

# Pastors' Views on Deconstruction

A SURVEY OF 1,000 PROTESTANT PASTORS

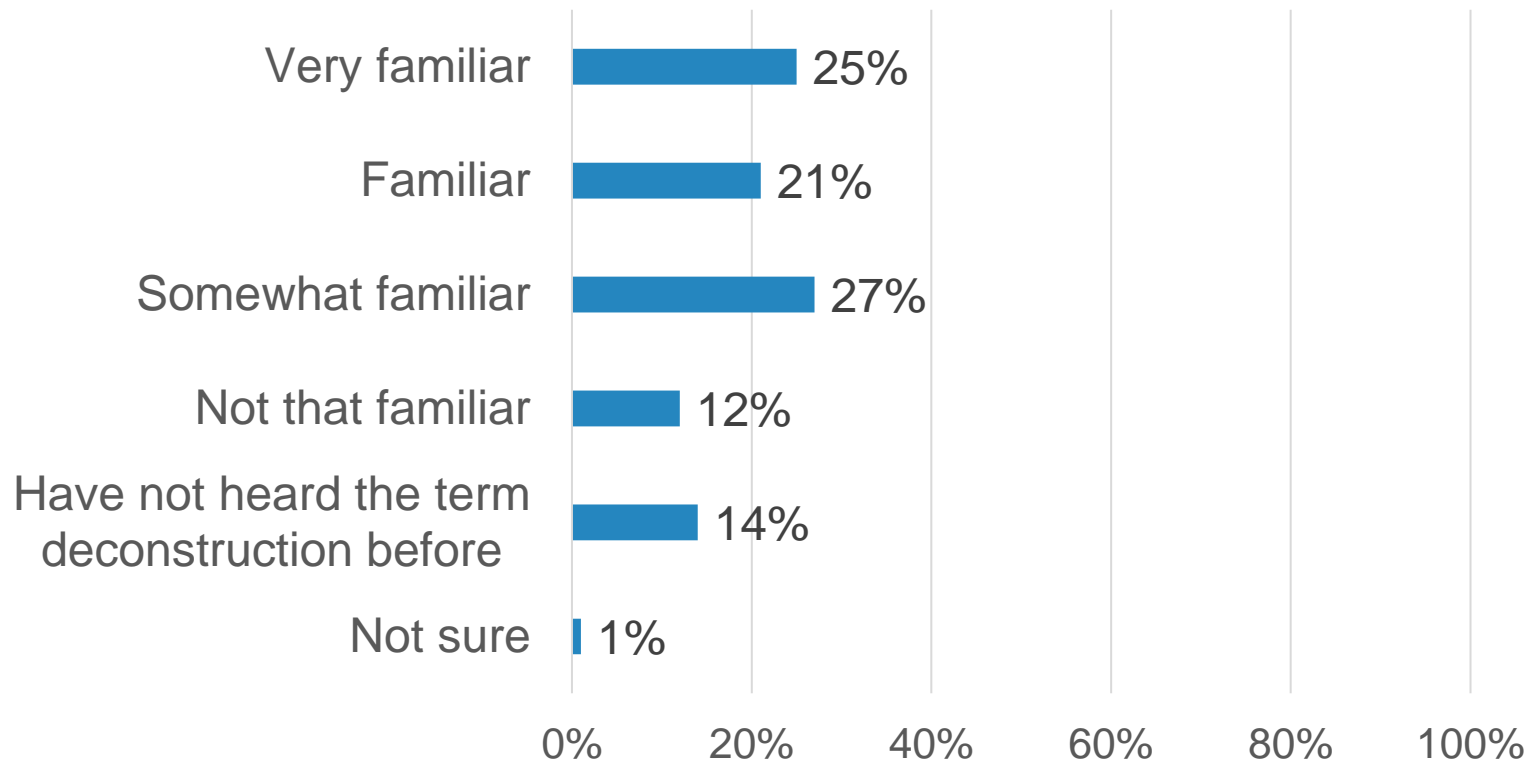
**Lifeway** research

# Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted September 1-29, 2021
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interviews 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  $\pm 3.2\%$  This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# 46% say they are familiar or very familiar with the concept of deconstruction

Among Protestant Pastors

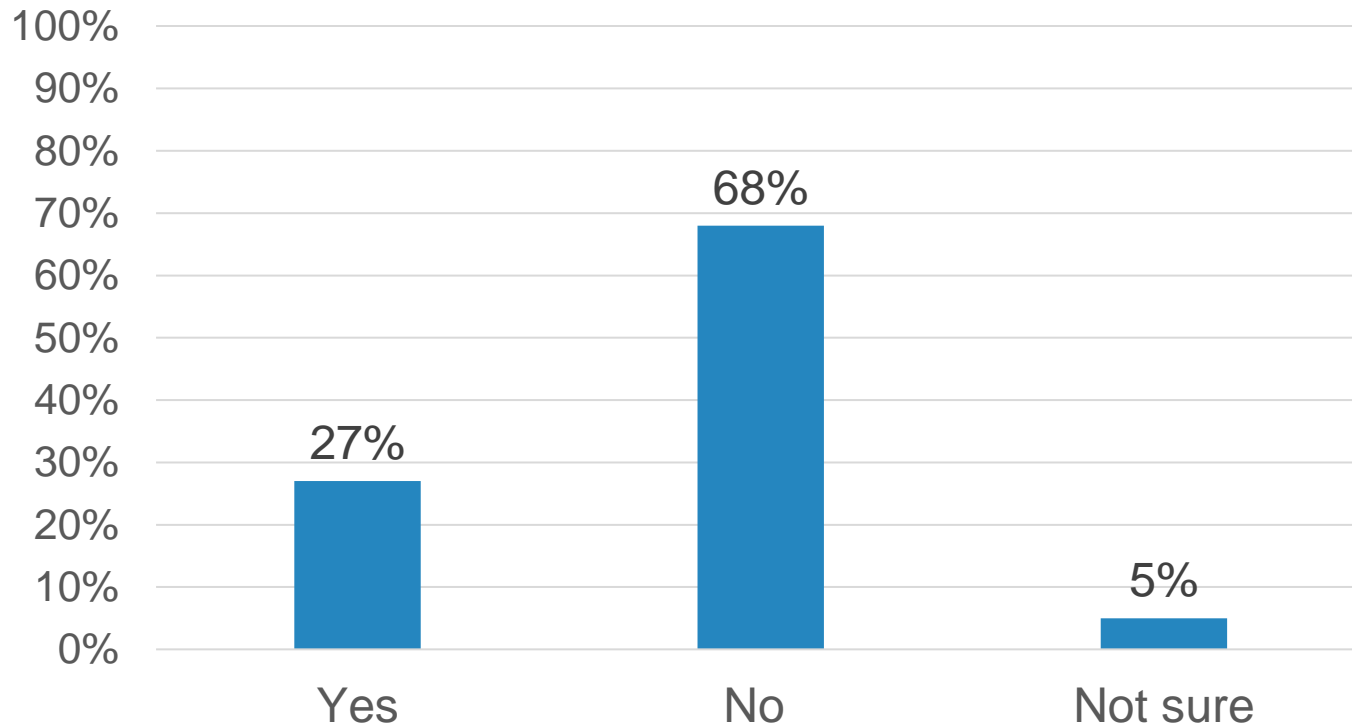


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Q23: "How familiar are you with the concept of an individual deconstructing their faith in which they systematically dissect and often reject Christian beliefs they grew up with?" n=1,000

# In the last two years, 27% of those familiar with deconstruction have had attendees deconstruct their faith

Among Protestant Pastors Who Have Heard the term Deconstruction Before



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# Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

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		Hispanic	Graduate Degree	
65+		Other Ethnicities	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

## **“How familiar are you with the concept of an individual deconstructing their faith in which they systematically dissect and often reject Christian beliefs they grew up with?”**

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select “Very familiar” (36%)
- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select “Very familiar” (12%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (19%) and 65+ (17%) are more likely to select “Have not heard the term deconstruction before” than pastors age 18-44 (8%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Very familiar” than females (29% v. 15%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Have not heard the term deconstruction before” than males (22% v. 11%)
- African American pastors (24%) are more likely to select “Have not heard the term deconstruction before” than White pastors (13%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree are the most likely to select “Very familiar” (43%)
- Pastors with no college degree are the least likely to select “Very familiar” (8%) and the most likely to select “Have not heard the term deconstruction before” (27%)



**“How familiar are you with the concept of an individual deconstructing their faith in which they systematically dissect and often reject Christian beliefs they grew up with?”**

- Pastors in the Northeast (28%) are more likely to select “Familiar” than those in the South (19%)
- Pastors in the West (20%) are more likely to select “Have not heard the term deconstruction before” than pastors in the Midwest (11%)
- Baptists (25%) are more likely to select “Very familiar” than Pentecostals (14%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select “Very familiar” (18%) and the most likely to select “Familiar” (29%)

## **“In the last two years, have you had attendees of your church who have methodically deconstructed their faith?”**

- Pastors age 18-44 (34%) are more likely to select “Yes” than pastors age 55-64 (23%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (31%) are more likely to select “Yes” than pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (22%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “No” than Mainline pastors (72% v. 62%)
- Baptists (75%) are more likely to select “No” than Methodists (63%), Presbyterian/Reformed (64%), and Christian/Church of Christ (55%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select “Yes” (16%)

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