

# POPULAR CULTURE AS SEEN THROUGH <sup>1</sup> AN AMERICAN LENS



# The State of Religion in America 2





# Monotheistic



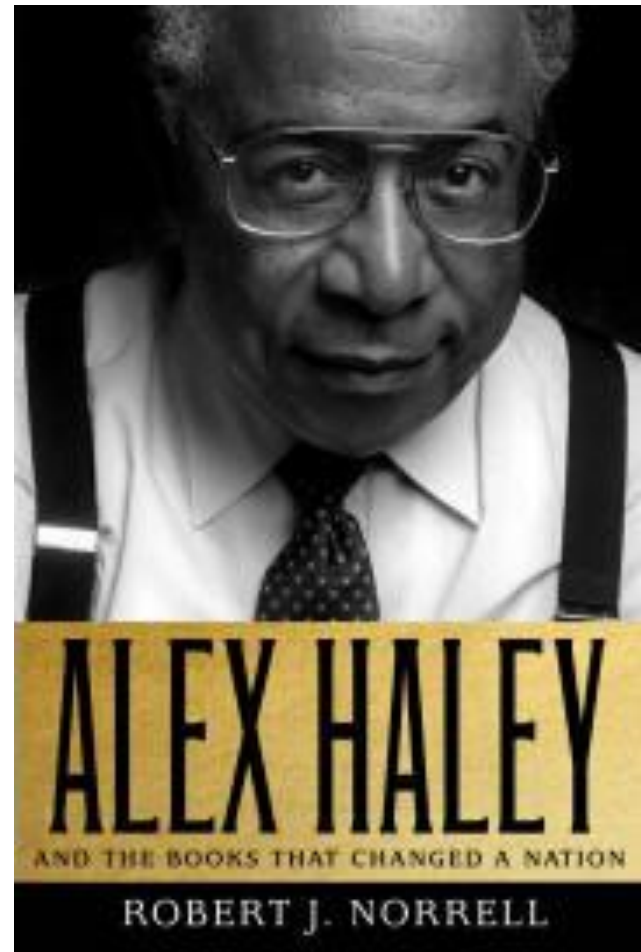
# Islam is a monotheistic Religion 4

- Things that lead to its growth in America
  - Immigration from Muslim countries?
  - Social Factors (anti-Islamic feelings because of terrorism)
  - Families in America who have converted

# Alex Haley

5

- "Roots," which was published in 1976, spurred an interest in genealogy among Americans of many ethnic heritages. The ABC television mini-series fashioned from the book attracted millions of viewers early in 1977.



# Nation of Islam

- In 1977, [Louis Farrakhan](#) re-established the Nation of Islam and took over the Nation of Islam's headquarter Temple, [Mosque Maryam](#) (Mosque #2), which is located in [Chicago, Illinois](#). They have a core membership estimated between 20,000 and 50,000.



# Million Man March

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- On October 16, 1995, an estimated 850,000 African American men from across the United States gathered together at the National Mall in [Washington, D.C.](#) to rally in one of largest demonstrations in Washington history. This march surpassed the 250,000 who gathered in 1963 for the March on Washington where [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.](#) gave his historic "[I Have a Dream](#)" speech. This assembly of black men was organized and hosted by the [Nation of Islam](#) leader [Louis Farrakhan](#) who called for all able-bodied African American men to come to the nation's capital to address the ills of black communities and call for unity and revitalization of African American communities.





# Ethicalists

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# Connecting to self (no God)

9

- These are rules to live by. Do not kill. This is sometimes translated as "*not harming*" or an absence of violence.
- Do not steal. This is generally interpreted as including the avoidance of fraud and economic exploitation.
- Do not lie. This is sometimes interpreted as including name calling, gossip, etc.
- Do not misuse sex. For monks and nuns, this means any departure from complete celibacy. For the laity, adultery is forbidden, along with any sexual harassment or exploitation, including that within marriage. The Buddha did not discuss consensual premarital sex within a committed relationship; Thus, Buddhist traditions differ on this. Most Buddhists, probably influenced by their local cultures, [condemn same-sex sexual activity](#) regardless of the nature of the relationship between the people involved.
- Do not consume alcohol or other drugs. The main concern here is that intoxicants cloud the mind. Some have included as a drug other methods of divorcing ourselves from reality -- e.g. movies, television, the Internet.

# Animist (Shamanism)

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# IN U.S., 77% IDENTIFY AS CHRISTIAN 11

*Religious Preference in the United States*

	January-November 2011	January-November 2012
	%	%
Protestant/Other Christian	52.5	51.9
Catholic	23.6	23.3
Mormon	1.9	2.1
Jewish	1.6	1.7
Muslim	0.5	0.6
Other non-Christian	2.4	2.6
No religious identity	15.0	15.6
No response given	2.5	2.2

Gallup Daily tracking

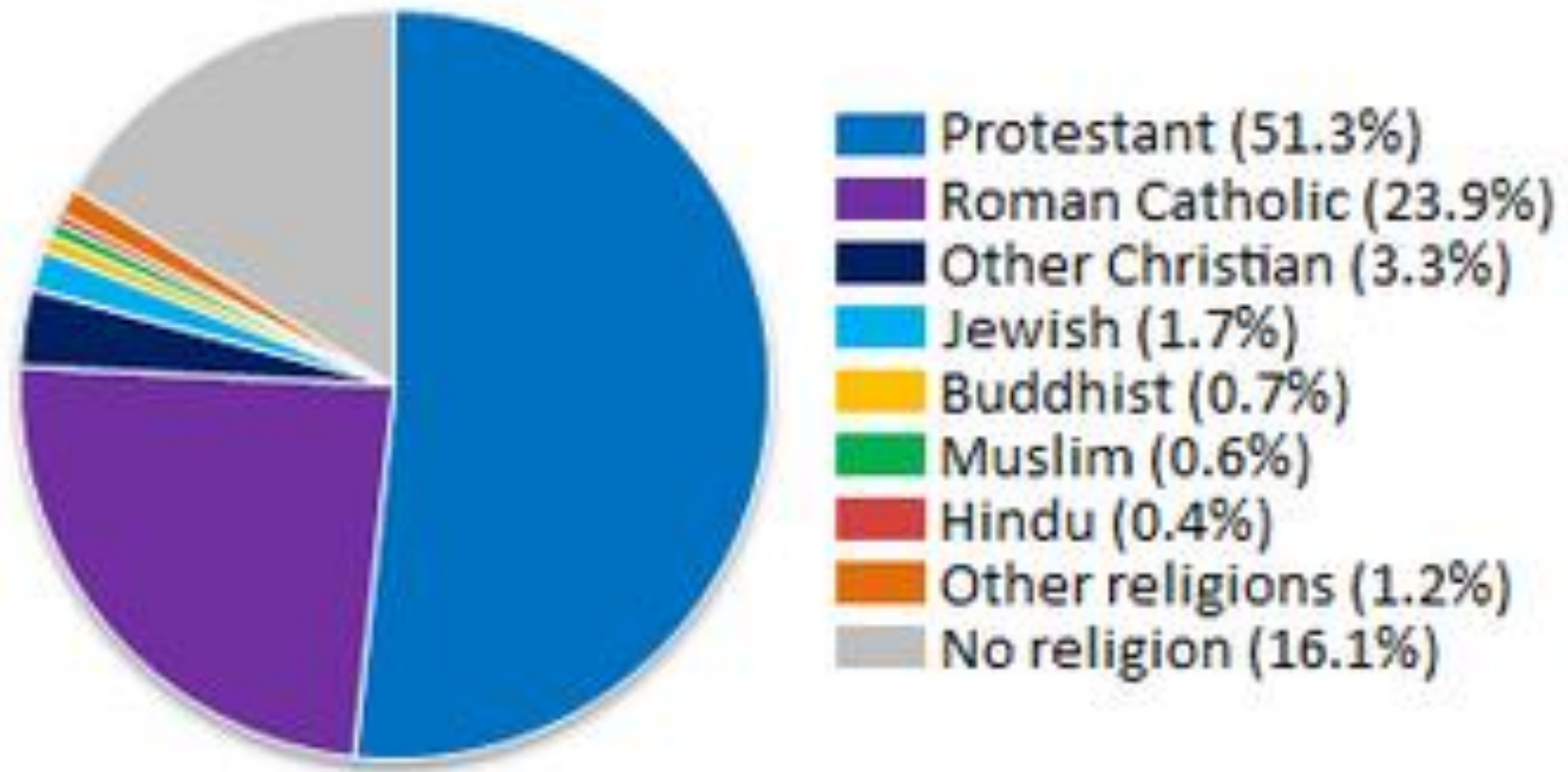
GALLUP®





# Tapestry of American Religions

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# Percent of Americans by Religious Affiliation

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## (1948-2014)

Religion	1948	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2014
Protestant	69%	66%	70%	67%	69%	65%	60%	61%	57%	56%	52%	52%	49%	45%	37%
Catholic	22%	25%	22%	25%	24%	26%	27%	28%	28%	25%	27%	25%	23%	21%	23%
Non-denominational Christian												5%	7%	8%	10%
Mormon									2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Jewish	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Other Religions	0%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	6%
None	2%		2%	2%	2%	3%	6%	7%	8%	9%	6%	8%	10%	14%	16%
Undesignated	3%	2%	1%	1%	0	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	4%

# Decline in Replacement in Mainline churches

## Generational Replacement Helping Drive Growth of Unaffiliated, Decline of Mainline Protestantism and Catholicism

	Silent generation (born 1928-1945)	Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964)	Generation X (born 1965-1980)	Older Millennials (born 1981- 1989)	Younger Millennials (born 1990- 1996)
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Christian</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>
Protestant	57	52	45	38	36
<i>Evangelical</i>	30	28	25	22	19
<i>Mainline</i>	22	17	13	10	11
<i>Historically black</i>	5	7	7	6	6
Catholic	24	23	21	16	16
Other Christian groups	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Other faiths</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Don't know/refused</b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

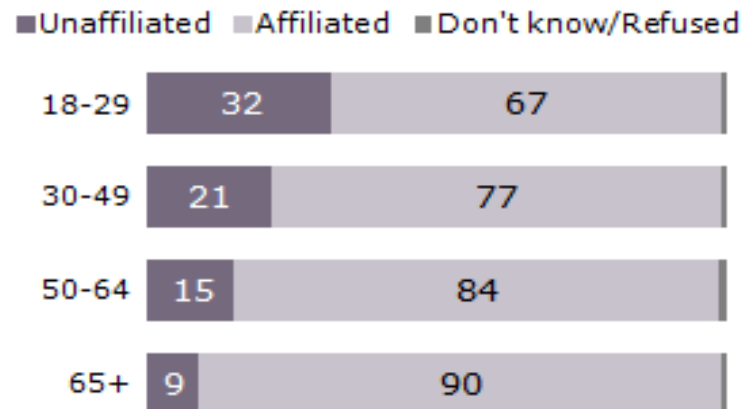
2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. Figures may not add to 100%, and nested figures may not add to subtotals indicated, due to rounding.

The "other Christian groups" category includes Mormons, Orthodox Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses and a number of smaller Christian groups.



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## Religious Affiliation by Age

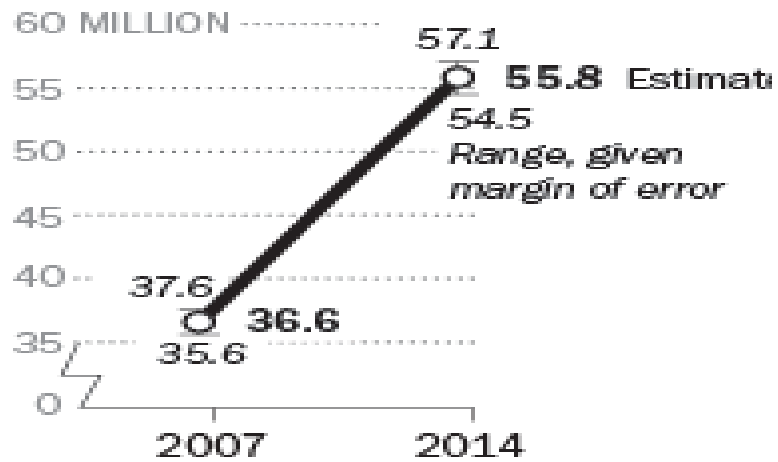


Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, January-July 2012.

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## Rapid Growth of Religiously Unaffiliated



Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014

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# 'Religious Nones' Are Growing Quickly 17







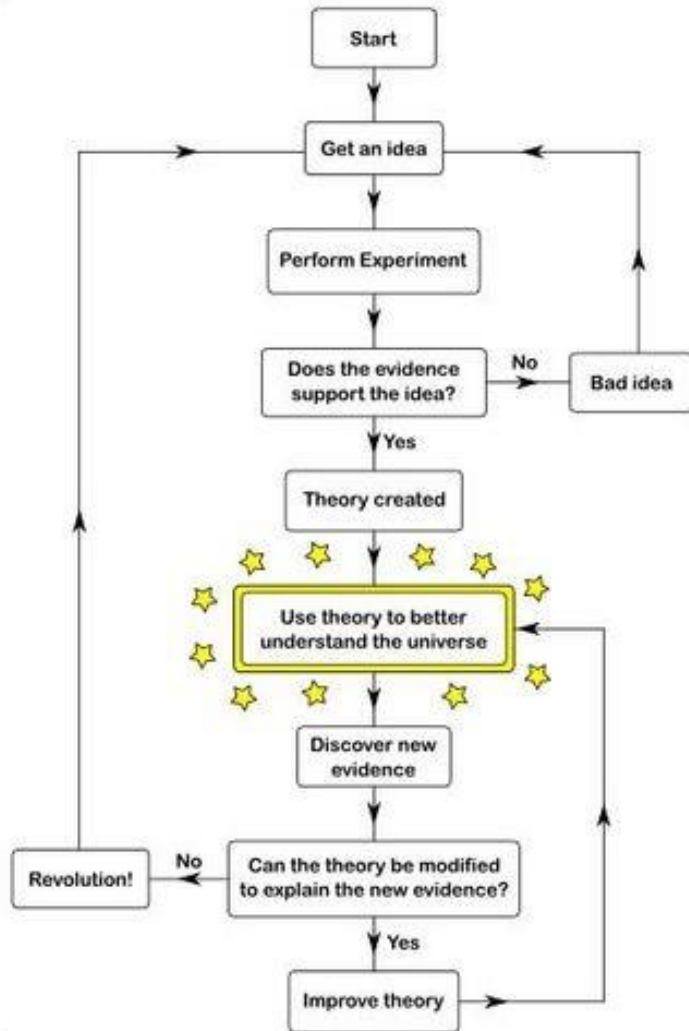
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# IRONY

Only in America do we engrave "In God We Trust"  
next to the portrait of a non believer.

# Basic difference as Seen by biased analysis 19

## Science



## Faith



# Creation vs. Evolution

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- Is the grapefruit spherical or yellow?

About 46 percent of scientists believe  
in a theistic reason for creation

21





# Intelligent Design

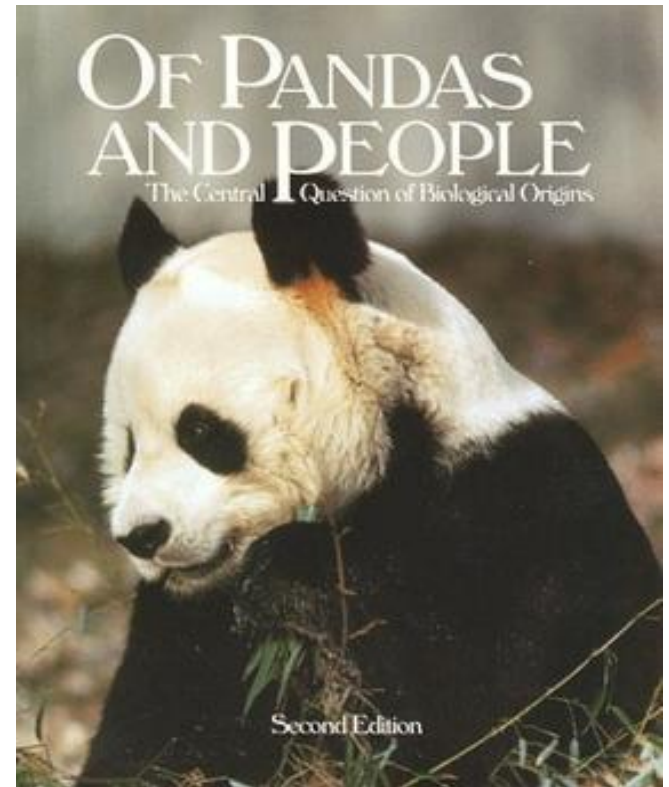
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- In 2004, the Dover school board ordered science teachers to read a statement to high school biology students suggesting that there is an alternative to Darwin's theory of evolution called intelligent design—the idea that life is too complex to have evolved naturally and therefore must have been designed by an intelligent agent. The teachers refused to comply. Later, parents opposed to intelligent design filed a lawsuit in federal court accusing the school board of violating the constitutional separation of church and state.



# The Scientific theory of Evolution 23

- ***Of Pandas and People: The Central Question of Biological Origins*** is a controversial 1989 (2nd edition 1993) school-level textbook written by [Percival Davis](#) and [Dean H. Kenyon](#). It's authors say that life shows evidence of being designed by an intelligent agent which is not named specifically in the book, although proponents understand that it refers to the Christian God.



# The Battle

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## Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District

Court	<a href="#">United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania</a>
Full case name	Tammy Kitzmiller, et al. v. Dover Area School District, et al.
Argued	September 26, 2005–November 4, 2005
Decided	December 20 2005
Citation(s)	400 F. Supp. 2d 707 (M.D. Pa. 2005)

## Holding

Teaching intelligent design in public school biology classes violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States (and Article I, Section 3, of the Pennsylvania State Constitution) because intelligent design is not science and "cannot uncouple itself from its creationist, and thus religious, antecedents."

# The Results of the Controversy 25

- U.S. District Court Judge John E. Jones III ultimately decided for the plaintiffs, writing in his decision that intelligent design "cannot uncouple itself from its creationist, and thus religious, antecedents." As part of his decision, Judge Jones ordered the Dover school board to pay legal fees and damages, which were eventually set at \$1 million.





## Should both theories be Taught in the schools? 26

- Religious studies are painfully lacking
- It's important for children to know all ways of thinking
- Freedom of speech and expression works both ways
- It doesn't necessarily disagree with science
- It's an important part of history



## Social Problems and Religious Organizations

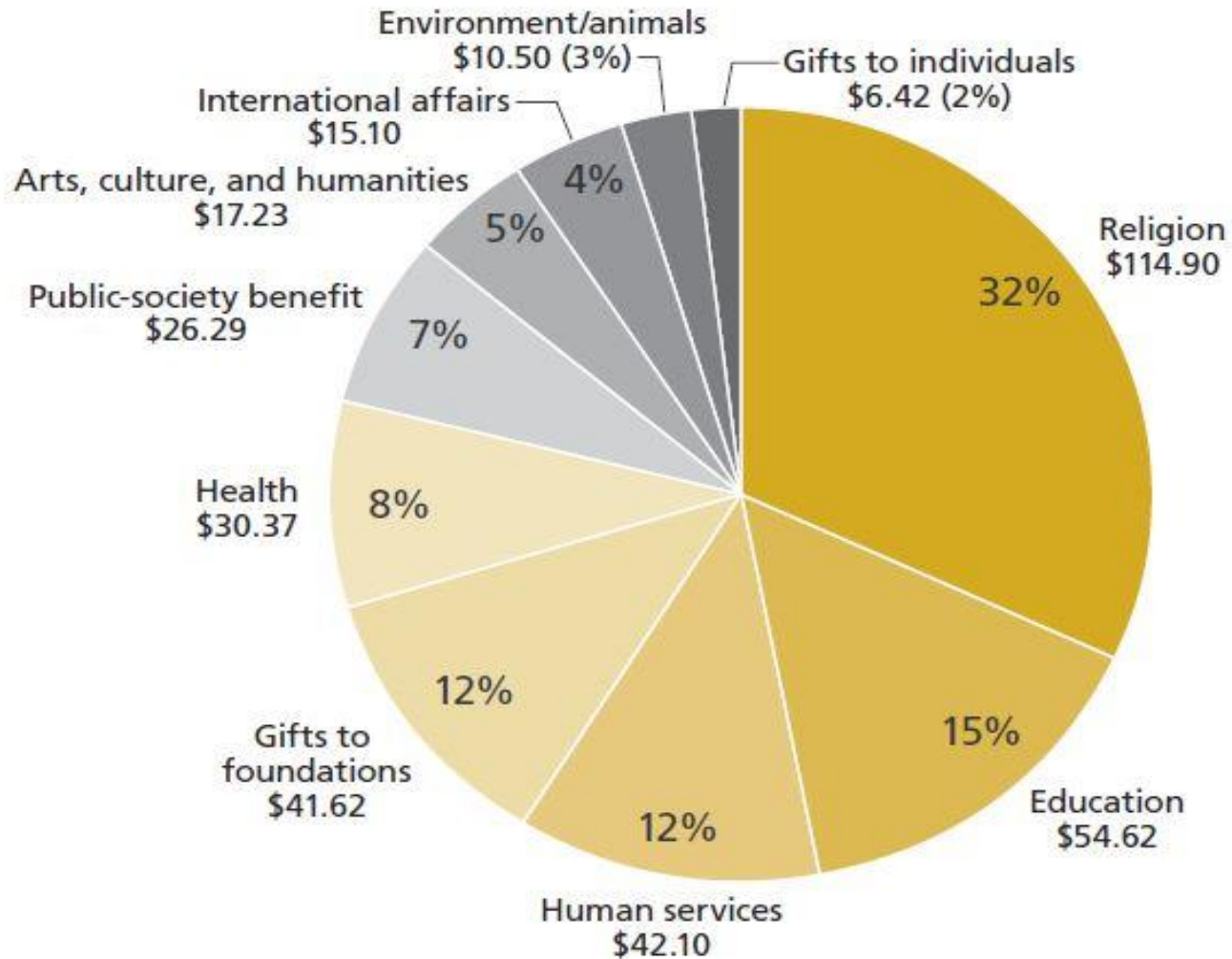
*How much would you say churches, synagogues and other houses of worship contribute to solving important social problems?*

	<b>Great deal/ Some</b>	<b>Not much/ Nothing</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
<b>U.S. general public</b>	65	32	3 = 100
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	45	52	4 = 100
Atheist/Agnostic	35	63	2 = 100
Nothing in particular	48	47	5 = 100
<b>Affiliated</b>	70	27	3 = 100
Christian	70	27	3 = 100
Protestant	73	24	2 = 100
White evangelical	77	20	2 = 100
White mainline	70	28	2 = 100
Black Protestant	72	26	2 = 100
Catholic	63	34	4 = 100
White Catholic	62	36	2 = 100
Hispanic Catholic	63	30	7 = 100

Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Q40. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

# Contributions to Organizations in America 28

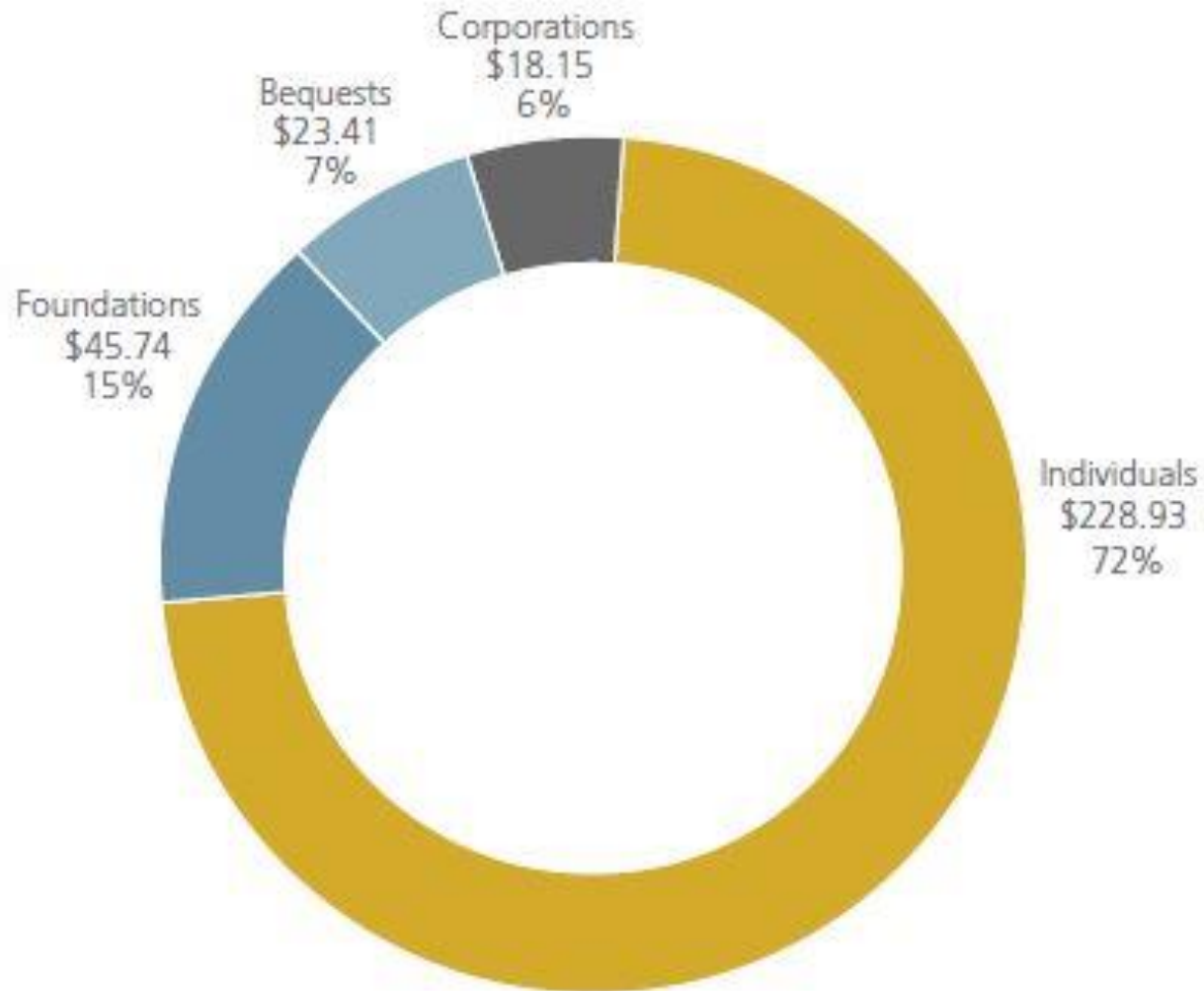
2014 contributions: \$358.38 billion by type of recipient organization  
(in billions of dollars - all figures are rounded)



# Churches would be Foundations

29

2012 contributions: \$316.23 billion by source of contributions  
(in billions of dollars - all figures are rounded)





## Frequency of Prayer

	Daily+	Weekly/ Monthly	Seldom/ Never	DK
	%	%	%	%
<b>U.S. general public</b>	58	21	19	2 = 100
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	21	20	58	1 = 100
Atheist/Agnostic	6	11	82	* = 100
Nothing in particular	27	24	48	1 = 100
<b>Affiliated</b>	66	22	11	1 = 100
Christian	67	21	10	1 = 100
Protestant	72	18	9	1 = 100
White evangelical	82	13	5	* = 100
White mainline	49	31	18	2 = 100
Black Protestant	78	15	6	1 = 100
Catholic	58	30	11	1 = 100
White Catholic	55	31	12	2 = 100
Hispanic Catholic	63	28	9	* = 100

Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Q52. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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## Influence of Religion on Society

*% saying religion as a whole is ... its influence on American life*

	<b>Increasing</b>	<b>Losing</b>	<b>Same (vol.)</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%
<b>U.S. general public</b>	25	66	2	7 = 100
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	27	63	2	7 = 100
Atheist/Agnostic	34	59	2	5 = 100
Nothing in particular	24	65	2	8 = 100
<b>Affiliated</b>	24	67	2	6 = 100
Christian	24	68	2	6 = 100
Protestant	25	67	2	6 = 100
White evangelical	21	72	2	4 = 100
White mainline	20	73	2	6 = 100
Black Protestant	33	60	2	4 = 100
Catholic	21	70	3	6 = 100
White Catholic	18	75	2	5 = 100
Hispanic Catholic	27	60	5	8 = 100

Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Q42. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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# For Prayer in Public Schools

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- **1)** Our government was based on religious principles from the very beginning. The Declaration of Independence says:
- **2)** The First Amendment does not separate God and government but actually encourages religion.
- **3)** Early presidents, with congressional approval, made proclamations encouraging public prayer. President Washington on Oct. 3, 1789, declared: religion as a fundamental part of America.
- **4)** Congress has prayed at the opening of every session since the very beginning.
- **5)** Public schools had prayer for nearly 200 years before the Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated class prayers were unconstitutional (Engle, 1962). The fact that prayer was practiced for nearly 200 years establishes it by precedent as a valid and beneficial practice in our schools.



# For Prayer in Public schools (Continued) 33

- **6)** Since the court outlawed prayer, the nation has been in steady moral decline. Former Secretary of Education William Bennett revealed in his cultural indexes that between 1960 and 1990 there was a steady moral decline. During this period divorce double, teenage pregnancy went up 200%, teen suicide increased 300%, child abuse reached an all-time high, violent crime went up 500% and abortion increased 1000%. There is a strong correlation between the expulsion of prayer from our schools and the decline in morality.
- **7)** Morals must be taught, and they cannot properly be taught without religion.
- **8)** Forbidding prayer and other religious expressions in public schools establishes, in effect, the religion of secularism. By not allowing theistic religious expression, the courts have favored the religious beliefs of secular humanism, namely, no belief in God, God-given moral laws, prayer and a Day of Judgment.
- **9)** To forbid the majority the right to pray because the minority object, is to impose the irreligion of the minority on the religious majority.



# Against Prayer in Schools

34

- **School prayer is unconstitutional.** The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment provides that government shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion. Because public schools are government funded, prayer led by school officials or incorporated into the school routine amounts to government-established religion.
- **School prayer violates the “separation of church and state.”** Although this phrase is not found in the U.S. Constitution, it is an accepted principle of American law providing that the government cannot interfere in the practices of the church nor advance or advocate religious observances in government settings.
- **Public schools are intended for education,** not religious observance or proselytization.
- **Prayer in school is already legal.** Students are already allowed to pray on a voluntary basis (in a non-disruptive way) so formal school prayer is unnecessary.

# In G-d we Trust on our Money 35



# Oklahoma court: Ten Commandments monument must come down

36



# Same Sex Marriage

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NATIONAL  
FREEDOM TO  
MARRY DAY



FEBRUARY 12  
love + equality

**Marriage:**  
**One man, One woman.**



# At the present time, SSM (Same Sex Marriage) 38 has split the U.S. by:

- **Age:** Youths and young adults are generally strongly for SSM; the elderly are either against SSM or evenly split.
- **Political affiliation:** Most Democrats are in are favor, Independents slightly less so, Republicans are almost all opposed.
- **Religion:** Conservatives are very strongly opposed; religious liberal, progressives, non-theists, and NOTAs (NOT-Affiliated religiously) are in favor; members of mainline denominations are split.
- **Geography:** The northeast and west coast is supportive; the south of the country is largely against.



## Arguments for SSM

## Arguments against SSM

**Dignity & respect:** "The institution of marriage conveys dignity and respect towards a couple that make a lifetime commitment to support each other. "Same-sex couples deserve this dignity and respect."

**Religious freedom:** For most Americans, marriage is a religious sacrament or ceremony. If the definition of marriage is changed to allow SSM, some people fear that their faith group's clergy be forced to marry same-sex couples. Companies in the wedding industry (wedding cake bakers, wedding photographers, etc) will be forced by human rights laws to provide wedding goods and services to same-sex couples, or suffer fines and/or jail sentences.

**Equal rights:** Denying marriage to same-sex couples removes from one group a fundamental, important human right -- the right to marry the person that one loves and to whom one has made a commitment. That is unfair and unjust in a democracy.

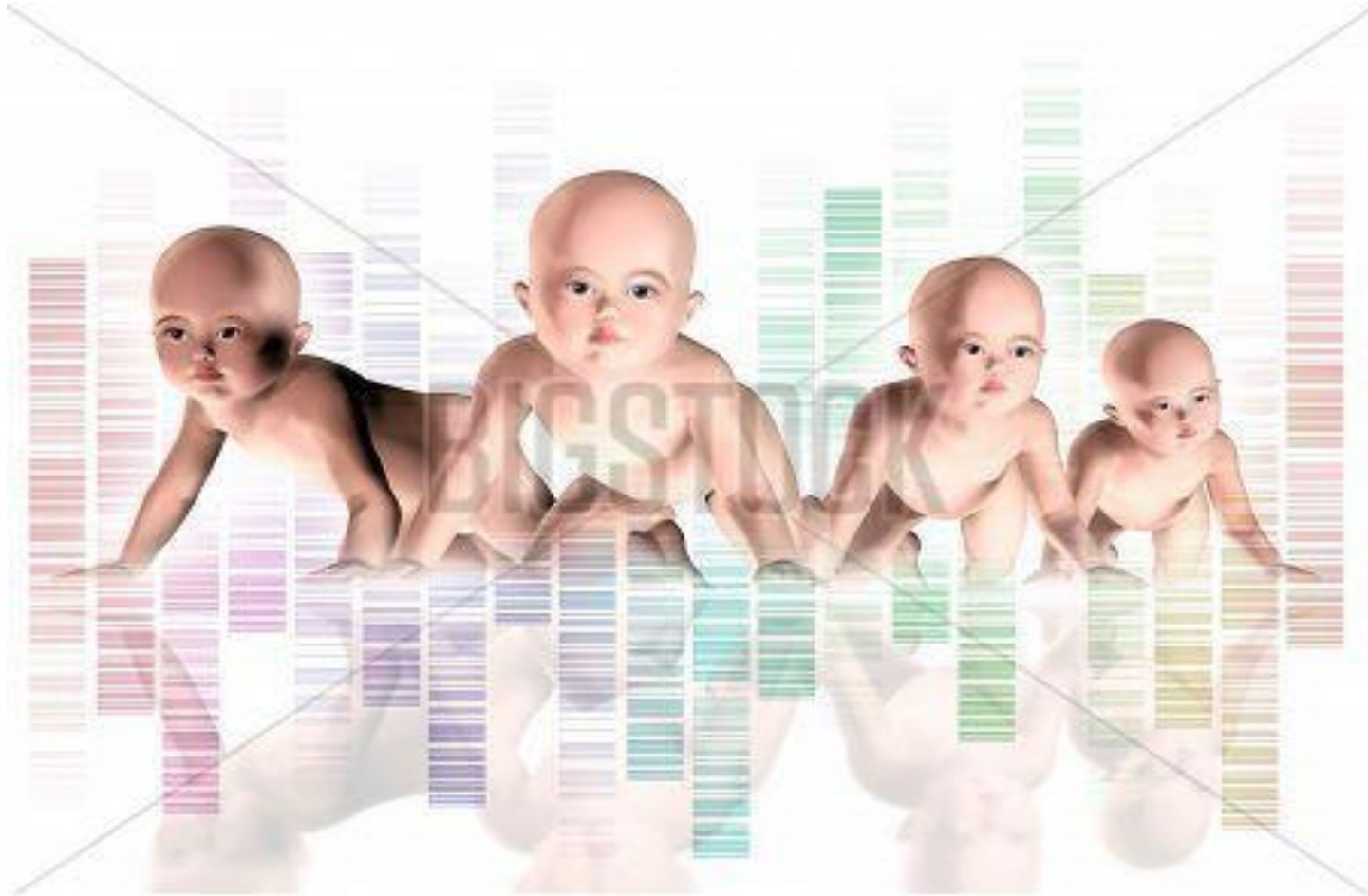
**Children benefit:** Many religiously conservative researchers have found that children thrive best when reared in a home with a married mother and father. Boys and girls have needs that are uniquely met by parents of the opposite gender.

**Financial & security:** Denying one group the right to marry has many adverse emotional and financial consequences. Examples are Social Security, Medicare, medical leave, and other benefits; property inheritance. They have no permission to make medical decisions if they are incapacitated. There are other factors that negatively affect the security of the couple and of their children.

**Teaching about SSM:** The role of marriage in society is a major topic taught in public schools. If SSM is legalized, schools would be required to teach that same-sex marriage is equivalent to opposite-sex marriage, starting as early as Kindergarten. That would violate the beliefs of many parents.

# Cloning

40



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# There are religious objections to cloning. 41

- Most pro-life supporters believe that a fertilized ovum is a full human person. When its nucleus is removed during cloning, that person is, in effect, murdered.
- A secondary concern is the whole business of collecting surplus embryos and simply storing them in a deep-freeze as a commodity.
- Some claim that cloned humans may be born without souls. They speculate that the soul enters the body when a sperm fertilizes an ovum. Since there is no sperm involved in cloning, perhaps the fetus would develop without a soul. There is no way to know whether a soul is present; it has no weight, it cannot be seen, touched, smelled, heard, or detected in any other way. In fact, many people believe that souls do not exist. Speculation on this topic can never be resolved.

# GOVERNMENT-FUNDED VOUCHERS FOR PRIVATE RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

42




# YES OR NO

43

- Rich parents have a choice of schools for their kids; poor parents should have the same choice.
- Competition between schools is increased, leading to greater efficiency and results in all schools.
- Private schools have a better history of getting results in teaching information and values than public schools.
- Those parents who send their kids to private schools must in effect pay twice; i.e. their taxes pay for public schools that their children don't even attend.
- More private schools would provide opportunities for specialization; for example, schools could provide extra expertise in math, science, sports training, liberal arts, college preparation, and so on.
- Providing private school access to everyone will increase diversity.
- More money is put back into the private sector rather than squandered at the Department of Education and other wasteful government bureaucracies.
- The parent makes the choice between religious or non-religious schooling; thus, the government isn't imposing religion.
- Since most of the schools in the program are religious, government funding violates the 1st Amendment separation of church and state.
- Vouchers take funds away from already underfunded public schools.
- Private schools aren't subject to as rigorous of oversight (other than from the market for schools); thus, they may not act responsibly.
- Public schools must accept everyone regardless of disabilities, test scores, religion, or other characteristics; private schools can show favoritism or discrimination in selecting students.
- The quality of education at the private schools may be brought down by new students that aren't as gifted.



# FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Freedom of  Worship  
Religion

# Freedom of Worship

45



# Separation of Church and State

46

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

However, currently the implied common meaning and the use of the metaphor is strictly for the church staying out of the state's business.



# Why the Controversy?

47

- • Emblazoned over the Speaker of the House in the US Capitol are the words "In God We Trust."
- • The Supreme Court building built in the 1930's has carvings of Moses and the Ten Commandments.
- • God is mentioned in stone all over Washington D.C., on its monuments and buildings.
- • As a nation, we have celebrated Christmas to commemorate the Savior's birth for centuries.
- • Oaths in courtrooms have invoked God from the beginning.
- • The founding fathers often quoted the Bible in their writings.
- • Every president that has given an inaugural address has mentioned God in that speech.

# Controversy Continued

48

- • Prayers have been said at the swearing in of each president.
- • Each president was sworn in on the Bible, saying the words, "So help me God."
- • Our national anthem mentions God.
- • The liberty bell has a Bible verse engraved on it.
- • The original constitution of all 50 states mentions God.
- • Chaplains have been in the public payroll from the very beginning.
- • Our nations birth certificate, the Declaration of Independence, mentions God four times.
- • The Bible was used as a textbook in the schools.





# Abortion

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# Religion was the Battle cry

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# Abortion

51

**The last time we mixed  
religion and politics,  
people were  
burned at the stake.**

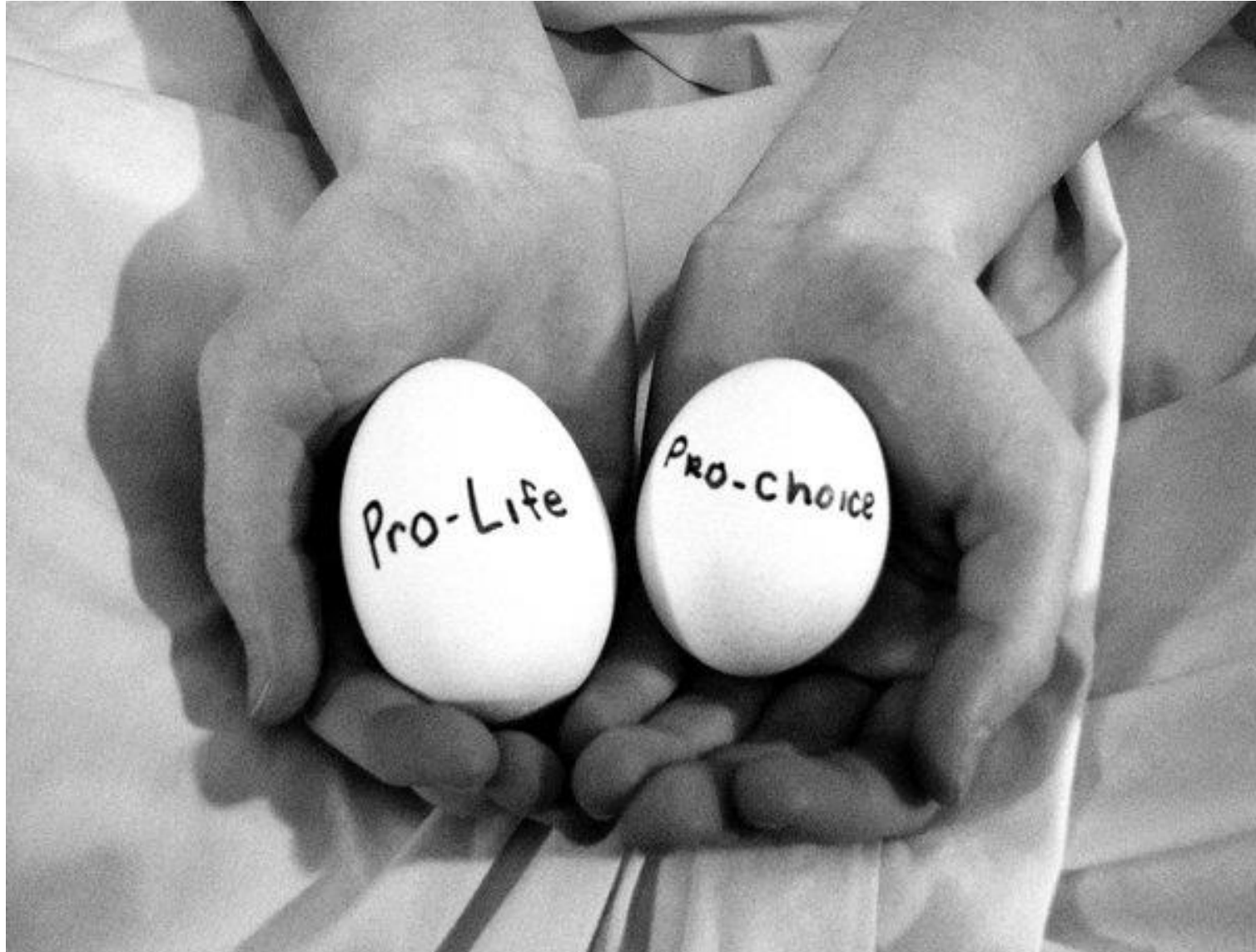
**If you don't agree with abortion-  
don't have one.**





# Still unresolved, the battle continues

53





# Future Predictions and Summary 54

- America will remain a predominantly Christian Country
- However, there is a growing movement of people who do not believe.
- Hispanic immigration has helped maintain Christianity to some degree, however second generations tend to drift.
- Asian immigration should have little impact
- Religion for the present, will continue to impact social issues

