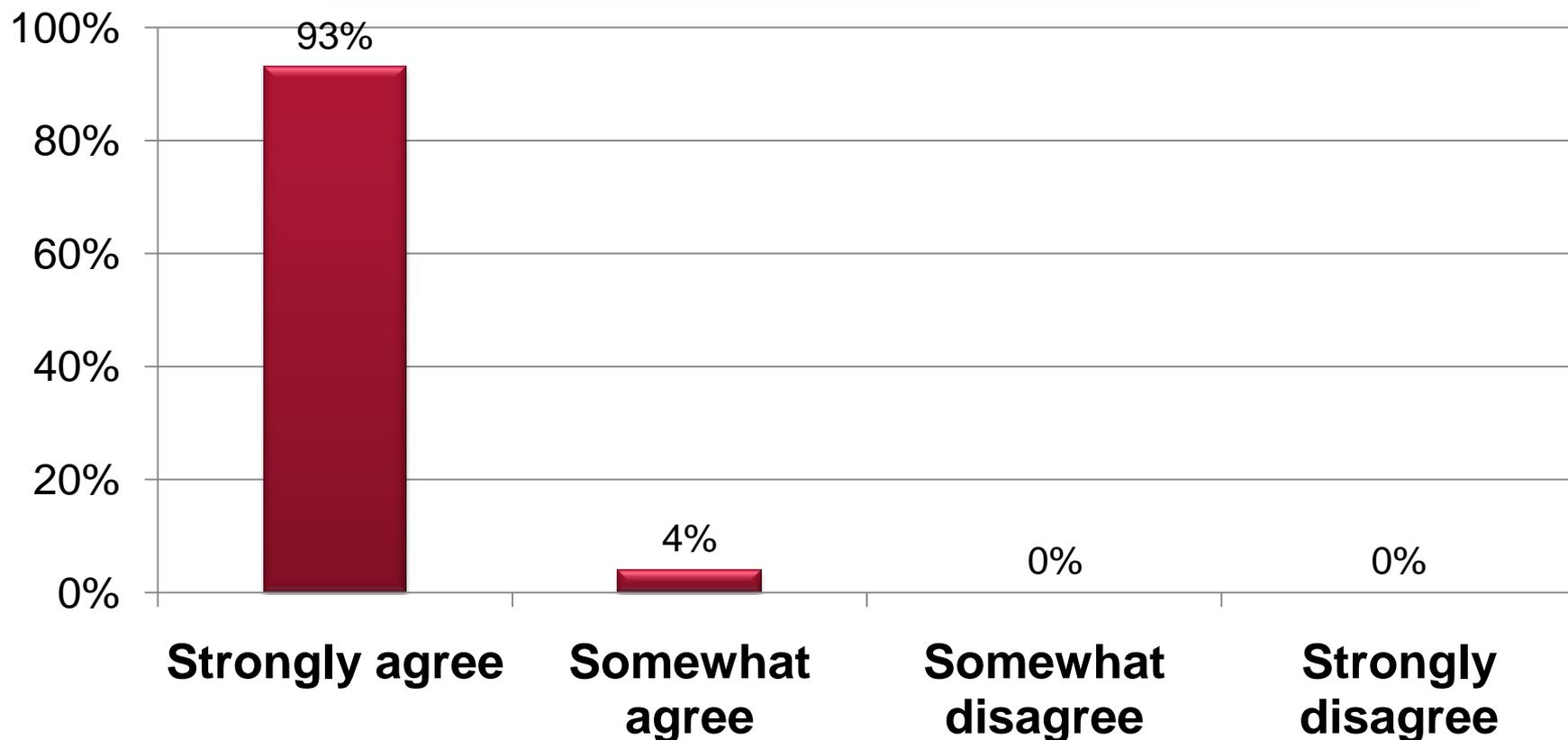
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 phone interviews
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Survey Responses

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# Pastors overwhelming feel privileged to be in their position.

## Among Protestant Pastors

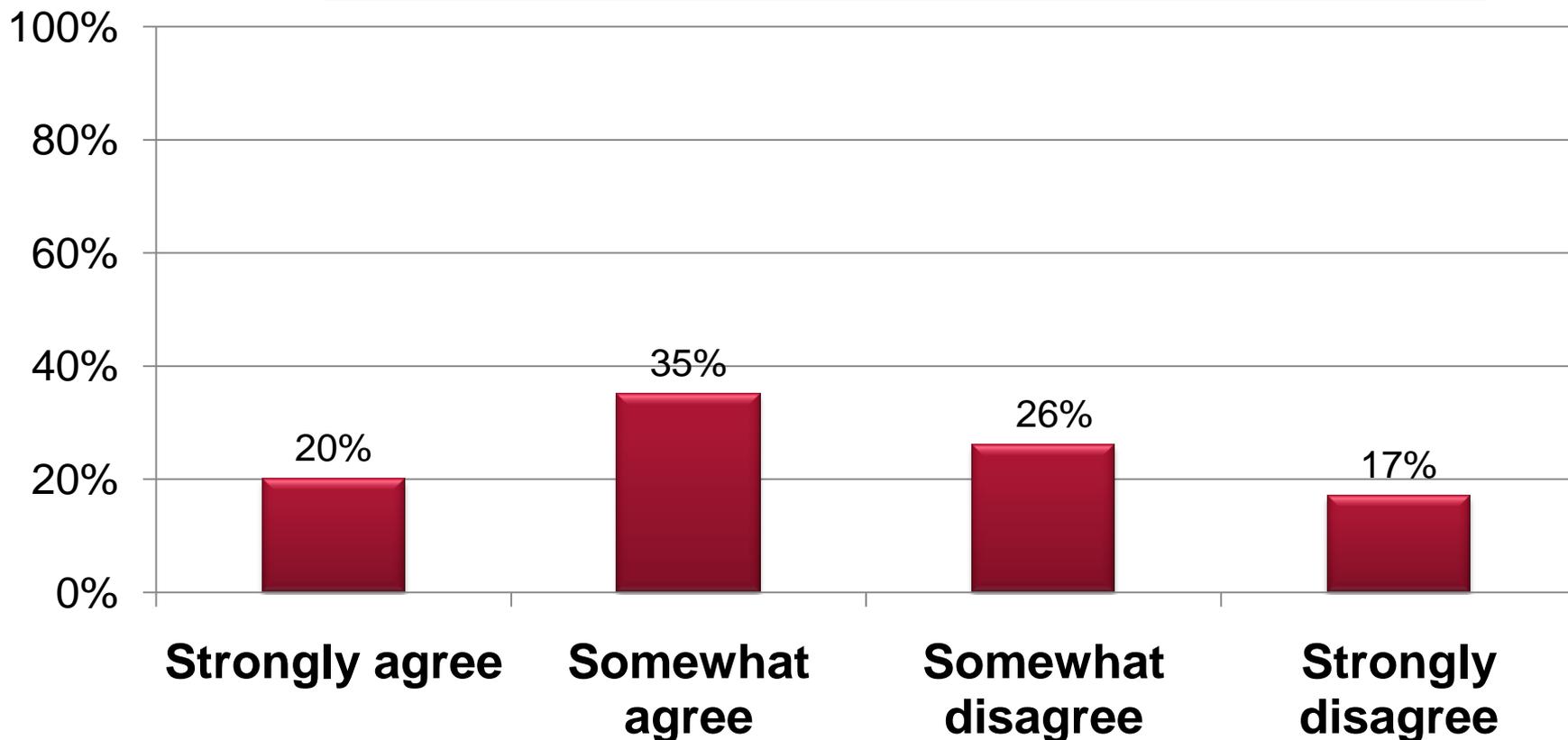


2% Not sure

Q.: "I feel privileged to be a pastor."

# Over half of pastors agree it is easy to get discouraged with 20% strongly agreeing.

## Among Protestant Pastors

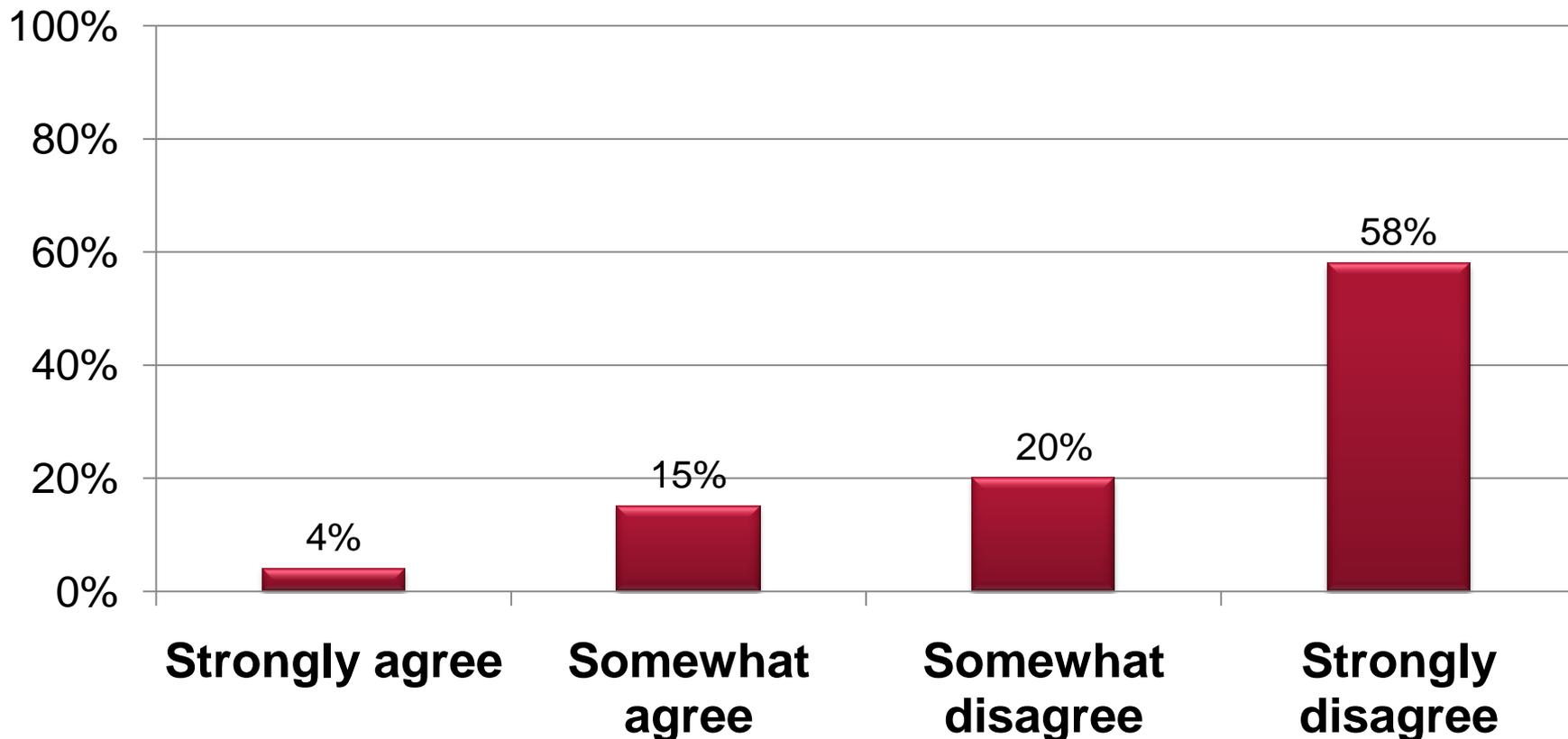


2% Not sure

Q.: "I find that it is easy to get discouraged."

# Nearly three in five pastors strongly disagree that being in ministry has had a negative effect on their family.

Among Protestant Pastors



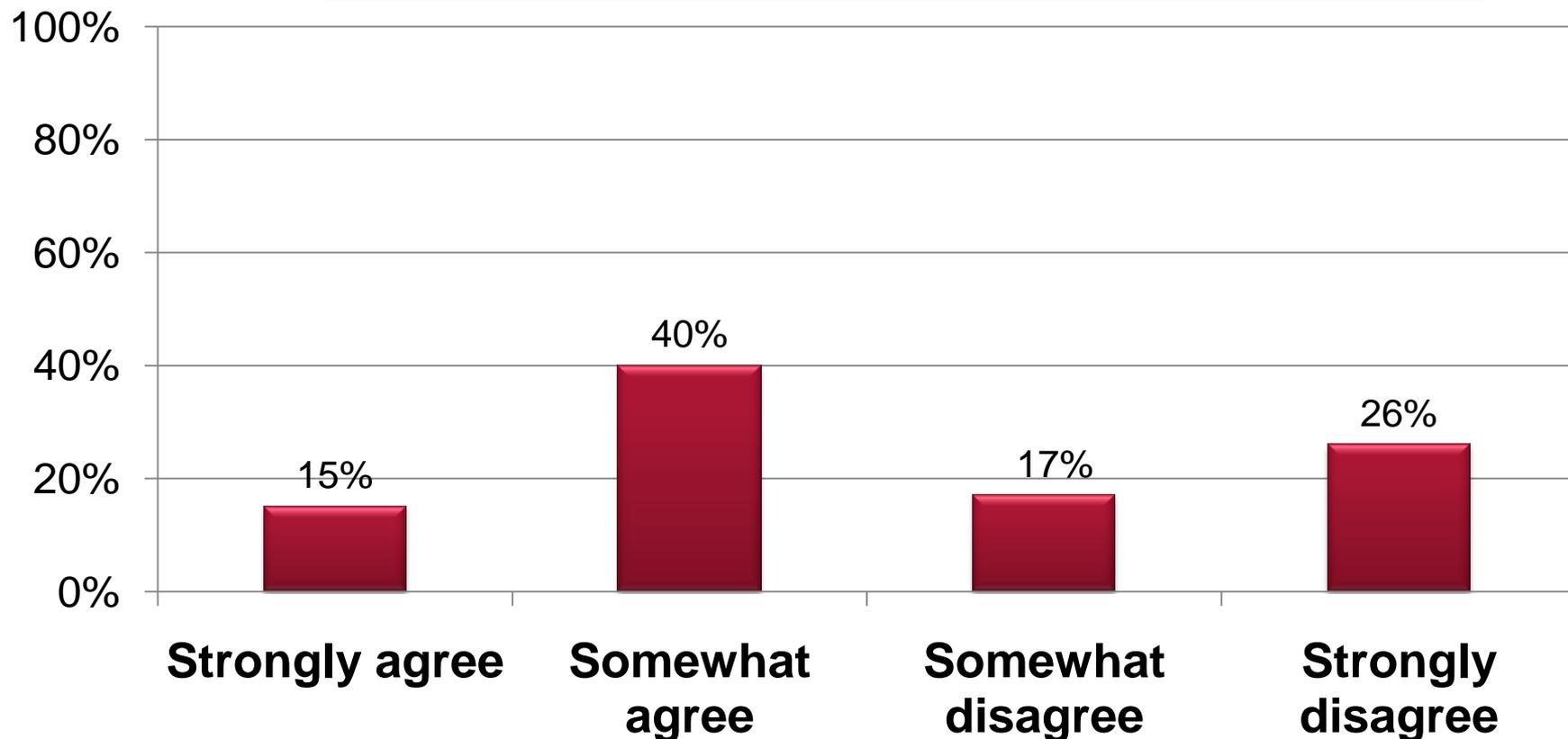
2% Not sure

Q.: "Being in ministry has had a negative effect on my family."



# The majority of pastors agree that ministry makes them feel lonely at times.

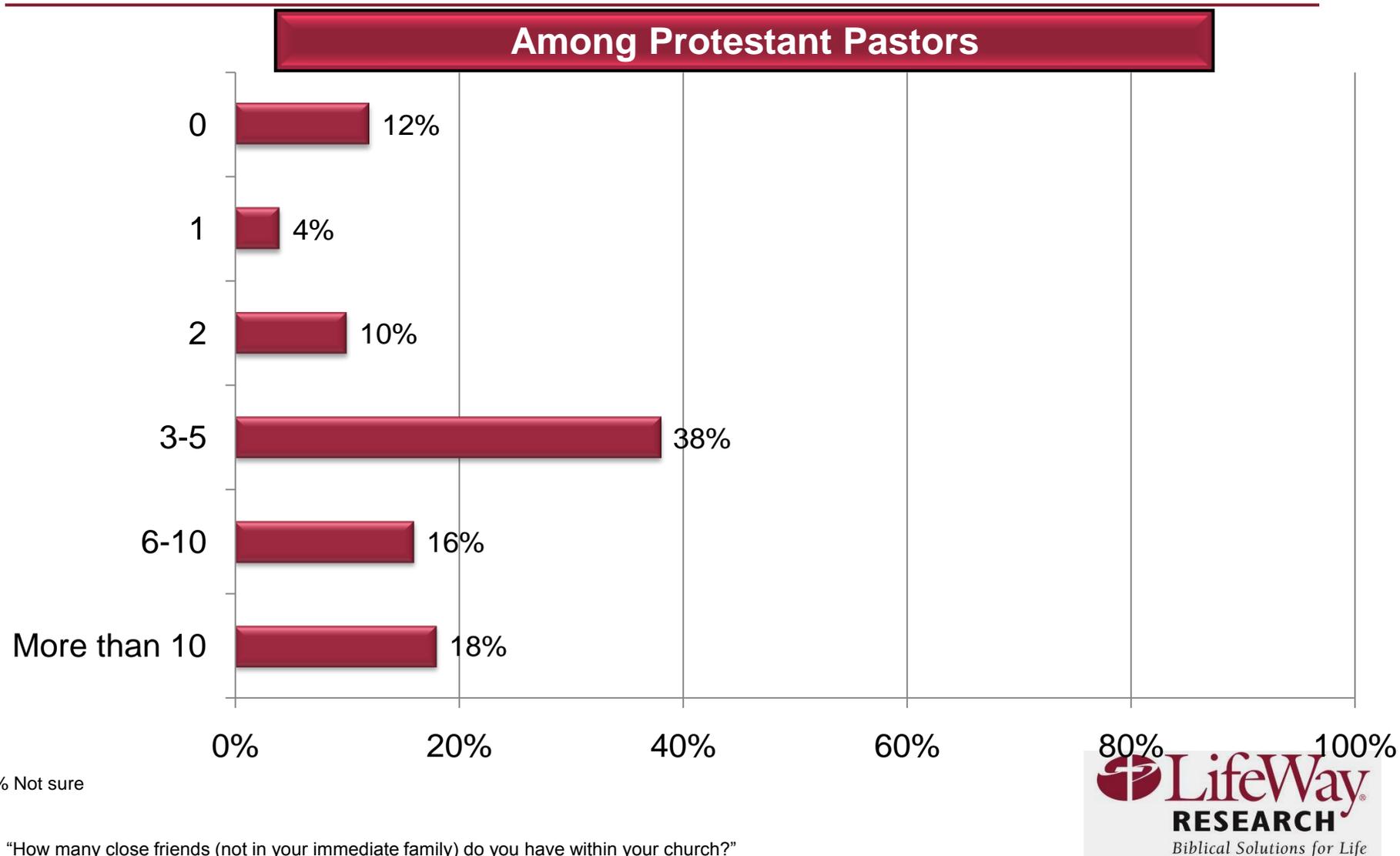
## Among Protestant Pastors



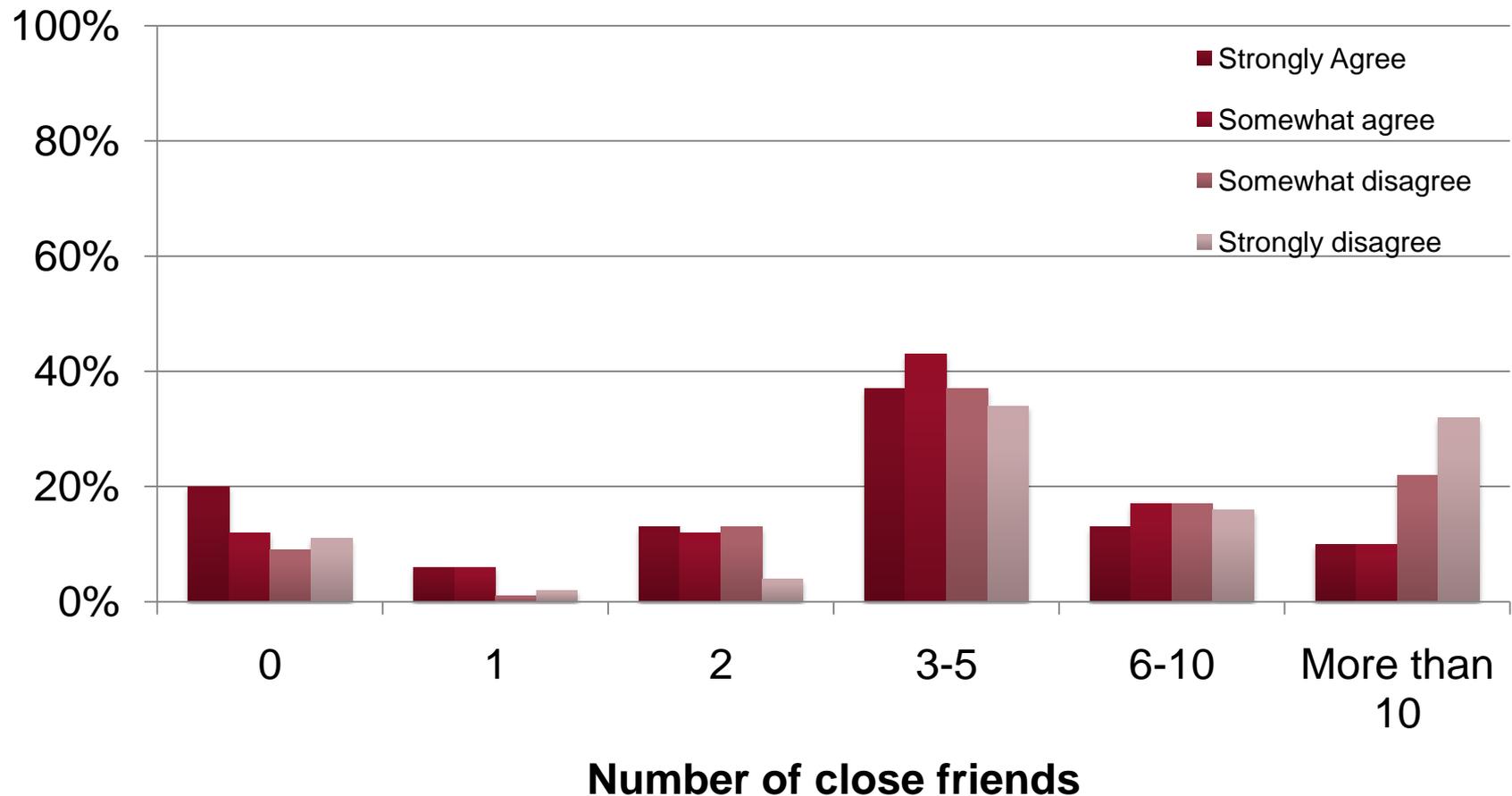
2% Not sure

Q.: "Pastoral ministry makes me feel lonely at times."

# Around two-thirds of pastors have 5 or less close friends within their church.



# Relationship between feeling lonely and number of friends.



Q.: "Pastoral ministry makes me feel lonely at times."

Q: "How many close friends (not in your immediate family) do you have within your church?"

## “I feel privileged to be a pastor.”

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- No patterns of significant differences exist by church size, pastor education, and whether the pastor indicates they are Evangelical or Mainline.
- Pastors age 65+ (1%) are less likely to somewhat agree than those age 18-44 (5%) or 45-54 (8%).
- Pastors in the West (1%) are less likely to somewhat agree than those in the Northeast (7%) or Midwest (6%).

## “I find that it is easy to get discouraged.”

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- No patterns of significant differences exist by region, church size, pastor education, and whether the pastor indicates they are Evangelical or Mainline.
- Pastors age 65+ are most likely to strongly disagree (30%). Also, pastors age 55-64 are more likely to strongly disagree (19%) than those age 18-44 (11%) and 45-54 (13%).

## “Being in ministry has had a negative effect on my family.”

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- No patterns of significant differences exist by pastor age, church size, and whether the pastor indicates they are Evangelical or Mainline.
- Pastors in the Northeast (25%) are more likely to somewhat agree than those in the South (12%) or West (11%).
- Pastors in the South (63%) are more likely to strongly disagree than those in the Northeast (51%) or Midwest (54%).

## “Being in ministry has had a negative effect on my family.” continued

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- Pastors with a graduate degree are more likely to somewhat disagree (22% to 16%) and less likely to strongly disagree (55% to 65%) compared to those with at most a Bachelor’s degree.

# “Pastoral ministry makes me feel lonely at times.”

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- No patterns of significant differences exist by region and whether the pastor indicates they are Evangelical or Mainline.
- Pastors age 65+ are least likely to somewhat agree (29%) compared to other age groups.
- Pastors age 65+ (39%) are most likely to strongly disagree. Pastors age 55-64 (29%) are more likely to strongly disagree compared to those age 18-44 (19%) and 45-54 (21%).

## “Pastoral ministry makes me feel lonely at times.” continued

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- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (17%) are less likely to strongly disagree than those with attendance of 0-49 (32%) and 100-249 (27%).
- Pastors with a graduate degree are more likely to strongly agree (17% to 11%) and less likely to strongly disagree (24% to 31%) than pastors with at most a Bachelor’s degree.

# “How many close friends (not in your immediate family) do you have within your church?”

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- No patterns of significant differences exist by church size.
- Pastors age 65+ (6%) are less likely to have zero close friends than those age 18-44 (13%) and 55-64 (14%).
- Pastors age 18-44 (14%) and 45-54 (14%) are more likely to have two close friends than those age 55-64 (7%) and 65+ (4%).
- Pastors age 65+ (34%) are most likely to have more than ten close friends.

# “How many close friends (not in your immediate family) do you have within your church?” continued

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- Pastors in the Northeast (20%) are more likely to have zero close friends than those in the South (10%) or West (9%).
- Pastors in the Midwest (12%) are less likely to have six to ten friends than those in the South (18%) or West (20%).
- Pastors identifying themselves as Mainline are more likely (18% to 10%) to have zero close friends than those identifying as Evangelical.

# “How many close friends (not in your immediate family) do you have within your church?” continued

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- Pastors with a graduate degree are
  - More likely to have zero close friends (14% to 9%)
  - More likely to have three to five close friends (41% to 33%)
  - Less likely to have six to ten close friends (14% to 21%)
  - Less likely to have more than ten close friends (16% to 23%)

than pastors with at most a Bachelor's degree.

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