

3 Main Voices the Church Listens to:

1. Personal Experiences
2. Statistics
3. Scripture

Current State
of the American Church

We spend roughly **\$1.5 million on church functions per baptism of one new convert** in the USA.

[\[World Christian Trends\]](#)

“Data from the Resilient Pastor research shows that between 2015 and 2022, all aspects of pastors’ well-being (spiritual, mental and emotional) experienced a significant decrease. Overall quality of life, having true friends and even the respect pastors say they receive by those in their community have all dipped lower.”

83% of churchgoers either have **never heard of the Great Commission** or don't know what the Great Commission is.

[\[Barna\]](#)

56% of evangelical Christians agreed with the statement:

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

Ligoniers State of Theology 2022

Only 5% of churches will reproduce themselves;
No conventional NA churches are spawning multiplying movements (4G reproduction), even though there are over 1000 of such movements (>80 million people) today around the world.

[\[Discipleship.org\]](http://Discipleship.org)

A majority of Christians **never share the gospel.**

[\[Lifeway\]](#)

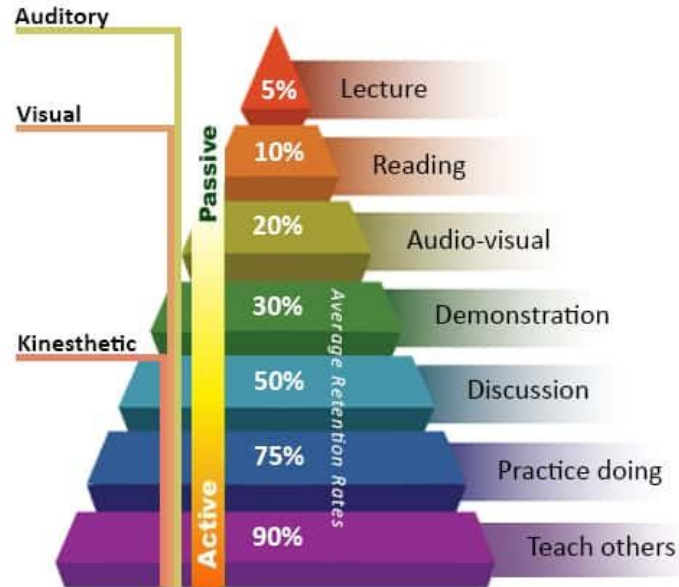
Evangelical churchgoers hold a lot of **heretical views** such as Jesus being a created being, the Holy Spirit being a force, and the basic goodness of human beings.

And **only 37% of American pastors have a consistently Biblical worldview.**

[\[Ligonier/Lifeway\]](#)

[\[Arizona Christian University\]](#)

Lecture is repeatedly shown to be one of the least effective forms of teaching and learning, yet it is the main component the Church relies on in both preaching and Sunday schools.



Most churchgoers desire to build relationships with other believers, but **not for the purpose of spiritual growth.**

[\[Lifeway Study\]](#)

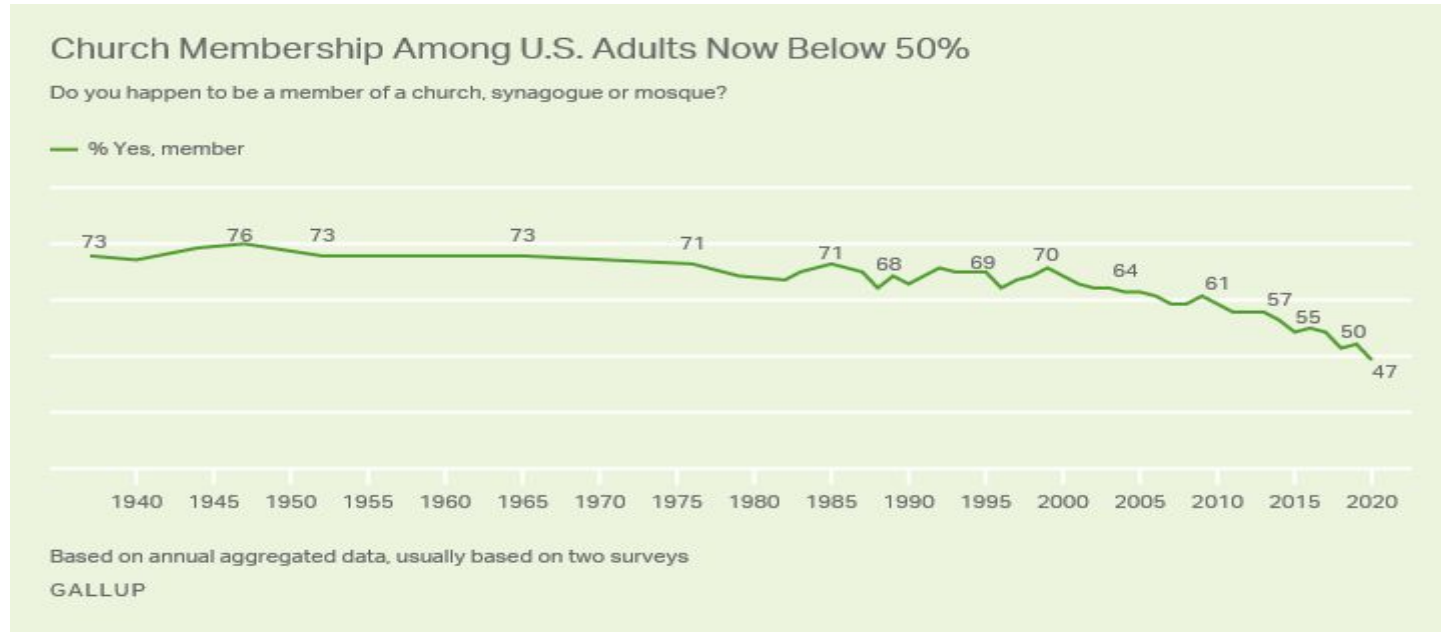
Nearly **two-thirds** of U.S. 18–29-year-olds who grew up in church tell Barna they have withdrawn from church involvement as an adult after having been active as a child or teen. The void left is being filled with the religion of political activism on the right and left.

[\[Barna Study\]](#)

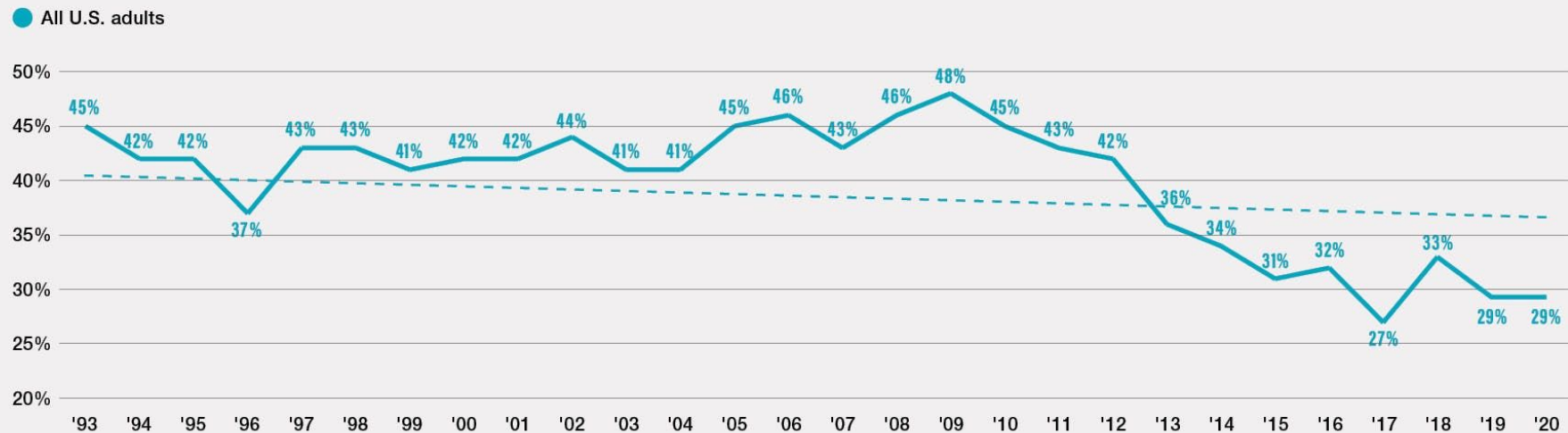
43% of evangelical Christians agreed with the statement:
“Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.”

For the first time in US History, **less than 50 percent of Americans** identify as having a church affiliation. For the first time in US history, **more churches are closing** than opening (i.e., a net loss).

[Gallup]
[Lifeway]



WEEKLY CHURCH ATTENDANCE: 1993-2020



One-in-three practicing Christians **dropped out of Church entirely** during COVID-19.

[\[Institute for Family Studies\]](#)

Upwards of **80% of church growth is transfer growth.**

[\[Christianity Today\]](#)

“Since 1980, there has been **‘no growth’** in the proportion of the adult population that can be classified as ‘born again’ Christian. The proportion of born again Christians has remained constant at 32%, **despite the fact that churches and para-church organizations have spent billions of dollars on evangelism.** More than 10,000 hours of evangelistic television programming have been broadcast, in excess of 5,000 new Christian books have been published, and more than 1,000 radio stations carry Christian programming. **Yet despite such widespread opportunities for exposure to the Gospel, there has been no discernable growth in the size of the Christian body.”**

[George Barna, Marketing the Church, (Navpress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1990).]

What do we do with this reality?