

# AMERICA: LAND OF THE FAITHFUL

America is a deeply religious country, as the data on the next nine pages show. Church and synagogue attendance has changed little over 50 years. For more than eight in ten, religious values were instilled early.

Question: **Did you, yourself, happen to attend church or synagogue in the last seven days?**

## Attended church in the last seven days



## By sex



## By age



## By education



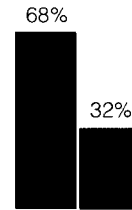
## By income



Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of June 15-17, 1990.

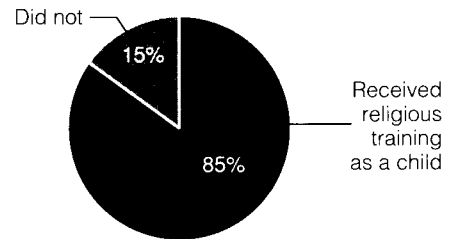
Question: **Do you happen to be a member of a church or synagogue?**

■ Yes, happen to be a member of church/synagogue    ■ No



Note: The historic high for this measure of membership = 76% in 1947. The historic low = 65% in 1988. 1989 response based on average of several surveys taken throughout the year. Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, 1989.

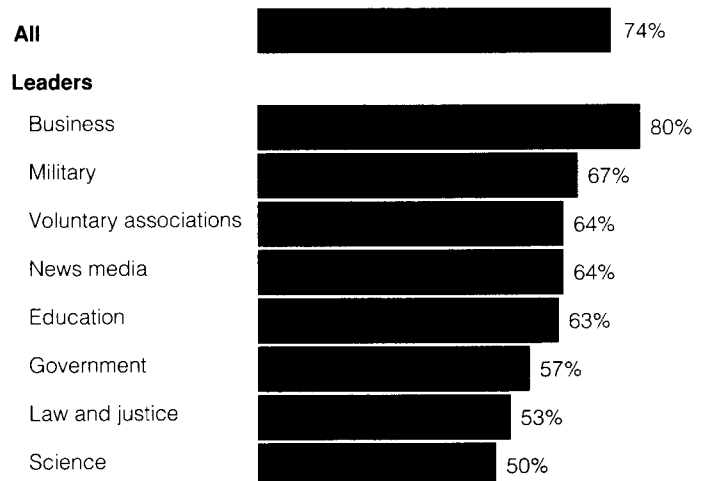
Question: **Did you receive any religious training as a child?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, June 15-17, 1990.

Question: **Do you consider yourself a religious person?**

## Consider self a religious person

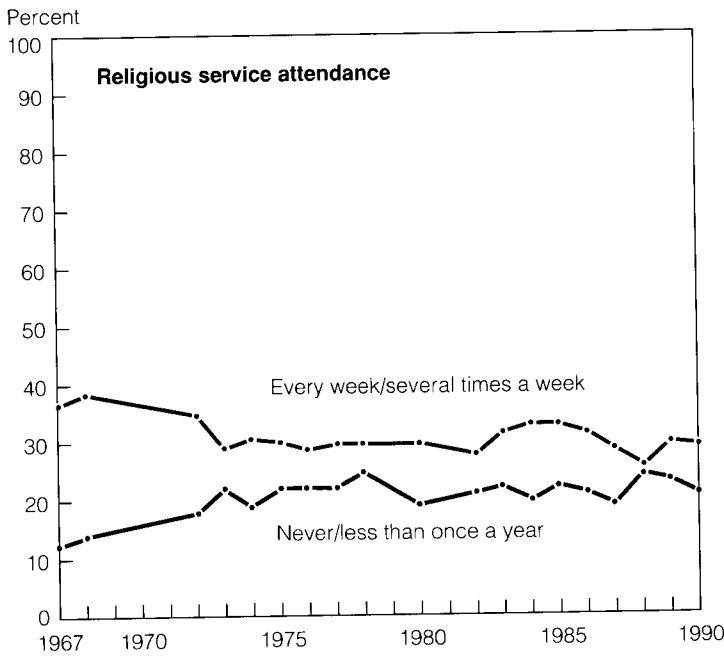


Source: Survey by Research and Forecasts for Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance, September 1-November 15, 1980.

Religion—expressed through prayer, feelings of closeness to God, and belief in God's existence—figures prominently in the personal lives of solid majorities.

Question: **How often do you attend religious services?**

**Religious service attendance**

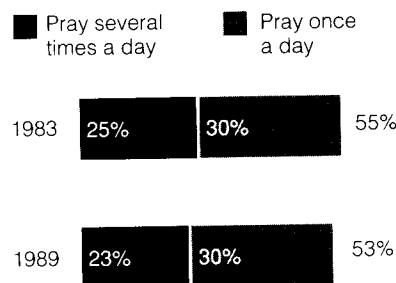


	Never	Less than once a year	About once or twice a year	Several times a year	About once a month	2-3 times a month	Nearly every week	Every week	Several times a week
1967	6%	6%	9%	14%	8%	10%	10%	37%*	—
1968	7	7	9	11	8	10	9	39*	—
1972	9	9	11	14	7	9	6	29	6%
1973	14	8	13	15	6	8	8	21	8
1974	12	7	15	13	8	9	6	23	8
1975	15	7	12	14	7	9	7	23	7
1976	13	9	14	16	7	7	6	20	9
1977	14	8	13	13	7	9	6	22	8
1978	16	9	13	12	7	10	7	20	8
1980	11	8	16	15	7	8	6	22	8
1982	14	7	15	14	7	8	6	20	8
1983	14	8	13	12	7	10	5	23	9
1984	13	7	12	14	8	8	5	24	9
1985	15	7	15	12	7	8	4	25	8
1986	14	7	13	12	8	10	5	23	9
1987	12	7	14	16	8	10	5	21	8
1988	17	7	11	13	8	10	7	19	7
1989	16	7	13	12	8	8	5	23	7
1990	13	8	12	13	8	9	5	22	7

Note: \* = "Every week" and "several times a week" responses combined.

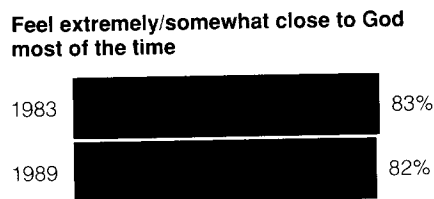
Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of February-April, 1990.

Question: **About how often do you pray?**



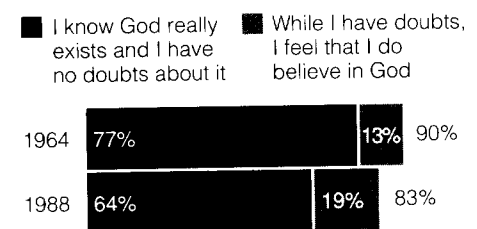
Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of February-April, 1989.

Question: **How close do you feel to God most of the time?**



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of February-April, 1989.

Question: **Please look at this card and tell me which statement comes closest to expressing what you believe about God.**

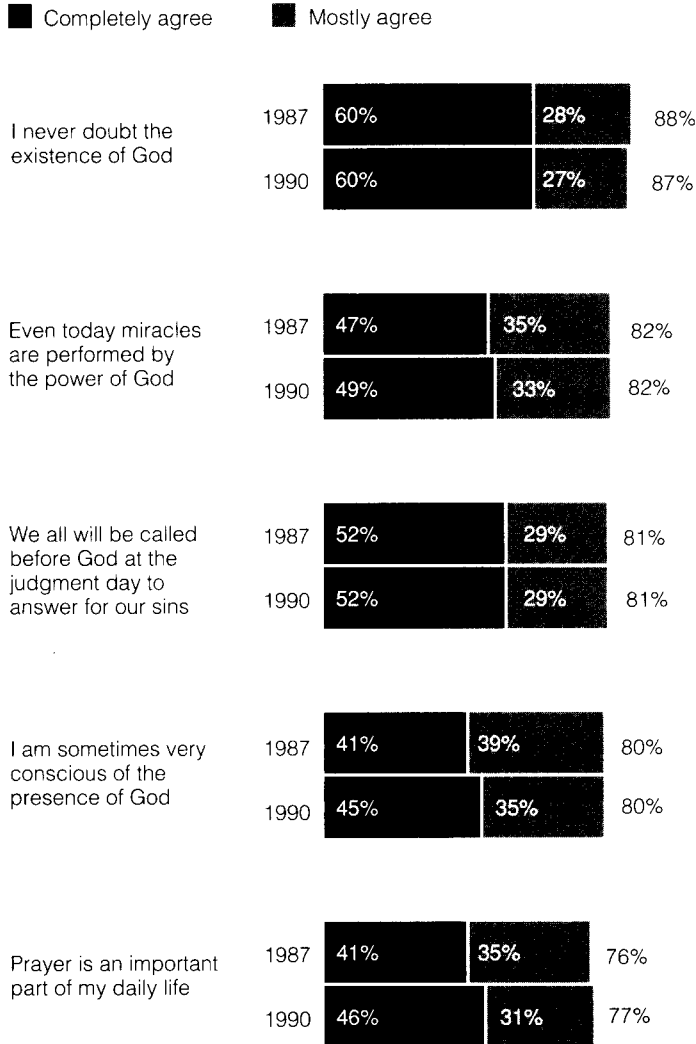


Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center for B'Nai B'Rith, 1964, and the General Social Survey, February-April, 1988.

# I Believe...

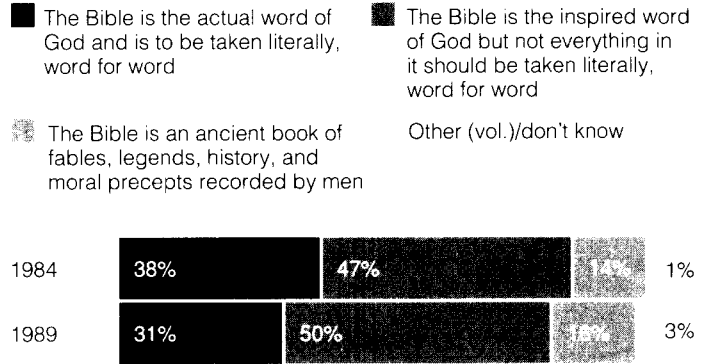
Americans remain strongly committed to traditional religious norms and beliefs.

Question: Here are some statements on a different topic. Please tell how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements.



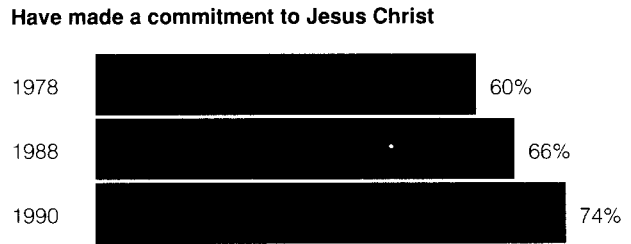
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, 1987, and Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Times Mirror Center for The People and The Press, May 1-31, 1990.

Question: Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of February-April, 1989.

Question: Would you say you have made a commitment to Jesus Christ, or not?

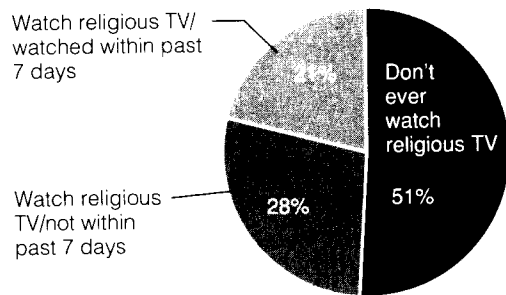


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, latest that of June 15-17, 1990.

# Good Samaritans

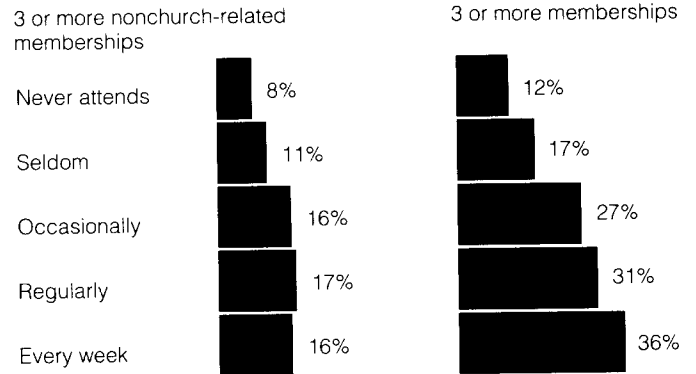
Church members are more involved in charitable activities than are nonmembers, including charities outside the church, and they are generally more inclined to participate in voluntary activities and organizations.

Question: **Do you ever watch religious programs on television? In the past 7 days, have you watched any religious programs on television?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, September 7-10, 1989.

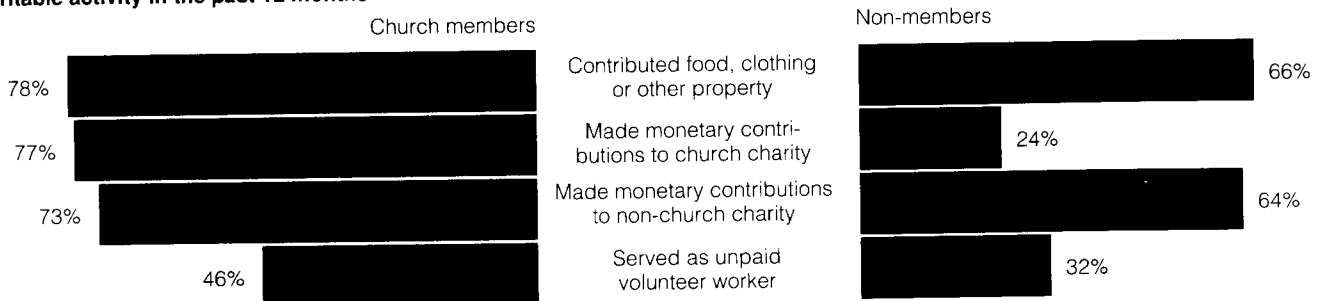
## Voluntary association membership by religious attendance



Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, 1985-1989 combined.

Question: **Now I'd like to focus on the past 12 months and talk about all the ways in which people can help others through charitable organizations and other groups which help people—for example, health organizations, social welfare groups, local community groups, youth organizations, education groups and religious charities. Have you (done any unpaid volunteer work for any of these types of organizations within the past 12 months/contributed money to any charitable organization or other group, not including your church ... /made any contributions to your church during the past 12 months that were used specifically for the church's charitable activities/contributed any food, clothing or other property to a charitable organization or other group that helps people)?**

## Charitable activity in the past 12 months

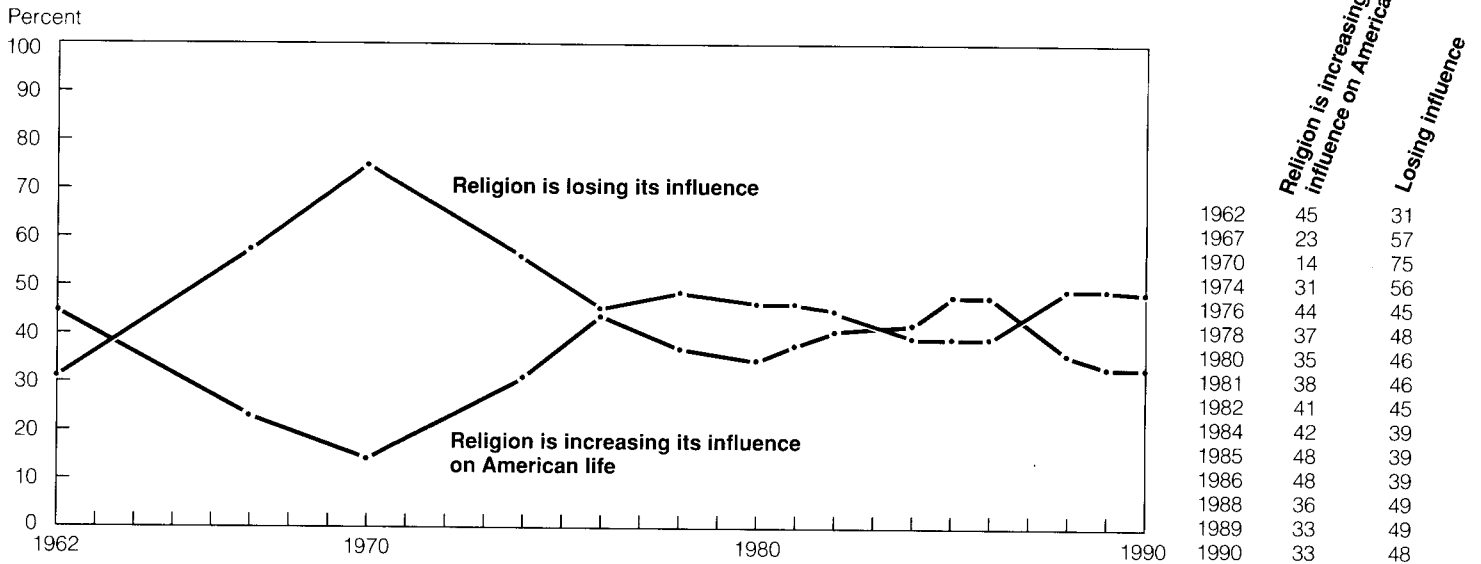


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, November 9-12, 1989.

# Religion's Influence

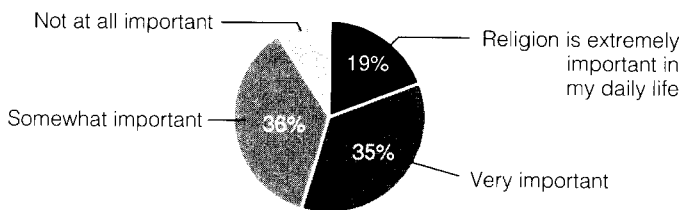
Nearly half of Americans now feel that religion is losing its influence in American life. They don't feel that way, though, about its role in their lives, where it serves as an important guide.

Question: **At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?**



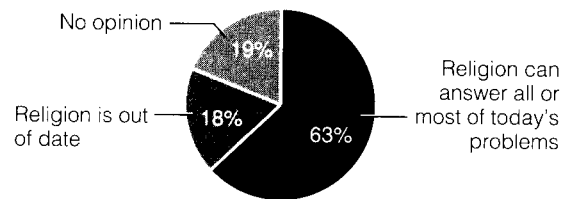
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of June 15-17, 1990.

Question: **How important is religion in your daily life—is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?**



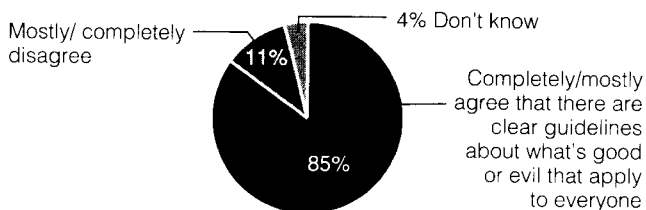
Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, latest that of March 30-April 2, 1990.

Question: **Do you believe that religion can answer all or most of today's problems, or that religion is largely old-fashioned and out of date?**



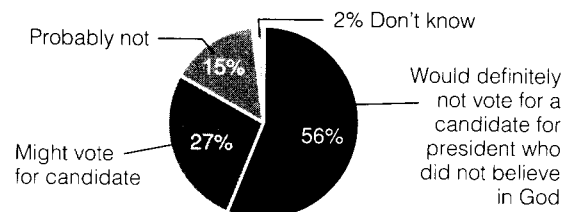
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of June 15-17, 1990.

Question: **Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with this statement—"There are clear guidelines about what's good or evil that apply to everyone regardless of their situation." Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, June 15-17, 1990.

Question: **What about a candidate who does not believe in God? Would you personally not vote for him for president even if you really liked him and you shared his political views? Would you say definitely not, probably not, or you might?**

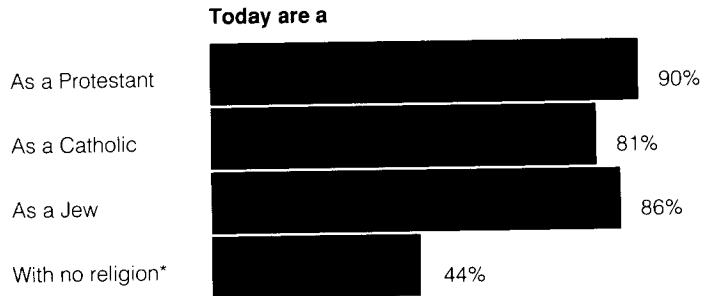


Source: Survey by Yankelovich, Skelly, and White for *Time*, September 20-22, 1983.

# Religion and Politics

Religion has traditionally been an important factor politically, differentiating Americans along ethnic lines. Even today, groups who make up Protestants are more Republican than are those associated with Catholics. But, increasingly, it's the extent of religious involvement and commitment that is the key political variable.

Raised...

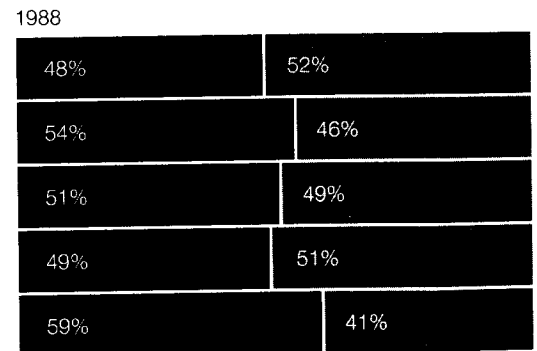
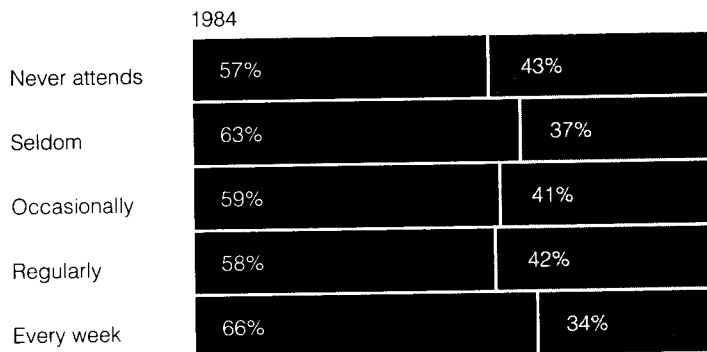
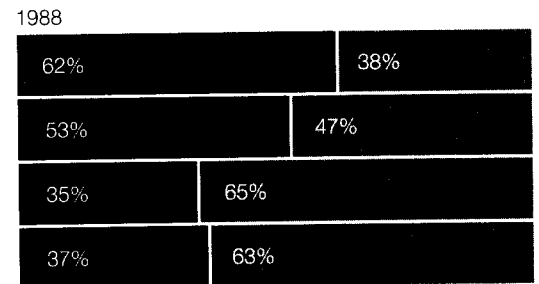
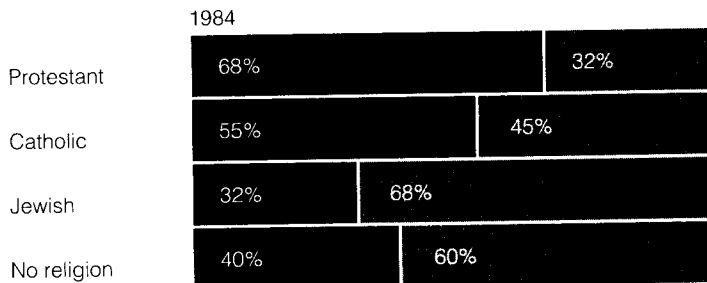


**COMING  
IN THE NEXT  
ISSUE**

**ELECTION  
RESULTS**

**Note:** \*Forty-two percent of those raised with no religion now say they are Protestants, 10% Catholics, and 2% are Jewish. In looking at specific Protestant denominations, NORC finds that 91% of those raised as Baptists say they are Baptists today, 90% of Episcopalians say they are Episcopalians today, 89% of Lutherans, 74% of Methodists, and 72% of Presbyterians.  
**Source:** Survey by National Opinion Research Center, 1985-89 combined.

■ Voted for Republican candidate      ■ Voted for Democratic candidate



**Source:** Surveys by National Opinion Research Center, 1985-89 combined.

# Religious Commitment and Values

The degree of religious involvement is a powerful determinant of one's views on many social issues. Those who attend church regularly, and those who do not, are not very different, however, on most questions about government's role. Today, Protestants and Catholics don't differ much on many of these questions.

## By frequency of attendance

■ Never attends church/synagogue

■ Attends every week

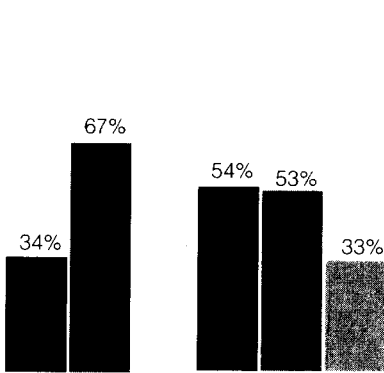
## By denomination

■ Protestant

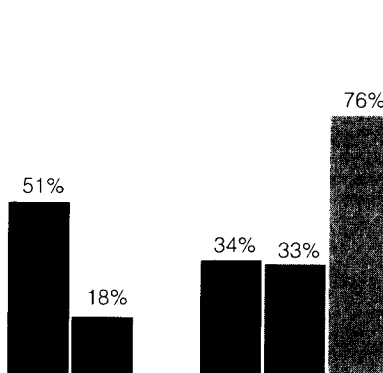
■ Catholic

■ Jew

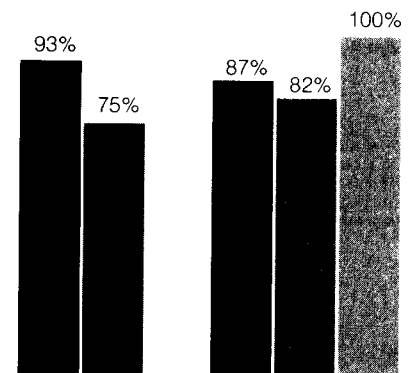
1. Divorce should be more difficult to obtain



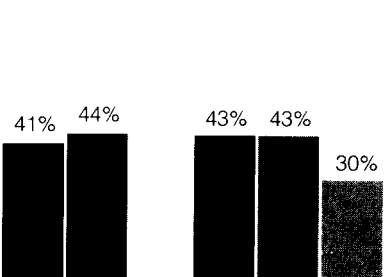
2. Allow legal abortion if woman wants it for any reason



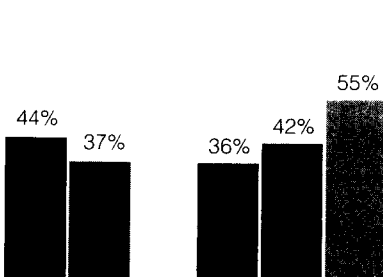
3. Allow legal abortion if woman's health is seriously endangered by the pregnancy



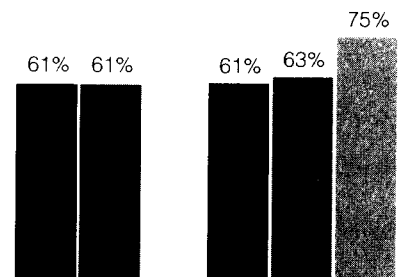
4. We are spending too much on welfare



5. We are spending too much on defense



6. We are spending too little on education



**Question wordings:** (1,8) Should divorce in this country be easier to obtain, more difficult to obtain, or stay as it is now? (2,3,10) Please tell me whether or not you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if ... (4, 5, 6) We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. (7) There's been a lot of discussion about the way morals and attitudes about sex are changing in this country. If a man and woman have sex relations before marriage, do you think it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all? (9) Generally speaking, do you

**Source:** Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, 1985-1989 combined.

Both the extent of religious participation, and where one's church falls along the fundamentalist/liberal continuum, exert strong influence on views on social issues and related values.

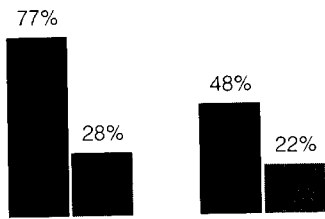
**Fundamentalist denomination/theology\* with...**

■ High church/synagogue attendance ■ Low attendance

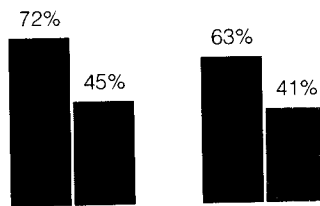
**Liberal denomination/theology\* with...**

■ High church/synagogue attendance ■ Low attendance

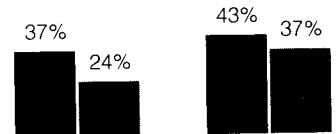
7. Premarital sex always/almost always wrong



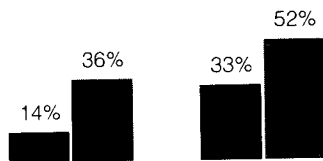
8. Divorce should be more difficult to obtain



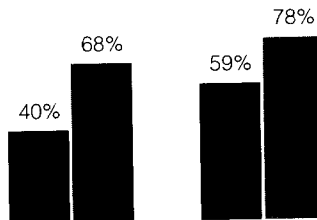
9. Think of self as a Republican



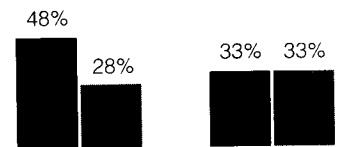
10. Allow legal abortion if woman wants it for any reason



11. Allow patients with incurable illness to die



12. Think of self as conservative



\* Examples of fundamentalist denominations/theologies are Southern Baptist, Church of the Nazarene, Assembly of God, and Church of Christ. Examples of liberal denominations/theologies are Episcopalian, Unitarian/Universalist, Quaker, United Methodist, and Jewish.

usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what? (11) When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his family request it? (12) We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. I'm going to show you a seven-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal ... to extremely conservative. ... For question 12, conservative=5-7 on a seven-point scale.

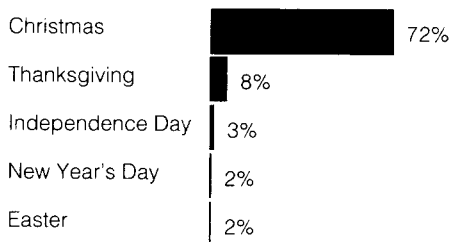
Source: Survey by the National Opinion Research Center, 1985-1989 combined.



# HOLIDAY CHEER

St. Nick has been spotted by eight percent of Americans... Christmas green—trees and dollars—abounds... More than half of Americans attend church as part of their celebration of Christmas.

Question: **What is your favorite holiday?**



**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 12-15, 1989.

Question: **Thinking of the way you personally celebrate Christmas, is it a strongly religious holiday, somewhat religious, or not too religious?**

## The way personally celebrate Christmas



**Note:** Sample=people who celebrate Christmas (90%). 1% said they celebrate Hanukkah, 4% said they celebrate both.  
**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 12-15, 1989.

Question: **Do you usually attend church on Christmas Eve, on Christmas Day, or don't you usually attend church as part of Christmas?**

## Usually attend church on...

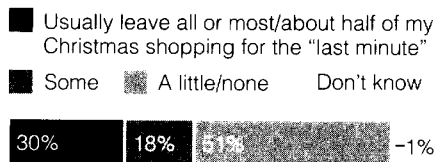


Question: **Do you usually put up a Christmas tree in your home?**  
Question: **Is it usually a real Christmas tree or an artificial tree?**



**Note:** Sample=people who celebrate Christmas.  
**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 12-15, 1989.

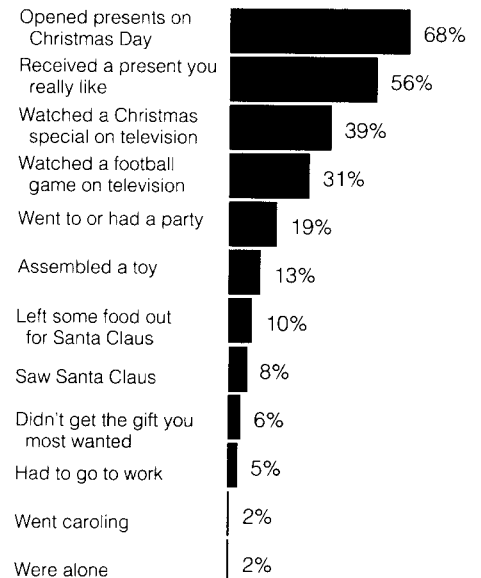
Question: **How much of your Christmas shopping do you usually leave for the "last minute"? Would you say...**



**Note:** Sample=people who celebrate Christmas. Fifty-six percent say they enjoy shopping for Christmas gifts a great deal or a fair amount.  
**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 12-15, 1989.

Question: **Here is a list of things some people have told us they did over Christmas—that is either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. (Card shown respondent) Would you please read down that list and call off the letters of all the things you did, if any, over Christmas?**

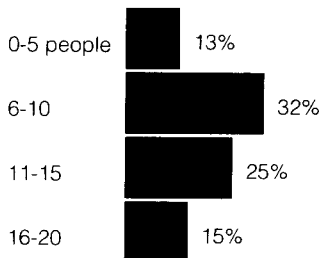
## Did over Christmas



**Note:** Selected responses shown. In an October 1989 Gallup survey, 82% said they usually give gifts or assistance to the poor during the holidays, 72% prepare a special dinner for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and 51% said they bake Christmas cookies.  
**Source:** Survey by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 89-2), January 7-21, 1989.

Question: **For how many people, if any, do you plan to buy Christmas gifts this year? Just your best guess.**

## This year, plan to buy Christmas gifts for...



**Note:** Sample=people who celebrate Christmas.  
**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, October 12-15, 1989.

Question: **Roughly how much money do you think you will spend on Christmas gifts this year?**

## Will spend ... dollars on Christmas gifts this year

