

Pastor Views on Sermons and the IRS

Survey of 1,000 Protestant Pastors

**Sponsored by Alliance Defending
Freedom**

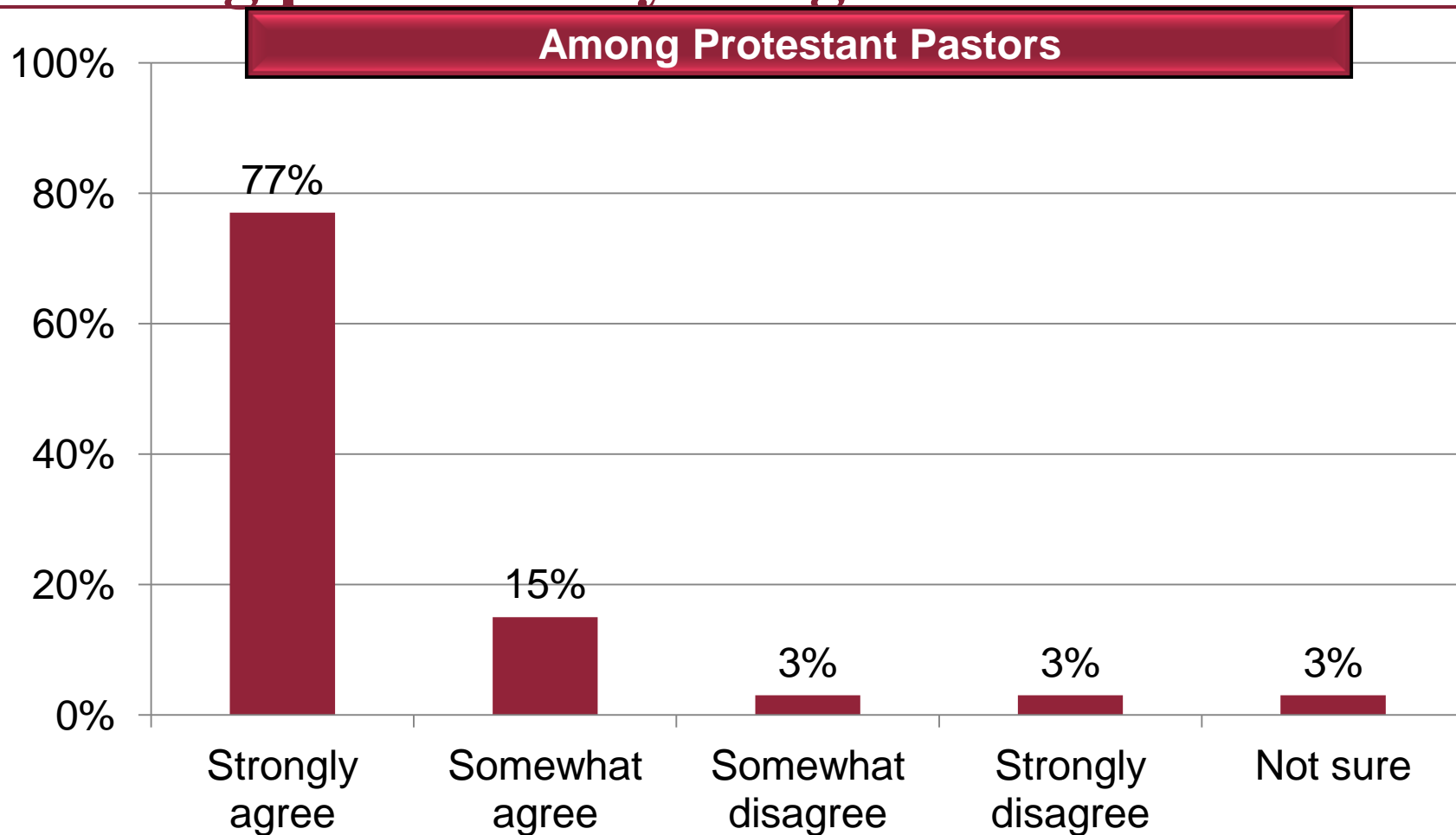


Methodology

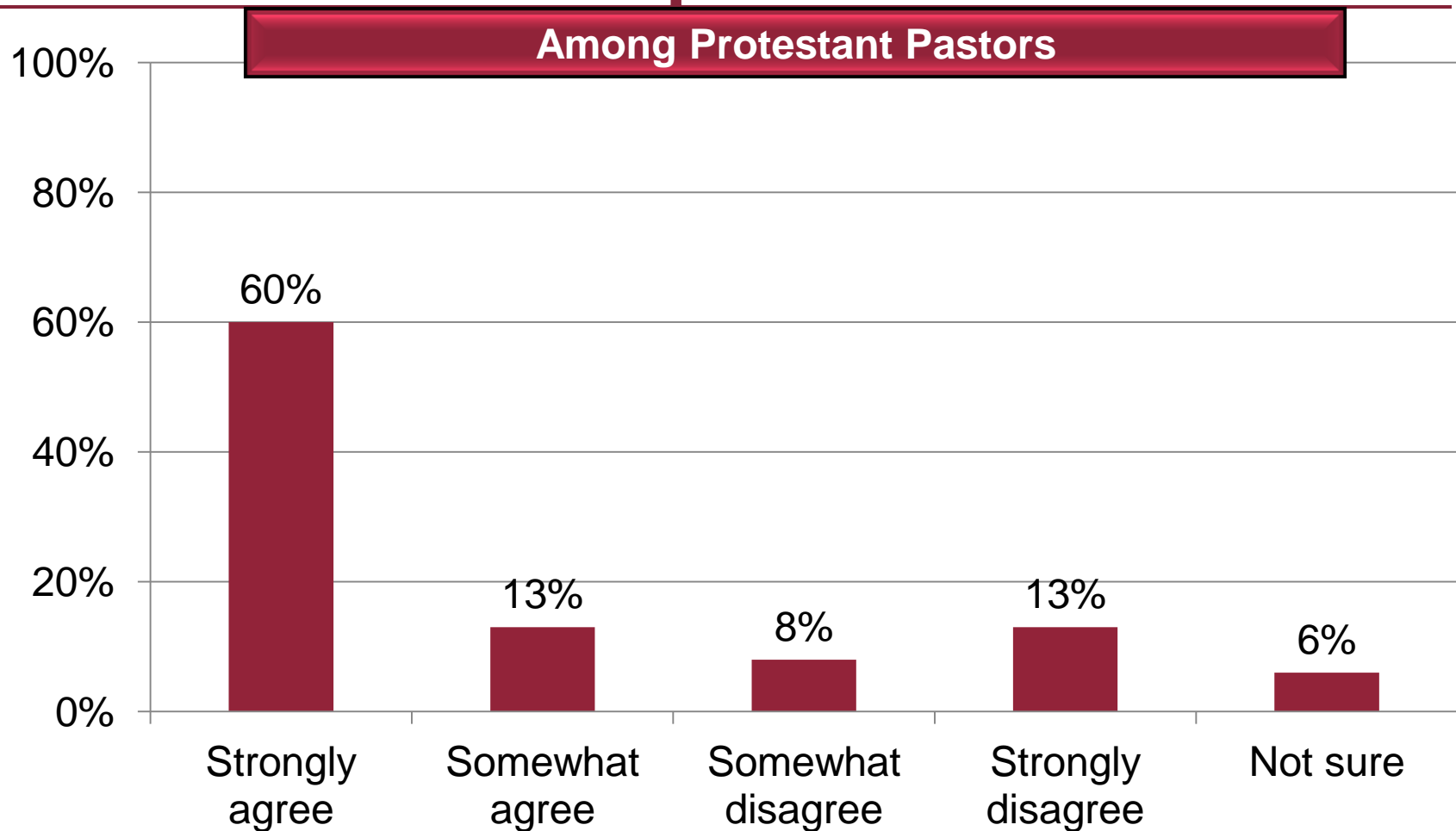
- ❑ The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 – September 18, 2017
- ❑ These questions were sponsored by Alliance Defending Freedom
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses

91% agree that pastors should have the right to speak freely from the pulpit without fear of being penalized by the government



73% agree Congress should remove the IRS' power to penalize a church because of the content of its pastor's sermons



Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's attendance and region, the pastor's gender, age and ethnicity.

Attendance	Region	Pastor's Gender	Pastor's Age	Pastor's Ethnicity
0-49	Northeast	Male	18-44	White
50-99	Midwest	Female	45-54	African-American
100-249	South		55-64	Other Ethnicities
250+	West		65+	

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among education level, the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, and denomination.

Education Level	Self-Identified	Denomination
No College Degree	Evangelical	Baptist
Bachelor's Degree	Mainline	Lutheran
		Methodist
		Pentecostal
		Presbyterian/ Reformed
		Holiness

“Pastors should have the right to speak freely from the pulpit without the fear of being penalized by the government.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (94%) and 250+ (96%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 0-49 (88%) and 50-99 (89%)
- Pastors in the South (93%) and West (94%) are more likely to Agree than Pastors in the Northeast (86%)
- Male pastors (93%) are more likely to Agree than female pastors (82%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (95%) and 55-64 (92%) are more likely to Agree than those 18-44 (86%)
- Those with no college degree (98%) or a Bachelor’s degree (96%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master’s degree (88%)
- Evangelical pastors (96%) are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (85%)
- Baptists (97%) and Holiness (100%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (92%), Methodists (86%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (88%)

“Congress should remove the IRS’ power to penalize a church because of the content of its pastor’s sermons.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to Agree (87%)
- Pastors in the South (77%) are more likely to Agree than Pastors in the Northeast (66%)
- Male pastors (77%) are more likely to Agree than female pastors (49%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to Agree (60%)
- Those with no college degree (90%) or a Bachelor’s degree (84%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master’s (67%) or a Doctoral degree (71%)
- Evangelical pastors (84%) are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (58%)
- Baptists (86%), Pentecostals (93%), and Holiness (91%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (61%), Methodists (56%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (61%)

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