

The Greatest Needs of Pastors

Spiritual Difficulties

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

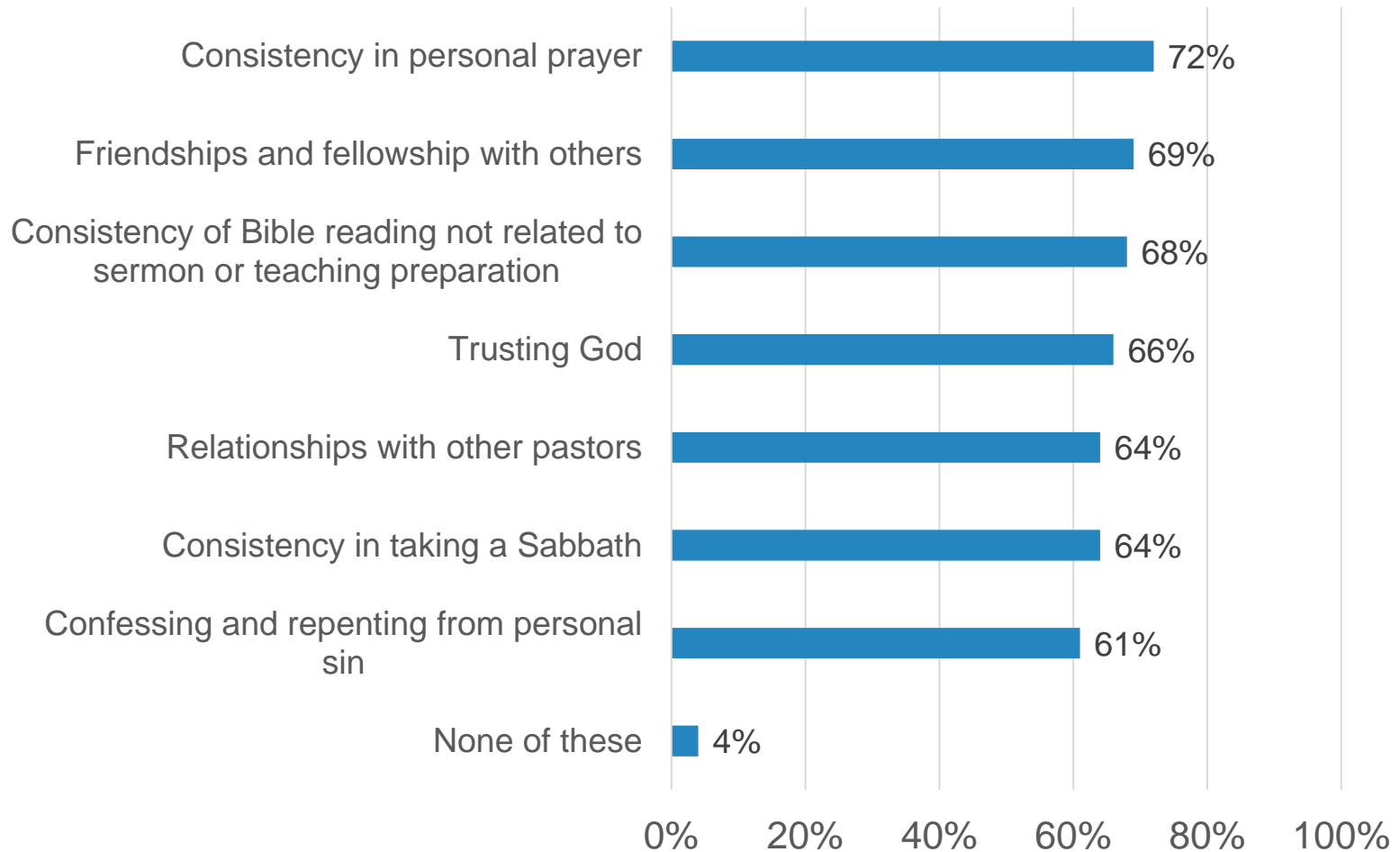
Lifeway research

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted March 30 – April 22, 2021
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each survey was completed by the senior or sole pastor or a minister at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size 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 $\pm 3.1\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

“Which of the following spiritual needs are important in your own life to invest in as a pastor?”

Among Protestant Pastors

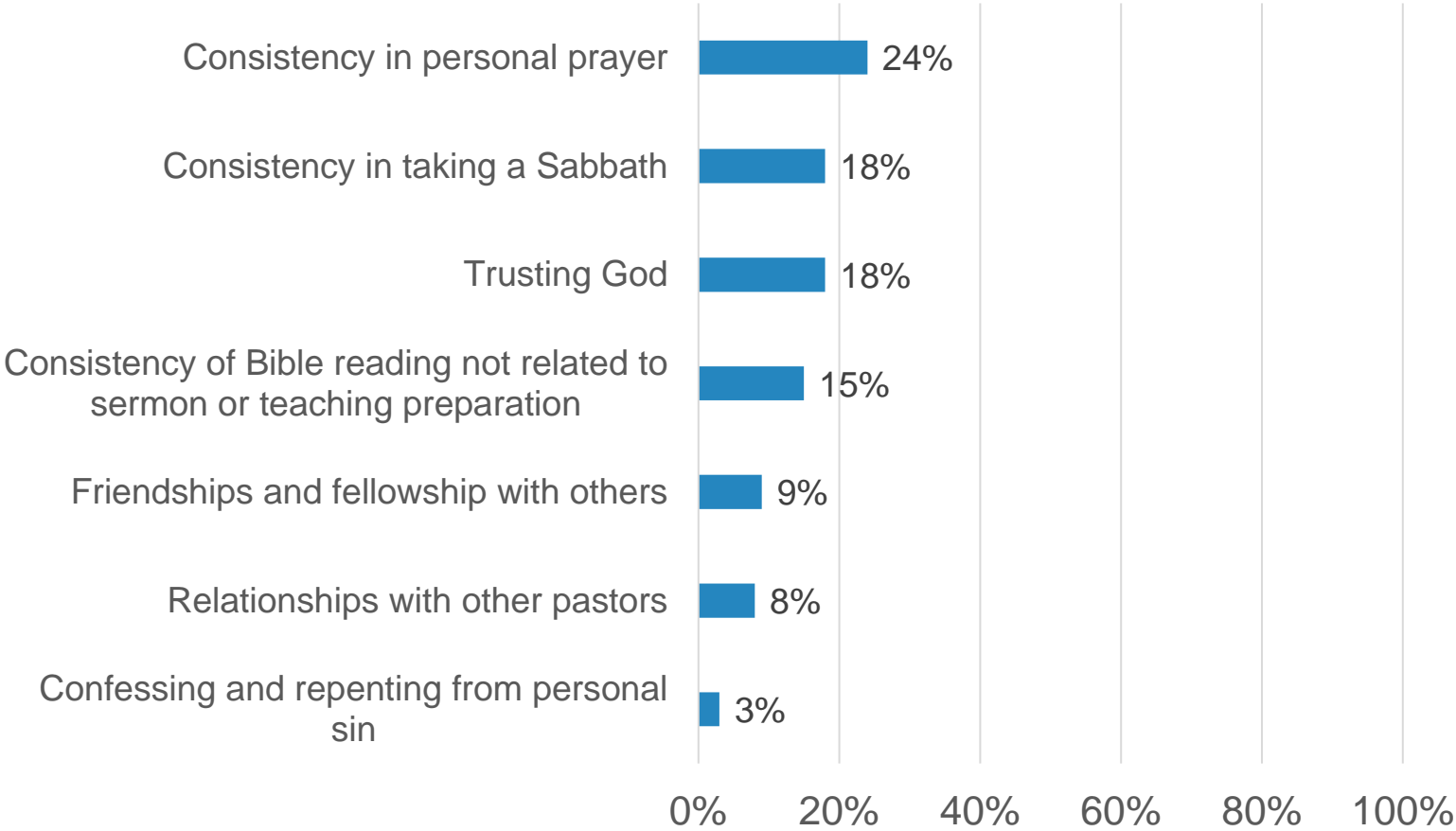


Lifeway research

Q4: “Which of the following spiritual needs are important in your own life to invest in as a pastor? (Select all that apply)”

24% say they need invest in consistency in personal prayer

Among Protestant Pastors



Significant Differences

Pastor

Age

Gender

Ethnicity

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Lifeway research

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

AGE	GENDER	ETHNICITY	EDUCATION	SELF-IDENTIFIED
18-44	Male	White	No College Degree	Evangelical
45-54	Female	African American	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
55-64		Other Ethnicities	Graduate Degree	
65+			Doctoral Degree	

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

REGION	DENOMINATION GROUP	ATTENDANCE
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/Church of Christ	
	Non-denominational	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

“Which of the following spiritual needs are important in your own life to invest in as a pastor?”

Relationships with other pastors

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (73%)
- Pastors with no college degree (66%) or a Master’s degree (68%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral degree (51%)
- Baptists (65%), Methodists (68%), and Pentecostals (66%) are more likely to select than Non-denominational (53%)

“Which of the following spiritual needs are important in your own life to invest in as a pastor?” *(continued)*

Consistency of Bible reading not related to sermon or teaching preparation

- Pastors age 18-44 (75%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (64%) and 65+ (65%)
- Pastors with no college degree (73%) or a Master’s degree (70%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral degree (58%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (74%) are more likely to select than Non-denominational (59%)

“Which of the following spiritual needs are important in your own life to invest in as a pastor?” *(continued)*

Friendships and fellowship with others

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (79%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (72%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral degree (60%)
- Methodists (80%) are more likely to select than Baptists (65%), Lutherans (62%), Christian/Church of Christ (62%), and Non-denominational (65%)

“Which of the following spiritual needs are important in your own life to invest in as a pastor?” *(continued)*

Confessing and repenting from personal sin

- Pastors age 18-44 (69%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (56%) and 65+ (59%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (62% v. 51%)
- Baptists (64%) and Methodists (62%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (42%) and Non-denominational (49%)

Consistency in personal prayer

- White pastors (74%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (63%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (78%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (69%)

“Which of the following spiritual needs are important in your own life to invest in as a pastor?” *(continued)*

Consistency in taking a Sabbath

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (51%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (75% v. 62%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (75%) are more likely to select than those in the South (60%) and West (63%)
- Methodists (74%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (80%) are more likely to select than Baptists (63%), Lutherans (55%), Christian/Church of Christ (43%), and Non-denominational (56%)

“Which of the following spiritual needs are important in your own life to invest in as a pastor?” *(continued)*

Trusting God

- White pastors (68%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (55%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (73%) and 65+ (73%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (60%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (71%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (54%)

“Among the spiritual needs you just selected, which one is most important for you to invest in at this time?”

- White pastors (18%) are more likely to select “Consistency in taking a Sabbath” than pastors of Other Ethnicities (8%)
- African American pastors (28%) are more likely to select “Trusting God” than White pastors (17%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (29%) are more likely to select “Consistency in personal prayer” than pastors age 45-54 (20%)
- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select “Trusting God” (29%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Consistency in taking a Sabbath” than males (26% v. 16%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Consistency in taking a Sabbath” than Evangelical pastors (26% v. 14%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (22%) are more likely to select “Consistency in taking a Sabbath” than those in the West (11%)

“Among the spiritual needs you just selected, which one is most important for you to invest in at this time?” *(continued)*

- Methodists are the least likely to select “Consistency of Bible reading not related to sermon or teaching preparation” (5%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (21%) are more likely to select “Consistency of Bible reading not related to sermon or teaching preparation” than those with attendance of 0-49 (11%)