

The Greatest Needs of Pastors

People Dynamics

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

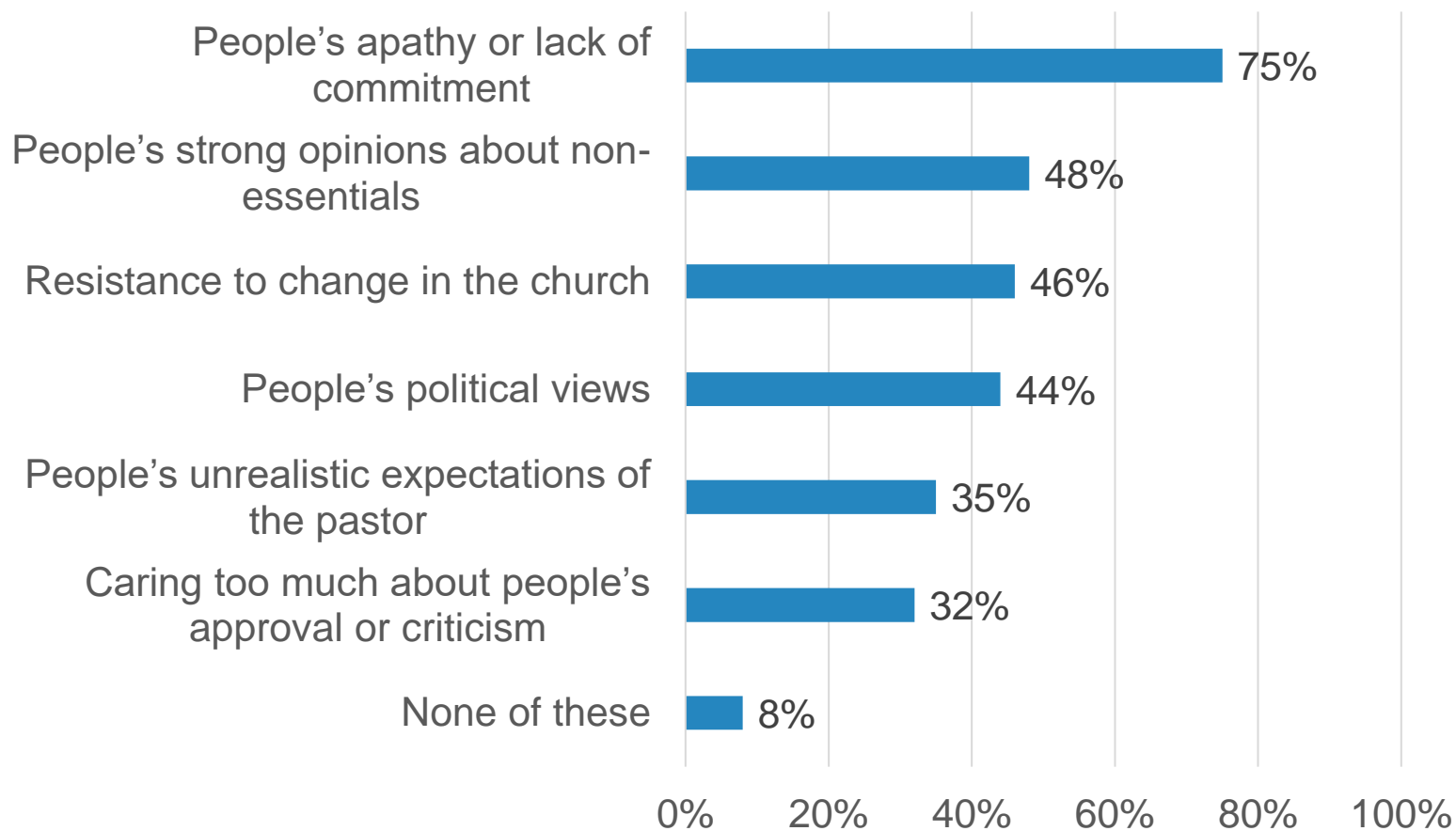
Lifeway research

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 people dynamics do you find challenging in your ministry as a pastor?”

Among Protestant Pastors

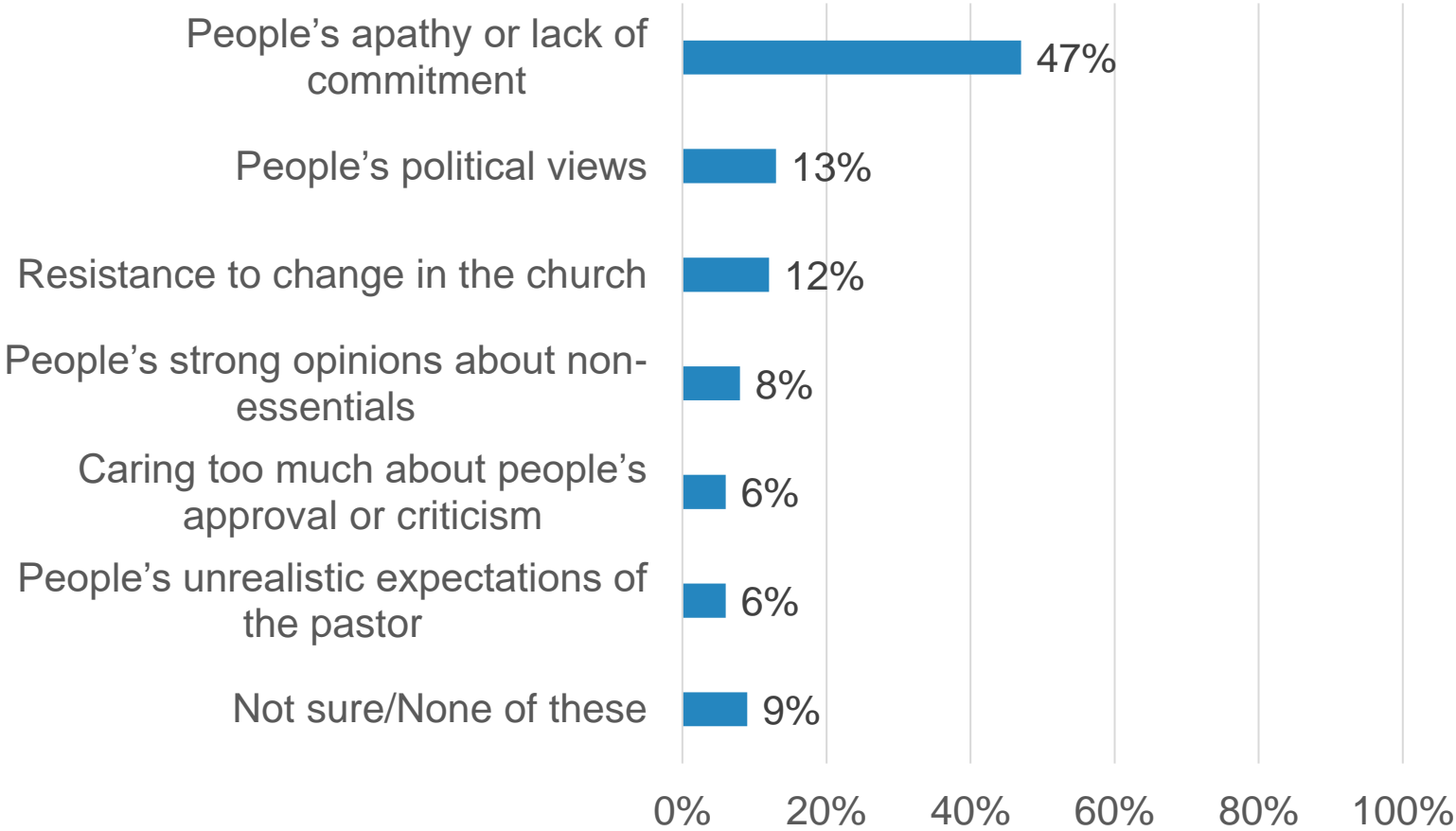


Lifeway research

Q12: “Which of the following people dynamics do you find challenging in your ministry as a pastor? (Select all that apply)”

47% find people's apathy or lack of commitment the most challenging people dynamic

Among Protestant Pastors



Significant Differences

Pastor

Age

Gender

Ethnicity

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

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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 people dynamics do you find challenging in your ministry as a pastor?”

People’s apathy or lack of commitment

- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (76% v. 68%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree are the least likely to select (62%)
- Pastors in the South (78%) are more likely to select than those in the West (70%)
- Baptists (79%), Pentecostals (77%), and Non-denominational (78%) are more likely to select than Methodists (65%)

“Which of the following people dynamics do you find challenging in your ministry as a pastor?” *(continued)*

Caring too much about people’s approval or criticism

- White pastors (33%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (19%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (45%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (34%) or a Master’s degree (36%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (23%) or a Doctoral degree (19%)
- Lutherans (40%) and Methodists (38%) are more likely to select than Pentecostals (25%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (36%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (26%)

“Which of the following people dynamics do you find challenging in your ministry as a pastor?” *(continued)*

People’s strong opinions about non-essentials

- White pastors (50%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (35%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (60%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree are the most likely to select (54%)
- Baptists (50%) and Lutherans (58%) are more likely to select than Pentecostals (39%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (53%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (43%)

“Which of the following people dynamics do you find challenging in your ministry as a pastor?” *(continued)*

People’s political views

- White pastors are the most likely to select (47%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (55%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (52% v. 42%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (47%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (36%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (48%) and West (50%) are more likely to select than those in the South (40%)
- Lutherans (54%), Methodists (48%), Presbyterian/Reformed (51%), and Christian/Church of Christ (51%) are more likely to select than Baptists (35%) and Pentecostals (34%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (49%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (38%)

“Which of the following people dynamics do you find challenging in your ministry as a pastor?” *(continued)*

Resistance to change in the church

- Pastors age 18-44 (52%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (39%)
- Methodists (53%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (50%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (33%),

“Which of the following people dynamics do you find challenging in your ministry as a pastor?” *(continued)*

People’s unrealistic expectations of the pastor

- Pastors age 18-44 (46%) and 45-54 (41%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (28%) and 65+ (26%)
- Methodists (48%) and Christian/Church of Christ (41%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (25%) and Non-denominational (25%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (40%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (29%)

“Among the people dynamics you just selected, which one are you as pastor most finding challenging in your ministry today?”

- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (58%) are more likely to select “People’s apathy or lack of commitment” than African American pastors (41%)
- African American pastors are the most likely to select “Resistance to change in the church” (22%)
- Pastors age 65+ (51%) are more likely to select “People’s apathy or lack of commitment” than pastors age 18-44 (42%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “People’s apathy or lack of commitment” than females (48% v. 38%)
- Pastors with no college degree (58%) or a Bachelor’s (52%) are more likely to select “People’s apathy or lack of commitment” than those with a Master’s degree (43%) or a Doctoral degree (39%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “People’s apathy or lack of commitment” than Mainline pastors (51% v. 42%)

“Among the people dynamics you just selected, which one are you as pastor most finding challenging in your ministry today?”

- Pastors in the South (51%) and the Midwest (47%) are more likely to select “People’s apathy or lack of commitment” than those in the West (35%)
- Pastors in the West (20%) are more likely to select “People’s political views than those in the Northeast (12%) and South (10%)
- Baptists (52%), Pentecostals (55%), and Non-denominational (52%) are more likely to select “People’s apathy or lack of commitment” than Methodists (30%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (34%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (15%) are more likely to select “Resistance to change in the church” than those with attendance of 250+ (7%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (11%) are more likely to select “Caring too much about people’s approval or criticism” than those with attendance of 0-49 (4%) and 100-249 (5%)