

**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 96 SEPTEMBER 2021
FINAL TOPLINE
SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2021
N=6,485**

ASK ALL:

SATIS All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 20-26, 2021	25	74	1
Mar 1-7, 2021	33	66	1
Nov 12-17, 2020	22	77	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	18	82	1
July 27-August 2, 2020	12	87	1
June 16-22, 2020	12	87	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	31	68	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	33	66	1
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	31	69	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	28	71	1
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	27	72	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	34	65	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	36	63	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ¹	32	68	0
Sep 27-Oct 10, 2016	23	75	2
June 7-Jul 5, 2016	19	80	1
Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	25	75	0

ASK ALL:

CHURCHUNITE Do you think churches and religious organizations... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Sep 20-26 <u>2021</u>		Mar 18-Apr 1 <u>2019</u>	Dec 4-18 <u>2017</u>
52	Mostly bring people together	50	49
19	Mostly push people apart	21	23
28	Neither	29	27
1	No answer	1	1

ASK ALL:

CHURCHIMPACT Considering everything, what impact do churches and religious organizations have on American society? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, 3 ALWAYS LAST; USE SAME ORDER AS COVIDCHIMPACT]**

Sep 20-26 <u>2021</u>		Mar 18-Apr 1 <u>2019</u>	Dec 4-18 <u>2017</u>
21	They do more harm than good	20	21
53	They do more good than harm	55	55
25	Don't make much difference	24	23
1	No answer	1	1

¹ The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

ASK ALL:

KEEPOUT

In your opinion, should churches and other houses of worship... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 20-26

2021

70

Keep out of political matters

29

Express their views on day-to-day social and political questions

1

No answer

Mar 18-Apr 1

2019

63

36

1

ASK ALL:

COVIDCHIMPACT

What impact do you think churches and religious organizations have had on the way the U.S. has handled the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2, 3 ALWAYS LAST; USE SAME ORDER AS CHURCHIMPACT]**

Sep 20-26

2021

25

They have done more harm than good

22

They have done more good than harm

52

They haven't made much difference

2

No answer

ASK ALL:

ATTENDMONTH

In the last month, did you attend religious services in person at a church, synagogue, mosque or other house of worship?

Sep 20-26

2021

26

Yes, attended religious services in person in the last month

74

No, did not attend religious services in person in the last month

1

No answer

Mar 1-7

2021

18

81

1

July 13-19

2020

12

88

1

ASK ALL:

ATTENDONLINE

In the last month, have you watched religious services online or on TV?

Sep 20-26

2021

28

Yes, have watched religious services online or on TV in the last month

71

No, have not watched religious services online or on TV in the last month

1

No answer

Mar 1-7

2021

33

66

1

July 13-19

2020

33

66

<1

ASK IF ATTENDS RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT LEAST MONTHLY (F_ATTEND=1-3 OR ATTENDMONTH=1)
[N=2,437]²:

COVIDCONG3 Which of the following best describes the current operating status of the house of worship you attend most often?

Sep 20-26 2021		Mar 1-7 2021	July 13-19 2020
29	It is open to the public and holding religious services in the same way that it did before the coronavirus outbreak	12	6
59	It is open to the public for religious services, but has made changes as a result of the coronavirus outbreak	64	55
6	It is NOT open to the public for in-person religious services	17	31
5	Not sure	6	7
<1	No answer	<1	<1

ASK IF ATTENDS RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT LEAST MONTHLY (F_ATTEND=1-3 OR ATTENDMONTH=1)
[N=2,437]:

COVIDCONG4 Regardless of whether the house of worship you attend most often is currently open to the public, what do you think the operating status of your house of worship SHOULD be?

Sep 20-26 2021		Mar 1-7 2021	July 13-19 2020
34	Should be open to the public and holding religious services in the same way that it did before the coronavirus outbreak	26	13
59	Should be open to the public and holding religious services, but with changes as a result of the coronavirus outbreak	58	57
6	Should NOT be open to the public for in-person religious services	15	28
1	No answer	1	2

ASK IF ATTENDS RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT LEAST MONTHLY (F_ATTEND=1-3 OR ATTENDMONTH=1)
[N=2,437]:

ATTENDCONF Thinking about the modifications, if any, that are currently in place at your house of worship, how confident are you that you could safely attend in-person religious services right now without spreading or catching the coronavirus?

Sep 20-26 2021		Mar 1-7 2021	July 13-19 2020
82	NET Very/somewhat confident	76	64
45	Very confident	45	34
37	Somewhat confident	32	29
18	NET Not too/not at all confident	23	35
14	Not too confident	15	19
4	Not at all confident	8	16
<1	No answer	1	1

² Respondents were asked about the frequency with which they attend religious services (F_ATTEND) on previous survey waves of the American Trends Panel conducted May 19 – July 7, 2021 and July 26 – Aug. 29, 2021.

ASK ALL:
VAXCONF

How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to provide guidance about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine? **[SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS; RANDOMIZE a-c ON FIRST SCREEN AND d-g ON SECOND SCREEN]**

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	No confidence at all	No answer
a.	Your state elected officials Sep 20-26, 2021	11	37	29	22	1
b.	Your local elected officials Sep 20-26, 2021	11	38	32	19	1
c.	Public health officials such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Sep 20-26, 2021	31	34	19	16	1
d.	The news media Sep 20-26, 2021	9	33	27	30	1
e.	ASK IF ATTENDS RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT LEAST MONTHLY (F_ATTEND=1-3 OR ATTENDMONTH=1) [N=2,437]: The clergy or other religious leaders at your house of worship Sep 20-26, 2021	21	40	26	11	2
f.	ASK IF CATHOLIC [N=1,374]: Pope Francis Sep 20-26, 2021	16	32	33	19	1
g.	Your primary care doctor Sep 20-26, 2021	45	37	12	5	1

ASK IF ATTENDS RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT LEAST MONTHLY (F_ATTEND=1-3 OR ATTENDMONTH=1) [N=2,437]:

CLERGYVAX Have the clergy at your house of worship... **[RANDOMIZE 1 & 2, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Sep 20-26
2021

39	Encouraged people to get the COVID-19 vaccine
5	Discouraged people from getting the COVID-19 vaccine
54	Not said much about the vaccine either way
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

GOD Do you believe in God?

Yes
No
No answer

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD

GODBIBLE Which of these statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE]

I believe in God as described in the Bible

I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe

No answer

ASK IF DOES NOT BELIEVE IN GOD:

HGHPWR Which of these statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE]

I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe

I do not believe there is ANY higher power or spiritual force in the universe

No answer

ASK IF REFUSED GOD:

MISSINGGOD Which of these statements comes closest to your views, even if none is exactly right?

I believe in God as described in the Bible

I DO NOT believe in God as described in the Bible, but I do believe there is some other higher power or spiritual force in the universe

I do not believe there is ANY higher power or spiritual force in the universe

No answer

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

Sep 20-26

2021

91

Believe in God or higher power

57

In God as described in Bible

32

In higher power but NOT in God as described in Bible

1

Unclear

9

Does not believe in God or higher power³

<1

Unclear⁴

Apr 20-26

2020

89

56

31

1

11

1

Dec 4-18

2017

90

56

33

1

10

1

ASK ALL:

BIGQOFT

The coronavirus outbreak and other recent tragedies have caused some people to think about big questions such as the meaning of life, whether there is any purpose to suffering and why terrible things happen to people.

In the last year, how much, if at all, have you personally thought about these kinds of questions?

Sep 20-26

2021

61

NET A lot/some

23

A lot

38

Some

39

NET Not much/not at all

26

Not much

14

Not at all

<1

No answer

³ Includes those who decline to answer HGHPWR.

⁴ Includes those who decline to answer both GOD and MISSINGGOD.

ASK ALL:

BADTHINGSOE

In your own words, why do you think terrible things happen to people through no apparent fault of their own?

[FREE RESPONSE]**ASK ALL:**

BADFEELINGS

When you see or hear news about terrible things happening to people, how often do you personally feel each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE; SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS]**

		<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Sadness for those who are suffering Sep 20-26, 2021	62	31	5	1	<1
b.	A desire to help those who are suffering Sep 20-26, 2021	40	51	7	1	<1
c.	The need to make changes in your own life so you don't end up in a similar situation Sep 20-26, 2021	20	51	22	6	<1
d.	The need to tune out the news because it's just too much to take Sep 20-26, 2021	24	48	20	8	1
e.	ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER [N=5,868]: Angry with God for allowing so much suffering Sep 20-26, 2021	3	15	28	53	<1
f.	Worried that something similar will happen to you Sep 20-26, 2021	12	46	32	9	<1
g.	Thankful for the good things in your own life Sep 20-26, 2021	71	24	3	1	<1
h.	Happy if the person seems to have deserved it Sep 20-26, 2021	10	24	34	31	<1

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER [N=5,868]:

GODSUFF Some people have struggled to make sense of their belief in God and the fact that suffering exists in the world. How well does each of the following reflect your own views?

[RANDOMIZE a-c ON ONE SCREEN AND RANDOMIZE d-f ON SECOND SCREEN, DO NOT RANDOMIZE ORDER OF SCREENS]

		Very <u>well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Most of the suffering in the world comes from the actions of people, not from God Sep 20-26, 2021	48	40	7	3	1
b.	God chooses not to stop the suffering in the world because it is part of a larger plan Sep 20-26, 2021	24	32	21	21	2
c.	Sometimes I think the suffering in the world is an indication that there is no God Sep 20-26, 2021	4	11	19	64	2
d.	Sometimes the suffering in the world makes me doubt that God is all-powerful Sep 20-26, 2021	5	12	21	61	2
e.	Sometimes the suffering in the world makes me doubt that God is entirely loving and kind Sep 20-26, 2021	5	13	22	59	2
f.	Satan is responsible for most of the suffering in the world Sep 20-26, 2021	21	27	22	28	2

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER [N=5,868]:

PUNISH How much of the suffering in the world do you think is a punishment from God?

Sep 20-26

2021

4	All or most of it
20	Some of it
24	Only a little of it
50	None at all
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

BADTHINGSEXP

How well does each of the following explain why suffering exists in the world?

[RANDOMIZE]

		<u>Very well</u>	<u>Somewhat well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	To provide an opportunity for people to come out stronger					
	Sep 20-26, 2021	19	43	24	13	2
b.	Sometimes bad things just happen					
	Sep 20-26, 2021	44	42	9	4	1
c.	Suffering is mostly a consequence of people's own actions					
	Sep 20-26, 2021	22	49	23	5	1
d.	Suffering is mostly a result of the way society is structured					
	Sep 20-26, 2021	19	50	22	8	1

ASK IF BELIEVES IN GOD OR HIGHER POWER [N=5,868]:

FREEWILL

Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 20-26

2021

19	God or a higher power directly influences everything that occurs in the world
78	Human beings are free to act in ways that go against the plans of God or a higher power
3	No answer

ASK ALL:

BELIEVE

Which of the following, if any, do you believe in? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Yes, I believe in this	No, I do not believe in this	No answer
a.	Heaven			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	73	25	2
	Dec 4-18, 2017	71	28	2
	May 30-Aug 9, 2017	74	24	2
b.	Hell			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	62	36	2
	Dec 4-18, 2017	60	38	2
	May 30-Aug 9, 2017	62	35	3

[NO ITEM c]

d.	Reincarnation (people will be reborn again and again in this world)			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	33	65	3
	Nov 19, 2019-June 3, 2020	31	67	2
	Dec 4-18, 2017	33	64	3

[NO ITEMS e, f]

g.	Everything in life happens for a reason			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	68	31	1
h.	Some things happen in life that can't really be explained by science or natural causes			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	83	16	1
i.	Fate (the course of your life is predetermined)			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	44	54	2

ASK IF DOES NOT BELIEVE IN HEAVEN AND DOES NOT BELIEVE IN HELL:

AFTLIFE1

Do you believe in an afterlife?

RESULTS BASED ON TOTAL

Sep 20-26

2021

26	Do not believe in Heaven or Hell
7	Believe in afterlife
17	Don't believe in afterlife
1	No answer
74	Believe in Heaven or Hell or both

ASK IF BELIEVES IN AN AFTERLIFE [N=442]:

AFTLIFE0E In your own words, what do you think the afterlife is like?

[FREE RESPONSE]**ASK IF BELIEVES IN HEAVEN [N=4,701]:**

HEAVENATH Do you believe that people who do not believe in God can go to heaven?

Sep 20-26

2021

53	Yes, they can go to heaven
44	No, they cannot go to heaven
3	No answer

ASK IF BELIEVES IN HEAVEN [N=4,701]:HEAVENCHAR What do you think heaven is like? In heaven, people... **[RANDOMIZE, SPLIT ACROSS THREE SCREENS]**

		Heaven is definitely <u>like this</u>	Heaven is probably <u>like this</u>	Heaven is probably <u>not like this</u>	Heaven is definitely <u>not like this</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Have perfectly healthy bodies Sep 20-26, 2021	54	28	9	6	2
b.	Can see what is happening on Earth Sep 20-26, 2021	21	38	25	12	3
c.	Are able to have relationships with people who are still living on Earth Sep 20-26, 2021	11	23	36	26	3
d.	Are reunited with loved ones who died previously Sep 20-26, 2021	51	38	6	3	1
e.	Are reunited with pets or animals they knew on Earth Sep 20-26, 2021	27	39	20	12	2
f.	Can meet God Sep 20-26, 2021	54	31	9	3	2
g.	Are free from suffering Sep 20-26, 2021	72	22	3	1	1
h.	Can choose whether they want to stop existing Sep 20-26, 2021	6	15	35	40	4
i.	Can become angels Sep 20-26, 2021	27	33	20	18	3

ASK IF BELIEVES IN HELL [N=3,833]:HELLCHAR What do you think hell is like? In hell, people... **[RANDOMIZE]**

		Hell is definitely like this	Hell is probably like this	Hell is probably not like this	Hell is definitely not like this	No answer
a.	Experience physical suffering Sep 20-26, 2021	48	34	11	4	3
b.	Experience psychological suffering Sep 20-26, 2021	49	36	9	4	3
c.	Cannot have a relationship with God Sep 20-26, 2021	50	29	13	6	3
d.	Become aware of the suffering they created in the world Sep 20-26, 2021	44	42	8	4	3
e.	Can meet Satan Sep 20-26, 2021	37	34	18	8	3

ASK IF BELIEVE IN HEAVEN [N=4,701]:ETERNALHEAV Which of these two statements comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**Sep 20-26
2021

31	My religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life in heaven
66	Many religions can lead to eternal life in heaven
3	No answer

ASK IF CHRISTIAN AND MANY RELIGIONSHEAVENCHR Do you think... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2 IN SAME ORDER AS ETERNALHEAV]****RESULTS BASED ON CHRISTIANS [N=4,274]**Sep 20-26
2021

31	My religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life in heaven (in ETERNALHEAV)
58	Many religions can lead to eternal life in Heaven (in ETERNALHEAV)
13	Only Christian religions can lead to eternal life in heaven
44	Some non-Christian religions can lead to eternal life in heaven
2	No answer
3	No answer (in ETERNALHEAV)
92	NET Believe in Heaven (in BELIEVE_a)

ASK ALL:

SPIR1

Do you believe it is possible for people to experience each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE]**

		Yes, this is <u>possible</u>	No, this is not <u>possible</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Getting a definite answer to a specific prayer request			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	67	31	3
b.	Receiving a direct revelation from God or other higher power			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	67	29	3
c.	Feeling the presence of someone who has died			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	72	26	2
d.	Getting help from someone who has died			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	51	46	3
e.	Communicating with someone who has died			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	47	50	3
f.	Having a near-death experience in which their spirit actually leaves their body			
	Sep 20-26, 2021	72	25	3

ASK ALL:

SPIR2

Have you, personally, ever experienced any of the following? **[DISPLAY IF POSSIBLE TO EXPERIENCE (SPIR1a-e=1); RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS SPIR1]****RESULTS BASED ON TOTAL**

		Yes, I have experienced <u>this</u>	No, I have not experienced <u>this</u>	<u>No answer</u>	Not asked because respondent does not believe this is possible in SPIR1
a.	Gotten a definite answer to a specific prayer request Sep 20-26, 2021	46	21	1	33
b.	Received a direct revelation from God or other higher power Sep 20-26, 2021	29	38	1	33
c.	Felt the presence of someone who has died Sep 20-26, 2021	44	27	1	28
d.	Gotten help from someone who has died Sep 20-26, 2021	20	30	1	49
e.	Communicated with someone who has died Sep 20-26, 2021	14	33	1	53

ASK ALL:

PPLFAV

Is your overall opinion of... **[RANDOMIZE]**

		NET Favorable	<i>Very fav</i>	<i>Mostly fav</i>	NET Unfavorable	<i>Mostly unfav</i>	<i>Very unfav</i>	Never heard of this person	No answer
a.	Pope Francis								
	Sep 20-26, 2021	60	15	46	28	18	10	8	3
	Mar 1-7, 2021	63	14	49	28	18	10	7	2
	Feb 4-15, 2020	64	16	48	27	17	9	7	2
[NO ITEMS b,c]									
d.	Boris Johnson	26	2	23	31	22	8	41	3
e.	Emmanuel Macron	28	2	26	19	14	5	50	3

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

ASK ALL:

Q. 51

Next, is your overall opinion of **[INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT NAME]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	NET	<i>Very</i>	<i>Mostly</i>	NET	<i>Mostly</i>	<i>Very</i>	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Favorable	<i>fav</i>	<i>fav</i>	Unfavorable	<i>unfav</i>	<i>unfav</i>	Never heard of this person	Can't rate/Ref
Pope Francis								
January 8-13, 2020	59	17	42	26	15	11	4	11
Sep 18-24, 2018	51	13	38	27	15	11	3	19
Jan 10-15, 2018	62	26	37	18	11	7	3	16
Jan 4-9, 2017	70	30	40	19	13	7	2	9
Oct 1-4, 2015	68	35	33	12	7	5	5	15
May 5-June 7, 2015	64	29	35	10	5	4	8	19
Feb 18-22, 2015	70	29	40	15	10	5	5	11
Feb 14-23, 2014	66	30	36	11	7	4	7	16
Sep 4-8, 2013	58	21	37	12	7	4	10	20
Mar 28-31, 2013	57	22	35	14	9	6	6	22
Pope Benedict XVI								
Feb 14-17, 2013	49	14	34	27	16	12	4	20
April, 2008	61	22	39	17	9	8	4	18
March, 2008	52	18	34	18	12	6	7	23
August, 2007	50	14	36	18	12	6	8	24
July, 2005	44	10	34	11	7	4	4	41
Pope John Paul II								
June, 1996	76	28	48	13	9	4	1	10
May, 1990	79	31	48	11	7	4	1	9
May, 1987	76	28	48	14	10	4	1	9

ASK IF CATHOLIC [N=1,374]:POPEDESC Which of the following, if any, describe Pope Francis? **[ASK a, then b; RANDOMIZE c-g]**

		Yes, describes Pope Francis	No, does not describe Pope Francis	No answer
a.	Humble Sep 20-26, 2021	82	16	3
b.	Compassionate Sep 20-26, 2021	88	10	2
c.	Open-minded Sep 20-26, 2021	72	24	4
d.	Too liberal Sep 20-26, 2021	30	65	5
e.	Naïve Sep 20-26, 2021	22	72	6
f.	Out of touch Sep 20-26, 2021	24	71	5
g.	In good physical health Sep 20-26, 2021	52	40	8

ASK IF CATHOLIC [N=1,374]:

TLM1 How much, if at all, have you heard about the recent decision by Pope Francis to place limits on the use of the traditional Latin Mass?

Sep 20-26
2021

7	A lot
28	A little
65	Nothing at all
1	No answer

ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE:

TLM2 Do you approve or disapprove of the decision by Pope Francis to place limits on the use of the traditional Latin Mass?

RESULTS BASED ON CATHOLICS [N=1,374]Sep 20-26
2021

9	Approve
12	Disapprove
14	No opinion either way
<1	No answer
65	Not asked because respondent has not heard about the issue (in TLM1)

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE OR MISSING:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
26	32	26	14	3	16	19