Pastor Views on Tithing

Survey of Protestant Pastors
Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 – September 18, 2017
- 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 ±3.2%
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
Survey Responses
67% of pastors have preached on tithing in the last year; 20% never have

Among Protestant Pastors

- In the last month: 9%
- In the last 6 months: 28%
- In the last year: 31%
- In the last 2 years: 5%
- 3 or more years ago: 6%
- Tithing has never been the primary emphasis of one of my sermons: 20%
- Not sure: 1%

Q19 “When was the last time you preached a sermon in which the primary emphasis was on tithing?”
72% of pastors say tithing is a biblical command that still applies today

Q20 “Is tithing a biblical command that still applies today?”
Among pastors that believe in a command to tithe 73% say it is ten percent of a person’s income

Among Protestant Pastors that say tithing is a biblical command that still applies today

- 10 percent of a person's gross income: 56%
- 10 percent of a person's net income: 17%
- Another percentage of income: 1%
- Whatever amount a person regularly sets aside to give: 11%
- Whatever amount a person actually gives: 7%
- None of these: 6%
- Not sure: 3%

Q21 “How do you define a tithe?” Asked if Q20 is Yes
Significant Differences

Pastor
Ethnicity
Age
Gender
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Pastor’s Gender</th>
<th>Pastor’s Age</th>
<th>Pastor’s Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-99</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>African-American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-249</td>
<td>South</td>
<td></td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>Other Ethnicities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250+</td>
<td>West</td>
<td></td>
<td>65+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions
Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among education level, the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, and denomination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Self-Identified</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No College Degree</td>
<td>Evangelical</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>Mainline</td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian/Reformed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Holiness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“When was the last time you preached a sermon in which the primary emphasis was on tithing?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (29%) and 50-99 (23%) are more likely to answer “Tithing has never been the primary emphasis of one of my sermons” than those with attendance of 100-249 (15%) and 250+ (12%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (26%) are more likely to answer “Tithing has never been the primary emphasis of one of my sermons” than Pastors in the South (17%)
- Female pastors (39%) are more likely to answer “In the last year” than male pastors (30%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to answer “3 or more years ago” (1%)
- White pastors (32%) are more likely to answer “In the last year” than pastors of Other Ethnicities (18%)
- Those with no college degree are the least likely to answer “In the last 2 years” (<1%)
“When was the last time you preached a sermon in which the primary emphasis was on tithing?” (continued)

• Lutherans (37%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (28%) are more likely to answer “Tithing has never been the primary emphasis of one of my sermons” than Baptists (14%), Methodists (13%), Pentecostals (14%), and Holiness (13%)
“Is tithing a biblical command that still applies today?”

- Pastors in the South (75%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than Pastors in the Midwest (66%)
- Female pastors (85%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than male pastors (70%)
- Those with no college degree (84%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than those with a Master’s degree (69%) or a Doctoral degree (72%)
- Methodists (88%), Pentecostals (94%), and Holiness (91%) are more likely to answer “Yes” than Baptists (77%), Lutherans (56%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (54%)
“How do you define a tithe?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to answer “10 percent of a person’s gross income” (71%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to answer “Whatever amount a person actually gives” (13%)
- Pastors in the South are the most likely to answer “10 percent of a person’s gross income” (67%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (13%) are more likely to answer “Whatever amount a person actually gives” than those in the South (5%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (62%) are more likely to answer “10 percent of a person’s gross income” than those 18-44 (48%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (17%) are more likely to answer “Whatever amount a person regularly sets aside to give” than those 55-64 (10%) and 65+ (8%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities are the most likely to answer Whatever amount a person actually gives (19%)
“How do you define a tithe?” (continued)

- Evangelical pastors (63%) are more likely to answer “10 percent of a person’s gross income” than Mainline pastors (48%)
- Baptists (75%), Pentecostals (66%), and Holiness (62%) are more likely to answer “10 percent of a person’s gross income” than Lutherans (31%), Methodists (44%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (43%)
- Lutherans (20%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (20%) are more likely to answer “Whatever amount a person regularly sets aside to give” than Baptists (8%), Pentecostals (3%), and Holiness (4%)
- Lutherans (15%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (12%) are more likely to answer “Whatever amount a person actually gives” than Baptists (3%) and Holiness (2%)
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