

Protestant Churchgoer Views On Tithing and Giving

A SURVEY OF 1,002 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway **research**

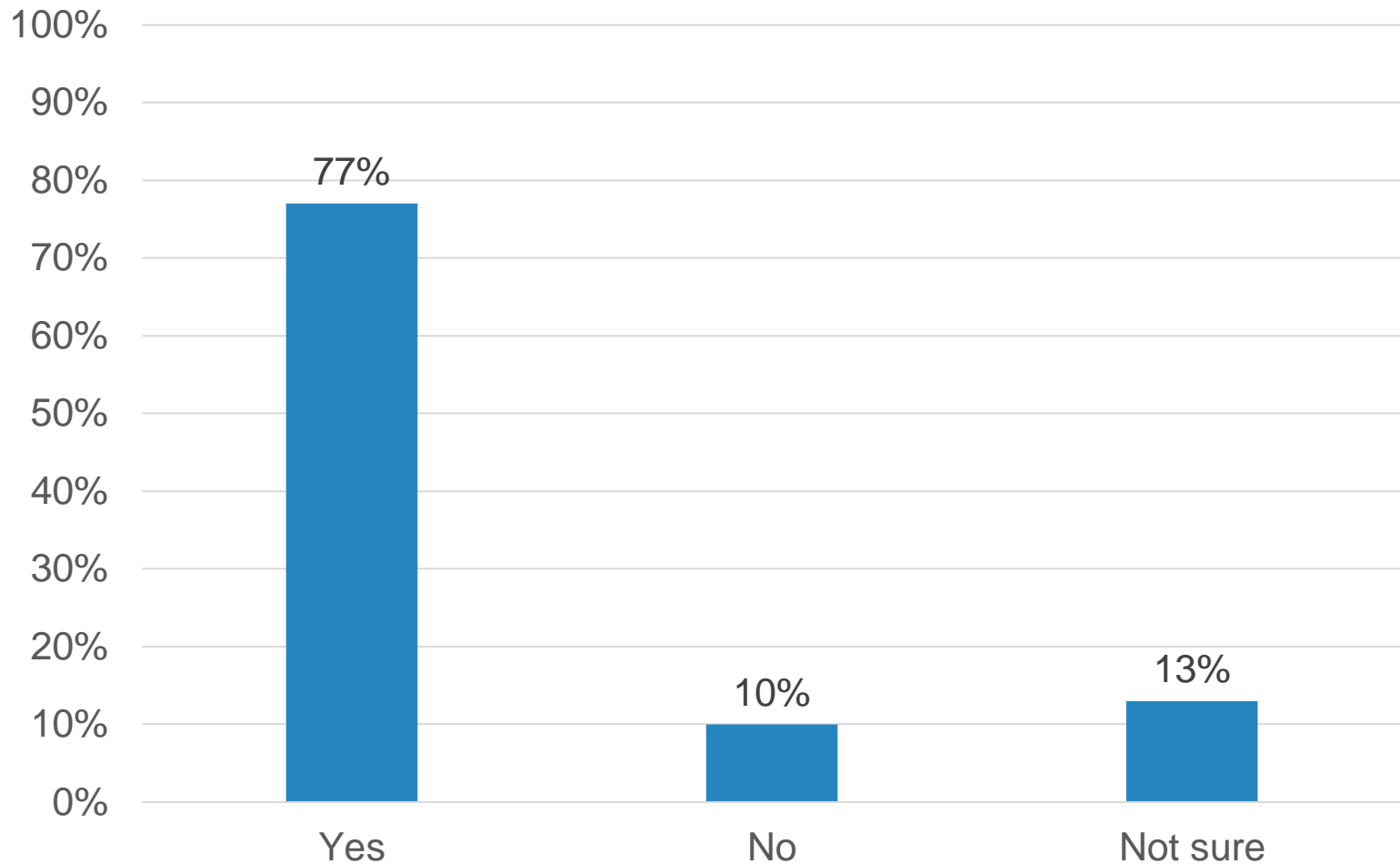
Methodology

- The online survey of 1,002 American Protestant churchgoers was conducted September 19-29, 2022, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protestant/non-denominational and attend religious services at least once a month
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education, and religion to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,002 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed $\pm 3.3\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to an online survey conducted by Lifeway Research August 22-30, 2017 of 1,010 Protestants who attend religious services at least once a month

Definitions

- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
 - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
 - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
 - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
 - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

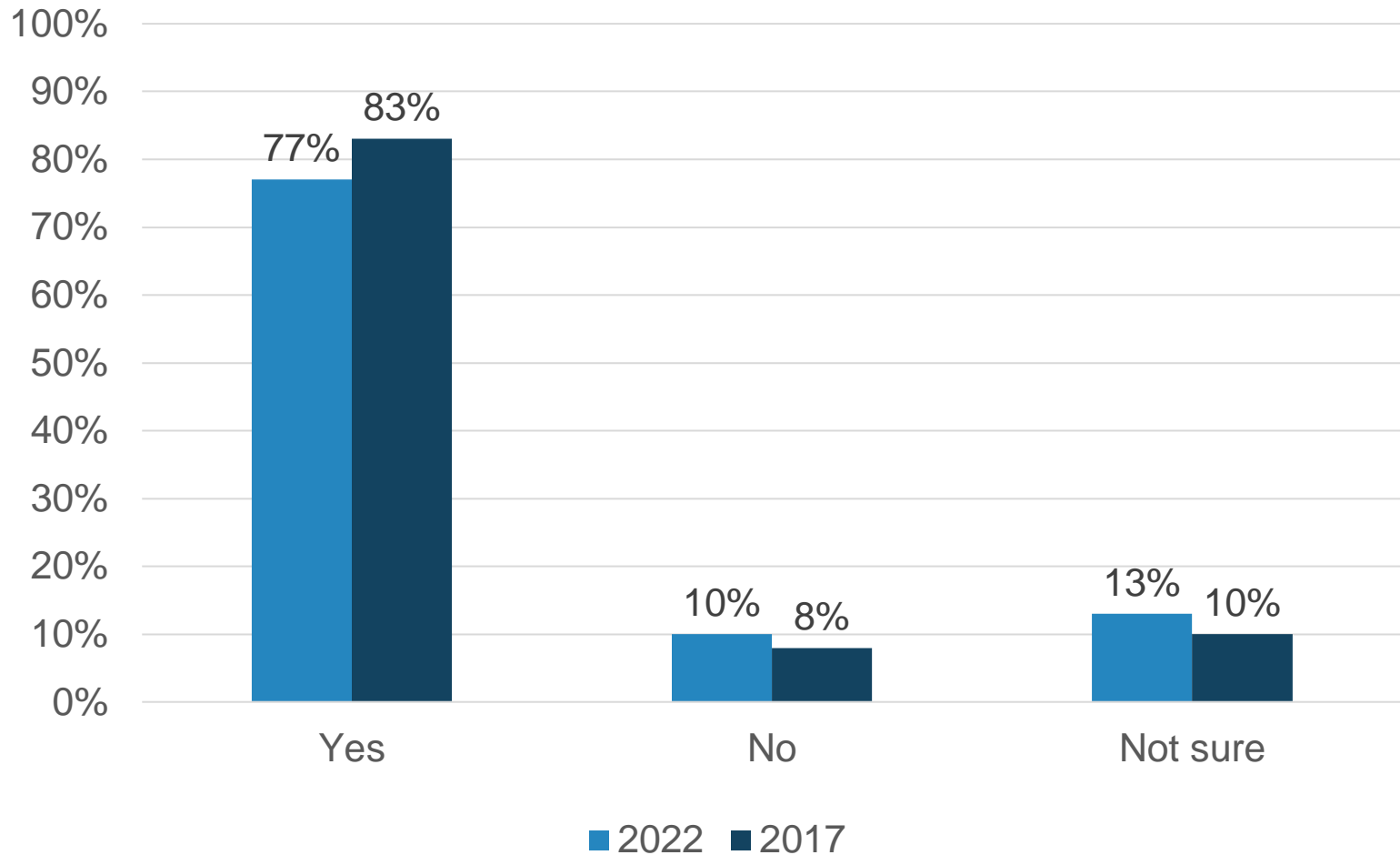
77% say that tithing is a biblical command that still applies today



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Q: "Is tithing a biblical command that still applies today?" n=1,002

Fewer believe tithing is a biblical command that still applies today: 77% v. 83% in 2017

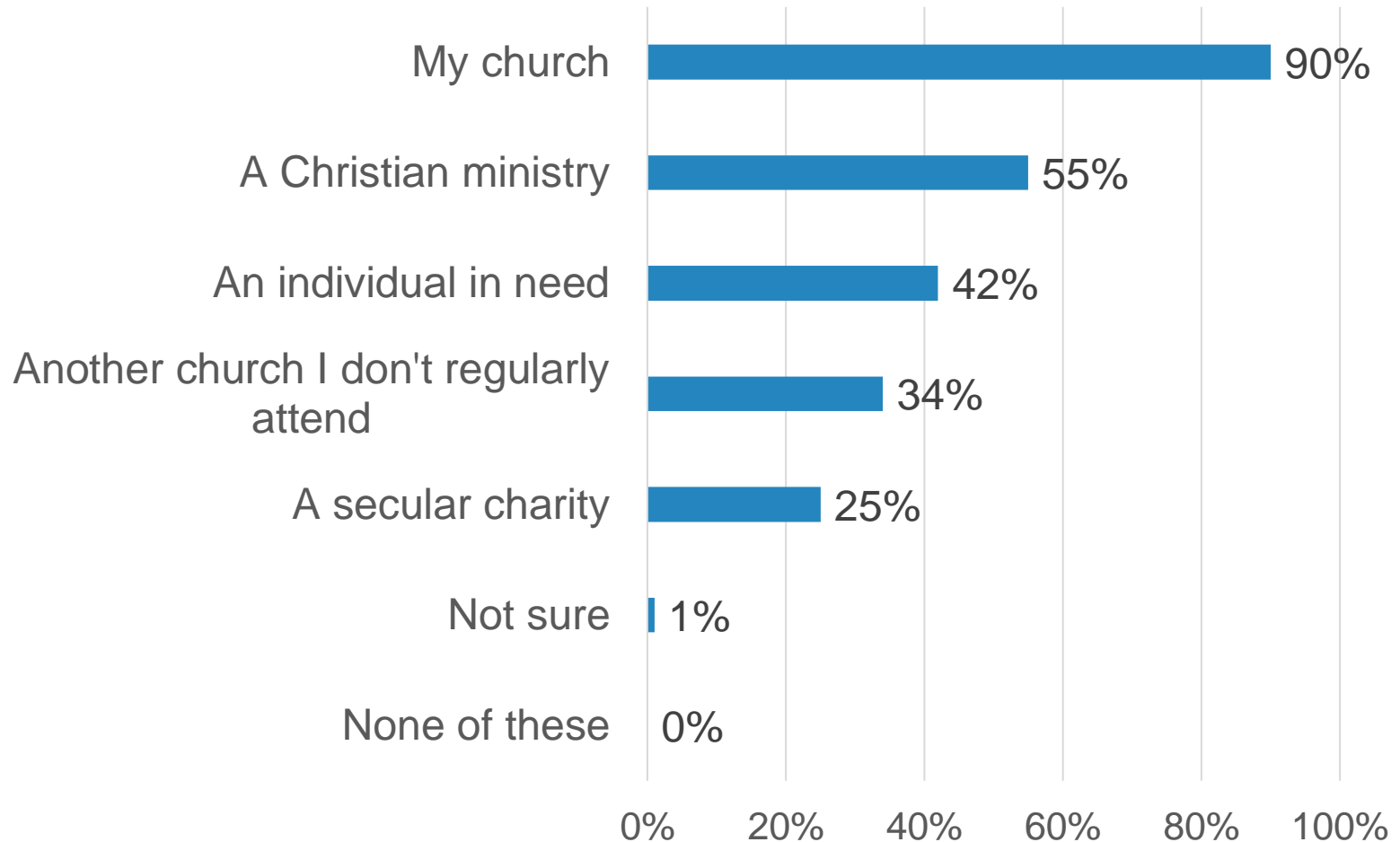


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Q: "Is tithing a biblical command that still applies today?" n=1,002

“To which of the following can tithe money be given?”

Among Those Saying Tithing Is an Applicable Biblical Command

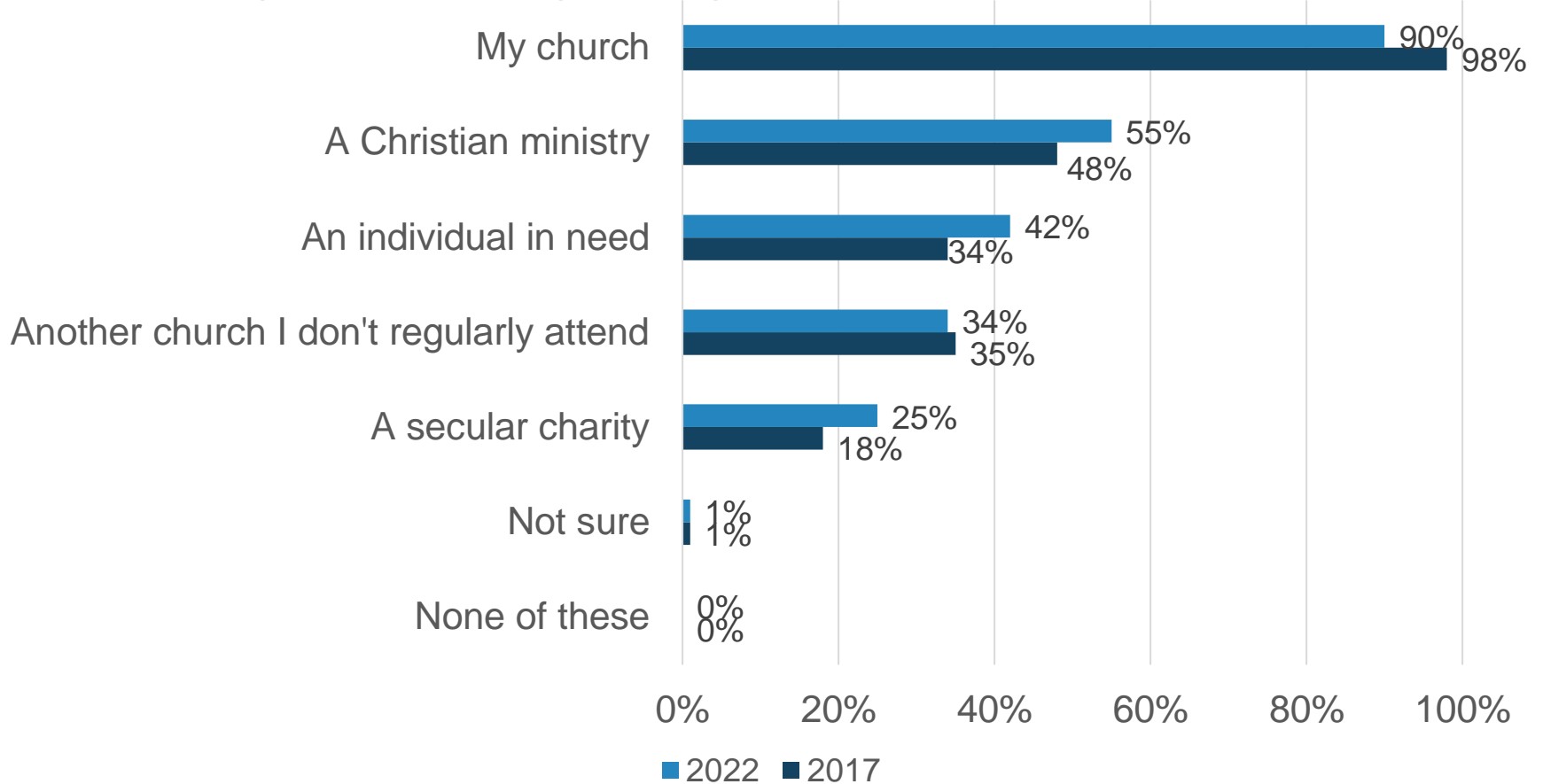


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Q: “To which of the following can tithe money be given? (Select all that apply)” n=780

Fewer think the tithe can be given to my church and more to a Christian ministry, an individual in need, or a secular charity than in 2017

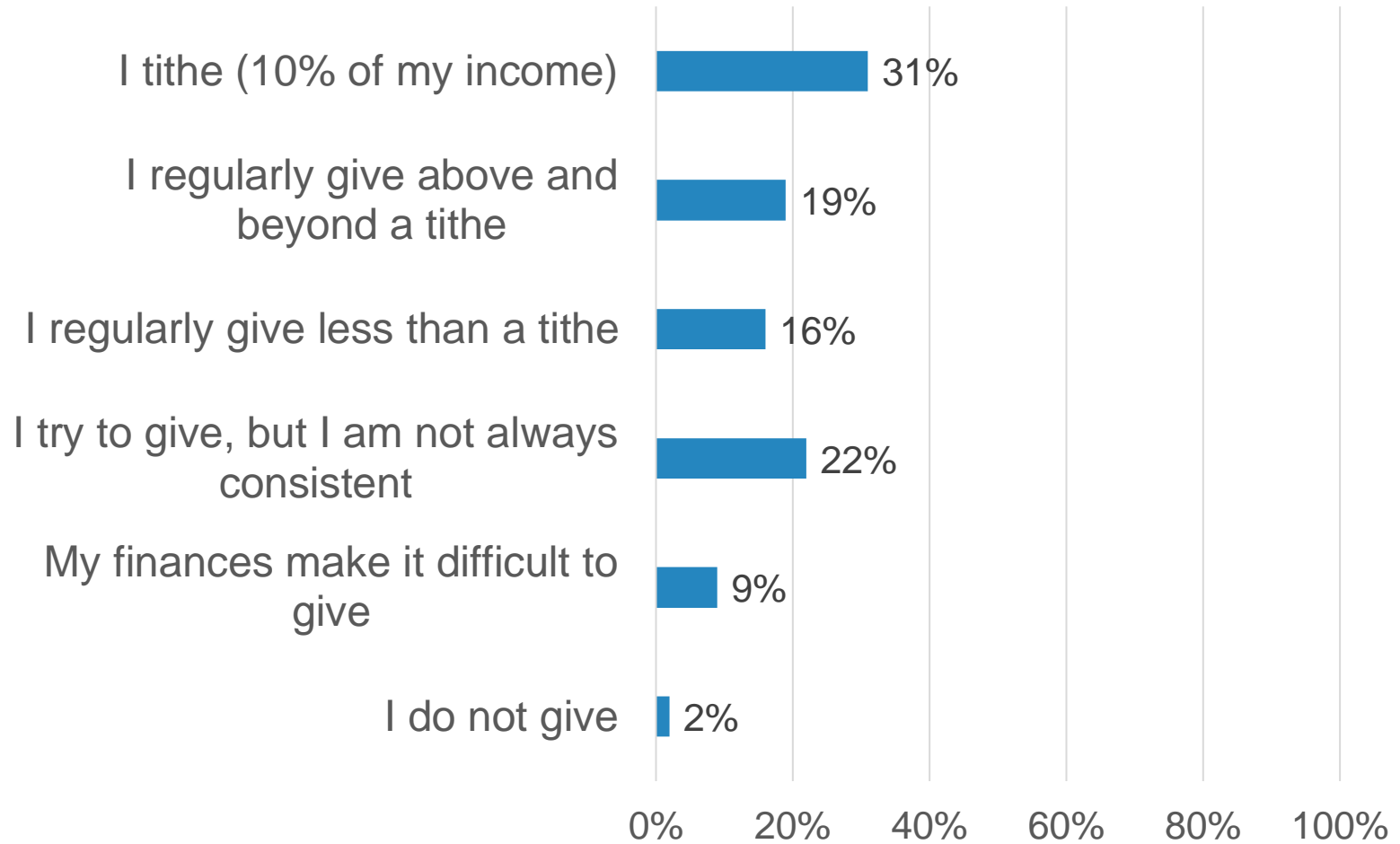
Among Those Saying Tithing Is an Applicable Biblical Command



Lifeway research

Q: "To which of the following can tithe money be given? (Select all that apply)"

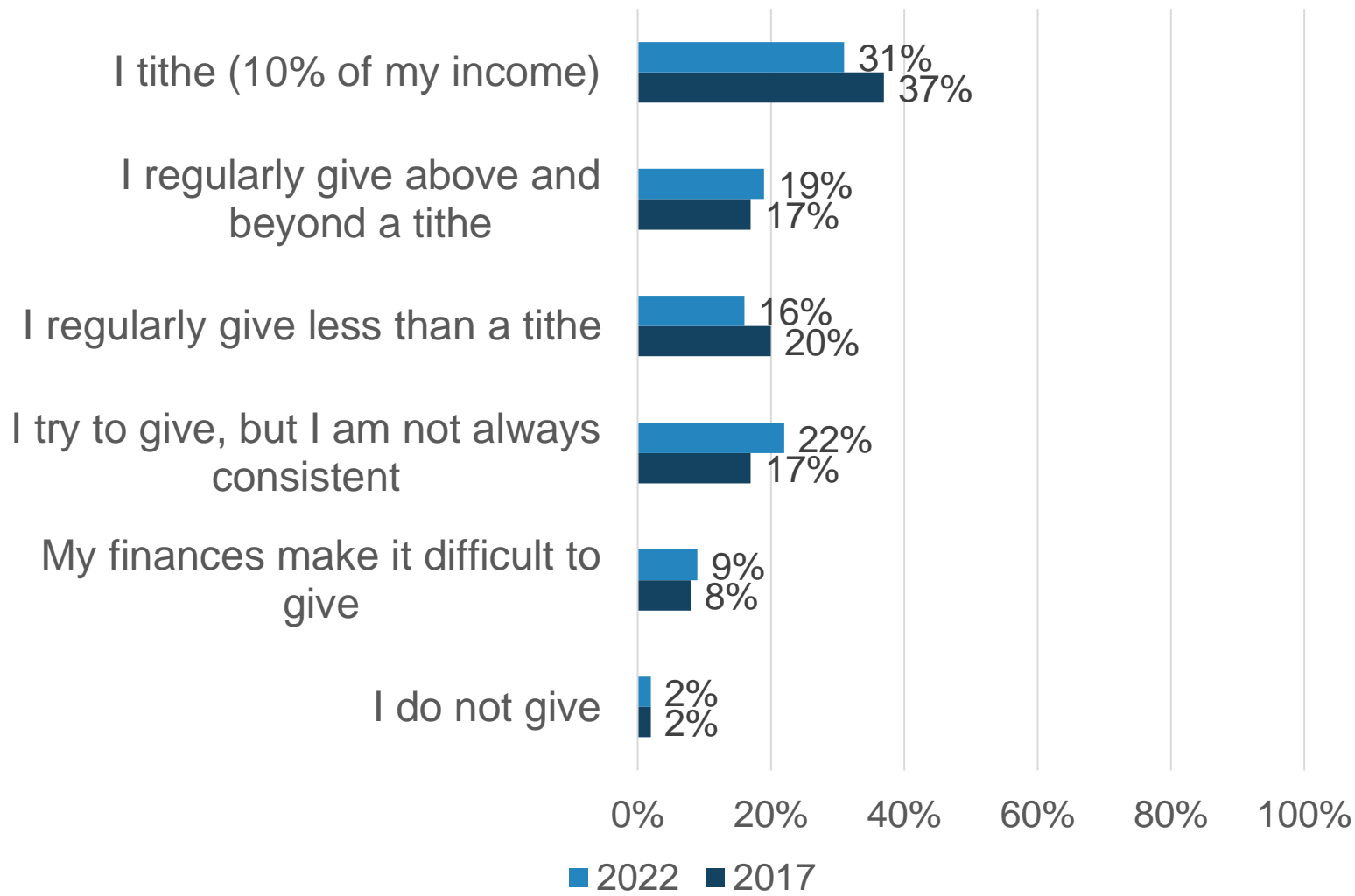
Over half (51%) give 10% or more of their income to the church they attend



Lifewayresearch

Q: "How would you describe your general giving to the church you attend? (Select one)" n=1,002

Fewer give 10% of their income to the church 31% v. 37% in 2017, but giving 10% or more is statistically unchanged at 51% v. 54% in 2017

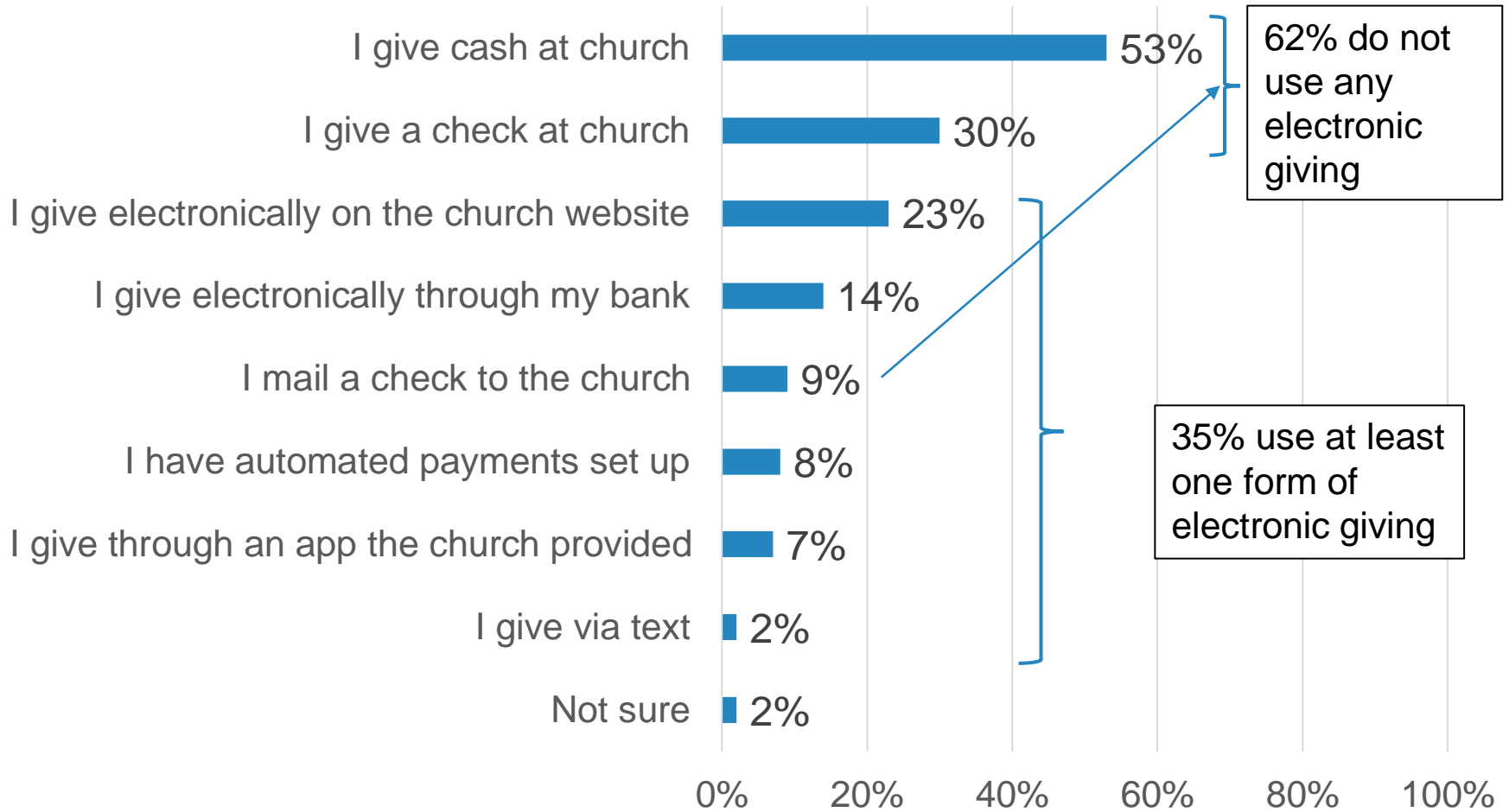


Lifeway research

Q: "How would you describe your general giving to the church you attend? (Select one)"

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

Among those who did not select “I do not give”

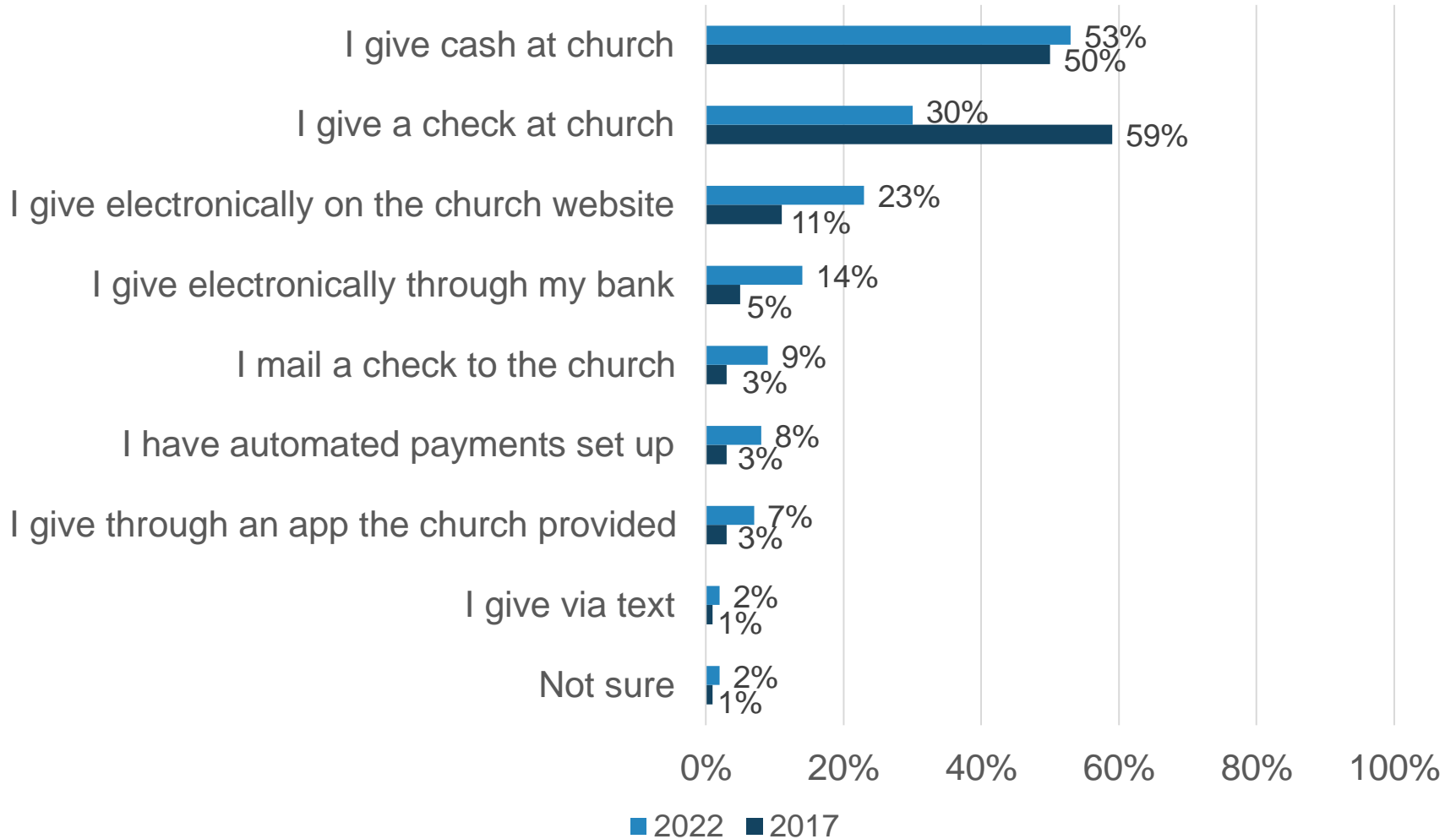


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Q: “Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church? (Select all that apply)” n=985

Fewer give a check at church and more give electronically through all formats and mail checks to the church than in 2017

Among those who did not select “I do not give”



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Q: “Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church? (Select all that apply)”

Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Denomination

Worship Service Attendance

Evangelical Beliefs

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, age, ethnicity, region, and education.

GENDER	AGE	ETHNICITY	REGION	EDUCATION
Male	18-34	White	Northeast	High School graduate or less
Female	35-49	African American	Midwest	Some college
	50-64	Hispanic	South	Bachelor's Degree
	65+	Other Ethnicities	West	Graduate Degree

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among denomination, worship service attendance, and evangelical beliefs.

DENOMINATION	WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS
Baptist	1 to 3 times a month	Yes
Methodist	4 or more times a month	No
Lutheran	Not sure	
Presbyterian/Reformed		
Christian/Church of Christ		
Non-denominational		

“Is tithing a biblical command that still applies today?”

- Females are more likely to select “Yes” than males (81% v. 71%)
- Those age 18-34 are the least likely to select “Yes” (66%)
- Hispanics (84%) are more likely to select “Yes” than African Americans (78%) and Other Ethnicities (65%)
- Those with some college (81%) are more likely to select “Yes” than who are High School Graduates or less (73%)
- Lutherans are the least likely to select “Yes” (59%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (80%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those who 1 to 3 times a month (72%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Yes” than those without evangelical beliefs (85% v. 71%)

“To which of the following can tithe money be given?”

Among Those Saying Tithing Is an Applicable Biblical Command

My church

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select (97%)
- African Americans (92%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (93%)
- Those in the South (92%) are more likely to select than those in the West (84%)
- Those a Bachelor’s Degree (96%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (88%) or with some college (87%)
- Baptists (93%), Lutherans (98%), Presbyterian/Reformed (96%) and Non-denominational (92%) are more likely to select than Methodists (72%) and Christian/Church of Christ (81%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (95% v. 85%)

“To which of the following can tithe money be given?”

Among Those Saying Tithing Is an Applicable Biblical Command

Another church I don't regularly attend

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select (46%)
- Hispanics are the least likely to select (20%)
- Those in the South (33%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (24%)
- Those with a Graduate degree (40%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (29%)
- Lutheran (58%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (53%) are more likely to select than Baptists (34%), Methodists (18%), Christian/Church of Christ (24%), and Non-denominational (36%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (37%) are more likely to select than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (30%)

“To which of the following can tithe money be given?”

Among Those Saying Tithing Is an Applicable Biblical Command

A Christian ministry

- Those age 65+ (62%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (50%) (48%)
- Whites (58%) are more likely to select than African Americans (48%) and Hispanics (46%)
- Those with some college (60%) or a Graduate Degree (60%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (48%)
- Lutherans (72%), Presbyterian/Reformed (68%), and Christian/Church of Christ (66%) are more likely to select than Baptists (51%)

“To which of the following can tithe money be given?”

Among Those Saying Tithing Is an Applicable Biblical Command

A secular charity

- Those with some college (28%) or a Graduate Degree (31%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (19%)
- Lutherans (45%) and Christian/Church of Christ (44%) are more likely to select than Baptists (19%) and Non-denominational (22%)
- Those without evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those with evangelical beliefs (29% v. 20%)

“To which of the following can tithe money be given?”

Among Those Saying Tithing Is an Applicable Biblical Command

An individual in need

- Females (45%) are more likely to select than Males (38%)
- Those in the South (46%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (33%)
- Those with some college (48%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (38%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (51%), and Christian/Church of Christ (54%) are more likely to select than Baptists (37%)

“How would you describe your general giving to the church you attend?”

- Females are more likely to select “I try to give, but I am not always consistent” than males (25% v. 19%)
- Those age 35-49 (22%) are more likely to select “I regularly give above and beyond a tithe” than those 50-64 (15%)
- Those age 65+ are most likely to select “I regularly give less than a tithe” (27%) and least likely to select “I try to give, but I am not always consistent” (13%)
- Whites (22%) are more likely to select “I regularly give above and beyond a tithe” than Hispanics (12%) and Other Ethnicities (8%)
- Those in the Northeast (25%) are more likely to select “I regularly give above and beyond a tithe” than those in the Midwest (16%)
- Those with some college (21%) or a Graduate Degree (29%) are more likely to select “I regularly give above and beyond a tithe” than who are High School Graduates or less (15%)
- Baptists (40%), Presbyterian/Reformed (34%), and Non-denominational (34%) are more likely to select “I tithe (10% of my income) than Methodists (12%), Lutherans (19%), and Christian/Church of Christ (17%)

“How would you describe your general giving to the church you attend?” *continued*

- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (34%) are more likely to select “I tithe (10% of my income)” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (26%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “I tithe (10% of my income) than those without evangelical beliefs (39% v. 25%)

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

I give cash at church

- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (75%)
- Whites are the least likely to select (43%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the most likely to select (67%) followed by those with some college (56%)
- Baptists (60%) and Non-denominational (54%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (36%) and Christian/Church of Christ (38%)
- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (61%) are more likely to select than those who attend 4 or more times a month (48%)

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

I give a check at church

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select (47%)
- Whites are the most likely to select (39%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the least likely to select (20%)
- Non-denominational are the least likely to select (21%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (34%) are more likely to select than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (25%)

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

I mail a check to the church

- Those age 35-49 (13%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (6%)
- Hispanics are the least likely to select (1%)
- Those in the West (14%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (8%) and South (7%)
- Those with some college (11%) or a Graduate Degree (13%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (6%)
- Methodists (25%) are more likely to select than Baptists (7%), Lutherans (5%), Presbyterian/Reformed (10%), and Non-denominational (7%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (6% v. 11%)

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

I give electronically on the church website

- Those age 18-34 (28%) and 35-49 (27%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (17%)
- Those in the West (31%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (19%) and South (21%)
- Those with some college (27%) or a Graduate Degree (32%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (17%)
- Methodists (52%) and Christian/Church of Christ (51%) are more likely to select than Baptists (17%), Lutherans (15%), Presbyterian/Reformed (15%), and Non-denominational (21%)
- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (27%) are more likely to select than those who attend 4 or more times a month (21%)

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

I give electronically through my bank

- Those age 35-49 (20%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (12%) and 65+ (9%)
- Those in the Northeast (20%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (11%) and South (13%)
- Those with a Graduate are the most likely to select (23%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select (44%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (11% v. 16%)

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

I have automated payments set up

- Whites are the most likely to select (11%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the least likely to select (4%)
- Methodists (18%) and Christian/Church of Christ (15%) are more likely to select than Baptists (4%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (5%)

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

I give through an app the church provided

- Those age 18-34 (10%) and 35-49 (12%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (3%)
- Those in the Northeast (13%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (6%) and South (6%)
- Methodists (19%) and Christian/Church of Christ (11%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (1%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (2%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are less likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (5% v. 9%)

“Which of the following methods do you use to give to your church?”

I give via text

- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (7%)

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