

The Present Day Church

The Rise of “Nones”
Gender & Sexual Identity



**In your view, what's the most
important conversation
churches need to have today?**



Explore God Video

Americans with “No Religious Identity” (Meet Gen Z, 2017)

1940s – 5%

1990s – 8.1%

2008 – 15%

2012 – 19.3%

2014 – 23.0%

Adults Under 30 – 36%



Percentage of US Adults Who Say Religion is Very Important in Their Lives (Meet Gen Z, 2017)

Baby Boomers (1946–1964) – 59%

Generation X (1965–1980) – 53%

Older Millennials (1981–1989) – 44%

Younger Millennials (1990–1996) – 38%



State of The World (Meet Gen Z, 2017)

Church Attendance Decline

- 51% – Silent Generation (1928–1945)
- 28% – Younger Millennials (1990–1996)

N.Eastern University – On Gen Z

- 73% in favor of same-sex marriage
- 74% support equal rights for transgender people



9k // 75k



I am interested in learning more about Christianity and what it could mean for my life



I would most prefer to explore the Christian faith ...

% among those who are interested

One-on-one with someone who is a Christian



As an anonymous listener in a crowd at a Christian event or service



In a small group made up of mostly other people who are not Christians but who are all interested in exploring faith together



82% // 2%



People are less likely to seek out religious experiences, but they are more likely to accept a personal invitation to learn more about Jesus Christ.



Barna Conversations Vid?

MATTHEW

28.16–20

So the **eleven disciples** went to Galilee
to the mountain Jesus had
designated.



MATTHEW

28.16–20

When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some **doubted**.



MATTHEW

28.16–20

Then Jesus came up and said to them,
“All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.”



MATTHEW

28.16–20

“Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you.”



MATTHEW

28.16–20

“And remember, **I am with you** always,
to the end of the age.”



How does this make you feel
about your personal ministry
moving forward?

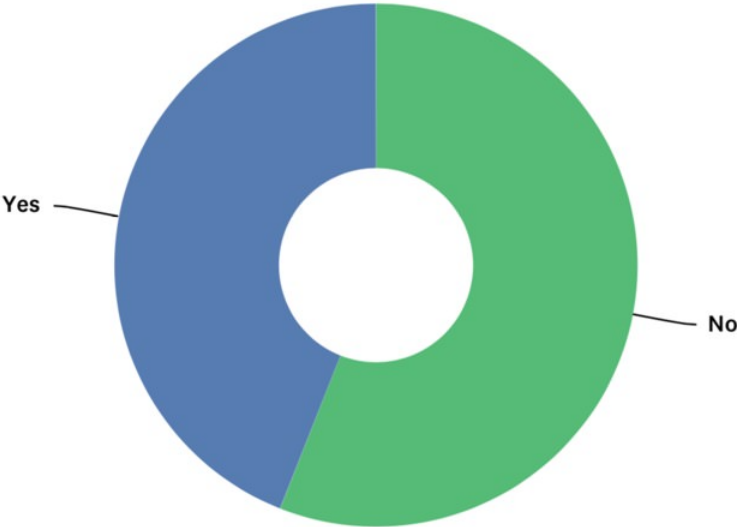
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What excites you about the
changing opportunities to
proclaim the Gospel?



Q14 Do you have any friends who have struggled with their gender identity?

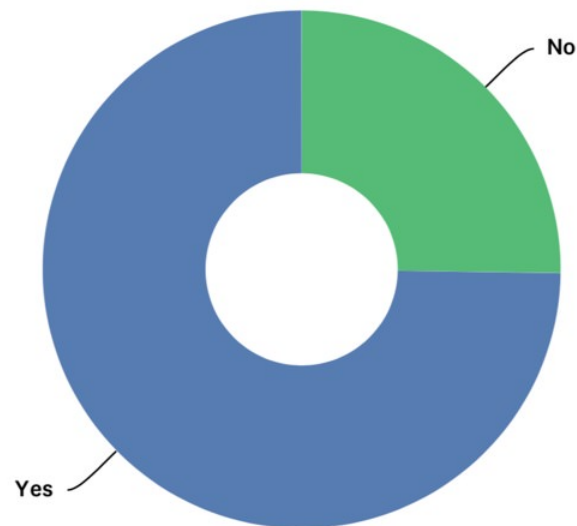
Answered: 734 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	55.99%	411
Yes	44.01%	323
TOTAL		734

Q12 Do you have any friends who have experienced same sex attraction?

Answered: 733 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	25.24%	185
Yes	74.76%	548
TOTAL		733

GENESIS

5.1-2

When God created humankind, he made them in the **likeness of God**. He created them **male** and **female**; when they were created, he blessed them and named them “humankind.”



Design

Everyone Has Value



Design

Everyone Has Value

- Regardless of Gender (Gen. 1:27)



Design

Everyone Has Value

- Regardless of Gender (Gen. 1:27)
- Regardless of Choices (Rom. 5:8)



Design

Everyone Has Value

- Regardless of Gender (Gen. 1:27)
- Regardless of Choices (Rom. 5:8)
- Regardless of Limitations (Lev. 19:14)



Design

Everyone Has Value

- Regardless of Gender (Gen. 1:27)
- Regardless of Choices (Rom. 5:8)
- Regardless of Limitations (Lev. 19:14)
- Regardless of Age (Jer. 1:5, Lev. 19:32)



Design

Everyone Has Value

Gender is Given By The Creator



Gender is Given By The Creator

There is overlap



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- Gen. 1:28 – Fill, subdue, have dominion over Earth



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- James 1:27 – We are called to care for the poor



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There are distinctions



Gender is Given By The Creator

There is overlap

- Gen. 1:28 – Fill, subdue, have dominion over Earth
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There are distinctions

- Gen. 3:16–19 – Difference in Biology



Gender is Given By The Creator

There is overlap

- Gen. 1:28 – Fill, subdue, have dominion over Earth
- James 1:27 – We are called to care for the poor

There are distinctions

- Gen. 3:16–19 – Difference in Biology
- Gen. 2:18–25, Eph 5 – Difference in Roles



Design

Everyone Has Value
Gender is Given by The Creator
Everyone Has Purpose



JEREMIAH

17.9

The human mind is more **deceitful** than
anything else.
It is incurably **bad**. Who can
understand it?



WARREN BUFFETT

Investor, Author, Rich Guy

What the human being is best at doing is interpreting all new information so that their **prior conclusions** remain intact.



PROVERBS

14.12

There is a way that **seems right** to a person, but its end is the way that leads to **death**.



JOHN

11.32-35

Now when Mary came to the place
where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell at his feet and said to him,
“Lord, if you had been here, my brother
would not have died.”



JOHN 11.32-35

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the people who had come with her weeping, he was **intensely moved** in spirit and greatly distressed.



JOHN 11.32-35

He asked, “Where have you laid him?”
They replied, “Lord, come and see.”



JOHN 11.32-35

Jesus wept.



GALATIANS

3.27-28

For all of you who were baptized
into Christ have clothed yourselves
with Christ.



GALATIANS

3.27-28

There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free,
there is neither male nor female

For all of you are one in Christ Jesus



One of the problems with human sexuality is corrupted desire (Mk 7.20–23). We have natural feelings that are harmful. Do you agree or disagree? Can you think of examples of this?

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Gender is determined by God-designed biology (Gen 1.27). Is this enough evidence for you? Why or why not?



COLOSSIANS

1.16-17

For all things in heaven and on earth
were created in him – all things,
whether visible or invisible, whether
thrones or dominions, whether
principalities or powers –



COLOSSIANS

1.16-17

All things were created **through him**
and **for him**.

He himself is before all things and all
things are held together in him.



PSALMS

16.11

You lead me in the path of life;
I experience absolute joy in
your presence;
You always give me
sheer delight.



1 CORINTHIANS

6.12

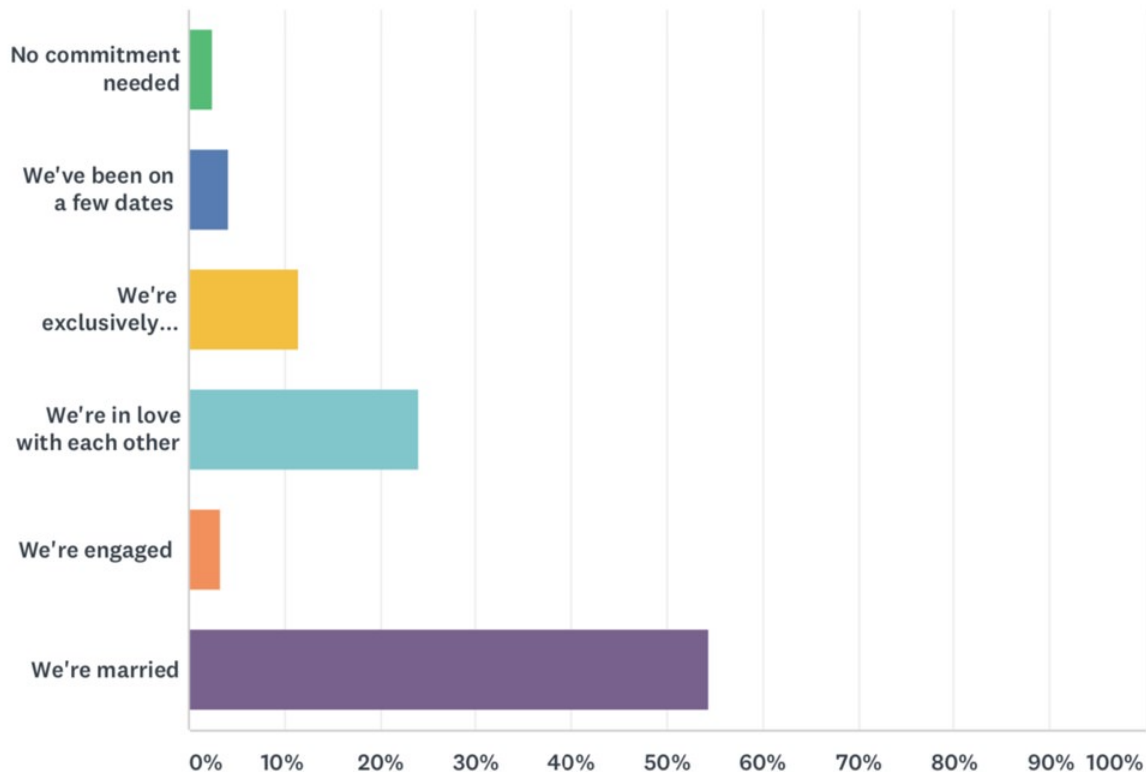
“All things are lawful for me”
But not everything is **beneficial**

“All things are lawful for me”
But I will not be **controlled** by anything



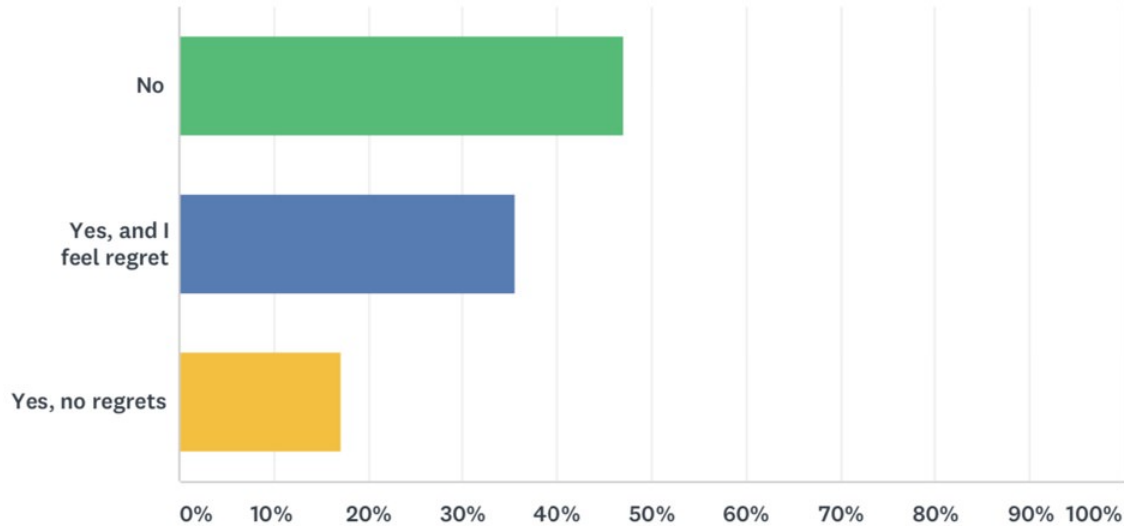
Q9 What level of commitment do you need with someone before you'd consider sexual activity?

Answered: 732 Skipped: 2



Q7 Have you had any sexual experiences? (oral sex, intercourse, etc.)

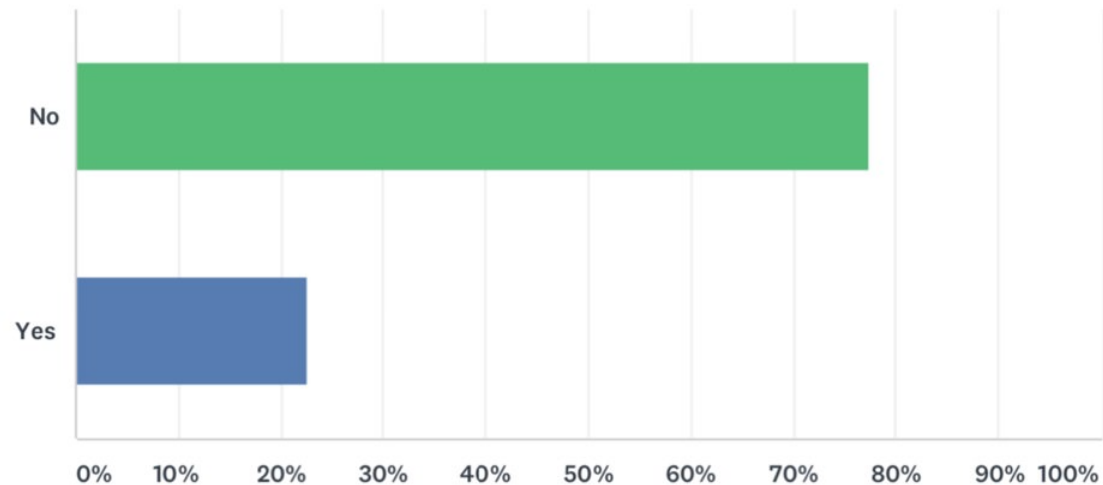
Answered: 732 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	47.13%	345
Yes, and I feel regret	35.66%	261
Yes, no regrets	17.21%	126
TOTAL		732

Q8 Are you currently sexually active? (oral sex, intercourse, etc.)

Answered: 730 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	77.40%	565
Yes	22.60%	165
TOTAL		730

JOHN

9.1-3

Now as Jesus was passing by, he saw a man who had been **blind from birth**. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, **who committed the sin** that caused this man to be born blind, this man or his parents?”



JOHN

9.1-3

Jesus answered,
“Neither this man nor his parents
sinned, but he was born blind so that
the **acts of God may be revealed**
through what happens to him.”



RESOURCES

Meet Gen Z – James E. White
ExploreGod.com

Is God Anti-Gay? – Sam Allberry
LivingOut.org



We said that God has the right to direct our sexual behavior because He is creator (Col 1.16–17), He loves us (Ps 136.26), and He wants what's best for us (Ps 16.11).
Do you agree or disagree? Why?

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What does it look like for a believer to respond to the LGBTQ community in a Christ-like way? (John 1.14–18)

