



CENTER FOR
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Perceptions about Biblical Worldview and Its Application

A National Survey from the Center for Biblical Worldview

Research Conducted by:

George Barna

Senior Research Fellow
Center for Biblical Worldview
Family Research Council

May 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	3
<i>Key Findings</i>	4
<i>Possession of a Biblical Worldview</i>	6
<i>Worldview Integration into Lifestyle</i>	10
<i>Sources of Integration Assistance</i>	13
<i>God's Interest in Faith Integration</i>	15
<i>Insights into SAGE Cons</i>	16
<i>Appendix</i>	17
<i>Research Methodology</i>	18



INTRODUCTION

In May 2021 Family Research Council's Center for Biblical Worldview commissioned Metaformation Inc., under the direction of George Barna, to conduct a nationwide survey regarding aspects of biblical worldview. The objective was to provide original, news-worthy research-based insights about how many people believe they possess a biblical worldview; if and to what extent they seek to integrate that worldview into every dimension of life; what influences have helped them to do so; and whether they believe that such integration matters to God. The results of the survey were publicly announced and launched at an event in Washington, D.C., on May 27, 2021.

The survey itself was fielded in mid-May with a national sample of 1,000 adults randomly selected and interviewed by telephone from across the nation. The survey questionnaire contained 37 questions and took an average of 17 minutes for respondents to complete.

The research analysis provides a summary of key perspectives of several important subgroups of the public that represent target markets for FRC. Those included SAGE Cons; Integrated Disciples (i.e., people who have a biblical worldview); adults who attend evangelical Christian churches; and Born-Again Christians. (See the Appendix for the definitions and sample sizes of these groups.)

The summary is separated into an overview of the findings related to the topical question modules contained within the survey. The sections included in this document are:

- Key Findings
- Possession of a Biblical Worldview
- Worldview Integration into Lifestyle
- Sources of Integration Assistance
- God's Interest in Faith Integration
- Insights into SAGE Cons
- Appendix

Key Findings

- 51% of adults claim to have a biblical worldview. However, extensive testing through the American Worldview Inventory indicates that just 6% of the adult population actually has one. (Source: Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University).
- Among the 51% of adults who claim to have a biblical worldview, there are massive inconsistencies between what they believe and what the Bible teaches. There were 6 of the 12 worldview questions for which a minority of those who claim to have a biblical worldview actually possess a biblical perspective, plus another indicator for which 49% held an unbiblical point of view.
- 31% of adults say it is very important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life.
- Overall, about half (46%) say it is important (either very, somewhat, or not too) for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life.
- Among those who say it is important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life, a small majority claim that they are very effective at integrating their faith into the life dimensions of family life (56%), their personal religious life (56%), and personal relationships (55%).
- Among those who say it is important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life, a minority claim that they are very effective at integrating their faith into the life dimensions of educational experiences (35%), politics and government (31%), business and marketplace activities (29%), and entertainment and news choices (27%).
- Adults were most likely to say that they do not integrate their faith at all into the life dimensions of politics and government, business and marketplace activities, and entertainment and news choices – one-eighth of respondents (13%) listed each of those areas.
- Among those who believe integrating their faith into every dimension of life is either very or somewhat important, a slight majority identified their church (55%) and family (52%) as having been very helpful at facilitating the integration of their faith into every dimension of their life.

Key Findings

- Among those who believe integrating their faith into every dimension of life is either very or somewhat important, less than one-third named their friends (31%), schools attended (22%), or the entertainment and news media as having been very helpful at facilitating the integration of their faith into every dimension of their life.
- Among the seven out of ten adults who believe that God does (or might) exist, three-quarters (78%) say that God cares “a lot” about what they believe and do in relation to every dimension of society.
- In general, SAGE Cons were far more likely than other adults to claim to have a biblical worldview; to believe it is very important for their faith to influence every dimension of life; and to believe that God cares a lot about what they do and believe in relation to what happens in every dimension of society. They were also more likely than any other segment besides those who actually possess a biblical worldview to have a biblical perspective on the worldview assessment questions included in the survey.

POSSESSION OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Across America, approximately two out of every three adults describe themselves as Christian. However, based on the American Worldview Inventory conducted annually by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, just 6% of adults – and just 9% of those who call themselves Christian – possess a biblical worldview. The FRC survey explored how many people think they have a biblical worldview. Roughly half of adults – 51% – made such a claim. Some populations were more likely than others to make that claim:

- 88% of SAGE Cons believe they have a biblical worldview
 - 44% actually have one (source: Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University)
- 80% of born-again Christian claim they have a biblical worldview
 - 19% actually have one (source: Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University)
- 81% who attend an evangelical church claim they have a biblical worldview
 - 21% actually have one (source: Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University)
- 73% of adults who attend a Pentecostal or charismatic church claim they have a biblical worldview
 - 16% actually have one (source: Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University)
- 69% of adults who attend a mainline Protestant church claim they have a biblical worldview
 - 8% actually have one (source: Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University)
- 57% of adults who attend a Catholic church claim they have a biblical worldview
 - 1% actually have one (source: Cultural Research Center @ Arizona Christian University)
- 90% of those who are likely to have a biblical worldview based on the abbreviated set of worldview questions included in the FRC survey claimed to have a biblical worldview. In contrast, just 39% of those who do not have a biblical worldview based on the shortened set of worldview questions claim they have a biblical worldview.
- Two-thirds of the people (68%) who consider themselves to be Christians claim to have a worldview, yet the American Worldview Inventory indicates that only 9% do.
- Oddly, more than one-third of people associated with faiths other than Christianity (36%) and even one out of seven people (15%) who fit the

Don't category (i.e., they don't know, don't care or don't believe that God exists) claimed to have a biblical worldview. However, American Worldview Inventory testing found that roughly 1% of each group are Biblical Theists (i.e., have a biblical worldview).

- Surprisingly large proportions of young adults claim a biblical worldview, though the American Worldview Inventory data show the contrast between self-perception and reality.
 - Among Millennials 44% claim a biblical worldview; data from the American Worldview Inventory show that just 4% have one
 - Among Gen Xers 53% claim a biblical worldview; just 6% have one
 - Among Baby Boomers 54% claim a biblical worldview; just 8% have one
 - Among Elders (i.e., the combined generations of people over 75 years of age) 62% claim a biblical worldview; just 9% have one
- Race and ethnicity provided some noteworthy perceptual differences.
 - 48% of white adults said they have a biblical worldview but the American Worldview Inventory suggests that only 7% do
 - 59% of Hispanics adults said they have a biblical worldview but only 3% do
 - 63% of blacks said they have a biblical worldview but only 5% do
 - 45% of Asians said they have a biblical worldview but only 4% do
- Considering people's self-identified political ideology, big differences were found.
 - 74% of conservatives said they have a biblical worldview but according to the American Worldview Inventory only 16% do
 - 49% of moderates said they have a biblical worldview but only 3% do
 - 33% of liberals said they have a biblical worldview yet a mere 1% are right

CLAIMS VERSUS REALITY

Among the 51% of adults who claim to have a biblical worldview, there are massive inconsistencies between what they believe and what the Bible teaches. There were 7 of the 12 worldview questions for which a minority of those who claim to have a biblical worldview actually possess a biblical perspective, plus another indicator for which 49% held an unbiblical point of view.

- 26% believe the personal accumulation of money and other forms of wealth have been entrusted to them by God to manage for His purposes
- 29% believe that the best indicator of success in life is consistent obedience to God
- 33% believe that human beings are born with a sinful nature and can only be saved from the consequences of sin by Jesus Christ
- 47% believe that when they die they will go to Heaven only because they have confessed their sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as their savior
- 48% believe that it is very important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of life
- 49% say that their most likely source of moral guidance in any given situation would be the Bible
- 49% accept reincarnation as a possibility after they die

TABLE 1
PERCEPTION VS. REALITY REGARDING WORLDVIEW

Population	Believe they have a Biblical Worldview	Assessment shows they have Biblical Worldview
ALL ADULTS	51%	6%
Integrated Disciples	90	100
SAGE Cons	88	44
Self-identified Christians	68	9
Born-again Christians	80	19
Attend evangelical church	81	21
Attend Pentecostal church	73	16
Attend mainline church	69	8
Attend Catholic church	57	1
Millennials	44	4
Gen. X	53	6
Baby Boomers	54	8
Elders	62	9
Men	52	6
Women	51	7
Whites	48	7
Hispanics	59	3
Blacks	63	5
Asians	45	4
Political conservatives	74	16
Political moderates	49	3
Political liberals	33	1

N=1,000, adults 18+, nationwide survey in the U.S.; conducted by Metaformation in May 2021, for Center for Biblical Worldview, Family Research Council.

WORLDVIEW INTEGRATION INTO LIFESTYLE

- 31% of adults say it is very important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life. That view is held by a majority of several key segments:
 - 91% of Integrated Disciples (i.e., people with a biblical worldview)
 - 78% of SAGE Cons
 - 56% of born-again Christians
 - 52% of adults with a conservative political ideology
 - 52% of adults who attend an evangelical church
- Segments with one out of five or fewer people who believe it is very important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life included:
 - 18% among Millennials
 - 13% of those who have a liberal political ideology
 - 8% among the Don'ts (don't know, believe, or care if God exists)
- Blacks (38%) were the racial group most likely to say it is very important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life. (For context, 31% of whites, 27% of Hispanics, and 21% of Asians said it is very important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life.)
- Overall, about half (46%) say it is important (either very, somewhat, or not too) for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life.
 - 81% of SAGE Cons believe it is important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life
 - 95% of Integrated Disciples say it is important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life
 - Other people groups for which a majority said it is important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life included people over 75 years of age (73%), born-again Christians (70%), conservatives (65%), mainline church attenders (65%), evangelical church attenders (63%), Baby Boomers (57%), self-identified Christians (58%), blacks (53%), Pentecostal church attenders (51%), and Catholics (51%).
- Among those who say it is important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life, a small majority claim that they are very effective at integrating their faith into the life dimensions of family life (56%), their personal religious life (56%), and personal relationships (55%).
- Among those who say it is important for their religious faith to influence every dimension of their life, a minority claim that they are very effective at integrating their faith into the life dimensions of educational experiences (35%), politics and government (31%), business and marketplace activities (29%), and entertainment and news choices (27%).
- Adults were most likely to say that they do not integrate their faith at all into the life dimensions of politics and government, business and marketplace activities, and entertainment and news choices - one-eighth of respondents (13%) listed each of those areas.

- Nationally, a majority of adults said they are very effective at integrating their faith into three life dimensions: family, religious, and personal relationships. Some segments had a majority of their people who said they also were very effective at integrating their faith into one or more additional life dimensions. Those additional reputed success stories included:
 - SAGE Cons, a majority of whom said they were very effective at integrating their faith into each of the seven dimensions evaluated
 - Integrated Disciples, blacks, and people 75 or older – each of whom displayed a majority who added educational experiences to their list of dimensions
 - Pentecostals, who identified the political/governmental dimension
- There were a handful of segments for which there was not a majority who claimed to have been very effective at integrating their faith into any of the seven life dimensions. Those included liberals, the Don'ts, Gen Xers. Among Millennials, the highest self-rating was in the religious life dimension (50%) said they were very effective in integrating their faith into their religious life. Similarly, barely more than half of Catholics (51%) contended that they were very effective in integrating their faith into their religious life.

TABLE 2
“VERY IMPORTANT” FOR THEIR RELIGIOUS
FAITH TO INFLUENCE EVERY DIMENSION OF THEIR LIFE

	Should Influence Every Life Dimension		Should Influence Some Dimens.	Should Influence Only Spir’l Dimens.	Should Have No Influence
	Very Impt.	Less Impt.			
All adults	31%	15%	11%	31%	8%
Integrated Disciples	91	4	2	3	0
SAGE Cons	78	3	2	15	0
Self-identified Christians	41	17	10	27	4
Born-again Christians	56	14	6	19	4
Attend evangelical church	52	11	3	29	3
Attend Pentecostal church	37	14	7	37	3
Attend mainline church	44	21	2	19	*
Attend Catholic church	30	21	14	27	6
Millennials	18	14	15	39	12
Gen. X	29	14	12	34	8
Baby Boomers	40	17	9	26	6
Elders	57	16	3	12	3
Men	30	15	9	36	9
Women	32	13	14	27	7
Whites	31	15	12	31	8
Hispanics	27	14	12	40	5
Blacks	38	15	8	23	12
Asians	21	17	11	34	17
Political conservatives	52	13	8	20	5
Political moderates	24	21	12	29	11
Political liberals	13	14	15	45	10

N=1,000, adults 18+, nationwide survey in the U.S.; conducted by Metaformation in May 2021, for Center for Biblical Worldview, Family Research Council.

SOURCES OF INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

- Among those who believe integrating their faith into every dimension of life is either very or somewhat important, a slight majority identified their church (55%) and family (52%) as having been very helpful at facilitating the integration of their faith into every dimension of their life.
 - The church was most commonly cited as having helped with such integration “a lot” by Integrated Disciples (81%), SAGE Cons (80%), born-again Christians (68%), and conservatives (67%). Segments with between half and less than two-thirds making that claim were blacks, people in their late thirties or older, those who attend a Christian church of some type.
 - Their family was most listed as having helped with such integration “a lot” by at least two-thirds of SAGE Cons (78%), Integrated Disciples (69%), conservatives (67%), evangelical-church attenders (63%), and born-again Christians (60%). Other segments with smaller proportions but at least between half making that claim were self-identified Christians, women, both whites and blacks (but not Hispanics), people in their late thirties or older, and those who attend a Christian church of some type.
 - The only segment featuring a majority who said their friends had helped “a lot” with such integration was SAGE Cons (51%).
 - There was no segment for which a majority claimed that the media or the schools they had attended had given “a lot” of help toward them integrating their faith into every dimension of life.
- Among those who believe integrating their faith into every dimension of life is either very or somewhat important, less than one-third named their friends (31%), schools attended (22%), or the entertainment and news media as having been very helpful at facilitating the integration of their faith into every dimension of their life.

TABLE 3
SELF-PERCEPTION OF HOW EFFECTIVE ADULTS ARE AT
INTEGRATING THEIR FAITH INTO EACH OF 7 LIFE DIMENSIONS

Life Dimension	Very	Somewhat	Not Too	Not At All
Politics/government	30%	40%	4%	13%
Entertainment/news choices	27	43	15	13
Family life	56	37	4	4
Business/marketplace activities	29	42	14	13
Personal religious life	56	33	7	5
Educational experiences	35	39	14	9
Personal relationships	55	33	6	5

Base: respondents who say their faith should influence every dimension of life (n=456)

N=1,000, adults 18+, nationwide survey in the U.S.; conducted by Metaformation in May 2021, for Center for Biblical Worldview, Family Research Council.

GOD’S INTEREST IN FAITH INTEGRATION

Among the seven out of ten adults who believe that God does (or might) exist, three-quarters (78%) say that God cares “a lot” about what they believe and do in relation to every dimension of society.

- There were two segments from which at least nine out of ten believed that God cares a lot about what we believe and do concerning every life dimension: Integrated Disciples (98%) and SAGE Cons (95%).
- The only significant segments for which less than six out of ten held such a view were agnostics (27%).

TABLE 4
PERCEPTION OF WHETHER GOD CARES WHAT THEY
BELIEVE AND DO IN RELATION TO EVERY LIFE DIMENSION

Does God Care?	All Adults
God cares a lot	78%
God cares a little	11
God does not care	6

Base: respondents who believe God does or might exist (n=719)
N=1,000, adults 18+, nationwide survey in the U.S.; conducted by Metaformation in May 2021, for Center for Biblical Worldview, Family Research Council.

INSIGHTS INTO SAGE CONS

With the exception of people who have a biblical worldview (i.e., Integrated Disciples), SAGE Cons were far more likely than other adults to claim to have a biblical worldview; to believe it is very important for their faith to influence every dimension of life; and to believe that God cares a lot about what they do and believe in relation to what happens in every dimension of society. They were also more likely than any other segment besides those who actually possess a biblical worldview to have a biblical perspective on the worldview assessment questions included in the survey.

There is a clear distinction between SAGEs and those who attend evangelical churches – they are not generally the same people with the same views and behaviors. (Across three recent national surveys we have conducted – totaling 5,000 interviews between them – we consistently found that 45% of SAGE Cons attend an evangelical church.) How do the two segments differ?

SAGE Cons are more likely than adults who attend an evangelical church to:

- Pay “a lot” of attention to news about government and politics
- Claim to be deeply committed to practicing their faith
- Define life success as “consistent obedience to God” (twice as likely)
- Say it is “very important” that their faith influence every dimension of life (about 50% more likely)
- Believe that people are born into sin and need to be saved by Jesus from the consequences (about 50% more likely)
- Believe that the accumulation of money and wealth is entrusted to them by God to be managed for His purposes (nearly twice as likely)
- Embrace the Bible as their primary source of moral guidance (about 50% more likely)
- Be born-again, based on theological views (nearly twice as likely)
- Have a biblical worldview (twice as likely, according to the American Worldview Inventory)
- On the other hand, SAGE Cons are less likely than adults who attend an evangelical church to accept reincarnation as a possibility (only half as likely).

APPENDIX

Definitions of Subgroups in the Survey:

SAGE Cons: An acronym that stands for Spiritually Active Governance Engaged Conservative Christians, who represent approximately 8% to 9% of the general public. In this survey, 6% of the respondents qualified as SAGE Cons. The criteria used to qualify individuals as SAGE Cons included whether they were registered to vote; paid above-average levels of attention to news about government and politics; were conservative regarding fiscal and social issues; self-identified as Christian; were born-again; and were deeply committed to practicing their faith.

Semi-SAGE Cons (previously known as Almost SAGE Cons): Adults who meet three-quarters of the qualifications to be SAGE Con but fall short in regard to either the spiritually-active criteria or the governance-engaged portion. All of them are born again Christians. Typically, Semi-SAGE Cons represent 8% to 10% of the general public. In this survey they emerged as 3%.

Integrated Disciples: This is the term adopted to describe people who have a biblical worldview, based upon the American Worldview Inventory (conducted annually by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University). Based on answers to more than four-dozen worldview questions, covering both beliefs and behaviors, the current assessment suggests that just 6% of adults are Integrated Disciples – that is, they are disciples of Jesus as shown by their integration of their faith into their decision-making (i.e., beliefs and behaviors).

Don'ts: These adults either do not believe that God exists; do not know that He exists; or do not care whether or not He exists. As of 2021, they represent 34% of the adult population.

Generational cohorts: The survey addressed four generational segments. They are described as Millennials (born 1984-2002); Gen X (1965-1983); Baby Boomers (1946-1964); and Elders, which is a combination of the Builders and prior generations. Builders were born from 1927-1945.

Born-again Christians: The survey data refer to these people based on their belief that they will go to Heaven when they die only because they have confessed their sins to God and have accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. People who express that belief are classified in the survey data as born again whether or not they embrace that label for themselves.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This survey was developed and implemented during May 2021 by the Family Research Council's Center for Biblical Worldview. The objective was to obtain insights related to how many people believe they possess a biblical worldview; if and to what extent they seek to integrate that worldview into every dimension of life; what influences have helped them to do so; and whether they believe that such integration matters to God.

Toward that end, a survey questionnaire was developed, tested and deployed with a nationwide random sample of the general public, aged 18 and over. The sampling and data collection procedures were designed to replicate the basic profile of the U.S. population related to geographic dispersion; race; gender; and age.

The data were collected through telephone calls made to a random sampling of households, dividing the sample into calls to landlines and mobile phones. The survey questionnaire contained 37 questions and the median length of a completed survey was 17 minutes. Survey respondents were promised anonymity and that their answers would remain confidential. If a household was called but a qualified respondent was not present, a minimum of six callbacks were made to that household – on different days and at different times of the day – to enhance the integrity of the survey sample. The data were collected in May 2021 with the nationally representative sample of 1,000 adults. A survey of that size provides data that have an estimated maximum sampling error of approximately plus or minus 3.2 percentage points, based on the 95% confidence interval. Additional levels of indeterminable error may occur in surveys based upon non-sampling activity.

The research was developed, managed, and analyzed by Metaformation, Inc., a research company led by George Barna. It is an independent, non-partisan, for-profit entity located in Ventura, California.

Some of the questions and data appearing in the FRC questionnaire and in this summary analysis have been drawn from the American Worldview Inventory, an annual nationwide assessment of peoples' worldview conducted by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University. That information has been used with the permission of the Cultural Research Center.