

Pastors' Views on Same Sex Marriage

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

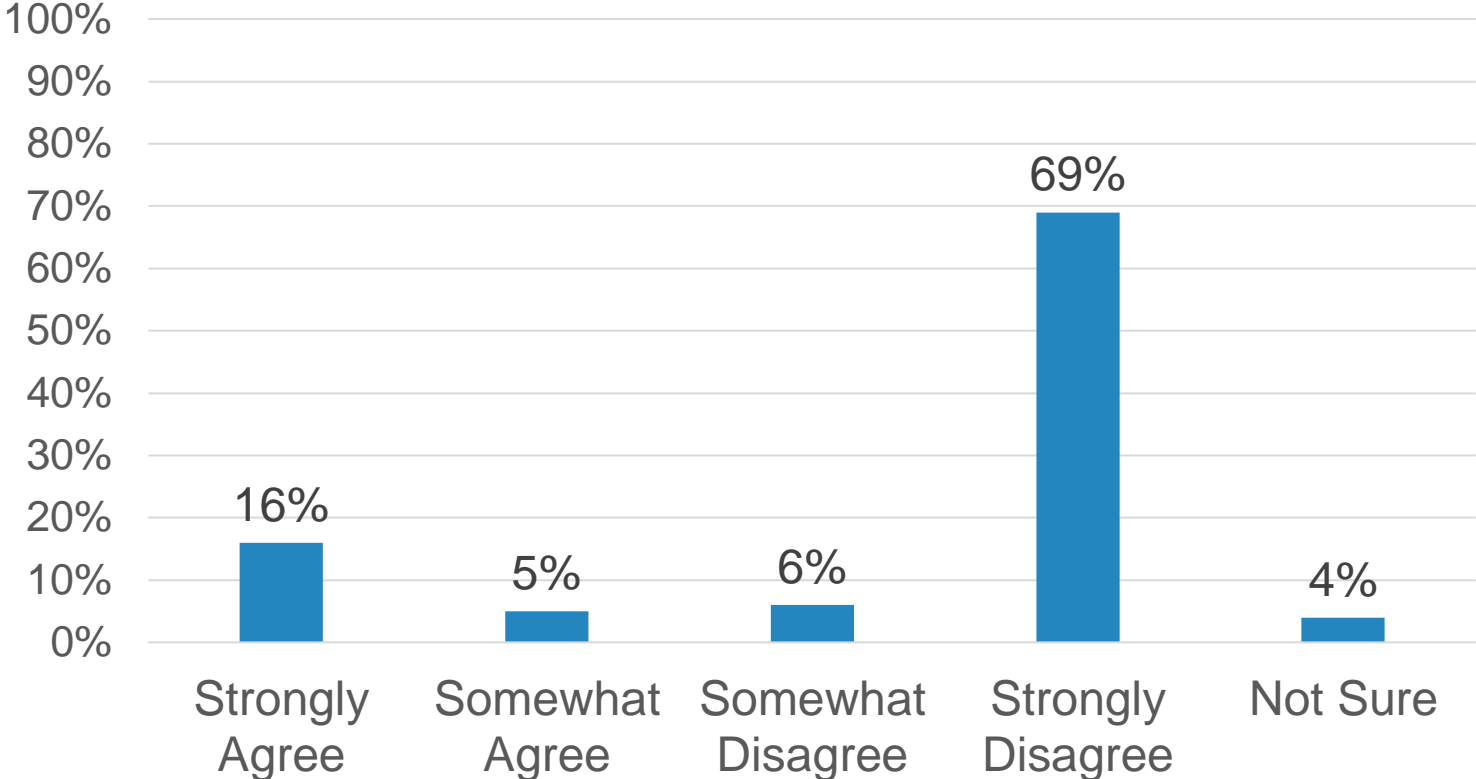
Lifeway research

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,004 Protestant pastors was conducted August 29, 2023 - September 20, 2023
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,004 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

21% see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married

Among Protestant Pastors

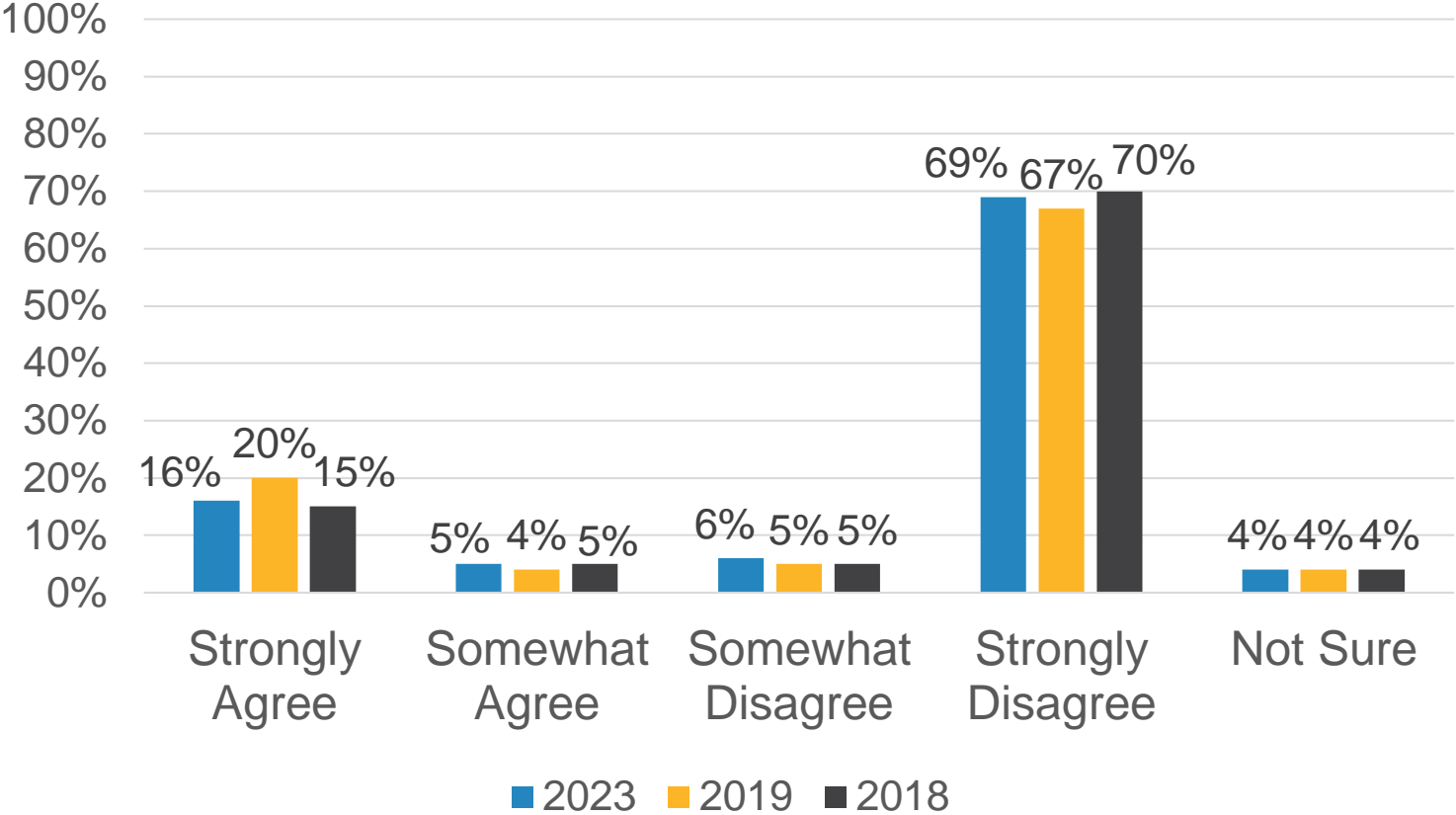


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Q: "I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married." n=1,004

The percentages of pastors agreeing and disagreeing they see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married is statistically unchanged

Among Protestant Pastors

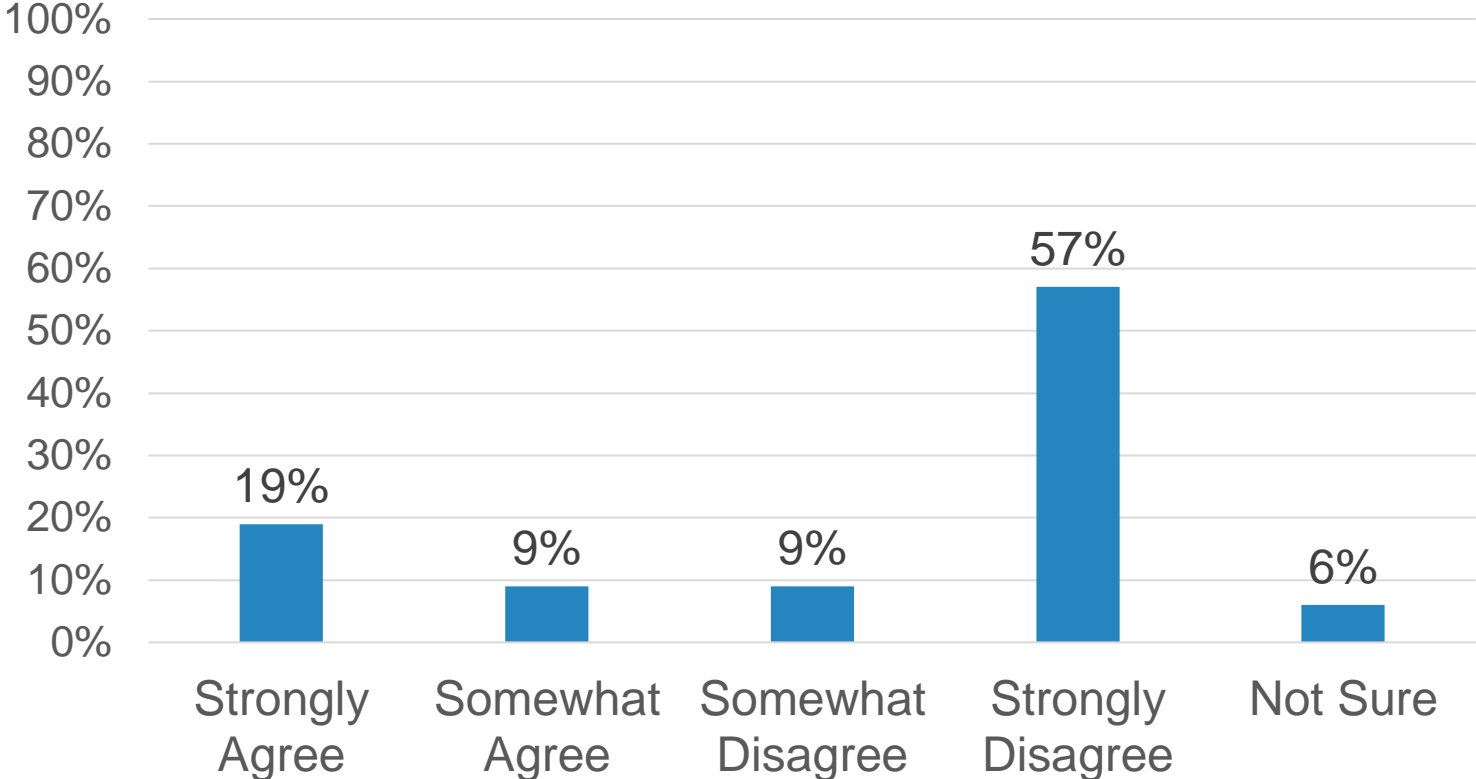


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Q: "I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married." n=1,004

28% see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender

Among Protestant Pastors

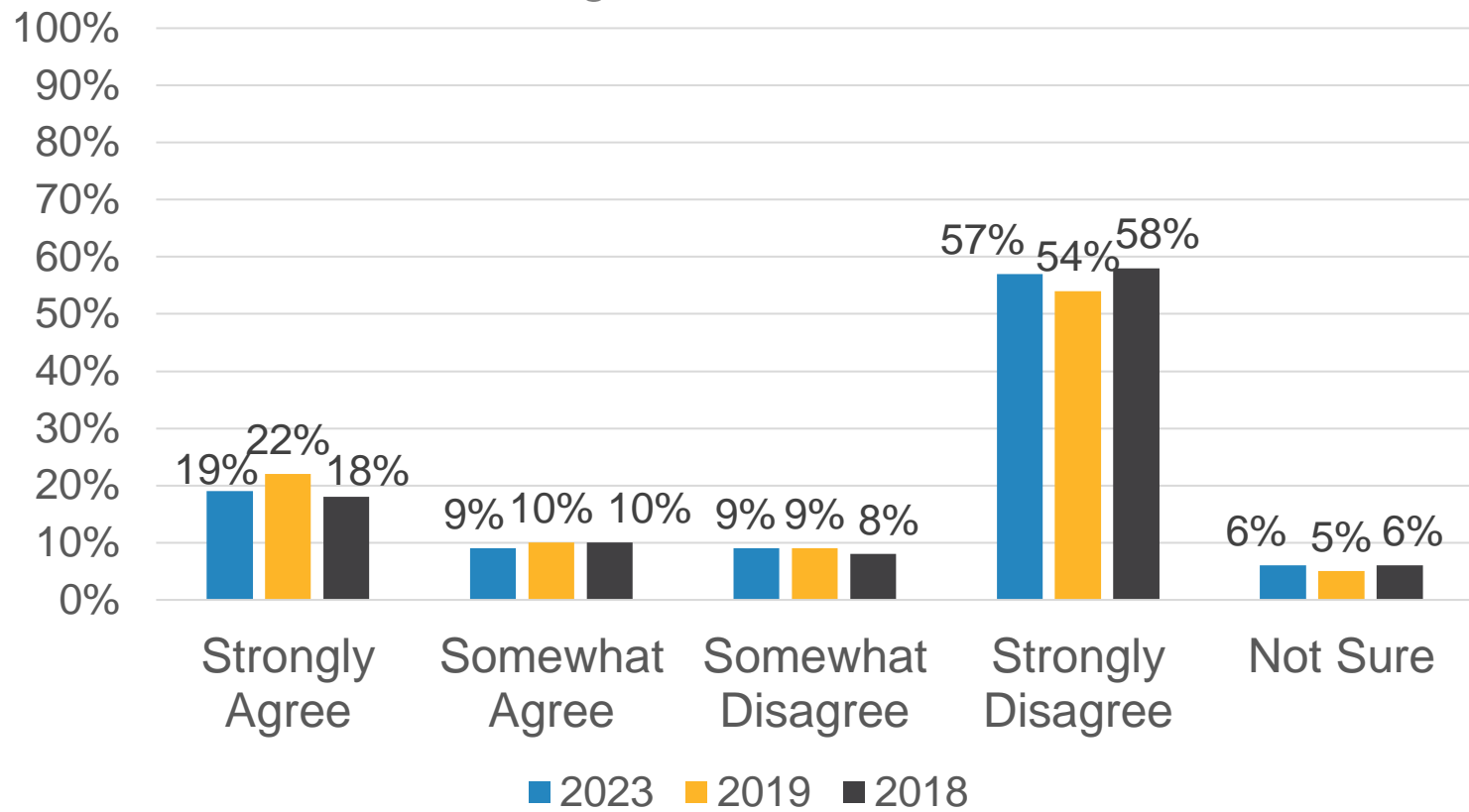


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Among Protestant Pastors



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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

“I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married.”

- Pastors age 18-44 (27%) and 55-64 (22%) are more likely to Agree than pastors age 65+ (15%)
- Female pastors are more likely to Agree than males (42% v. 16%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (30%) or a Doctoral Degree (26%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (9%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (7%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to Agree than Evangelical pastors (46% v. 7%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (27%) and Midwest (25%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (18%)
- Lutherans (34%), Methodists (53%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (36%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (4%), Pentecostals (1%), Christian/Church of Christ (8%), and Non-denominational (5%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 (27%) and 50-99 (25%) are more likely to Agree than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (11%) and 250+ (8%)

“I see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender.”

- Pastors age 18-44 (34%) and 55-64 (31%) are more likely to Agree than pastors age 45-54 (21%) and 65+ (20%)
- Female pastors are more likely to Agree than males (45% v. 23%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (38%) or a Doctoral Degree (38%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (8%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (13%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to Agree than Evangelical pastors (54% v. 14%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (34%) and Midwest (33%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (24%)
- Lutherans (41%), Methodists (61%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (50%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (7%), Pentecostals (2%), Christian/Church of Christ (10%), and Non-denominational (13%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 (33%) and 50-99 (32%) are more likely to Agree than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (19%) and 250+ (13%)

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