Pastor Views on Sermons and the IRS

Survey of 1,000 Protestant Pastors

Sponsored by Alliance Defending Freedom
Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 – September 18, 2017
- These questions were sponsored by Alliance Defending Freedom
- 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 of the church called
- Responses were weighted by region 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 ±3.2%
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
Survey Responses
91% agree that pastors should have the right to speak freely from the pulpit without fear of being penalized by the government.

Q: “Pastors should have the right to speak freely from the pulpit without the fear of being penalized by the government.”
73% agree Congress should remove the IRS’ power to penalize a church because of the content of its pastor’s sermons

Q: “Congress should remove the IRS’ power to penalize a church because of the content of its pastor’s sermons.”
Significant Differences

Pastor
Ethnicity
Age
Education Level
Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church
Region
Denomination
Average Attendance
**Significant Statistical Differences**

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church’s attendance and region, the pastor’s gender, age and ethnicity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Pastor’s Gender</th>
<th>Pastor’s Age</th>
<th>Pastor’s Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-99</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>African-American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-249</td>
<td>South</td>
<td></td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>Other Ethnicities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250+</td>
<td>West</td>
<td></td>
<td>65+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions
Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among education level, the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, and denomination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Self-Identified</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No College Degree</td>
<td>Evangelical</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>Mainline</td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reformed Holiness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Pastors should have the right to speak freely from the pulpit without the fear of being penalized by the government.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (94%) and 250+ (96%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 0-49 (88%) and 50-99 (89%)
- Pastors in the South (93%) and West (94%) are more likely to Agree than Pastors in the Northeast (86%)
- Male pastors (93%) are more likely to Agree than female pastors (82%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (95%) and 55-64 (92%) are more likely to Agree than those 18-44 (86%)
- Those with no college degree (98%) or a Bachelor’s degree (96%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master’s degree (88%)
- Evangelical pastors (96%) are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (85%)
- Baptists (97%) and Holiness (100%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (92%), Methodists (86%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (88%)
“Congress should remove the IRS’ power to penalize a church because of the content of its pastor’s sermons.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to Agree (87%)
- Pastors in the South (77%) are more likely to Agree than Pastors in the Northeast (66%)
- Male pastors (77%) are more likely to Agree than female pastors (49%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to Agree (60%)
- Those with no college degree (90%) or a Bachelor’s degree (84%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master’s (67%) or a Doctoral degree (71%)
- Evangelical pastors (84%) are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (58%)
- Baptists (86%), Pentecostals (93%), and Holiness (91%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (61%), Methodists (56%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (61%)
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