

2025
State of Canadian Theology
Study

RESEARCH REPORT

Table of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Executive Summary	3
Methodology	6
<u>Quantitative Findings</u>	
Beliefs about God	7
Beliefs about Goodness and Sin	12
Beliefs about Salvation and Religious Texts	14
Beliefs about Judgement and Punishment	16
Beliefs about the Church	17
Beliefs about Authority	19
NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Definition	23

Executive Summary

The 2025 State of Canadian Theology Study is a benchmark survey of Canadian adults examining their theological beliefs.

Ligonier Ministries sponsored the 2025 State of Canadian Theology Study by Lifeway Research to measure the current theological awareness of adult Canadians. Ligonier Ministries identified specific biblical doctrines and heresies to test. Lifeway Research helped refine these questions and subsequently surveyed 3,005 Canadians.

Questions focused on six key doctrinal areas and the findings include a number of specific beliefs where Canadians differ from historic and orthodox Christian views.

Beliefs about God

The highest agreement among Canadians to any of the statements in the survey is seen with more than 7 in 10 describing God as loving all people the same way (74%). More than half (52%) believe God cannot make a mistake and doesn't change (59%). But anti-biblical statements also have a large following. Almost two thirds (63%) of Canadians believe God accepts worship from all religions. More than half deny the deity of Christ (56%), fail to affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus (52%), and categorize the Holy Spirit as a force rather than a personal being (58%).

- 56% of Canadians agree “There is one true God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.”
- 63% agree “God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.”
- 52% agree “God is a perfect being and cannot make a mistake.”
- 59% agree “God is unchanging.”
- 74% agree “God loves all people the same way.”
- 48% agree “Biblical accounts of the physical (bodily) resurrection of Jesus are completely accurate. This event actually occurred.”
- 56% agree “Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.”
- 58% agree “The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being.”
- 41% agree “The Holy Spirit gives a spiritual new birth or new life before a person has faith in Jesus Christ.”
- 19% agree “The Holy Spirit can tell me to do something which is forbidden in the Bible.”

Beliefs about Goodness and Sin

Two-thirds (65%) of Canadians find most people good by nature. More than 7 in 10 believe everyone is born innocent (73%). Despite this flattering view of mankind, 43% of Canadians believe God measures righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ rather than one's works. Almost a quarter (21%) of Canadians believe any sin deserves eternal punishment.

- 65% agree "Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature."
- 21% agree "Even the smallest sin deserves eternal damnation."
- 43% agree "God counts a person as righteous not because of one's works but only because of one's faith in Jesus Christ."
- 73% of Canadians agree "Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God."

Beliefs about Salvation and Religious Texts

One third (36%) of Canadians believe the Bible is completely accurate. More than half (54%) say the Bible is not literally true. Forty-two percent of Canadians say science disproves the Bible. Four in 10 Canadians believe that eternal salvation requires trust in Jesus Christ alone, and a quarter say God chose those who would be saved before creation.

- 54% agree "The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true."
- 36% of Canadians agree "The Bible is 100% accurate in all that it teaches."
- 42% agree "Modern science disproves the Bible."
- 40% agree "Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation."
- 25% agree "God chose the people he would save before he created the world."

Beliefs about Judgement and Punishment

More than 4 in 10 Canadians expect Jesus to return and judge all people (43%). About the same amount (41%) believe some people will be punished in a place called hell.

- 41% of Canadians agree "Hell is a real place where certain people will be punished forever."
- 43% agree "There will be a time when Jesus Christ returns to judge all the people who have lived."

Beliefs about the Church

About 6 in 10 Canadians say there are valid alternatives to in-person worship attendance (61%). More than a quarter (28%) say Christians must join a local church. More than 6 in 10 believe Christians should keep their religious beliefs out of their political decisions (64%).

- 61% of Canadians agree “Worshiping alone or with one’s family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church.”
- 64% agree “Christians should not allow their religious beliefs to influence their political decisions.”
- 28% agree “Every Christian has an obligation to join a local church.”

Beliefs about Authority

More than half of Canadians say God created marriage to be between one man and one woman (55%), and more than 1 in 3 say sex outside of such a traditional marriage is sin (34%). Canadians are split on whether the basis for religious belief is objective truth or not. One third of adults (34%) believe abortion is a sin. A similar number of Canadians believe the Bible has authority over our do’s and don’ts. More than 4 in 10 (46%) say people should be able to choose their gender. Four in ten think God is unconcerned with their daily decisions (41%).

- 51% of Canadians agree “Religious belief is not about objective truth.”
- 55% agree “God created marriage to be between one man and one woman.”
- 34% agree “Sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin.”
- 34% agree “Abortion is a sin.”
- 34% agree “The Bible has the authority to tell us what we must do.”
- 50% agree “The Bible’s condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn’t apply today.”
- 46% agree “People should be able to choose their gender regardless of their biological sex.”
- 41% agree that “God is unconcerned with my day-to-day decisions.”

Methodology

The 2025 State of Canadian Theology Study was conducted by Lifeway Research. The objective of the study is to quantify among a national sample of Canadians indicators of theological understanding today. The project was designed with a large sample to allow for comparisons between groups within Christian churches and those outside the Christian faith.

The project was sponsored by Ligonier Ministries to ascertain the state of theological awareness and belief among Canadians, including several subsets of Canadians (particularly Evangelicals).

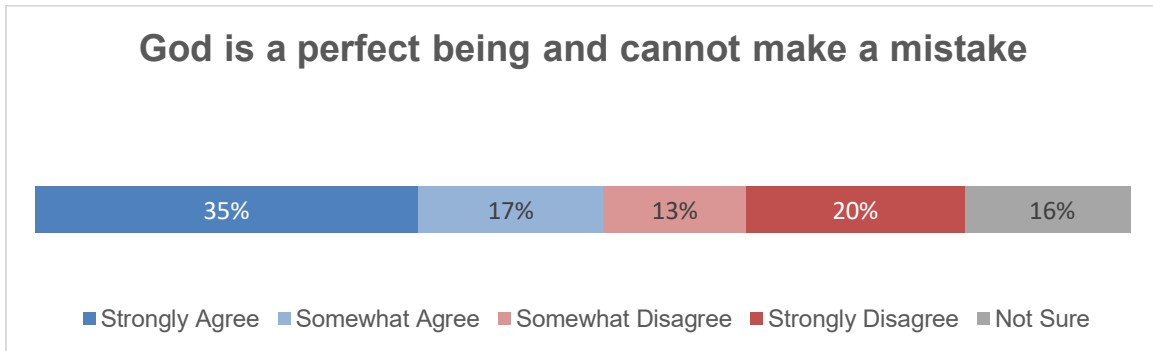
The quantitative survey of Canadian adults was conducted using a large, national online panel. Quotas were in place to ensure the sample was demographically balanced and slight weights were used to ensure the sample matches the population on gender, age, ethnicity, income, region and religion. 3,005 surveys were completed October 16-30, 2025. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the online panel does not exceed $\pm 1.9\%$. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Ligonier Ministries identified specific doctrines and heresies to test. Lifeway Research helped refine these questions to ensure the following principles were followed throughout the questionnaire:

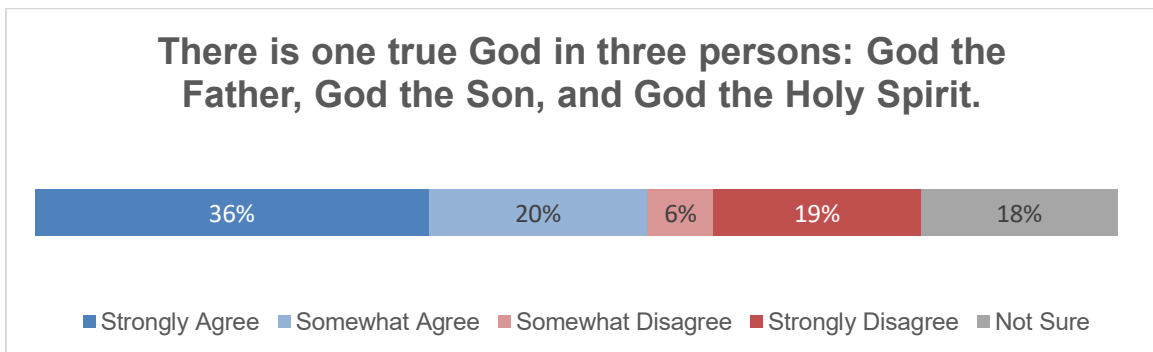
- Each doctrine or heresy was tested by stating it as fact and asking the respondent to indicate their level of agreement,
- Phrasing that can introduce bias was excluded,
- Questions in which the desired response is agreement and questions in which the desired response is disagreement were mixed throughout the survey, and
- Wording choices sought to use words that would be understood by the typical Canadian.

Quantitative Findings

BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

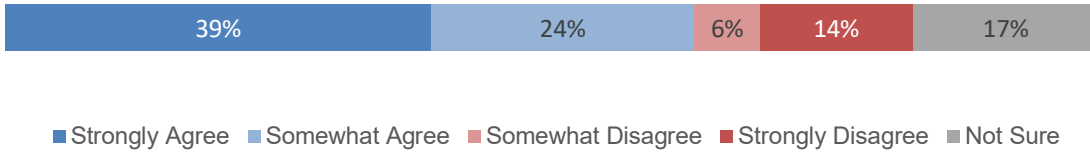


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (97% v. 47%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (85% v. 39%).



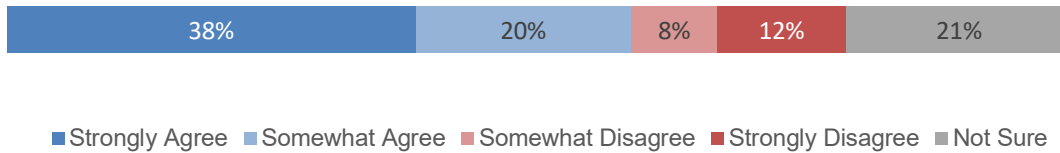
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (93% v. 53%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (83% v. 46%).

God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.



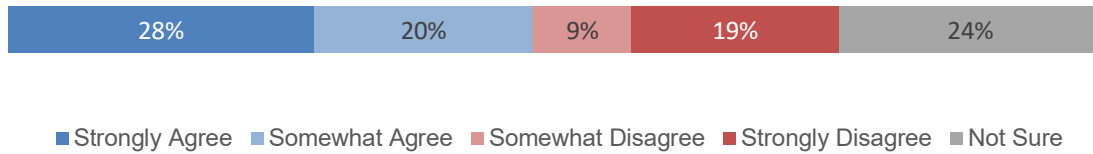
Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (74% v. 59%)

God is unchanging



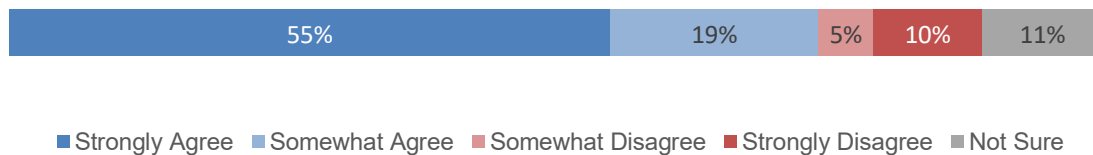
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (97% v. 54%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (90% v. 47%).

Biblical accounts of the physical (bodily) resurrection of Jesus are completely accurate. This event actually occurred.



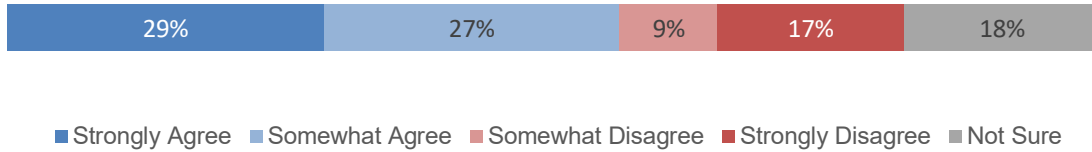
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (96% v. 43%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (79% v. 36%).

God loves all people the same way



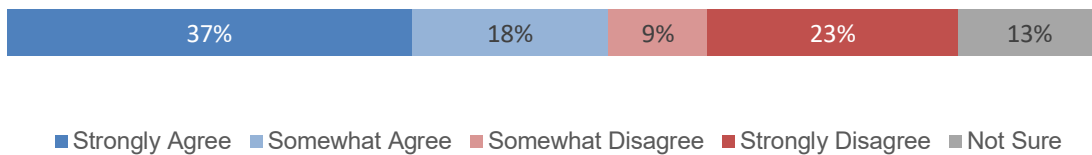
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (93% v. 72%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (93% v. 67%).

Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.



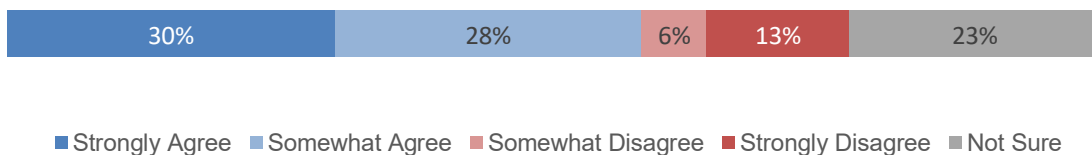
Canadians without Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those with Evangelical Beliefs (57% v. 45%).

God created marriage to be between one man and one woman.



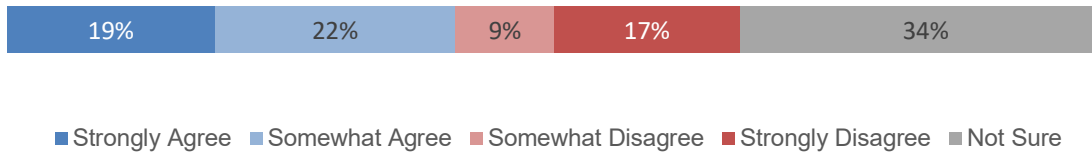
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (96% v. 51%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (83% v. 45%).

The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being.



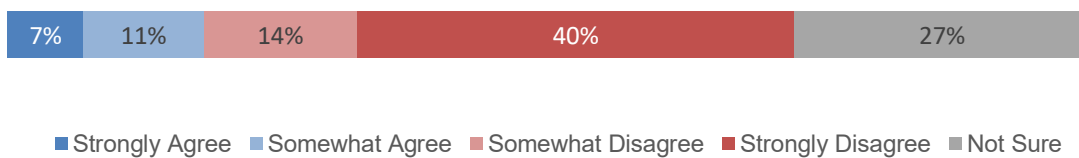
Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (67% v. 55%).

The Holy Spirit gives a spiritual new birth or new life before a person has faith in Jesus Christ.



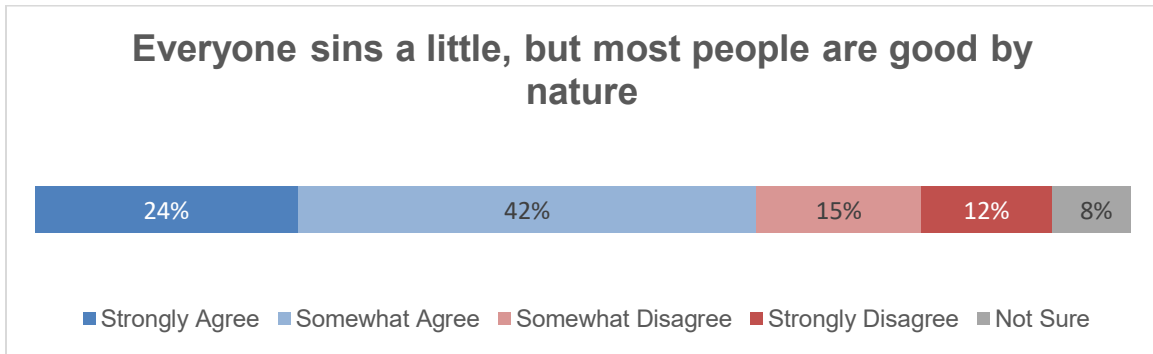
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (69% v. 38%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (62% v. 32%). Canadians age 18-34 (46%) and 35-49 (45%) are more likely to Agree than 50-64 (39%) and 65+ (33%).

The Holy Spirit can tell me to do something which is forbidden in the Bible.

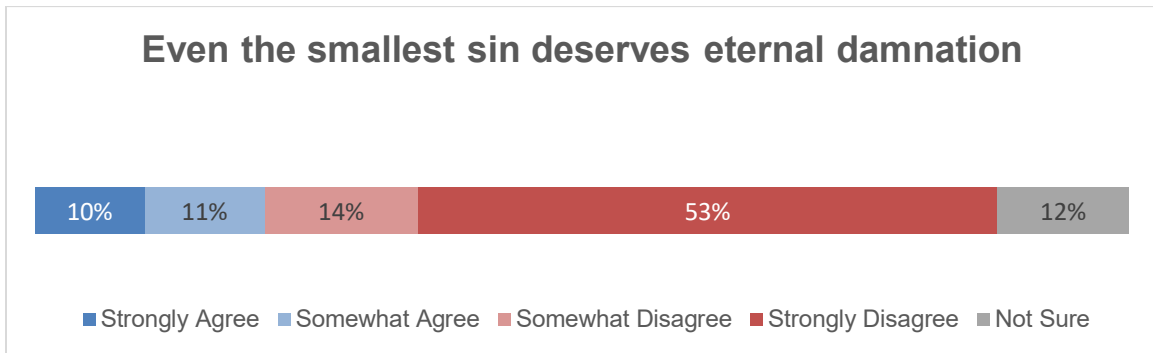


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (65% v. 53%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (33% v. 13%). Canadians age 65+ (59%) are more likely to *Disagree* than 18-34 (49%) and 35-49 (52%).

BELIEFS ABOUT GOODNESS AND SIN

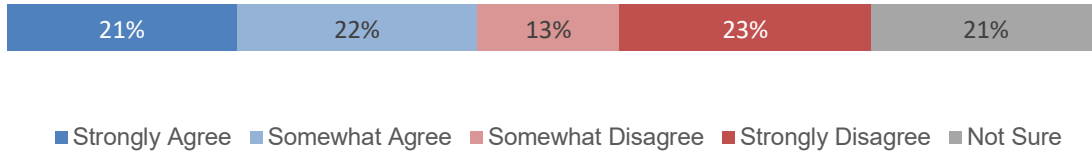


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (36% v. 26%). Canadians age 50-64 (68%) and 65+ (72%) are more likely to Agree than 18-34 (60%) and 35-49 (61%).



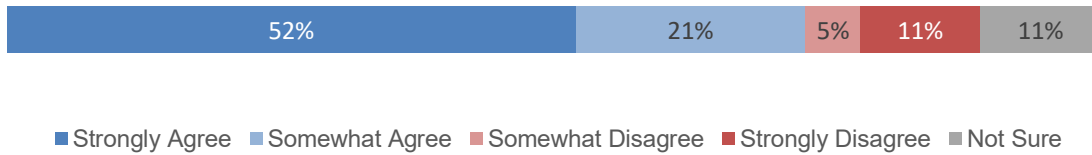
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (54% v. 18%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (44% v. 13%). Canadians age 50-64 (72%) and 65+ (75%) are more likely to *Disagree* than 18-34 (61%) and 35-49 (61%).

God counts a person as righteous not because of one's works but only because of one's faith in Jesus Christ.



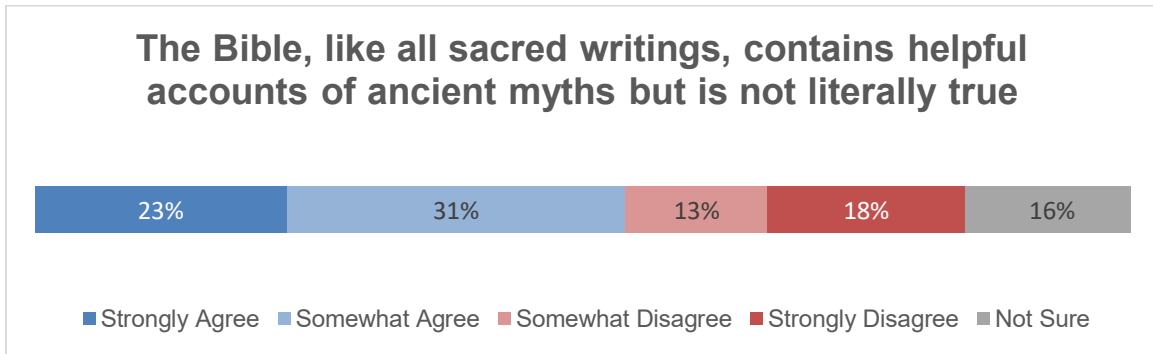
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (87% v. 39%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (68% v. 34%).

Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God.

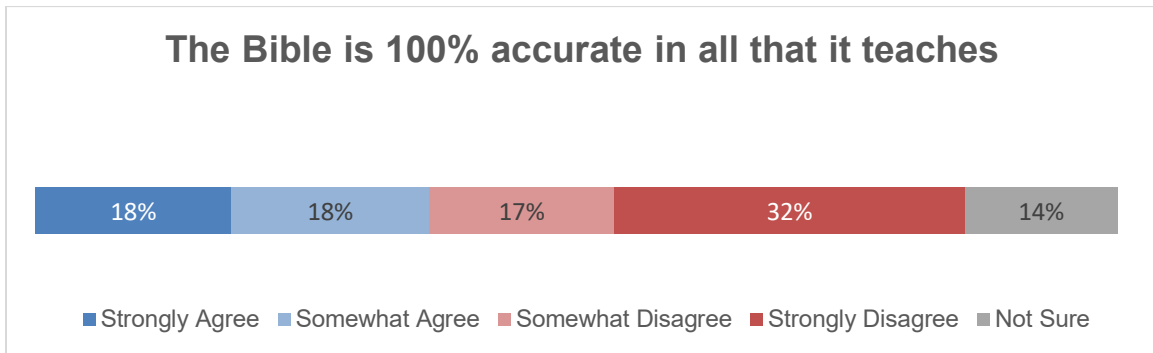


Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (80% v. 70%).

BELIEFS ABOUT SALVATION AND RELIGIOUS TEXTS

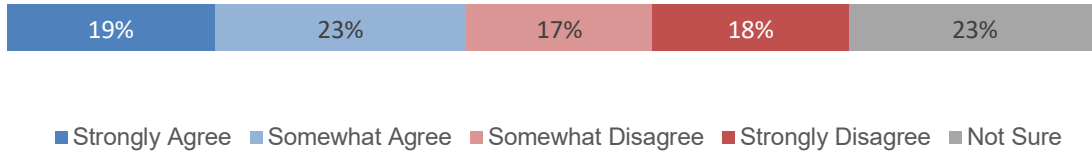


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (65% v. 27%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Disagree* than those who do not (44% v. 25%).



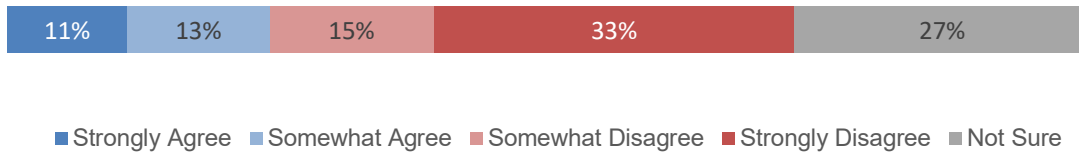
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Agree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (94% v. 30%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Agree* than those who do not (66% v. 25%).

Modern science disproves the Bible.



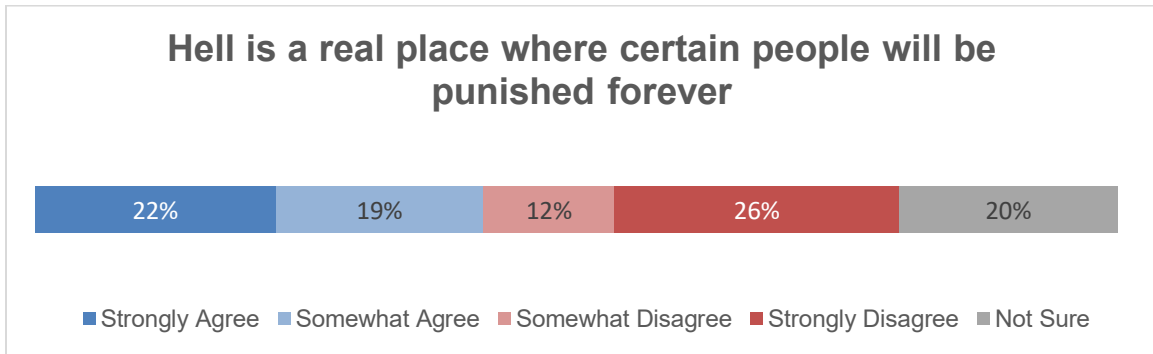
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (55% v. 32%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Disagree* than those who do not (47% v. 30%). Canadians age 50-64 (27%) and 65+ (28%) are more likely to answer Not Sure than those age 18-34 (20%) or 35-49 (18%).

God chose the people he would save before he created the world.

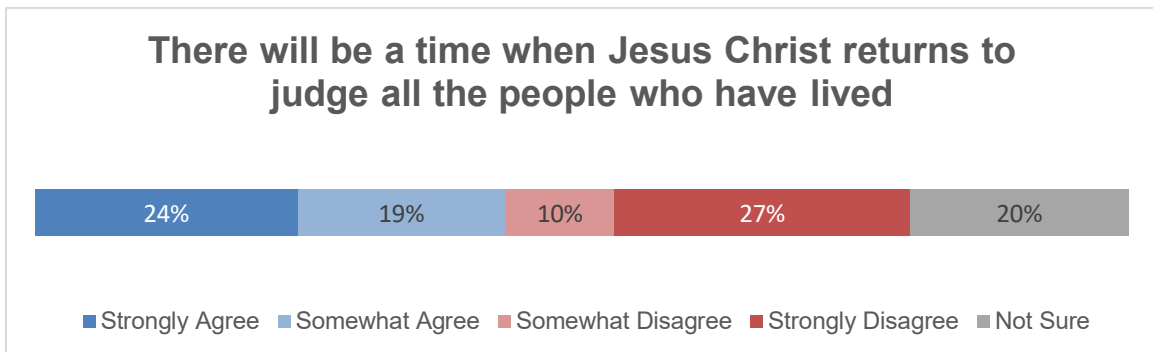


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (54% v. 21%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (45% v. 17%). Canadians age 18-34 (32%) and 35-49 (30%) are more likely to Agree than those age 50-64 (21%) and 65+ (15%).

BELIEFS ABOUT JUDGEMENT AND PUNISHMENT

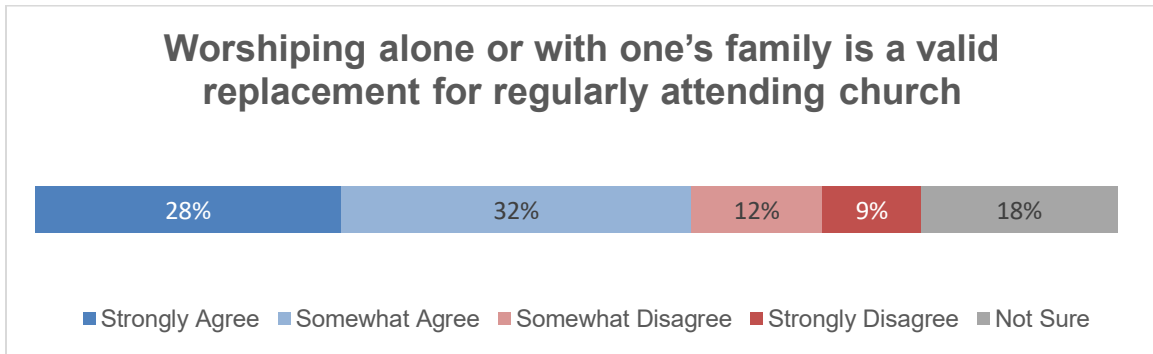


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (90% v. 35%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (70% v. 29%). Canadians age 65+ are the most likely to *Disagree* (46%).

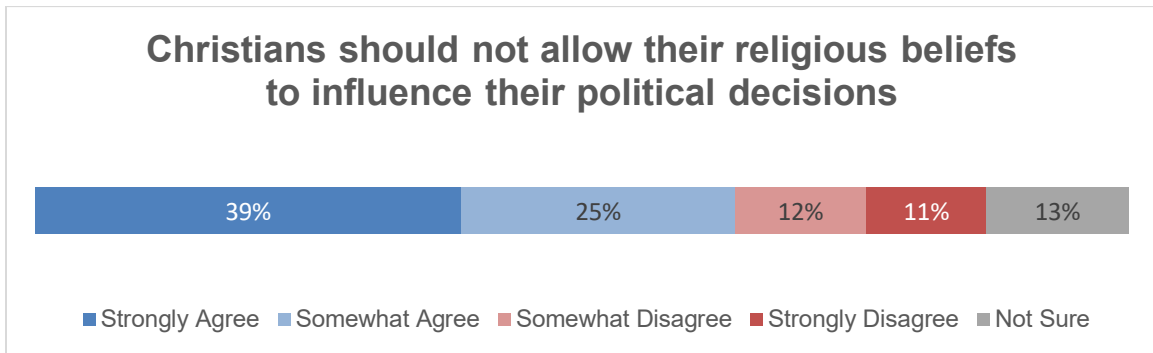


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (93% v. 38%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (75% v. 31%). Canadians age 18-34 (45%) and 35-49 (49%) are more likely to Agree than 50-64 (40%) and 65+ (39%).

BELIEFS ABOUT THE CHURCH

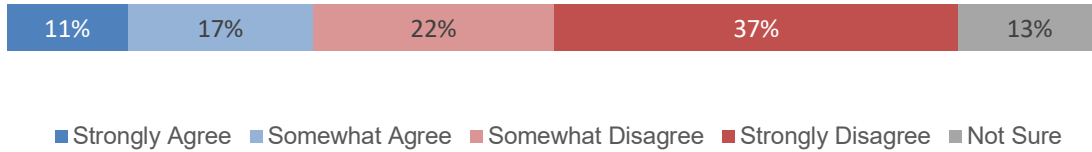


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (40% v. 19%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Disagree* than those who do not (35% v. 15%).



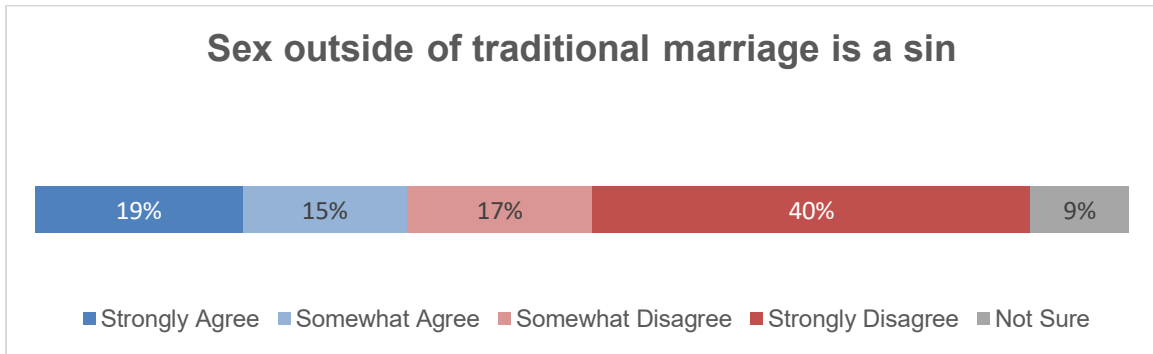
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (46% v. 21%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Disagree* than those who do not (33% v. 20%).

Every Christian has an obligation to join a local church.

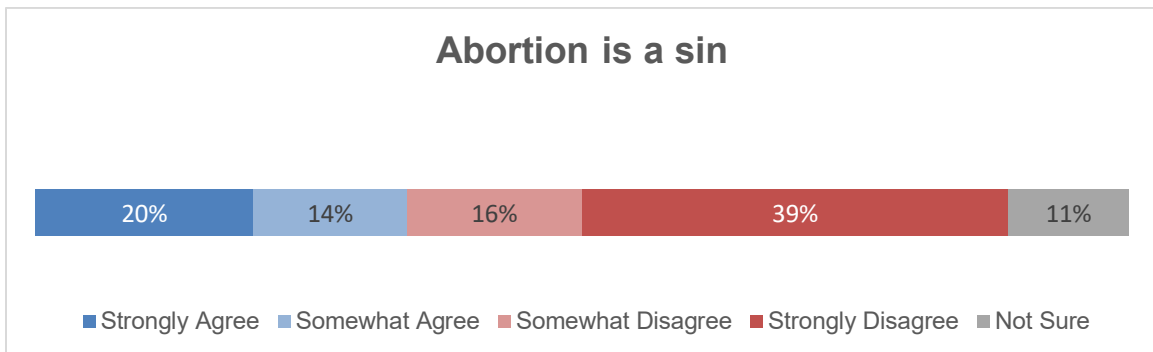


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (73% v. 23%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (59% v. 16%). Canadians age 65+ are the most likely to *Disagree* (70%). Canadians age 18-34 are the least likely to *Disagree* (47%).

BELIEFS ABOUT AUTHORITY

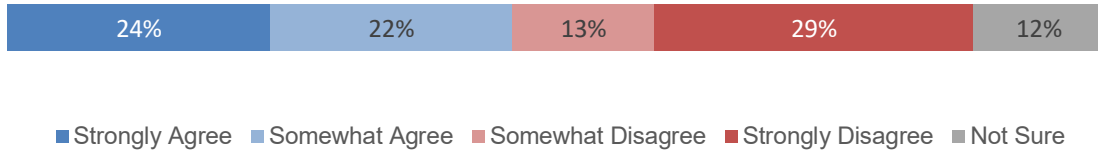


Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (83% v. 29%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (66% v. 22%). Canadians age 50-64 (62%) and 65+ (63%) are more likely to *Disagree* than 18-34 (49%) and 35-49 (53%).



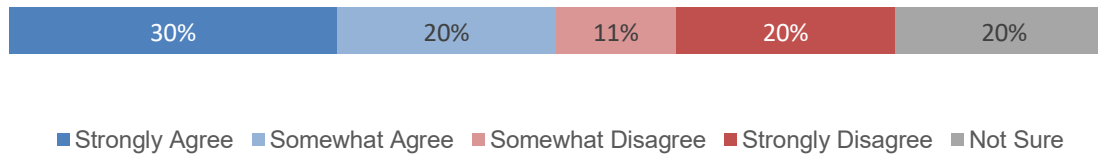
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (83% v. 29%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (65% v. 23%). Canadians age 50-64 (59%) and 65+ (62%) are more likely to *Disagree* than 18-34 (52%) and 35-49 (49%).

People should be able to choose their gender regardless of their biological sex.



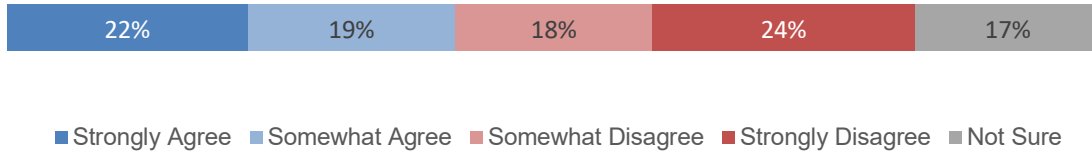
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (68% v. 39%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Disagree* than those who do not (56% v. 37%).

The Bible's condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn't apply today



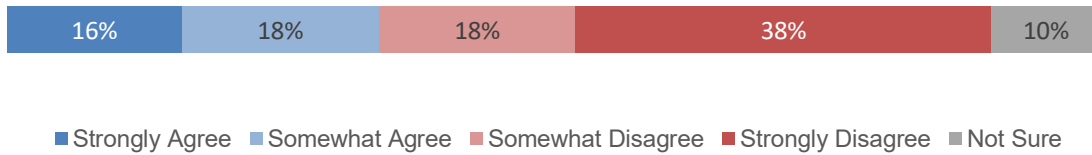
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (63% v. 27%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Disagree* than those who do not (45% v. 25%).

God is unconcerned with my day-to-day decisions



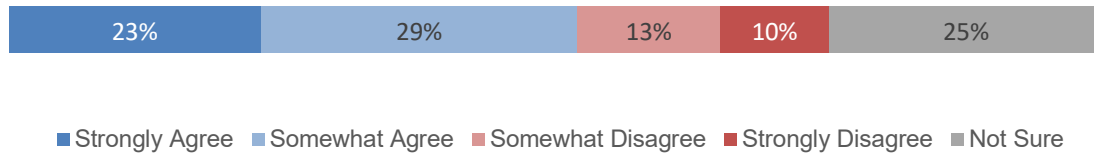
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (71% v. 39%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Disagree* than those who do not (62% v. 34%).

The Bible has the authority to tell us what we must do



Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Agree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (93% v. 28%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Agree* than those who do not (66% v. 22%). Canadians age 18-34 (39%) and 35-49 (39%) are more likely to *Agree* than 50-64 (30%) and 65+ (28%).

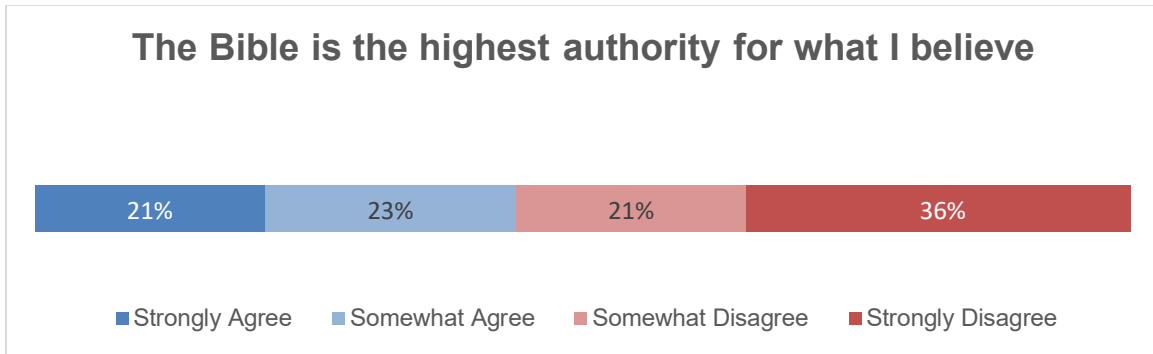
Religious belief is not about objective truth.



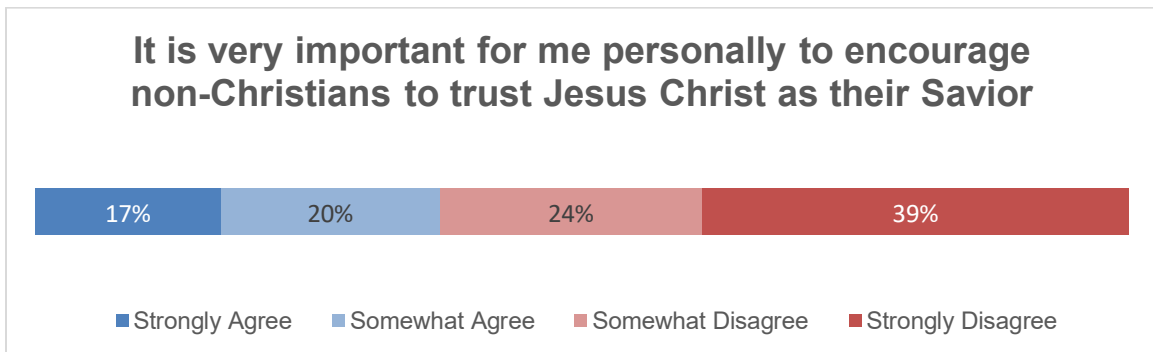
Canadians with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to *Disagree* than those without Evangelical Beliefs (42% v. 21%). Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to *Disagree* than those who do not (37% v. 18%).

NAE LIFEWAY RESEARCH EVANGELICAL BELIEFS DEFINITION

Using this definition, those who agree strongly with all four of these questions are considered to have Evangelical Beliefs:

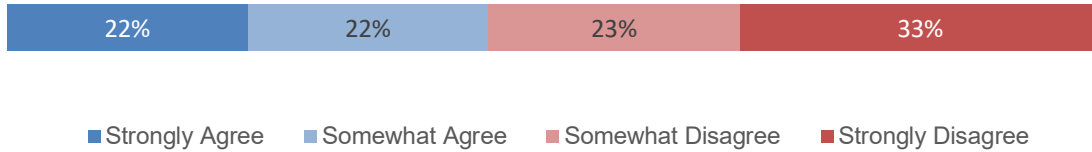


Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (76% v. 31%).



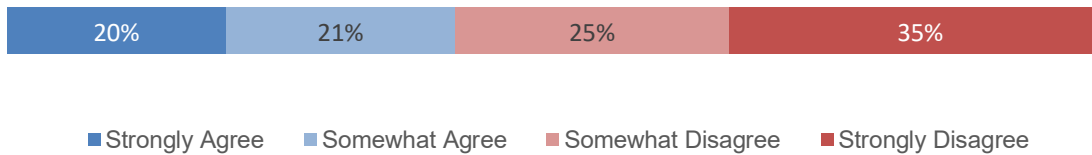
Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (69% v. 25%). Canadians age 18-34 (45%) and 35-49 (40%) are more likely to Agree than 50-64 (33%) and 65+ (30%).

Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin



Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (73% v. 33%). Canadians age 65+ are the most likely to *Disagree* (63%).

Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation



Canadians who attend a religious service at least once or twice a month are more likely to Agree than those who do not (70% v. 29%). Canadians age 18-34 (48%) and 35-49 (45%) are more likely to Agree than 50-64 (35%) and 65+ (31%).