

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 61 FEBRUARY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
FEB. 4-15, 2020  
TOTAL N=6,395**

**SOME QUESTIONS ANALYZED IN THIS REPORT WERE RELEASED PREVIOUSLY AND CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#) AND [HERE](#).**

**OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

**ASK ALL:**

PRES1 In general, how important is it to you to have a president of the United States who...  
**[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Shares your religious beliefs Feb 4-15, 2020	14	25	30	30	<1
b. Has strong religious beliefs, even if they are different from your own Feb 4-15, 2020	20	32	25	22	1
c. Personally lives a moral and ethical life Feb 4-15, 2020	63	31	5	1	<1
d. Stands up for people with your religious beliefs Feb 4-15, 2020	38	31	18	13	1

**ASK ALL:**

CAND Here is a list of some political figures. How religious do you think each person is?  
**[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Very religious</u>	<u>Somewhat religious</u>	<u>Not too religious</u>	<u>Not at all religious</u>	<u>Never heard of this person</u>	<u>No answer</u>
b. Donald Trump Feb 4-15, 2020	7	28	23	40	<1	1
f. Mike Pence Feb 4-15, 2020	43	29	13	6	7	3

**ASK ALL:**

TRUMPRELIG As far as you know, what is Donald Trump's religion?

Feb 4-15

2020

44	NET Christian
33	Protestant
2	"Just Christian" <sup>1</sup>
8	Catholic
1	Jewish
<1	Muslim
<1	Buddhist
16	NET No religion
2	Atheist
13	Nothing in particular
5	Something else
34	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**TRUMPHELP Do you think the Trump administration has helped or hurt the interests of each of the following groups, or hasn't it made much of a difference? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Trump administration has <u>HELPED this group</u>	Trump administration has <u>HURT this group</u>	Has not made much <u>difference</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Evangelical Christians Feb 4-15, 2020	43	11	44	3
b. Muslims Feb 4-15, 2020	7	48	42	3
c. Jews Feb 4-15, 2020	29	26	42	3
d. Catholics Feb 4-15, 2020	25	10	62	3
e. People who are not religious Feb 4-15, 2020	14	18	65	3

<sup>1</sup> This category includes respondents who originally said "something else" and then went on to indicate that Trump is a Christian when they were asked to specify.

**ASK ALL:**

RELIGMINORITY

Do you think of yourself as part of a minority group because of your religious beliefs?

Feb 4-15

2020

24

Yes, consider myself part of a minority group because of my religious beliefs

74

No, do not consider myself part of a minority group because of my religious beliefs

2

No answer

**ASK ALL:**

RELIGCONFLICT

How much conflict, if any, is there between your own religious beliefs and mainstream American culture?

Feb 4-15

2020

42

NET A great deal/some conflict

13

A great deal of conflict

29

Some conflict

57

NET Not much/no conflict

32

Not much conflict

25

No conflict at all

2

No answer

**ASK ALL:**

CHR\_INFL1

Do you think Christianity's influence on American life is...

**[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Feb 4-15

2020

19

Increasing

53

Decreasing

27

Not changing very much

1

No answer

**ASK ALL:**

CHR\_INFL1

Do you think Christianity's influence on American life is...

**ASK IF CHRISTIANITY'S INFLUENCE IS DECLINING (CHR\_INFL1=2) [N=3,431]:**

CHR\_INFL2

All in all, do you think Christianity's declining influence is... **[RANDOMIZE]****BASED ON TOTAL**

Feb 4-15

2020

53

NET Christianity's influence is decreasing

27

This is a permanent change

24

This is a temporary change that may reverse itself in the future

1

No answer

19

Christianity's influence is increasing

27

Christianity's influence is not changing very much

1

No answer

**ASK IF CHRISTIANITY'S INFLUENCE IS DECREASING (CHR\_INFL1=2) [N=3,431]:**

CHR\_INFL3 How important has each of the following been in causing the decline of Christianity's influence in American life? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Major cause of Christianity's <u>declining influence</u>	Minor cause of Christianity's <u>declining influence</u>	Not a cause of Christianity's <u>declining influence</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Negative portrayals of Christianity in popular culture Feb 4-15, 2020	41	40	18	1
b. Government policies have limited religion's role in public life Feb 4-15, 2020	28	36	34	1
c. Misconduct by ministers, priests or other Christian leaders Feb 4-15, 2020	58	34	7	1
d. More permissive attitudes about sexual behavior and sexuality in popular culture Feb 4-15, 2020	53	32	14	1
e. Christianity is too closely associated with conservative politics Feb 4-15, 2020	29	38	31	2

**ASK IF CHRISTIANITY'S INFLUENCE IS DECREASING (CHR\_INFL1=2) [N=3,431]:**

CHR\_INFL4 How important has each of the following been in causing the decline of Christianity's influence in American life? **[SHOW IN ORDER]**

	Major cause of Christianity's <u>declining influence</u>	Minor cause of Christianity's <u>declining influence</u>	Not a cause of Christianity's <u>declining influence</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Growth in the number of people in the U.S. who are not religious Feb 4-15, 2020	60	30	9	1
b. Growth in the number of people in the U.S. who identify with non-Christian religions (such as Islam, Buddhism or Hinduism) Feb 4-15, 2020	29	48	22	1

**ASK IF CHRISTIANITY'S INFLUENCE IS DECREASING (CHR\_INFL1=2) [N=3,431]:**

CHR\_DECOE In your view, are there any other causes of Christianity's declining influence in American life?

Feb 4-15

2020

- 14 NET Major cultural/societal changes**
- 3 Change in family structure, deterioration of the nuclear family
  - 2 Money/materialism/selfishness/consumerism
  - 2 Decline in morals
  - 2 People have stopped believing in God/the Bible
  - 2 Society has become more secular/society has undergone major cultural and demographic changes
  - 2 Religion is being taken out of schools/schools are indoctrinating children
  - 1 Young people are no longer interested in religion
- 6 NET Science/technology/education have replaced need for religion**
- 5 Science/education/modern knowledge replacing religion
  - 2 Technology/social media/the internet
- 6 NET Actions by Christians/the church are pushing people away**
- 3 Christians are hypocritical/hateful/intolerant
  - 1 The church is too strict/rigid/outdated
  - 1 Misconduct by religious leaders
  - 1 Christians, religious leaders spreading the wrong message/watered down message
- 3 NET Government/politics**
- 2 Influence of Democrats/liberals
  - 1 Connection between religion and conservative politics
- 3 People no longer need religion/religion is not a priority/too busy/too lazy**
- 2 Entertainment/Hollywood/celebrities**
- 1 The media**
- 7 Other/unsure**
- 3 No answer**
- 49 No other reason for Christianity's decreasing influence**
- 6 Did not answer question about other causes of Christianity's decreasing influence**

**ASK IF CHRISTIANITY'S INFLUENCE IS INCREASING (CHR\_INFL1=1) [N=1,294]:**

CHR\_INFL5      How important has each of the following been in causing the growth of Christianity's influence in American life? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Major cause of Christianity's growing influence</u>	<u>Minor cause of Christianity's growing influence</u>	<u>Not a cause of Christianity's growing influence</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Christians are building strong communities that watch out for people Feb 4-15, 2020	34	32	32	2
b. Church leaders are doing a better job responding to scandals and misconduct Feb 4-15, 2020	23	31	44	2
c. Christianity's influence had declined so much that it was bound to increase eventually Feb 4-15, 2020	19	30	48	3
d. Christians pushing back against secular trends in society Feb 4-15, 2020	47	31	18	4
e. God intervening to ensure that Christianity prospers Feb 4-15, 2020	36	13	48	2
f. The Trump administration giving Christians more influence Feb 4-15, 2020	51	24	23	2
g. Positive portrayals of Christianity in popular culture Feb 4-15, 2020	36	35	28	2

**ASK IF CHRISTIANITY'S INFLUENCE IS INCREASING (CHR\_INFL1=1) [N=1,294]:**

CHR\_INCR0E In your view, are there any other causes of Christianity's growing influence in American life?

Feb 4-15

2020

7	Trump/Republicans/conservative political movement/connection between religion and politics
3	People are seeking something in the face of adversity
3	Racism/Islamophobia/xenophobia
3	God has intervened/divine intervention/mention of the end times
2	Christians are pushing back against secular trends/liberal policies
1	Impact of money/lobbying
1	Social media/the internet
1	Ignorance
1	The media
1	Prayer/reading the Bible
10	Other/unsure
6	No answer
55	No other reason for Christianity's increasing influence
5	Did not answer question about other causes of Christianity's increasing influence

**ASK ALL:**

BIBLE\_INFL1 How much influence should the Bible have on the laws of the United States?

Feb 4-15

2020

49	NET A great deal/some influence
23	A great deal
26	Some
50	NET Not much/none at all
19	Not much
31	None at all
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

BIBLE\_INFL1 How much influence should the Bible have on the laws of the United States?

**ASK IF BIBLE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SOME INFLUENCE (BIBLE\_INFL1=1,2) [N=3,075]:**

BIBLE\_INFL2 When the Bible and the will of the people conflict with each other, which should have more influence on the laws of the United States?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

Feb 4-15

2020

49	NET Bible should have a great deal/some influence on U.S. Laws
28	When the two conflict, Bible should have more influence
19	When the two conflict, will of the people should have more influence
2	No answer
50	NET Bible should have not much influence/none at all
1	No answer

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ELECT\_TRUMP AND ELECT\_OBAMA****ASK ALL:**

ELECT\_TRUMP

Which comes closest to your own views about God's role in the 2016 election, even if none are exactly right?

Feb 4-15

2020

5

God chose Trump to become president because God approves of Trump's policies  
 Trump's election must be part of God's overall plan, but doesn't necessarily mean God  
 approves of Trump's policies

27

49

God does not get involved in U.S. presidential elections

16

I do not believe in God

2

No answer

**ASK ALL:**

ELECT\_OBAMA

Which comes closest to your own views about God's role in the 2008 and 2012 elections, even if none are exactly right?

Feb 4-15

2020

3

God chose Obama to become president because God approved of Obama's policies  
 Obama's election must have been part of God's overall plan, but doesn't necessarily  
 mean God approved of Obama's policies

29

49

God does not get involved in U.S. presidential elections

16

I do not believe in God

2

No answer

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY

In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 OR 4) OR REFUSED:**

PARTYLN

As of today do you lean more to...<sup>2</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
27	29	29	13	1	17	22

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<sup>2</sup> Party and Partyln asked in a prior survey.