

Pastors' Views on Fear within Their Congregation

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted September 6-30, 2022
- 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

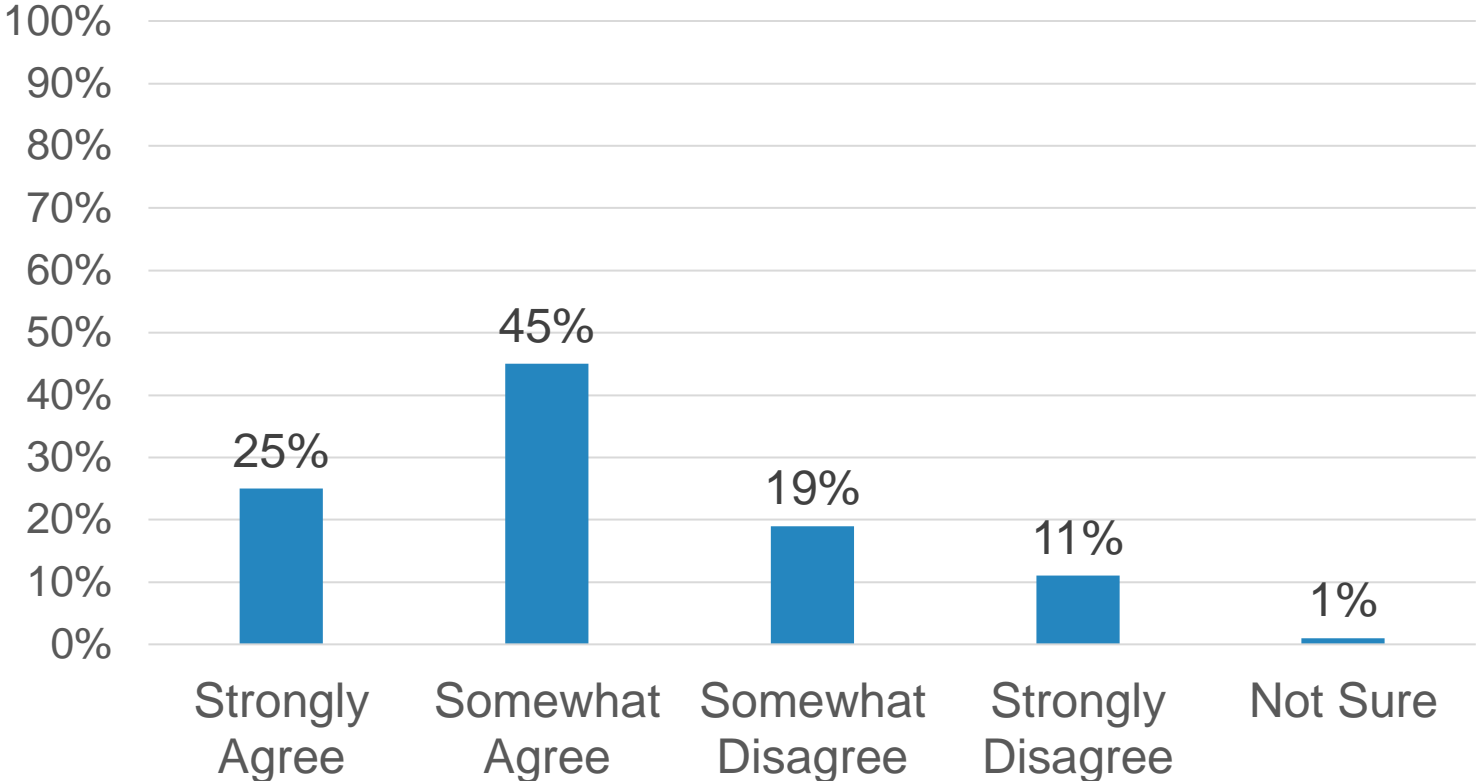
Methodology

Comparisons are made to Lifeway Research phone surveys conducted among 1,000 Protestant pastors using the same methodology in:

- September 11-18, 2014
- August 17-24, 2011
- October 7-14, 2010

69% believe there is a growing sense of fear within their congregation about the future of our nation and the world

Among Protestant Pastors

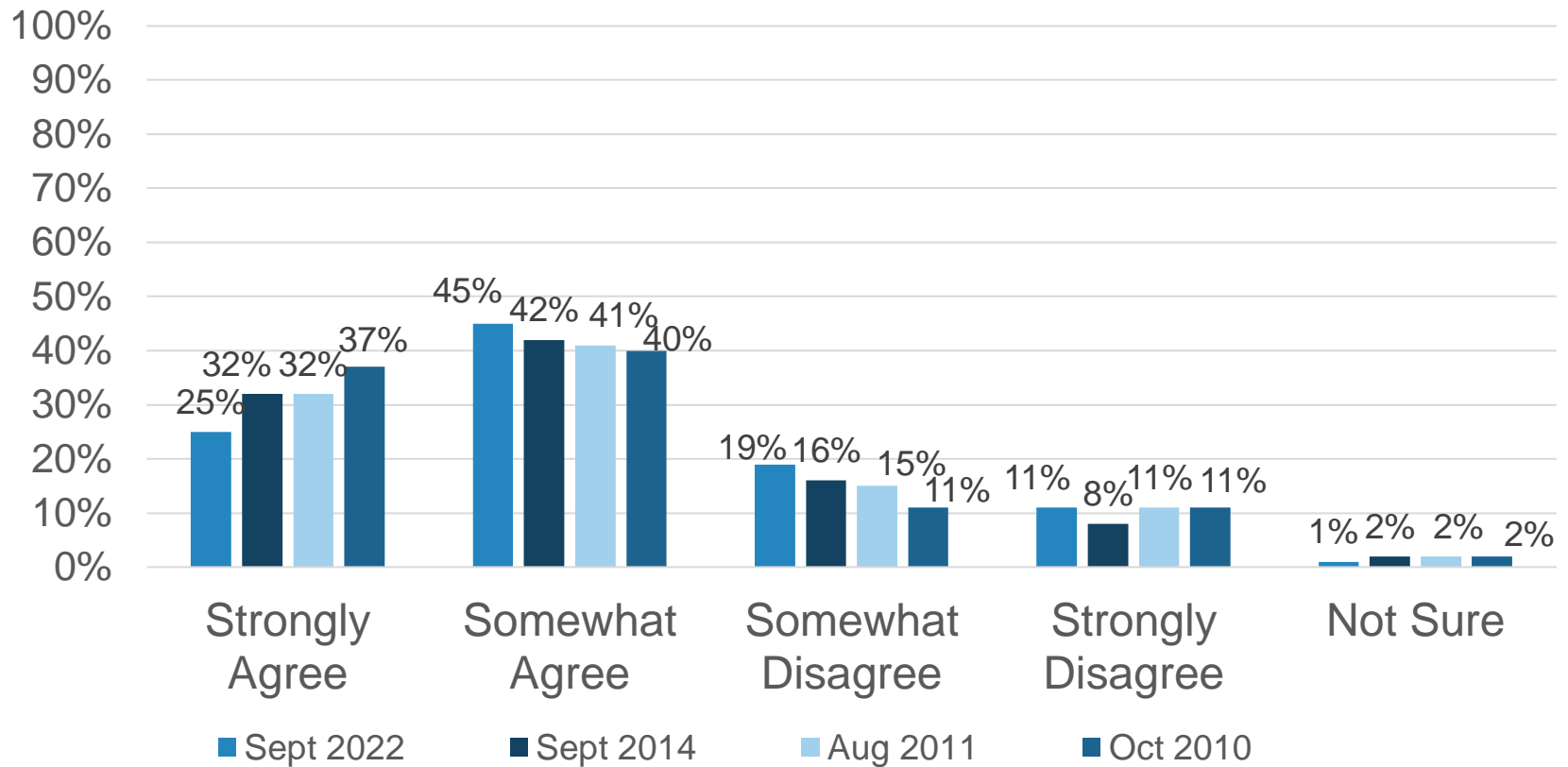


Lifeway research

Q: "I believe there is a growing sense of fear within our congregation about the future of our nation & the world." n=1,000

Fewer pastors agree there is a growing sense of fear in their congregation than in 2014 (69% v. 74%)

Among Protestant Pastors

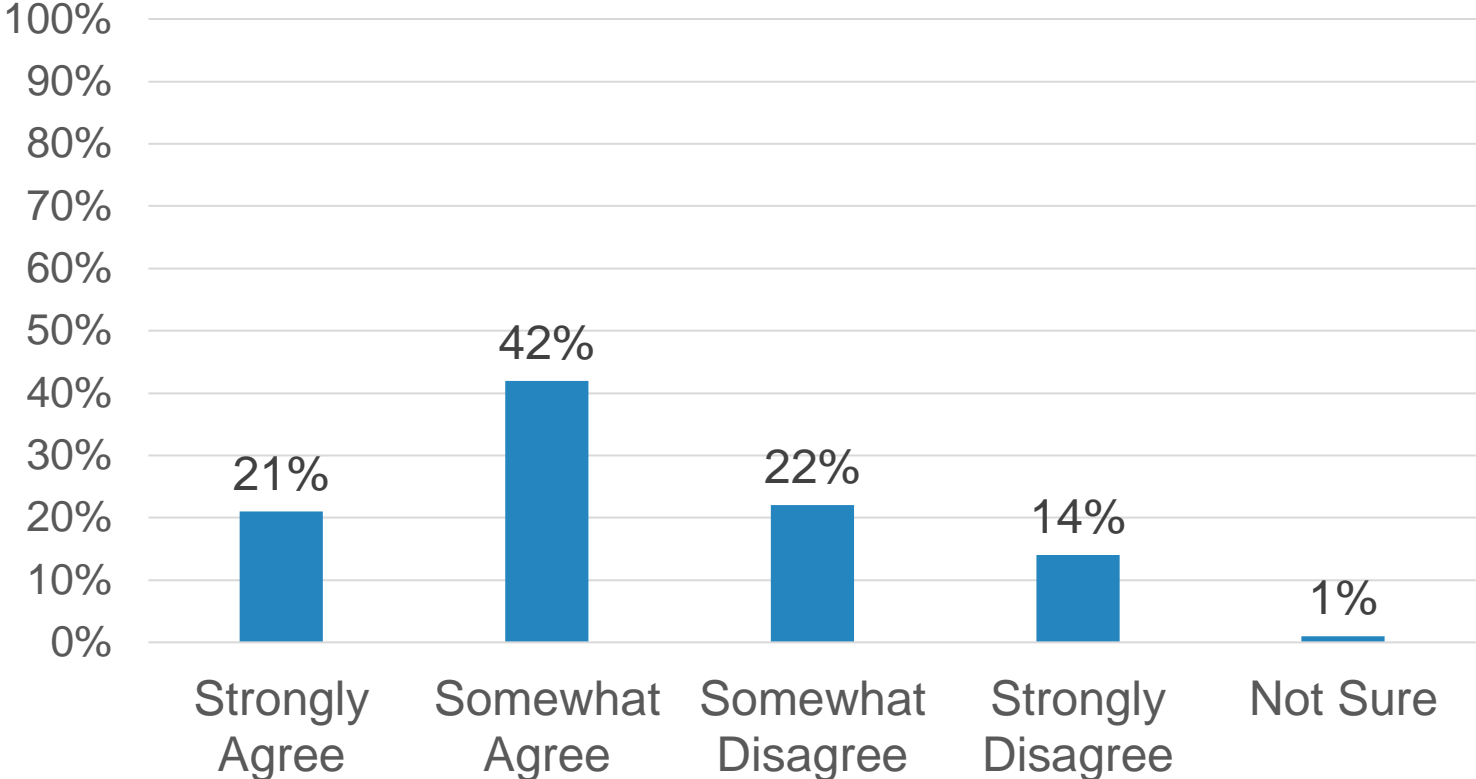


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Q: "I believe there is a growing sense of fear within our congregation about the future of our nation & the world." n=1,000

63% believe there is a growing sense of fear about the future of Christianity in our nation and the world

Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

Q: "I believe there is a growing sense of fear within our congregation about the future of Christianity in our nation and the world." n=1,000

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		Hispanic	Master's 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

“I believe there is a growing sense of fear within our congregation about the future of our nation & the world.”

- Male pastors are more likely to Agree than females (71% v. 62%)
- White (71%) and Hispanic pastors (62%) are more likely to Agree than African American pastors (42%)
- African American pastors are the most likely to Disagree (55%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (71%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Doctoral Degree (62%)
- Pastors in the South (33%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the Northeast (23%)
- Baptists (72%), Lutherans (72%), Methodists (74%) and Non-denominational (75%) are more likely to Agree than Pentecostals (53%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (72%) are more likely to Agree than those at churches with attendance of 50-99 (65%)

“I believe there is a growing sense of fear within our congregation about the future of Christianity in our nation and the world.”

- Male pastors are more likely to Agree than Females (65% v. 55%)
- White pastors (64%) are more likely to Agree than African American pastors (47%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to Disagree than Evangelical pastors (40% v. 33%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (67%) are more likely to Agree than those in the West (54%)
- Baptists (68%), Methodists (66%), and Non-denominational (76%) are more likely to Agree than Presbyterian/Reformed (49%)

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