



# *Survey of American Pastors' Spouses*



September 12, 2017

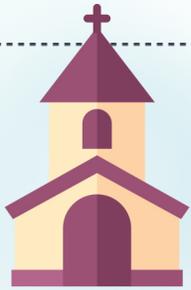
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 LifeWay  
RESEARCH

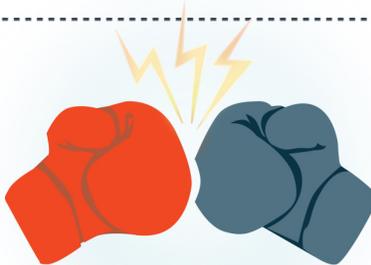
# Survey of American Pastors' Spouses

# 90%

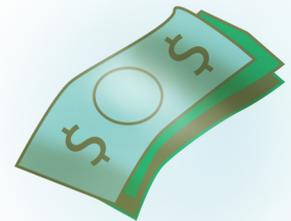
think ministry  
has had a positive  
affect on their family



**85%** say,  
"The church we serve  
takes good care of us."



**72%** say their  
spouse has experienced  
resistance in the church.



**68%** worry  
about having enough  
money for retirement.

**69%** say  
they have few people  
they can confide in.



**59%** say  
church commitments  
limit family time.



**49%** feel  
they live in a fishbowl.



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## Executive Summary

The Survey of American Pastors’ Spouses was conducted by LifeWay Research among a representative sample of 722 spouses of Protestant ministers. Questions measured the well-being of spouses (both daily happiness and thriving) as well as potential areas effecting well-being.

### Well-Being

Most pastors’ spouses rated well-being items on the positive or healthy sides of measurement items; Totaling all ratings from respondents together produces Mean/Median scores of 72/73 out of a possible *Total well-being* score of 95, suggesting most may reflect on their unique roles in more positive terms.

Well Being Scale Items for "Daily Happiness"	% Top-2 Box
I am satisfied with my life <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	84%
In general, I consider myself <i>(A Very Happy Person (5 rating), 4 rating)</i>	84%
In most ways, my life is close to my ideal <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	74%
Compared to most of my peers, I consider myself <i>(More Happy (5 rating), 4 rating)</i>	74%
The conditions of my life are excellent <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	68%
Overall, how do you characterize the feelings and emotions you experience most days? <i>(Only Positive, Mostly Positive)</i>	57%
Overall, how much stress do you experience in your typical day? <i>(An Extreme Amount, A lot)</i>	27%
Well Being Scale Items for "Thriving"	
Most days, I feel what I do in my ministry work is valuable and worthwhile <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	88%
My ministry work is deeply meaningful to me <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	85%
I find real enjoyment in my ministry work <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	83%
I feel satisfied with my role in ministry <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	80%
Most days, I am enthusiastic about my ministry work <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	77%
When engaged in my ministry work, I feel this is what I was meant to do <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	75%
I have a clear sense of purpose in ministry work <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	75%
I am optimistic about my future in ministry <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	69%
Overall, how do you characterize the feelings and emotions you experience most days in your ministry work? <i>(Only Positive, Mostly Positive)</i>	66%
My ministry work gives me my strongest feeling that this is who I really am <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	60%
I feel more complete or fulfilled when engaging in my ministry work than I do when engaged with other activities <i>(Agree, Strongly Agree)</i>	55%
Overall, how much stress do you experience in your ministry work? <i>(An Extreme Amount, A lot)</i>	20%

Identifying factors that may be effecting either increased or decreased well-being, regression analysis revealed the following (potential) *positive* and *negative* factors:

#### Positive Factors:

- Those who have a personal call to ministry (in either similar or different roles than their spouses).
- The extent to which a spouse can “count on” friends in the church.
- A spouse being “a good fit for the church” currently serving.
- How satisfied your spouse (husband/wife) is as a spouse.
- Satisfaction with “amount of time given” to their children.
- The degree that pastoral ministry has had a positive effect on their family.
- Having “personal time in prayer/with the Lord” in past 7 days.
- Expectations of their family being a role model to congregants.

### Negative Factors:

- Experiencing conflict with church staff/leadership.
- Difficulty in balancing church and family considerations in making decisions about changing positions in the church.
- Increased “burnout” in a pastor’s spouse role.
- Developing “callousness” towards others in the church.

Additional analysis reveals that certain demographic groups rated higher well-being on some dimensions than others. Older age groups rated more happiness, positive feelings/emotions and less stress in their ministry work and daily life compared to younger age groups. Those without children at home rated more happiness and positive feelings/emotions in their ministry work and daily life compared to those with children in the home.

### Personal Relationships

Many pastors’ spouses are experiencing some level of isolation/disconnection from others; Inability to trust others along with personal conflicts in general (past or present) tend to be contributing to this.

- 69% agree “I have very few people I can confide in about the really important matters in my life”
- 62% “count on” their spouse *A great deal* when feeling under stress or feeling bad compared to: Other family members (14%), Other relatives (12%), Friends in their church (10%), Friends outside the church (12%), and Other ministers’ spouses (9%).
- 56% agree “There are too few relationships in my life that make me feel emotionally connected with others.”
- 50% agree “I am not willing to confide in others at church about personal things because my confidence has been betrayed too many times”
- 49% agree “If I were honest at church about my prayer needs, they would just become gossip.”
- 55% agree “There are not enough relationships in our lives where we feel we can be ourselves.”
- 72% agree “My spouse has experienced resistance to his/her leadership.”
- 51% agree “We have experienced personal attacks at this church.”
- 49% agree “I still feel the hurt from previous conflicts in ministry.”

### Additional analysis suggests:

- Those in **younger age groups** are experiencing more challenges in building relationships than older age groups (e.g., not enough relationships where “we can be ourselves,” few people to confide in, few people connected to emotionally).
- Those in **younger age groups** are experiencing more conflicts within their church than older age groups (e.g., conflicts with staff/leadership, greater feeling of “living in a fishbowl,” congregants less accepting of family’s frustration and dissatisfaction, more resistant to spouse’s leadership, experiencing personal attacks).
- Both **younger age groups** and those with **children in the home** are experiencing more issues related to *trust* than those older and with children in the home (e.g., less willing to confide in others given past betrayal, fear of gossip, constantly feeling evaluated).

## Finances

Overall, 85% of pastors' spouses agree "The church we serve takes 'good care of us.'" Financial challenges experienced by families are somewhat mixed, where about half indicate some level of financial stress; Retirement planning seems to be a major concern among many.

- 41% agree "Unexpected financial demands create havoc for our family."
- 36% agree "It is difficult to make it through each month without worrying whether or not our financial resources will be adequate for our needs."
- 46% agree "Our family's inability to save money on a regular basis is a worry for me."
- 61% agree "Our family's financial situation requires more than the salary received from the church."
- 54% agree "Salaries and other compensation from our church simply do not provide a strong enough financial base for our family."
- 49% agree "(If have children) It is difficult to provide the same standard of living for our children as most of their peers have."
- 68% agree "I am concerned about the level of retirement benefits we will have in the later years."

Additional analysis reveals:

- **Younger age groups** are experiencing more financial challenges than older age groups
- Those with **children at home** are experiencing more financial challenges than older age groups
- Those in **smaller congregations** are experiencing more financial challenges than older age groups

## Marriage

Most pastors' spouses offered high satisfaction ratings in their current state of marriage. However, many also indicate some level of negative (marital) impact due to their work in ministry...

- 80% of pastors' spouses are *Extremely* or *Very* satisfied with the marriage.
- 80% of pastors' spouses are *Extremely* or *Very* satisfied with their husband/wife as a spouse.
- 77% of pastors' spouses are *Extremely* or *Very* satisfied with their relationship with their husband/wife.
- 71% of pastors' spouses spend "quality time alone with their spouse (e.g., a date night...)" at least once a month.
- 46% agree "We find it difficult to establish times for our marital relationship without having interruptions related to the needs of our congregation."
- 48% agree "We find it difficult to establish times for our marital relationship without having interruptions related to frequent church events."

Additional analysis reveals:

- **Younger age groups** are experiencing less time for their marital relationship due to church events, congregant interruptions and other congregation demands than older age groups.

- **Younger age groups** and those **with children at home** are also experiencing less time for their marital relationship due to financial constraints.

## Family Life

Nearly all respondents indicate that ministry involvement has had a positive effect on their family (90%); And although 59% also agree that “Congregational demands interfere with our family’s free time together during the week,” the data suggest that many are experiencing quality family time together...

- 90% agree “My spouse being in pastoral ministry has positively affected our family.”
- 65% disagree “I often resent the demands of ministry on our family.”
- 83% agree “Most nights our family eats dinner together.”
- 51% agree “Our family has designated nights during the week or month for fun activities.”
- 85% agree “Our family has vacation time during a typical year.”
- 62% agree “At least one day a week my spouse “unplugs” from ministerial work and has a day of rest.” I often resent the demands of ministry on our family.”
- 87% agree “Our family goes out to dinner during a typical month.”

## Work Life/ Calling

The majority of pastors’ spouses hold responsibilities both inside and outside of their church, and also feel a sense of calling to ministry.

- Most pastors’ spouses are directly involved in the work of their church(86%), with 19% holding paid positions and 67% holding responsibilities without pay.
- Over half of pastors’ spouses (53%) are employed outside of their church, with 44% working full-time (40+ hrs./week) and 56% working part-time hours; Most of these positions are in the For-profit sector (74%).
- Most pastors’ spouses “sense a personal call to ministry” along with their spouse (81%), and either share the same calling as their spouse (25%) or feel called to serve in different ways (56%).
  - Those “sensing a personal call to ministry” rated higher levels of well-being in areas such as: *happiness, ideal/excellent* conditions of life, and all *Thriving* measures.

# Methodology

The goal of the Survey of American Pastors' Spouses was to build an objective and accurate understanding of the wellbeing of pastors' spouses and the difficulties they face so resources can be provided to help them flourish personally, in their family, and in their church. The study was conducted by LifeWay Research. This quantitative study builds on a multi-phase pastor protection research project conducted in 2015 ([lifewayresearch.com/pastorprotection](http://lifewayresearch.com/pastorprotection)) that revealed indicators of why pastors leave the ministry and ways to increase the likelihood pastors stay in ministry.

The study was sponsored by Houston's First Baptist Church, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and Richard Dockins, MD. A steering team reviewed the methodology and provided feedback on the questionnaire. Many thanks go to Adam Mason, David Self, and Richard Dockins from Houston's First Baptist, Kathy Litton and Richie Stanley from NAMB, Dr. Matthew Bloom and Dr. Chris Adams from Notre Dame, Mark Dance, Janet Dance, and Kelly King from LifeWay, and Melissa Haas from Hope Quest Ministries. Thanks to Kay Warren from Saddleback Church for suggestions for the questionnaire.

The mail survey of spouses of Protestant pastors was conducted June 21-August 2, 2017. The mailing list was a random sample drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Each interview was conducted with a spouse of someone working in a ministerial role within a Protestant church with a completed sample of 722 pastor spouses.

Responses were weighted by denominational group to more accurately reflect the population. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed +3.7%. This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

The conceptual model of human "well-being" used in this study is based on current research that suggests well-being has two forms: 1) Hedonic well-being (aka, "daily happiness") and 2) Eudaimonic wellbeing (aka, "thriving"). For the purposes of this study, LifeWay Research adapted an existing model used by scholars at Flourishing In Ministry Project at the Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame to measure the well-being of clergy. This model was further adapted to measure the state of well-being among pastors' spouses, along with other areas which may have "potential" effects on either increasing or decreasing well-being:

## Daily Happiness (Hedonic Well-Being)

- Life satisfaction
- Level of happiness
- Amount of daily stress
- Positive/negative daily emotions

## Thriving in Ministry Work\* (Eudaimonic Well-Being)

- Ministry work is: satisfaction, enjoyment, enthusiasm
- Ministry work is: sense of identity, purpose, fulfillment, etc.
- Amount of daily stress in ministry work
- Positive/negative daily emotions in ministry work

*\*“Ministry work” was defined as: any “daily work you do in which you consider ministry.” This would include employment or non-employment related work experiences in or outside the church as well as daily family/household responsibilities.*

#### Potential Areas Effecting Well-Being

- Amount/strength of personal relationships
- Church-related stressors
- Burnout
- Marriage satisfaction
- Parenting satisfaction
- Family-Life satisfaction
- Engagement in sources of help

Questions were also utilized or adapted from the following studies:

- Church-related stressors from Clergy Family Life Inventory (Blanton)
- The Maslach Burnout Inventory 2-item (Maslach)
- Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale (Grover, Russell, Schumm, Paff-Bergen)
- Parent Satisfaction Scale (Clemshaw, Guidubaldi)

# Quantitative Findings

## Life/Stress/Emotions

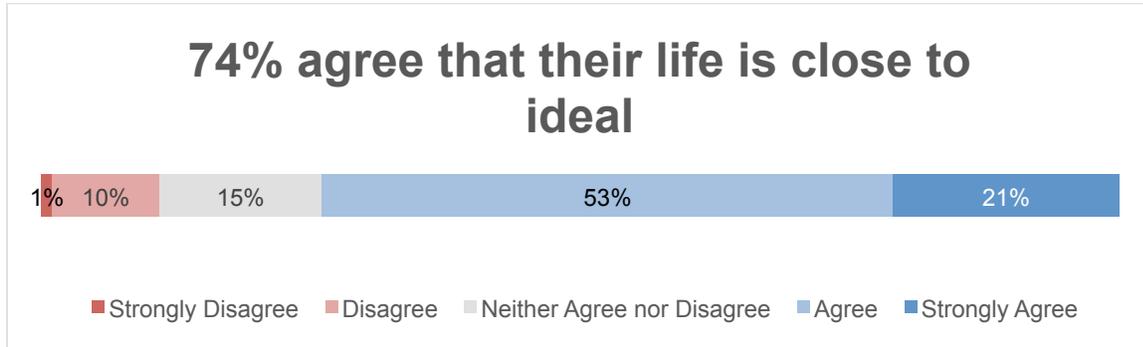


Table 5\_1 – “In most ways, my life is close to my ideal.” n=712

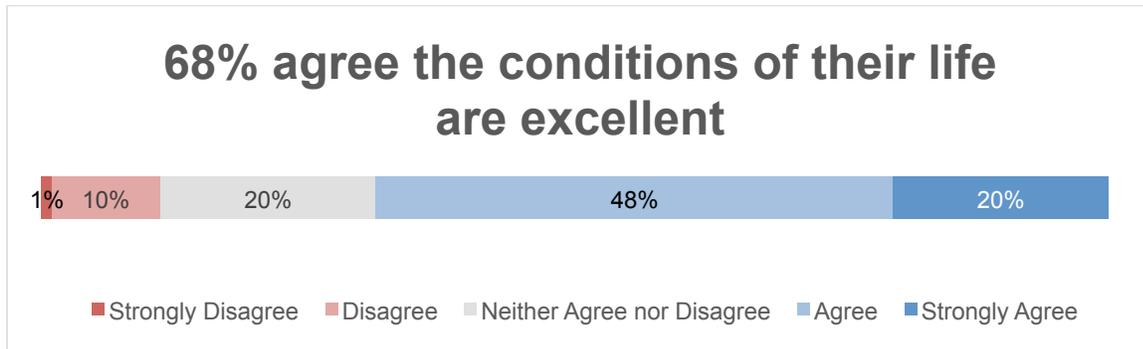


Table 5\_2 – “The conditions of my life are excellent.” n=706

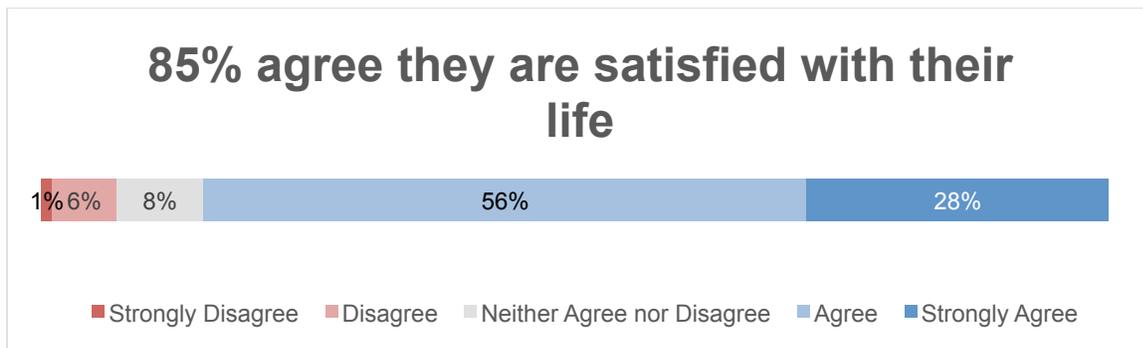


Table 5\_3 – “I am satisfied with my life.” n=711

**35% consider themselves a very happy person**

Table 6 – “In general, I consider myself:” n=717

Not a very happy person	<1%
2	2%
3	15%
4	49%
A very happy person	35%

**Compared to their peers, 27% consider themselves “more happy”**

Table 7 – “Compared to most of my peers, I consider myself:” n=717

Less happy	1%
2	3%
3	22%
4	47%
More happy	27%

**1 out of 4 say they experience a lot to an extreme amount of stress in a typical day**

Table 8– “Overall, how much stress do you experience in your typical day?” n=718

None at all	<1%
Very Little	16%
A Moderate Amount	58%
A Lot	23%
An Extreme Amount	4%

**57% characterize the feelings and emotions they experience most days as positive, with 1% saying only positive**

Table 9– “Overall, how do you characterize the feelings and emotions you experience most days?” n=719

Only Negative	<1%
Mostly Negative	3%
An Equal Amount of Negative and Positive	39%
Mostly Positive	56%
Only Positive	1%

## Work/Volunteering

**19% are currently employed by the church and an additional two-thirds hold responsibilities at the church**

Table 10 – “Which of the following best reflects your involvement in the church that your spouse is pastoring?” n=714

Currently employed by the church (in a paid position)	19%
Currently hold responsibilities at the church, but not in a paid position	67%
Do not hold any responsibilities at the church	14%

**Among church employees or church volunteers, 58% work less than 10 hours a week**

Table 11 – “How many hours per week do you typically work in this paid or unpaid position?” n=602

0-4 hours	37%
5-9 hours	21%
10-19 hours	20%
20-39 hours	17%
40-49 hours	4%
50+ hours	1%

**Over half are employed outside of the church, either in paid or unpaid positions**

Table 12 – “Are you currently employed outside of the church your spouse is pastoring?” n=716

Yes – In a paid position	53%
Yes – But not in a paid position	2%
No	45%

**Among those employed outside the church, a quarter of these are employed in “ministry” work**

Table 13 – “Is this position (paid or unpaid) related to any type of “ministry” work (e.g., a church, para-church ministry or other non-profit organization)?” n=408

Yes – In a paid position	26%
No	74%

**Among those employed outside the church, 44% work 40 hours or more in a typical week**

Table 14 – “How many hours per week do you typically work in this position?” n=395

0-4 hours	3%
5-9 hours	7%
10-19 hours	11%
20-39 hours	35%
40-49 hours	37%
50+ hours	7%

**34% currently volunteer or serve at ministries outside of the church**

Table 15 – “Do you currently volunteer or serve in other ways at ministries outside of the church your spouse is pastoring?” n=710

Yes	34%
No	66%

**Among those who volunteer outside the church, 91% volunteer less than 10 hours a week**

Table 16 – “How many hours per week do you typically work in this volunteering position?” n=189

0-4 hours	63%
5-9 hours	28%
10-19 hours	6%
20-39 hours	3%
40+ hours	<1%

## Calling/Ministry Role

**8 out of 10 sense a call to ministry, with 56% serving and leading in different roles than their spouse**

Table 17 – “Which of the following best reflects your ministry role as a spouse? Select one”  
n=710

I sense no personal call to ministry and I am very detached from the calling of my spouse.	<1%
I sense no personal call to ministry yet I fully support the calling of my spouse.	19%
I sense a personal call to ministry yet I serve and lead in very different roles than my spouse.	56%
I sense a personal call to ministry and I serve and lead in very similar roles as my spouse.	25%

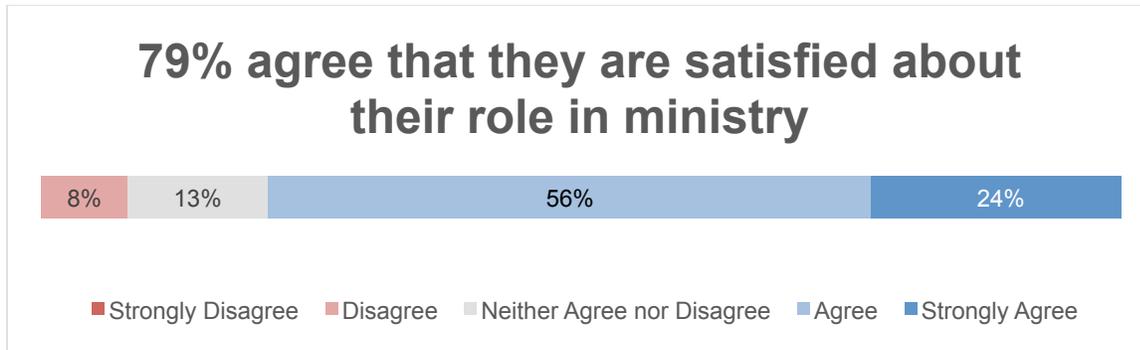


Table 18\_1 – “I feel satisfied with my role in ministry.” N=706

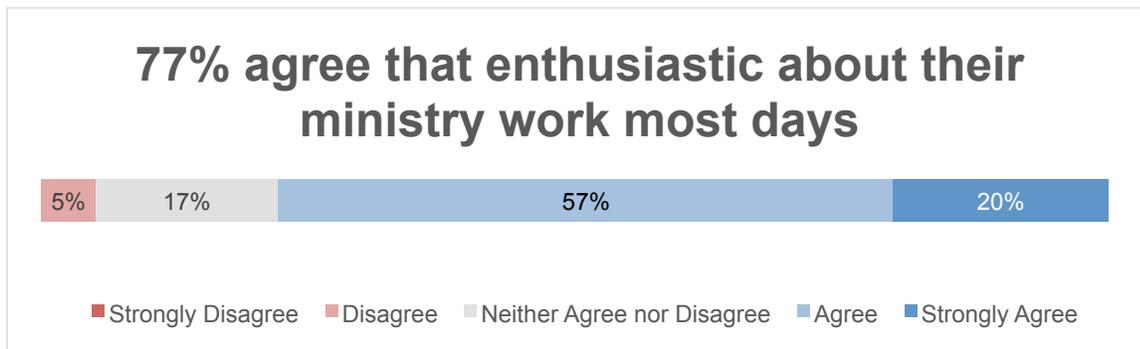


Table 18\_2 – “Most days, I am enthusiastic about my ministry work.” n=707

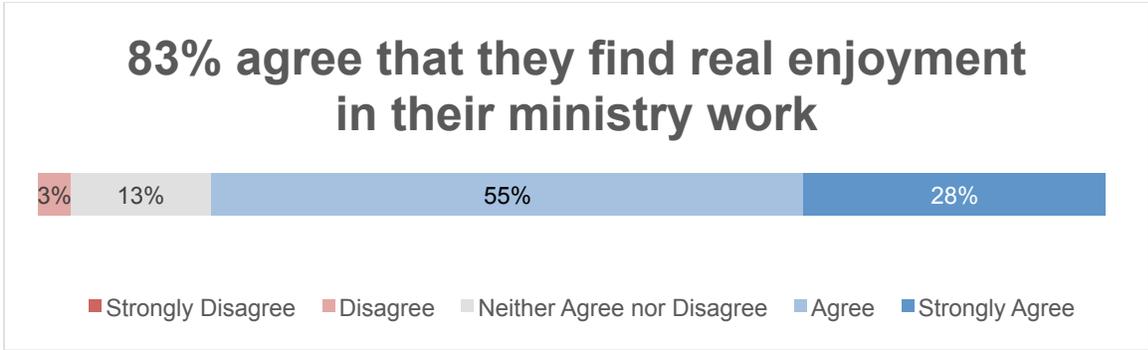


Table 18\_3 – “I find real enjoyment in my ministry work.” n=709

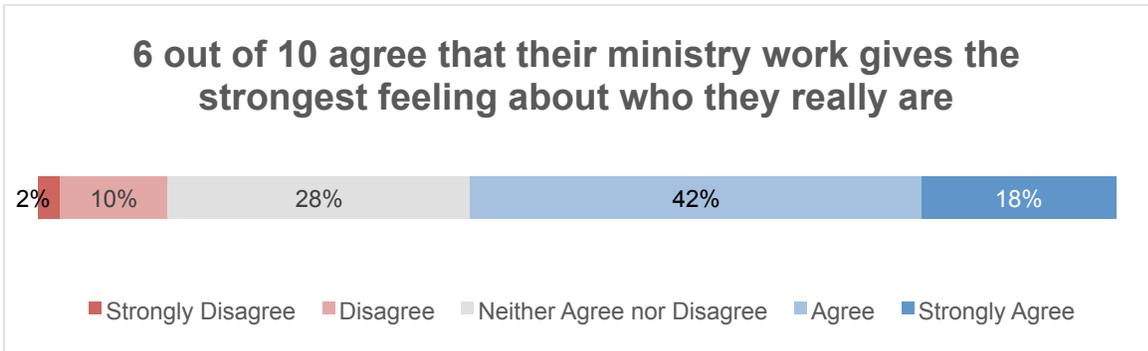


Table 19\_1 – “My ministry work gives me my strongest feeling that this is who I really am.” n=709

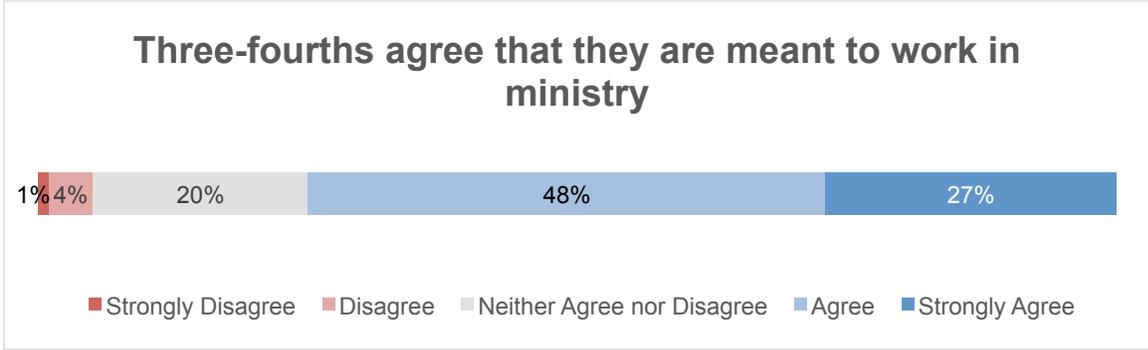


Table 19\_2 – “When engaged in my ministry work, I feel this is what I was meant to do.” n=711

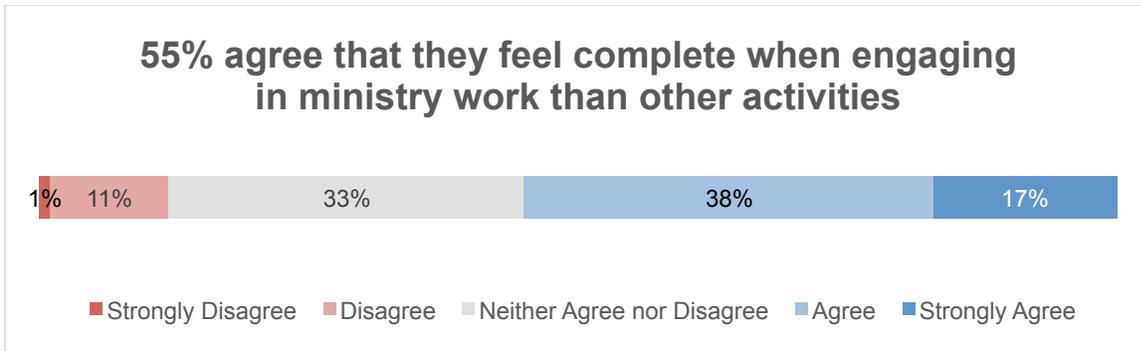


Table 19\_3 – “I feel more complete or fulfilled when engaging in my ministry work than I do when engaged with other activities.” n=709

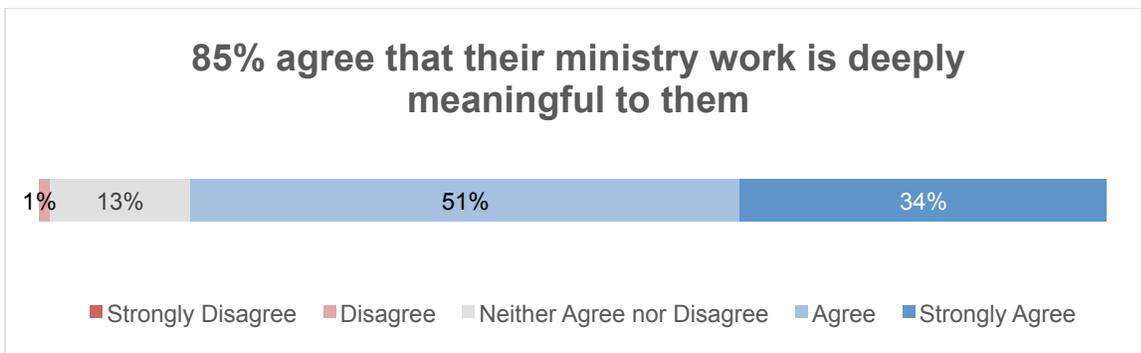


Table 20\_1 – “My ministry work is deeply meaningful to me.” n=710

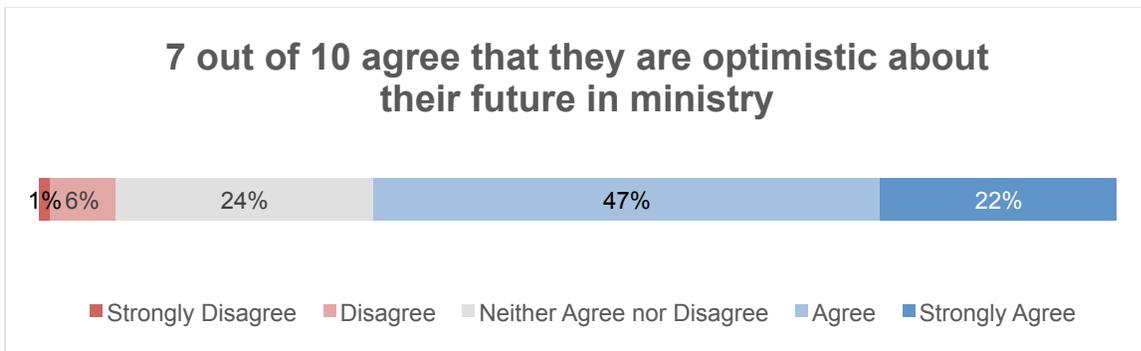


Table 20\_2 – “I am optimistic about my future in ministry” n=706

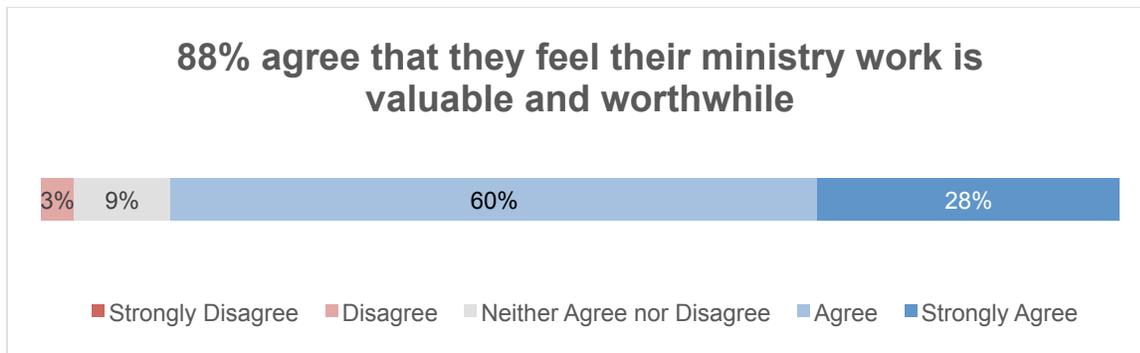


Table 20\_3 – “Most days, I feel like what I do in my ministry work is valuable and worthwhile” n=712

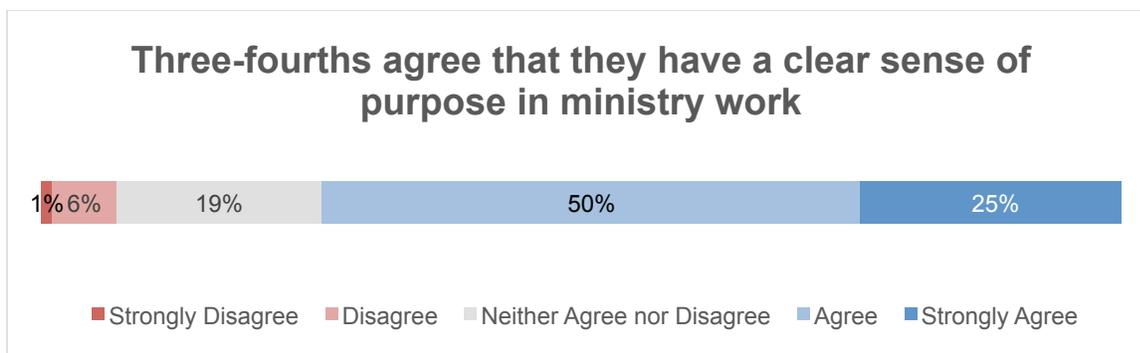


Table 20\_4 – “I have a clear sense of purpose in ministry work.” n=710

**Almost all say they experience some stress in their ministry work, with 2 out of 10 saying they experience a lot to an extreme amount**

Table 21 – “Overall, how much stress do you experience in your ministry work?” n=709

None at All	1%
Very Little	25%
A Moderate Amount	53%
A Lot	17%
An Extreme Amount	3%

**Two-thirds characterize the feelings they experience most days in their ministry work as mostly positive or only positive**

Table 22 – “Overall, how do you characterize the feelings and emotions you experience most days in your ministry work?” n=711

Only Negative	<1%
Mostly Negative	3%
An Equal Amount of Negative and Positive	31%
Mostly Positive	64%
Only Positive	2%

## Relationships

### 6 out of 10 say they can “count on” their spouse a great deal when they feel under stress

Table 23\_1 – “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Your Spouse**” n=715

Not at All	1%
Slightly	4%
A Moderate Amount	13%
Very Much	19%
A Great Deal	62%
N/A	<1%

### 14% say they can “count on” other family members in their household a great deal when they feel under stress

Table 23\_2 – “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Other family members in your household**” n=704

Not at All	8%
Slightly	16%
A Moderate Amount	18%
Very Much	15%
A Great Deal	14%
N/A	27%

### 12% say they can “count on” other relatives a great deal when they feel under stress

Table 23\_3 – “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Other relatives (brother, sister, cousins, etc.)**” n=712

Not at All	18%
Slightly	22%
A Moderate Amount	22%
Very Much	19%
A Great Deal	12%
N/A	6%

**1 out of 10 say they can “count on” friends in their church a great deal when they feel under stress**

Table 23\_4 – “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Friends in your church**” n=712

Not at All	13%
Slightly	27%
A Moderate Amount	28%
Very Much	21%
A Great Deal	10%
N/A	1%

**12% say they can “count on” friends outside of their church a great deal when they feel under stress**

Table 23\_5 – “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Friends outside of your church**” n=714

Not at All	15%
Slightly	22%
A Moderate Amount	25%
Very Much	23%
A Great Deal	12%
N/A	3%

**9% say they can “count on” other ministers’ spouses a great deal when they feel under stress**

Table 23\_6 – “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **Other ministers’ spouses**” n=715

Not at All	27%
Slightly	26%
A Moderate Amount	19%
Very Much	11%
A Great Deal	9%
N/A	9%

**3% say they can “count on” a professional counselor a great deal when they feel under stress**

Table 23\_7 – “Please indicate the extent to which you can really “count on” the following relationships to help you when you feel under stress or when you are feeling bad. Note, some of these categories may overlap. Select one response for each row. **A professional counselor**”  
n=712

Not at All	39%
Slightly	4%
A Moderate Amount	5%
Very Much	3%
A Great Deal	3%
N/A	46%

## Church-Related Stressors

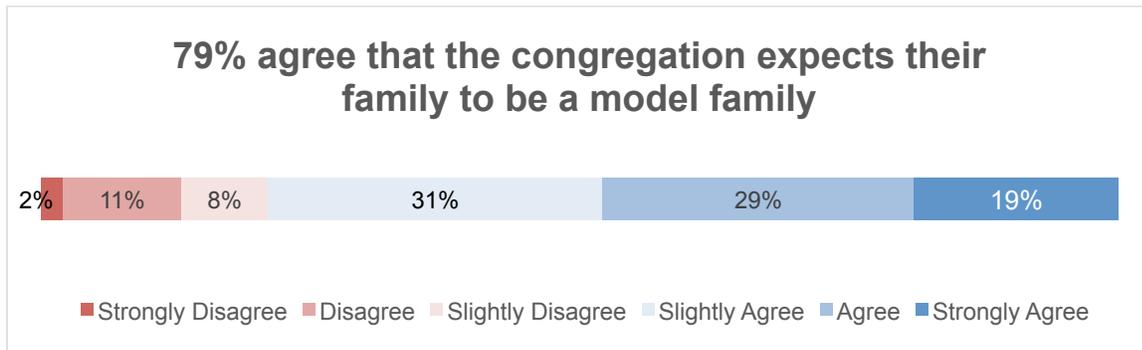


Table 24\_1 – “Our family is expected by our congregation to be a model family.” n=713

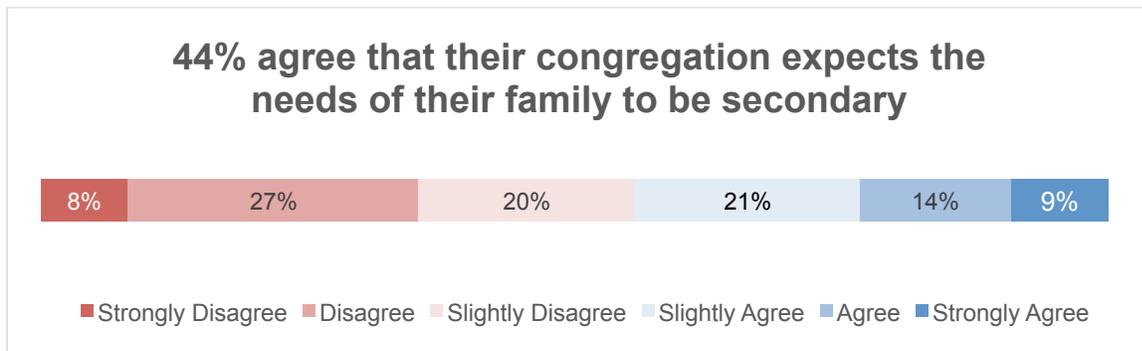


Table 24\_2 – “Our congregation expects the needs of our family to be secondary to their needs.” n=714

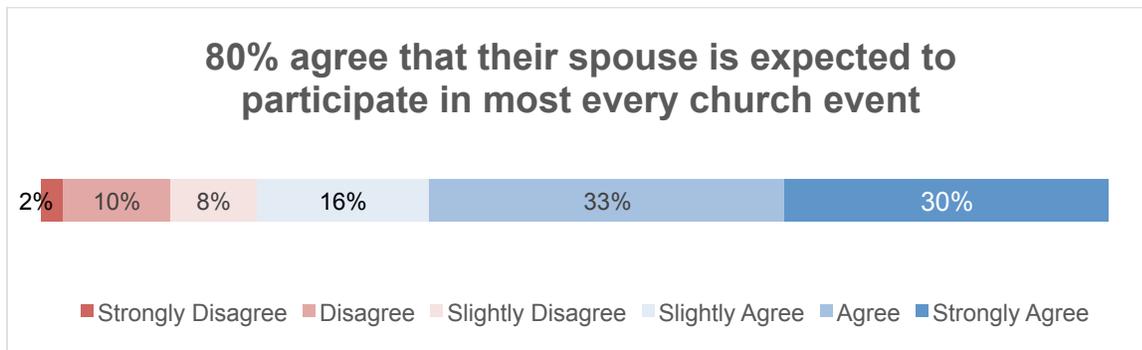


Table 24\_3 – “My spouse is expected to participate in most every church event.” n=712

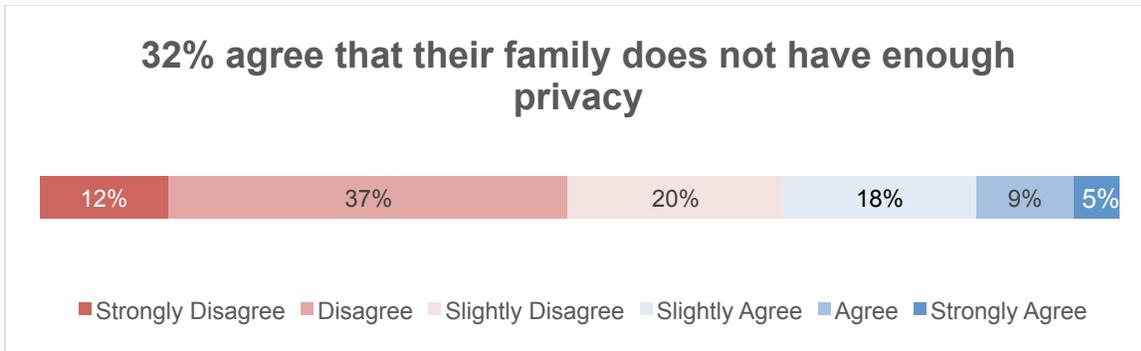


Table 24\_4 – “Our family does not have enough privacy.” n=713

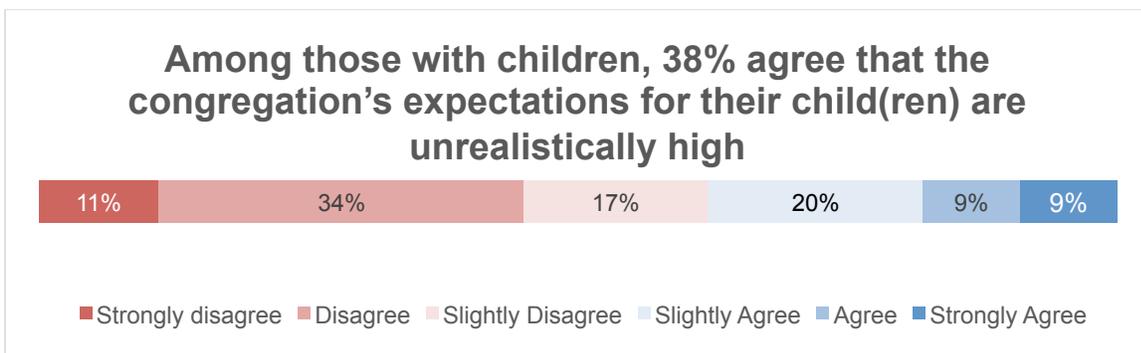


Table 24\_5 – “(If have children) Our congregation’s expectations for our child(ren) are unrealistically high.” n=528



Table 24\_6 – “I’ve experienced conflict with other church staff/leadership.” n=712

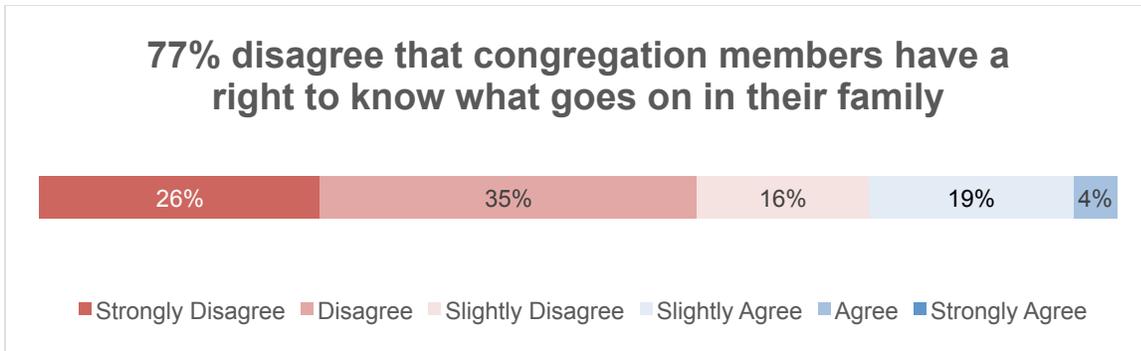


Table 24\_7 – “Congregation members have a right to know what goes on in our family.” n=712

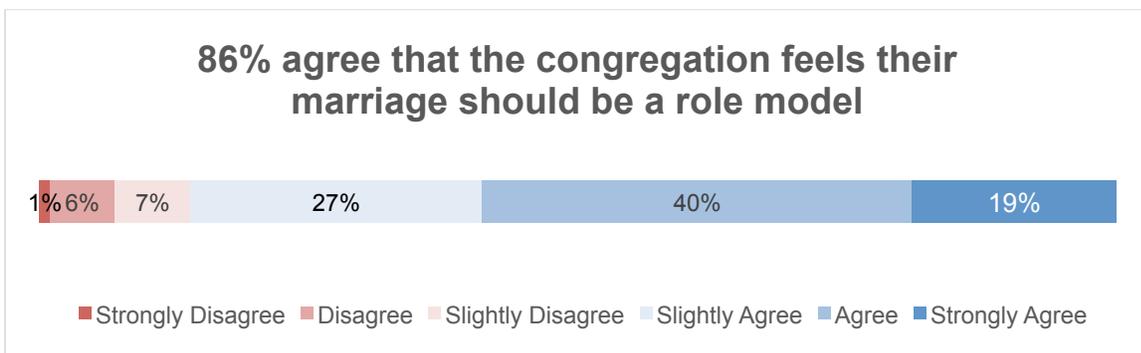


Table 24\_8 – “Our congregation feels our marriage should be a role model for them to look to in shaping their own marital relationships.” n=714

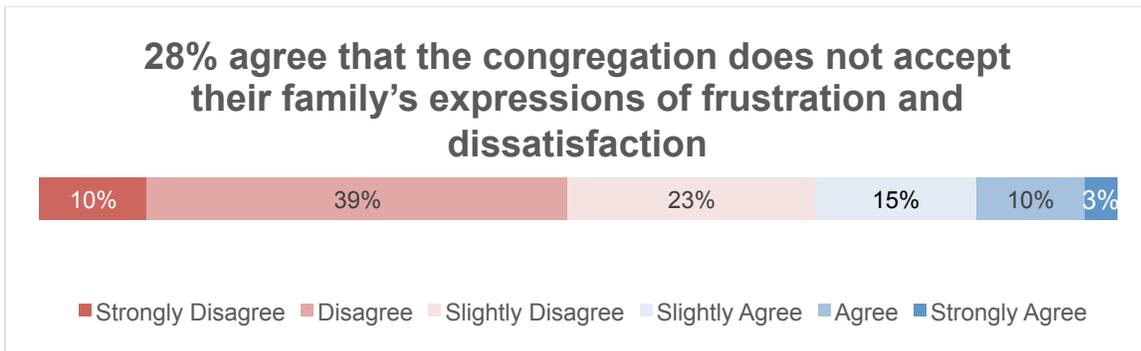


Table 24\_9 – “Our congregation does not accept our family’s expressions of frustration and dissatisfaction.” n=707

**A third agree that they feel caught in a “tug-of-war” between church and family**

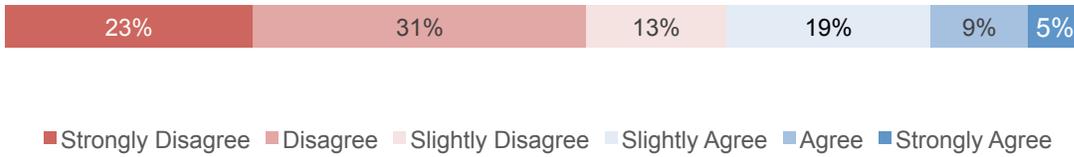


Table 24\_10 – “feel we are caught in a tug-of-war between church and family.” n=713

**49% agree that their family lives in a “fishbowl”**

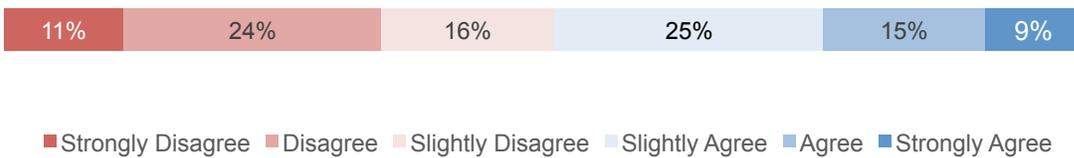


Table 24\_11 – “Our family lives in a ‘fishbowl.’” n=713

**41% agree that unexpected financial demands create havoc for our family**

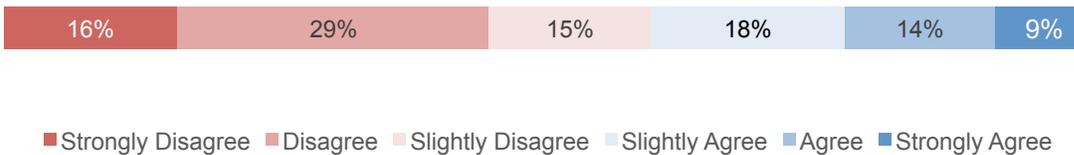


Table 24\_12 – “Unexpected financial demands create havoc for our family.” n=708

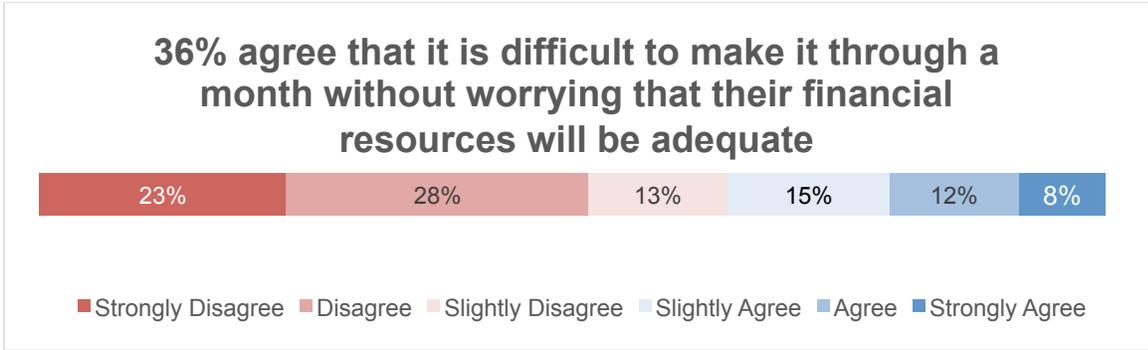


Table 24\_13 – “It is difficult to make it through each month without worrying whether or not our financial resources will be adequate for our needs. n=715

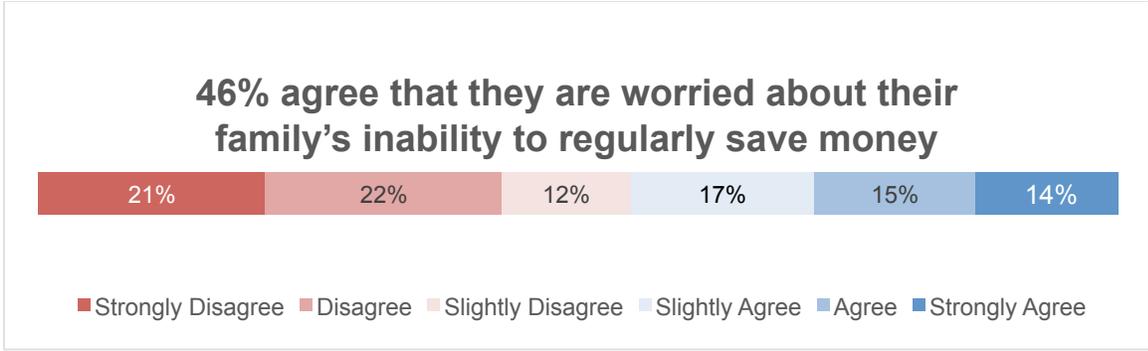


Table 24\_14 – “Our family’s inability to save money on a regular basis is a worry for me.” n=715

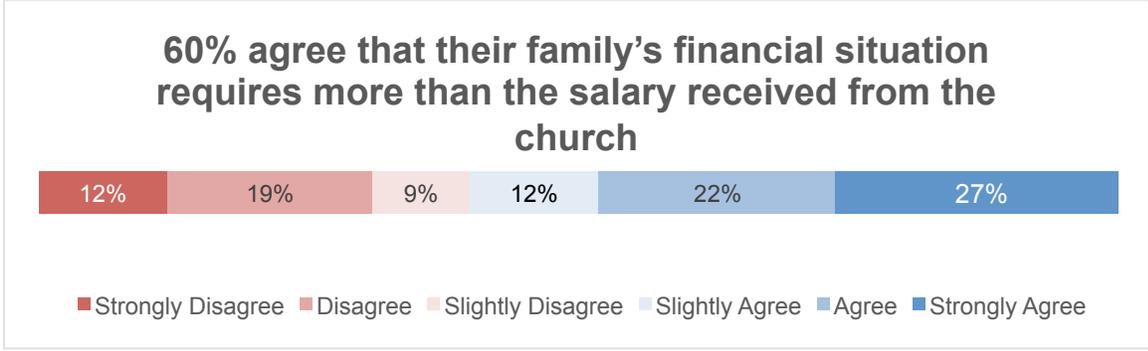


Table 24\_15 – “Our family’s financial situation requires more than the salary received from the church.” n=714

**54% agree that salaries and other compensation from the church do not provide a strong enough financial base**

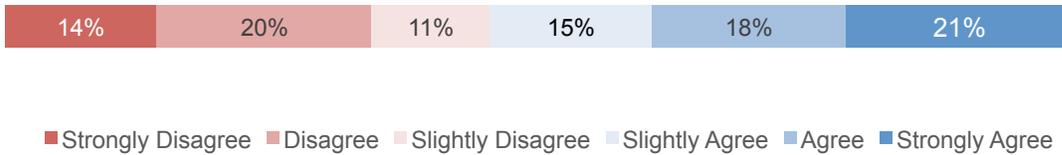


Table 24\_16 – “Salaries and other compensation from our church simply do not provide a strong enough financial base for our family.” n=712

**Among those with children, 49% agree that it is difficult to provide their children the same standard of living as most of their peers**

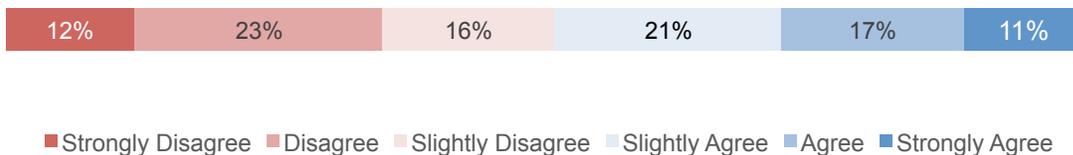


Table 24\_17 – “(If have children) It is difficult to provide the same standard of living for our children as most of their peers have.” n=493

**68% agree they are concerned about the level of retirement benefits that will be available in later years**

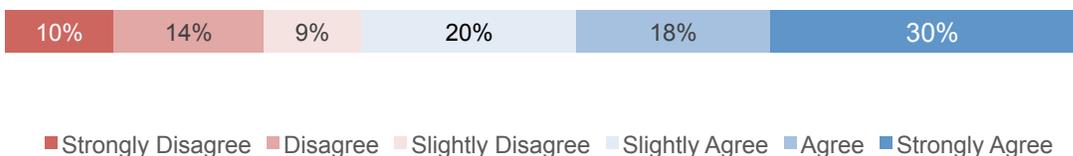


Table 24\_18 – “I am concerned about the level of retirement benefits we will have in the later years.” n=712

**55% agree there are not enough relationships where they can be themselves**

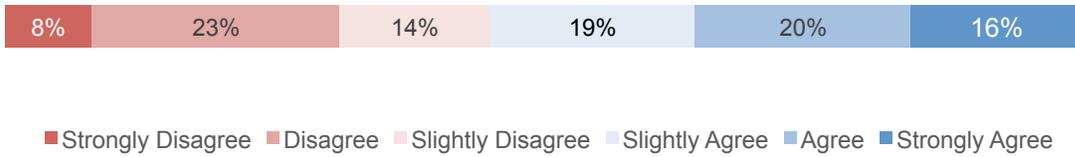


Table 24\_19 – “There are not enough relationships in our lives where we feel we can be ourselves.” n=711

**69% agree they have few people to confide in about important matters in life**

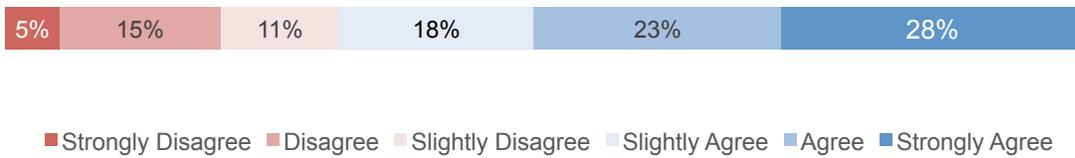


Table 24\_20 – “I have very few people I can confide in about the really important matters in my life.” n=713

**56% agree they have too few relationships that make them feel emotionally connected with others**

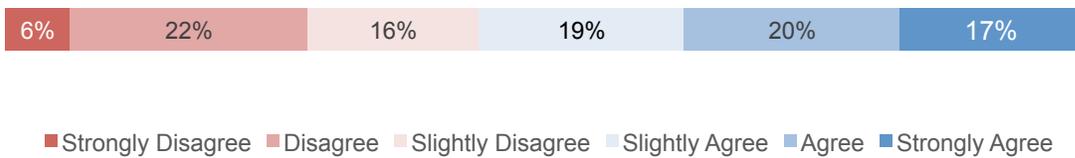


Table 24\_21 – “There are too few relationships in my life that make me feel emotionally connected with others.” n=704

**Among those that have moved/relocated, 53% agree their family is upset when faced with the possibility of moving**

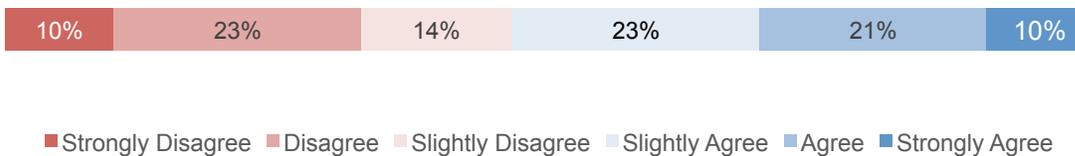


Table 24\_22 – “(If ever moved/relocated) Our family is upset when faced with the possibility of moving.” n=465

**Among those with children and that have moved/relocated, 40% agree that their children have difficulty adjusting to new people and new**

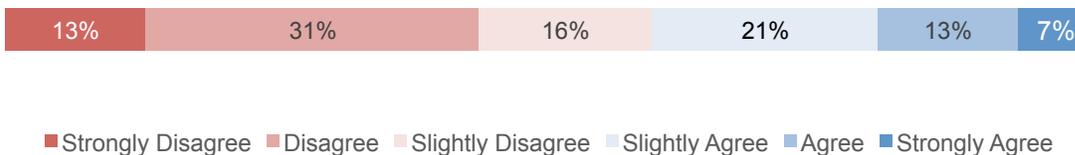


Table 24\_23 – “(If have children and if ever moved/relocated) Our child(ren) have difficulty adjusting to new people and new situations when we move.” n=360

**55% agree that it is difficult to balance church and family considerations in making decisions about changes in position**

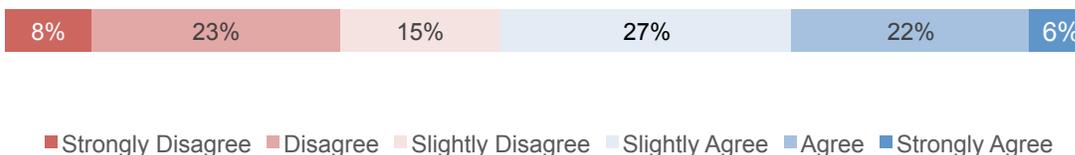


Table 24\_24 – “It is difficult to balance church and family considerations in making decisions about changes in positions.” n=683

**Among those that have moved/relocated, 54% agree that past moves have created financial concerns for their families**

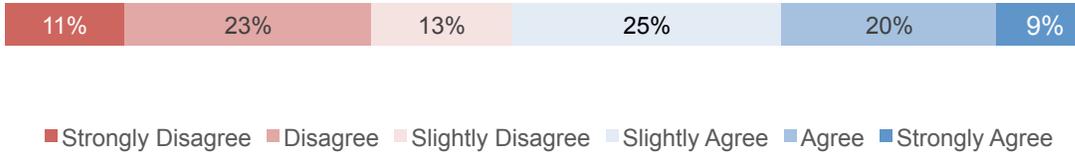


Table 24\_25 – “(If ever moved/relocated) The moves our family has made have created financial concerns for us.” n=449

**64% disagree that the church offers “perks” for their family (free or discounted schooling, paid travel for missionary trips, etc.)**

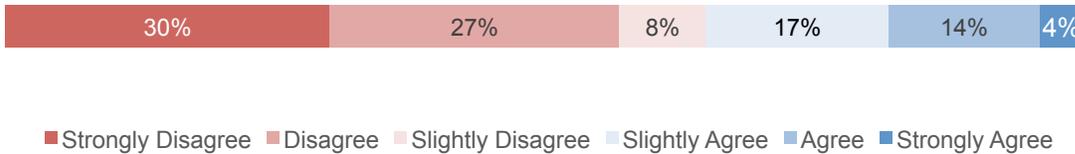


Table 24\_26 – “The church we serve offers certain “perks” for our family, such as free (or discounted) schooling for our children, paid travel for missionary trips, etc.” n=698

**59% agree that congregational demands interfere with their family’s free time together during the week**

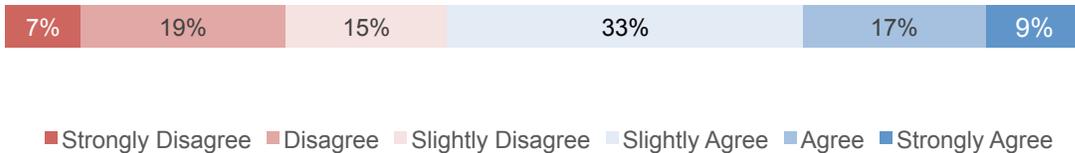


Table 24\_27 – “Congregational demands interfere with our family’s free time together during the week.” n=710

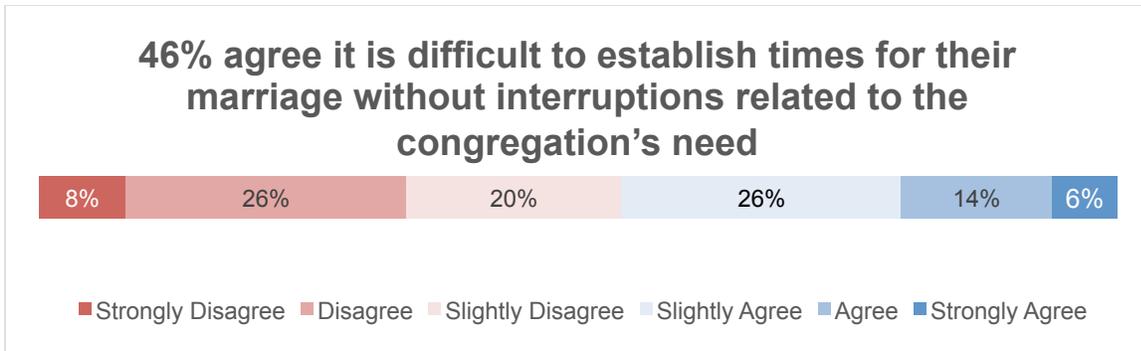


Table 24\_28 – “We find it difficult to establish times for our marital relationship without having interruptions related to the needs of our congregation.” n=708

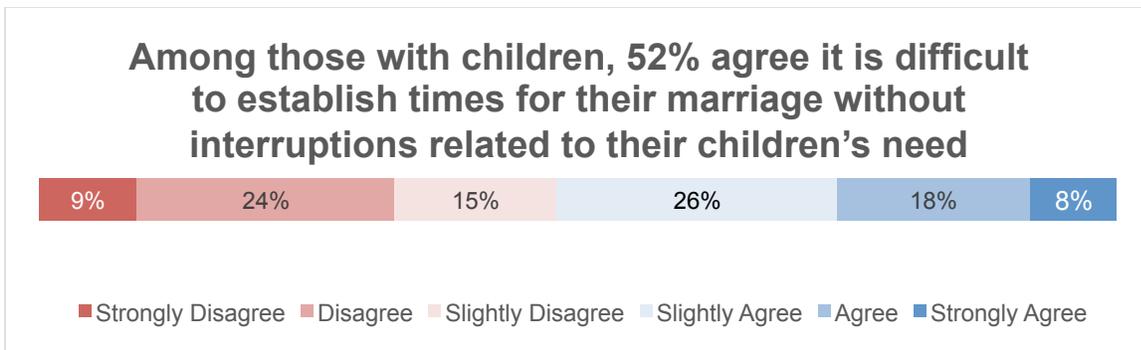


Table 24\_29 – “(If have children) We find it difficult to establish times for our marital relationship without having interruptions related to the needs of our child(ren).” n=480

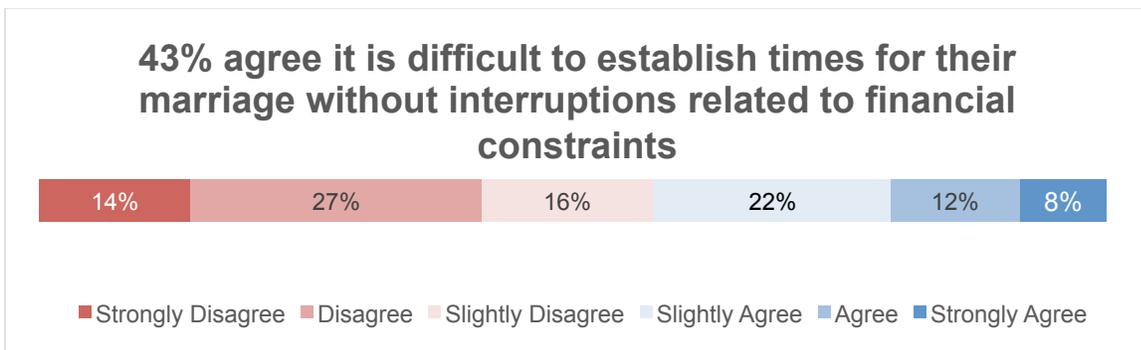


Table 24\_30 – “We find it difficult to establish times for our marital relationship without having interruptions related to financial constraints.” n=706

**48% agree it is difficult to establish times for their marriage without interruptions related to frequent church events**

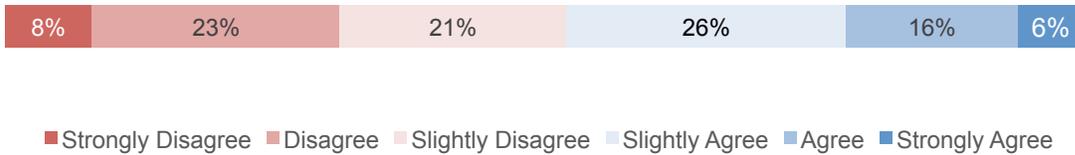


Table 24\_31 – “We find it difficult to establish times for our marital relationship without having interruptions related to frequent church events.” n=710

**37% agree that they do not get the attention they need from their spouse because the church needs so much attention**

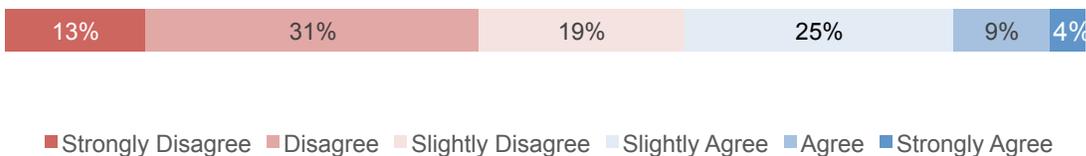


Table 24\_32 – “The church needs so much attention that I do not get the attention from my spouse that I need.” n=711

**49% agree they still feel the hurt from previous conflicts in ministry**

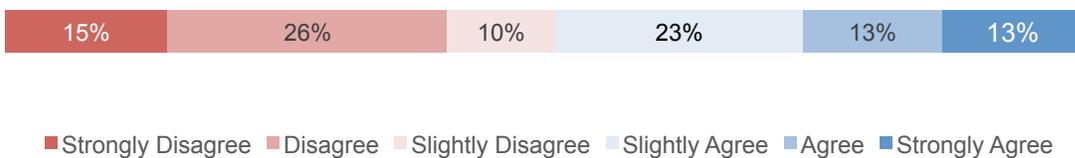


Table 24\_33 – “I still feel the hurt from previous conflicts in ministry.” n=708

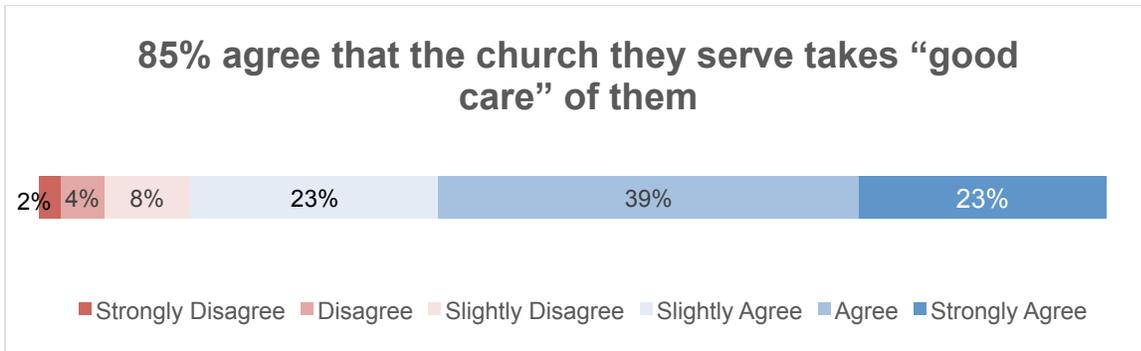


Table 24\_34 – “The church we serve takes ‘good care of us.’” n=706

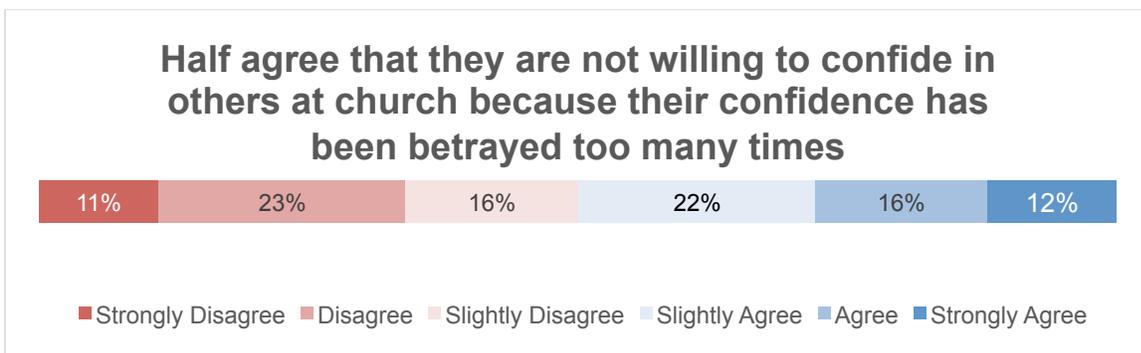


Table 24\_35 – “I am not willing to confide in others at church about personal things because my confidence has been betrayed too many times.” n=705

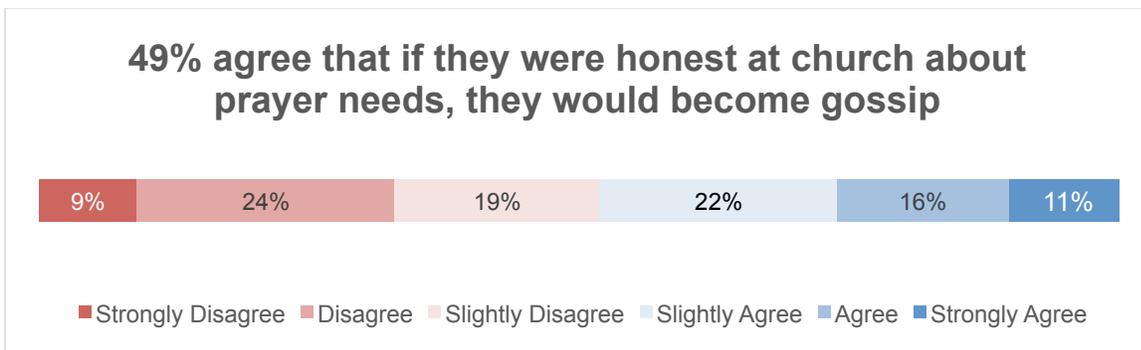


Table 24\_36 – “If I were honest at church about my prayer needs, they would just become gossip.” n=709

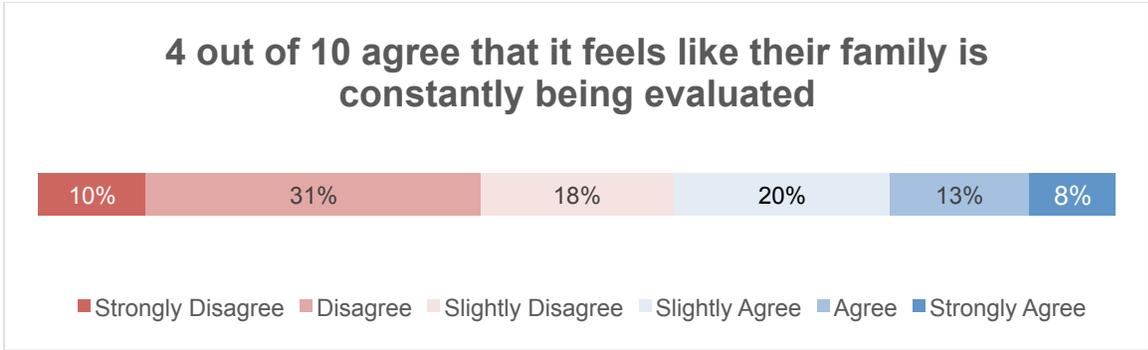


Table 24\_37 – “Our family constantly feels like we are being evaluated.” n=709

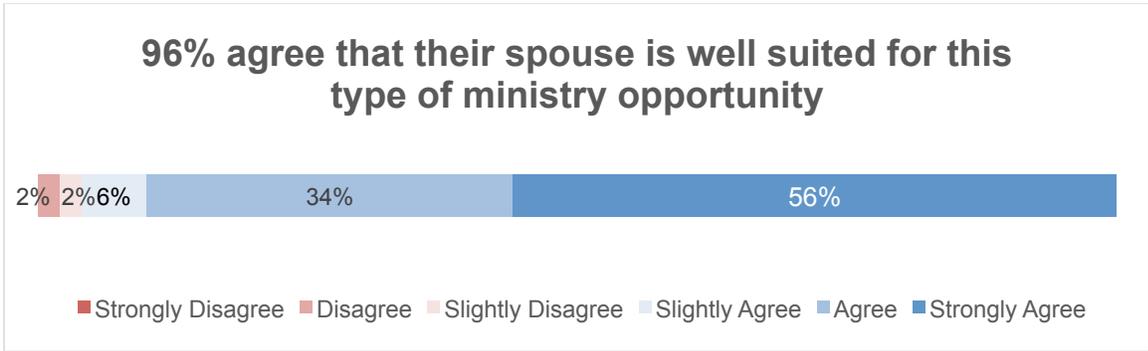


Table 24\_38 – “My spouse is well suited for this type of ministry responsibility.” n=711

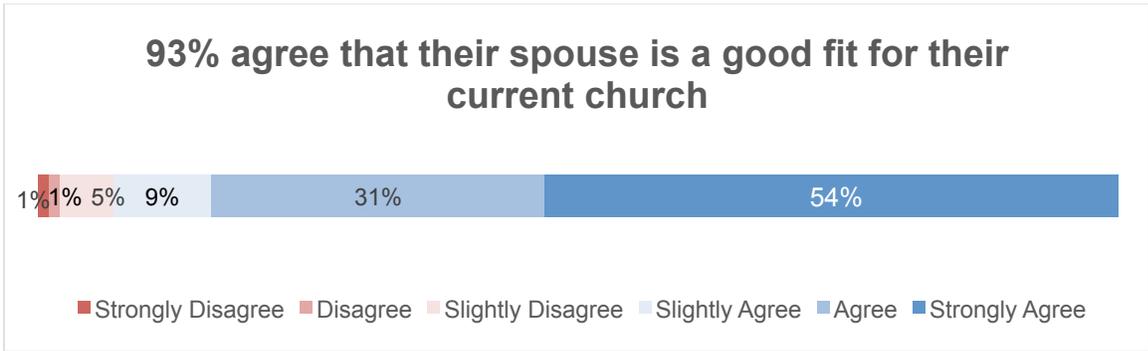


Table 24\_39 – “My spouse is a good fit for our current church.” n=708

**66% agree that the current ministry role has included things their spouse has never done before**

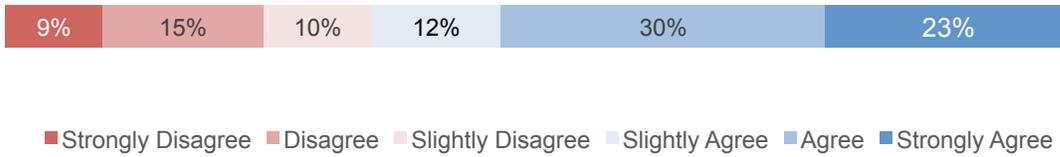


Table 24\_40 – “This ministry role has included things my spouse has never done before.” n=707

**76% agree that their spouse has someone (besides them) with whom to openly share struggles**



Table 24\_41 – “My spouse has someone (in addition to me) with whom to openly share struggles.” n=709

**31% agree that they often lack the skills to navigate the power struggles in their church**

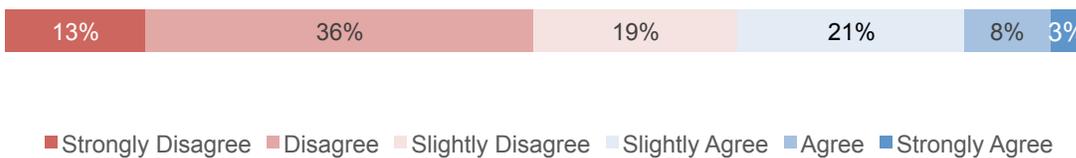


Table 24\_42 – “We often lack the skills to navigate the power struggles in our church.” n=709

**72% agree that their spouse has experienced resistance to his/her leadership**

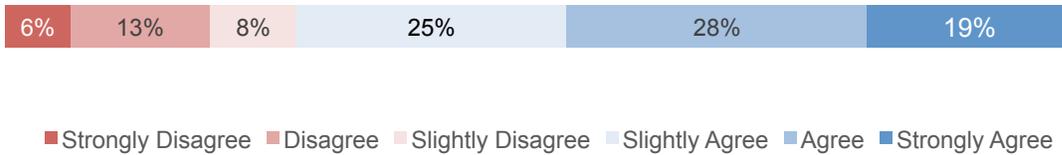


Table 24\_43 – “My spouse has experienced resistance to his/her leadership.” n=708

**45% agree that their spouse was not prepared for all that they have experienced at their church**

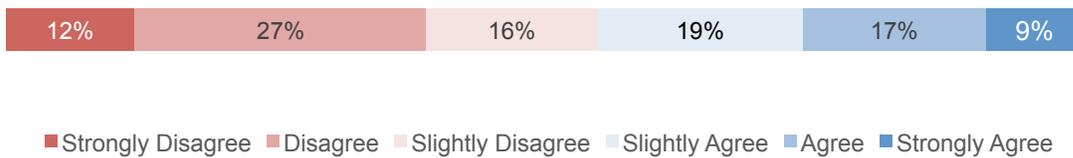


Table 24\_44 – “My spouse was not prepared for all the things we have experienced at this church.” n=710

**51% agree that they have experienced personal attacks at the current church**

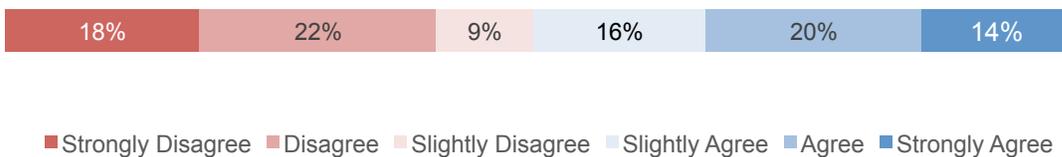


Table 24\_45 – “We have experienced personal attacks at this church.” n=710

## Burnout

**22% say they do not feel burned out from their work as a minister's spouse**

Table 25\_1 – “I feel burned out from my work as a minister's spouse.” n=710

0 Not at All	22%
1	19%
2	18%
3	19%
4	14%
5	5%
6 Every Day	3%

**One-third say they have not become more callous towards people since their spouse took this job**

Table 25\_2 – “I have become more callous toward people since my spouse took this job.” n=711

0 Not at All	33%
1	21%
2	15%
3	12%
4	11%
5	6%
6 Every Day	3%

## Marriage/Relationship with Spouse

**94% are satisfied with their marriage, with 4 out of 10 being extremely satisfied**

Table 27\_1 – “How satisfied are you with your marriage?” n=708

Extremely Dissatisfied	0%
Very Dissatisfied	1%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	1%
Mixed	4%
Somewhat Extremely Satisfied	13%
Very Satisfied	39%
Extremely Satisfied	41%

**95% are satisfied with their husband/wife as a spouse, with 39% being extremely satisfied**

Table 27\_2 – “How satisfied is your husband/wife as a spouse?” n=705

Extremely Dissatisfied	0%
Very Dissatisfied	1%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	1%
Mixed	4%
Somewhat Extremely Satisfied	14%
Very Satisfied	41%
Extremely Satisfied	39%

**92% are satisfied with their relationship with their husband/wife, with 39% being extremely satisfied**

Table 27-3 – “How satisfied are you with your relationship with your husband/wife?” n=708

Extremely Dissatisfied	0%
Very Dissatisfied	2%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	2%
Mixed	4%
Somewhat Extremely Satisfied	16%
Very Satisfied	38%
Extremely Satisfied	39%

**30% plan “quality time” alone with their spouse once a week or more**

Table 28 – “How often do you plan “quality time” alone with your spouse (e.g., a “date night”)?”  
n=700

Never	3%
Rarely	26%
Once a month	21%
2 or 3 times a month	19%
Once a week	20%
Several times a week	10%

**8 out of 10 say their spouse work 40 hours or more in a typical week, with 46% saying their spouse works 50+ hours**

Table 29 – “How many hours does your spouse work in his/her ministerial role in a typical week?” n=521

0-4 hours	<1%
5-9 hours	2%
10-19 hours	2%
20-39 hours	15%
40-49 hours	35%
50+ hours	46%

## Parenting

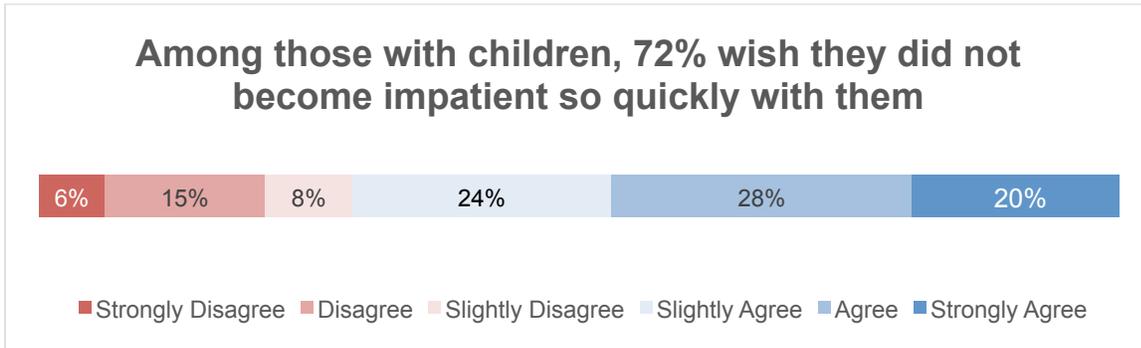


Table 30\_1 – “I wish I did not become impatient so quickly with my children.” n=392

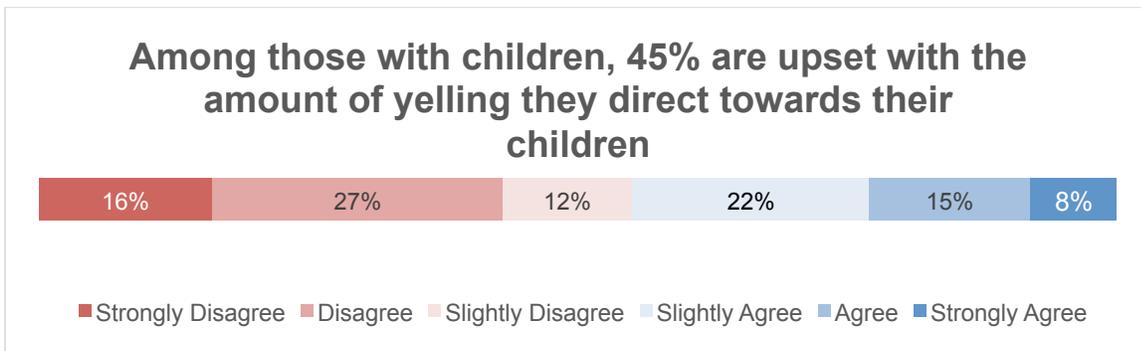


Table 30\_2 – “I am upset with the amount of yelling I direct towards my children.” n=392

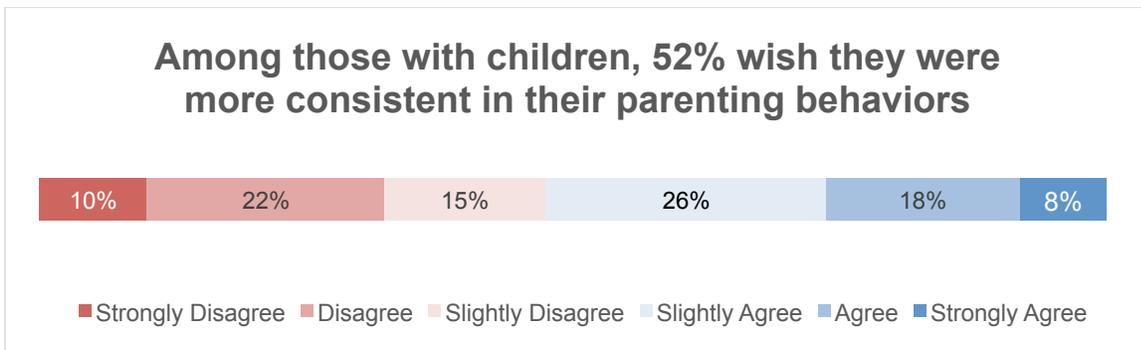


Table 30\_3 – “I wish I were more consistent in my parenting behaviors.” n=388

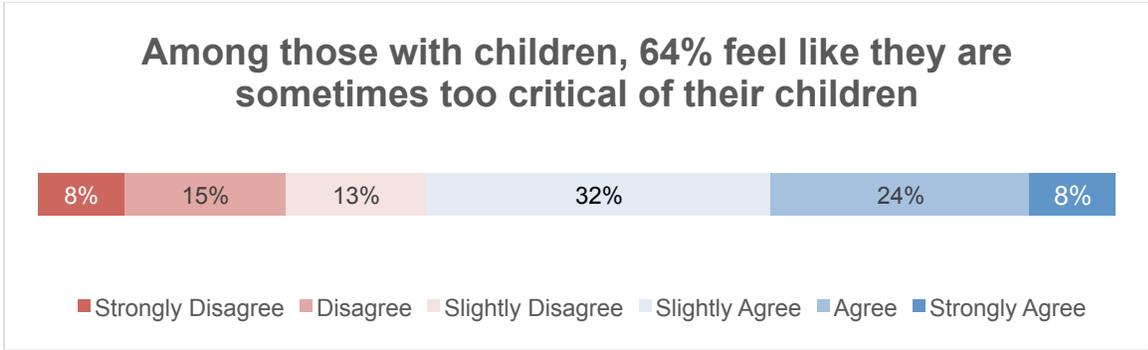


Table 30\_4 – “Sometimes I feel I am too critical of my children.” n=388

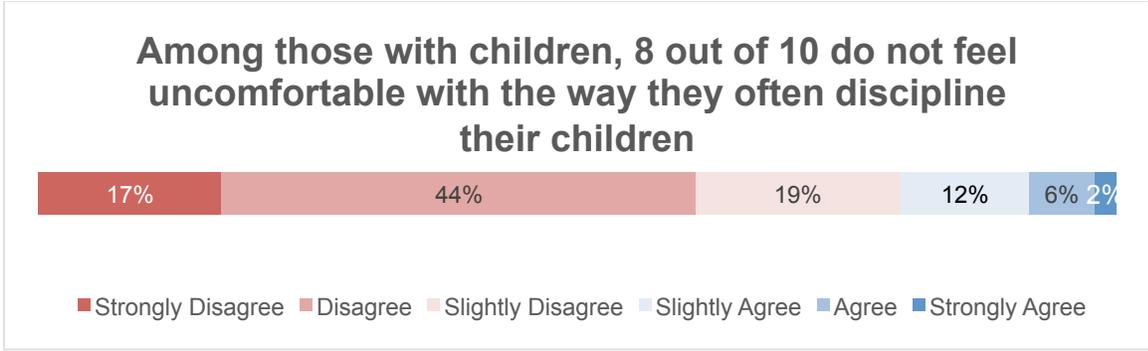


Table 30\_5 – “I feel uncomfortable with the way I often discipline my children.” n=386

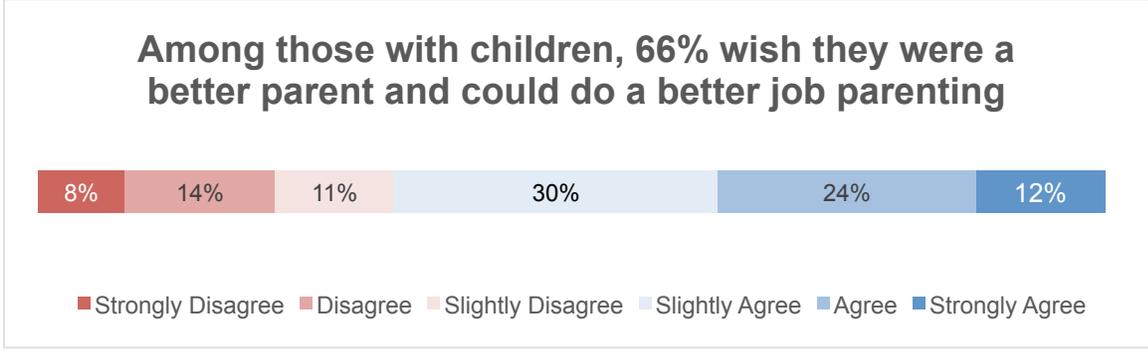


Table 30\_6 – “I wish I were a better parent and could do a better job parenting.” n=388

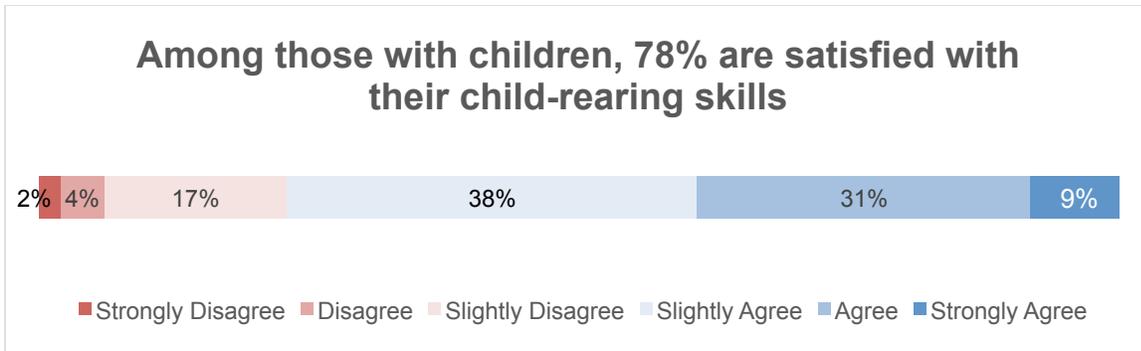


Table 30\_7 – “I am satisfied with my child-rearing skills.” n=387

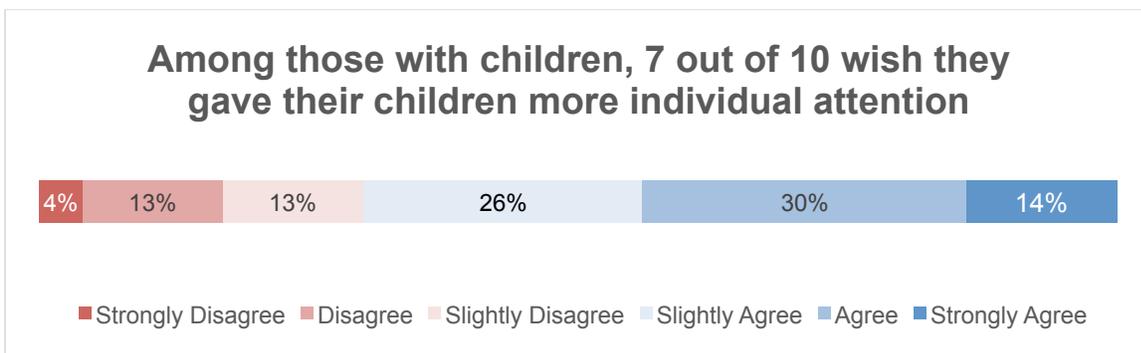


Table 30\_8 – “I wish I gave my children more individual attention.” n=385

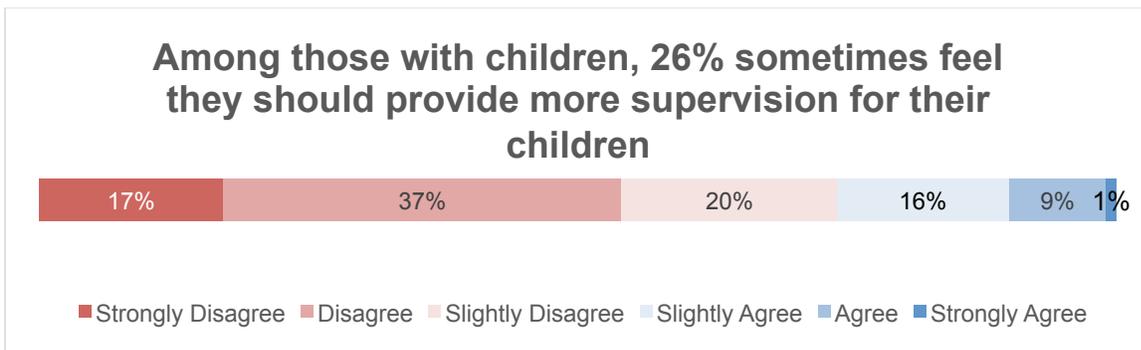


Table 30\_9 – “Sometimes I feel I should provide more supervision for my children.” n=386

**Among those with children, 67% are satisfied with the amount of time they can give to their children**

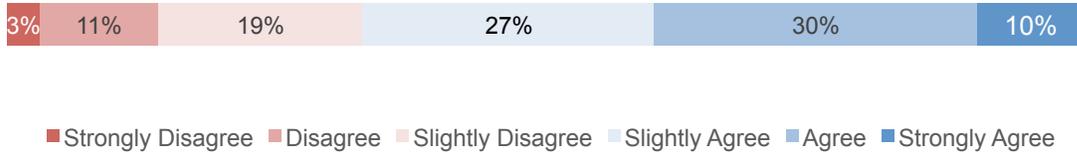


Table 30\_10 – “I am satisfied with the amount of time I can give to my children.” n=387

## Family

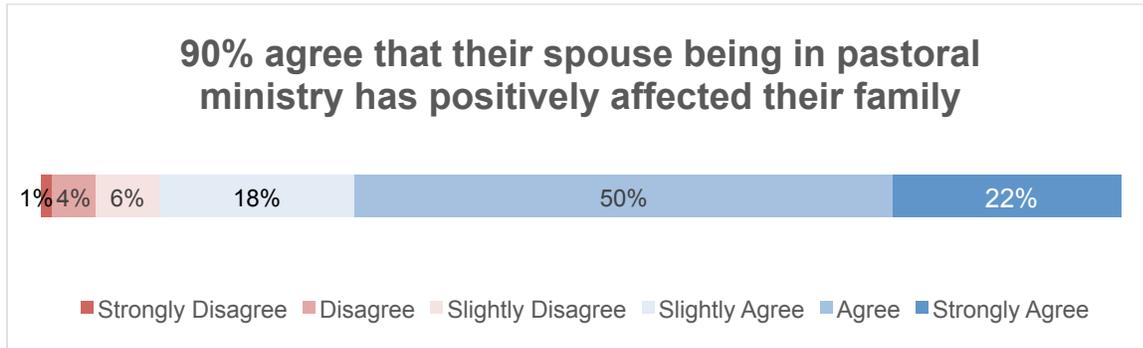


Table 31\_1 – “My spouse being in pastoral ministry has positively affected our family.” n=704

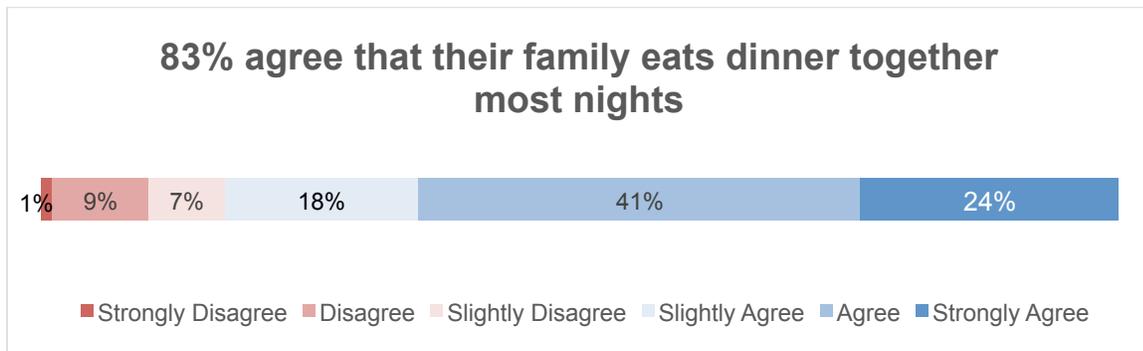


Table 31\_2 – “Most nights our family eats dinner together.” n=699

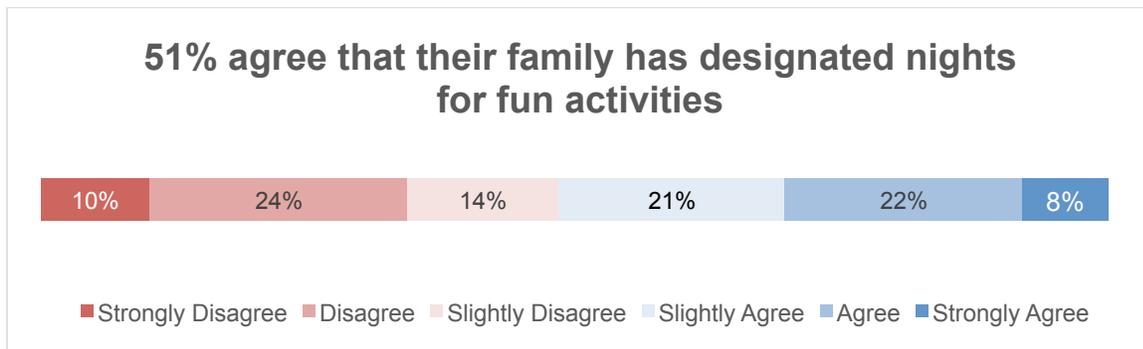


Table 31\_3 – “Our family has designated nights during the week or month for fun activities.” n=688

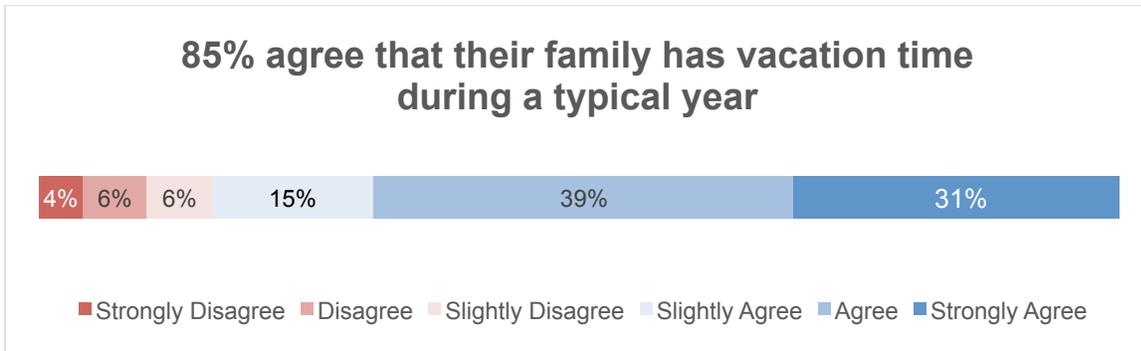


Table 31\_4 – “Our family has vacation time during a typical year.” n=698

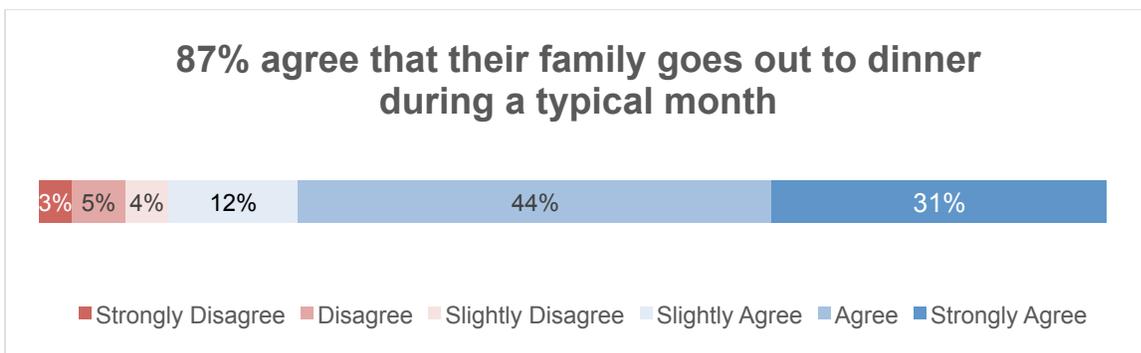


Table 31\_5 – “Our family goes out to dinner during a typical month.” n=527

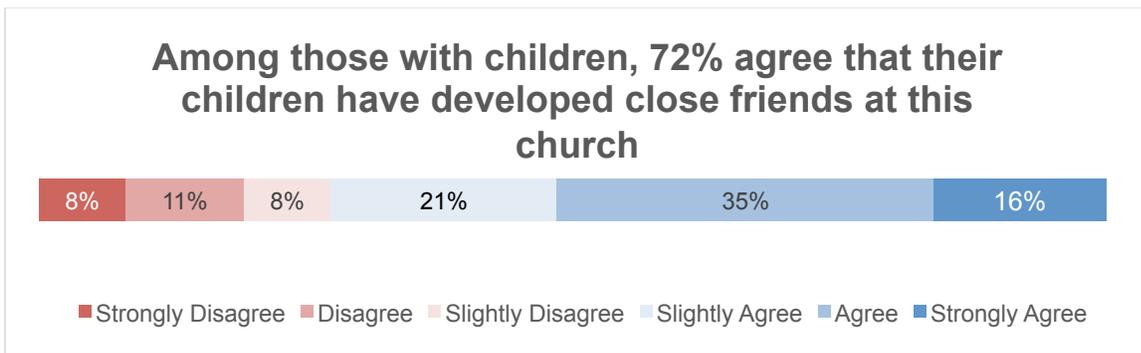


Table 31\_6 – “(If have children) Our child(ren) have developed close friends at this church.” n=447

**Among those with children, 1 out of 4 agree that their children often don't want to attend church**

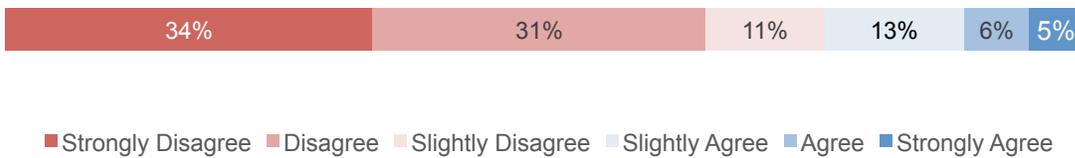


Table 31\_7 – “(If have children) Our child(ren) often don’t want to attend church.” n=448

**35% agree that they often resent the demands of ministry on our family**

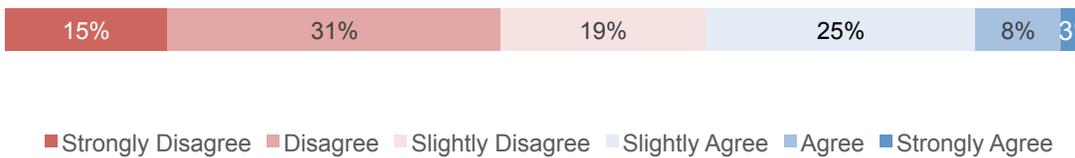


Table 31\_8 – “I often resent the demands of ministry on our family.” n=694

**Among those with children, 1 out of 3 agree their children resent how much time their spouse spends in ministry**

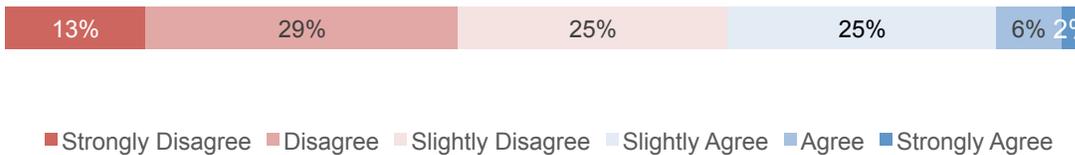


Table 31\_9 – “(If have children) Our child(ren) resent how much time my spouse spends in ministry.” n=446

**62% agree that their spouse “unplugs” from ministerial work one day a week and rests**

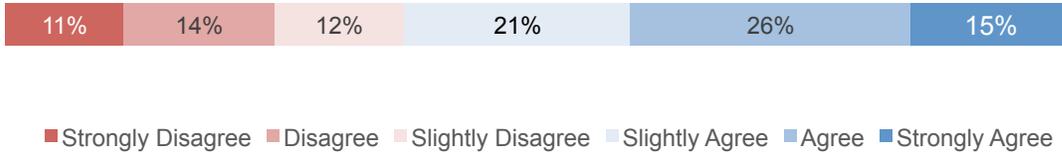


Table 31\_10 – “At least one day a week my spouse “unplugs” from ministerial work and has a day of rest.” n=701

## Engagement in Sources of Help

Table 32 – “Are you currently engaged with any of the following *with* or *without* your spouse... (Select all that apply)” n=708

	<b>With my spouse</b>	<b>Without my spouse</b>
A marriage retreat/conference	18%	2%
A Bible study or small group specifically focusing on marriage topics	22%	14%
A Bible study or small group	36%	34%
Reading material related to marriage topics	9%	13%
A 12-step program	12%	8%
Marriage counseling	12%	9%
Regular time with siblings or extended family	39%	19%
Regular time with friends	33%	28%
Regular "time for yourself"		59%
Communicating with a mentor or Christian leader		18%
Participating in a ministers' spouse support group (online, in person, etc.)		14%
Participating in a conference (specifically for your gender)		24%

**In the last seven days, 52% have had personal time with the Lord involving Bible study and prayer five or more times**

Table 33 – “In the last 7 days, how many times have you had personal time alone with the Lord involving Bible study and prayer, other than lesson preparation?” n=705

7 or more	23%
6	13%
5	16%
4	11%
3	12%
2	11%
1	7%
No times	7%

## Demographics

### Spouse's employment status

Table 2- "And, is your spouse's position at the church part-time or full-time?" n=717

Full-time position (35+ hours per week)	90%
Part-time (Fewer than 35 hours per week)	9%
Interim	1%

### Current position

Table 3 – "What is your spouse's part-time or full-time employment position?" n=715

Senior/Solo (only) pastor/minister	95%
Other minister	4%
Church planter or starter	<1%

### Years as a minister's spouse

Table 4 – "How many years have you been a minister's spouse?" n=708

0-4 years	9%
5-9 years	14%
10-19 years	26%
20+ years	51%

### Gender

Table 34 – "Are you...?" n=709

Male	4%
Female	96%

### Age

Table 35 – "What is your age?" n=708

18-44	33%
45-54	21%
55-64	35%
65+	11%

## Years married

Table 36 – “How many years have you been married?” n=708

0-4 years	3%
5-9 years	8%
10-19 years	23%
20+ years	66%

## Marital history – divorce

Table 37 – “Have you ever been divorced?” n=708

Yes	9%
No	91%

## Children living at home

Table 38 – “Do you have children living at home?” n=707

Yes	53%
No	47%

## Number of children living at home

Table 39 – “How many children do you have living at home?” n=384

1 child	25%
2 children	39%
3 children	23%
4 or more children	13%

## Ages of children living at home

Table 40 – “What are the age categories of your children that are currently living at home? (Select all that apply)” n=383

0-5 years old	31%
6-11 years old	40%
12-14 years old	30%
15-18 years old	32%
19+ years old	29%

**Children with special needs**

Table 41 – “Do you have any children with special needs (physical, emotional, psychological...)?” n=431

Yes	15%
No	85%

**Seminary education**

Table 42 – “Did you or your spouse complete a seminary degree? (Select all that apply)” n=706

Yes, I have a seminary degree	9%
Yes, my spouse has a seminary degree	74%
No, neither of us have a seminary degree	25%

**Church affiliation or denomination**

Table 43 – “Which of the following best reflects your church’s affiliation or denomination?” n=710

Assemblies of God	7%
Baptist	29%
Christian & Missionary Alliance	2%
Church of Christ	3%
Church of God/Church of God in Christ	2%
Evangelical Free	2%
Lutheran	9%
Methodist	9%
Nazarene	3%
Non-denominational/ Independent/ Community/ Bible Church	15%
Pentecostal/ Charismatic/ Word/ Full Gospel	3%
Presbyterian	4%
Seventh Day Adventist	2%
Other	2%

**Select by 1% or less:** African Methodist Episcopal (AME); Anglican; Apostolic ; Brethren; Calvary Chapel; Christian Methodist Episcopal; Congregational; Disciples of Christ; Episcopal; Friends/ Quaker; Foursquare Gospel; Mennonite; Reformed, Reformed Church, or Christian Reformed; Vineyard Church, Wesleyan

## Church identification

Table 44 – “Is your church ... ?” n=690

Mainline	30%
Evangelical	56%
Black Protestant	1%
Not sure	12%

## Average worship attendance

Table 45 – “What is your church’s average worship attendance or typical weekend?” n=706

0-49	17%
30-99	28%
100-249	35%
250 or more	20%