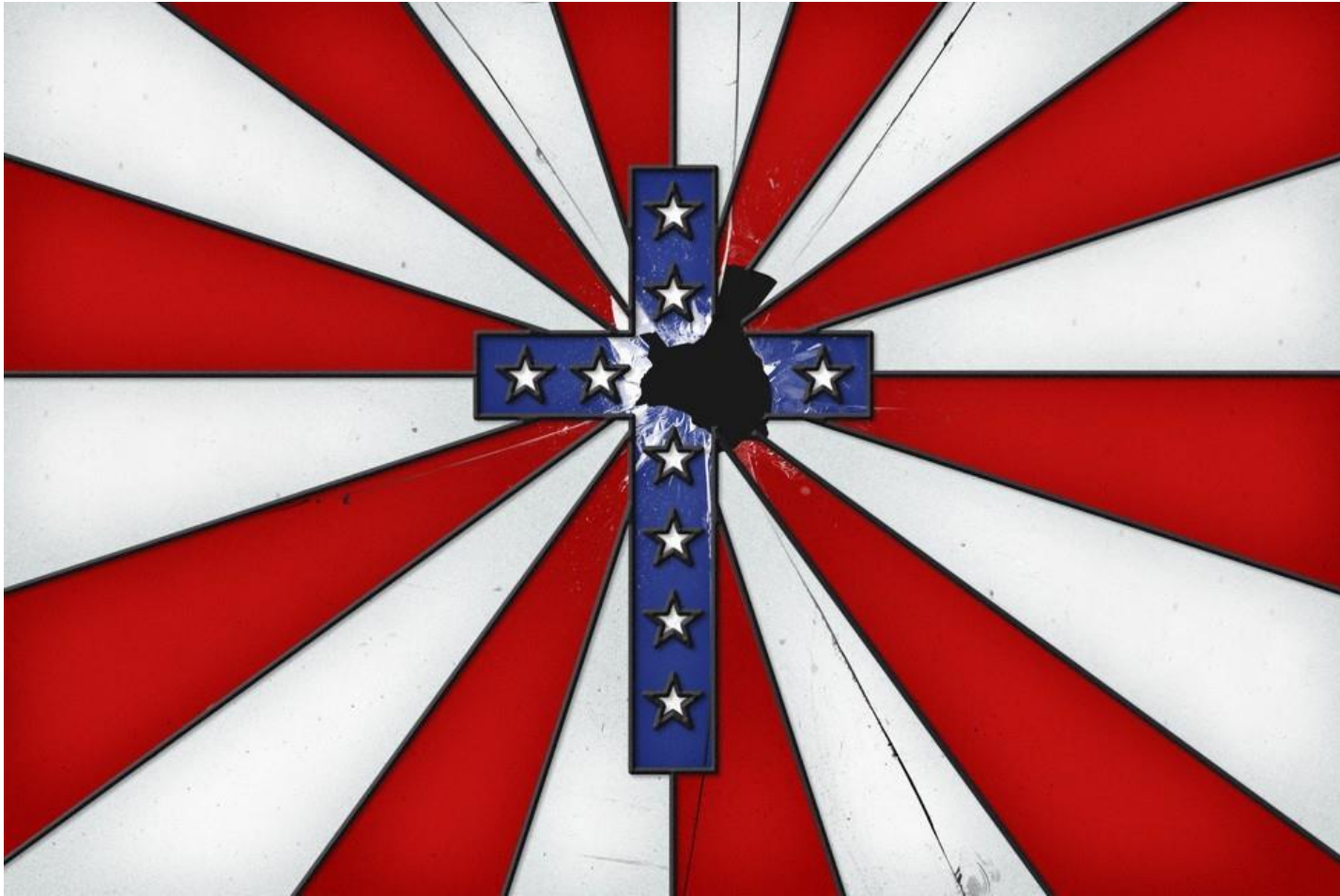


The Future of the Church

Breaking Faith

(The Atlantic, April 2017)



Over the past decade, pollsters charted something remarkable: Americans—long known for their piety—were fleeing organized religion in increasing numbers. The vast majority still believed in God. But the share that rejected any religious affiliation was growing fast, rising from 6 percent in 1992 to 22 percent in 2014. Among Millennials, the figure was 35 percent.

Organized Religion Is Being Replaced By Disorganized Religion *(Forbes, 3/30/17)*

Attendance figures make clear that, overall, churches in America are in steady decline, just a few decades behind their cousins in Europe. Growth in evangelical congregations has not arrested the overall slide. America's fastest growing religious affiliation is no religion at all. The non-religious are the single largest religious identification among younger voters in the US.

“The decline in church attendance is a
complex problem”

(Pittsburgh Post Gazette, 7/22/17)

The decline in church attendance is a global phenomenon that applies across countries and denominations and has been going on for decades. There is not a simple solution to reverse the trend.

If it doesn't stem its decline, mainline
Protestantism has just 23 Easters left
(The Washington Post, 4/28/17)

The news of mainline Protestantism's decline is hardly new. Yet the trend lines are showing a trajectory toward zero in both those who attend a mainline church regularly and those who identify with a mainline denomination 23 years from now.

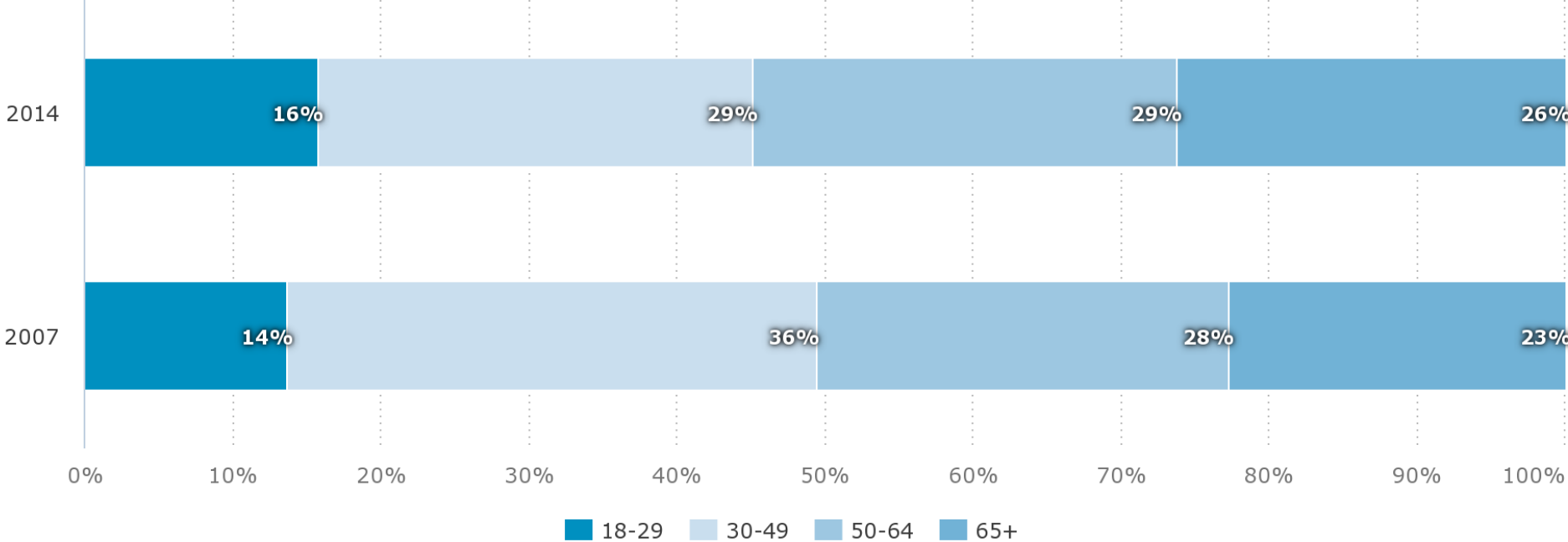
While the sky isn't falling, the floor is dropping out.

Among Americans: Mainline affiliation and regular church attendance



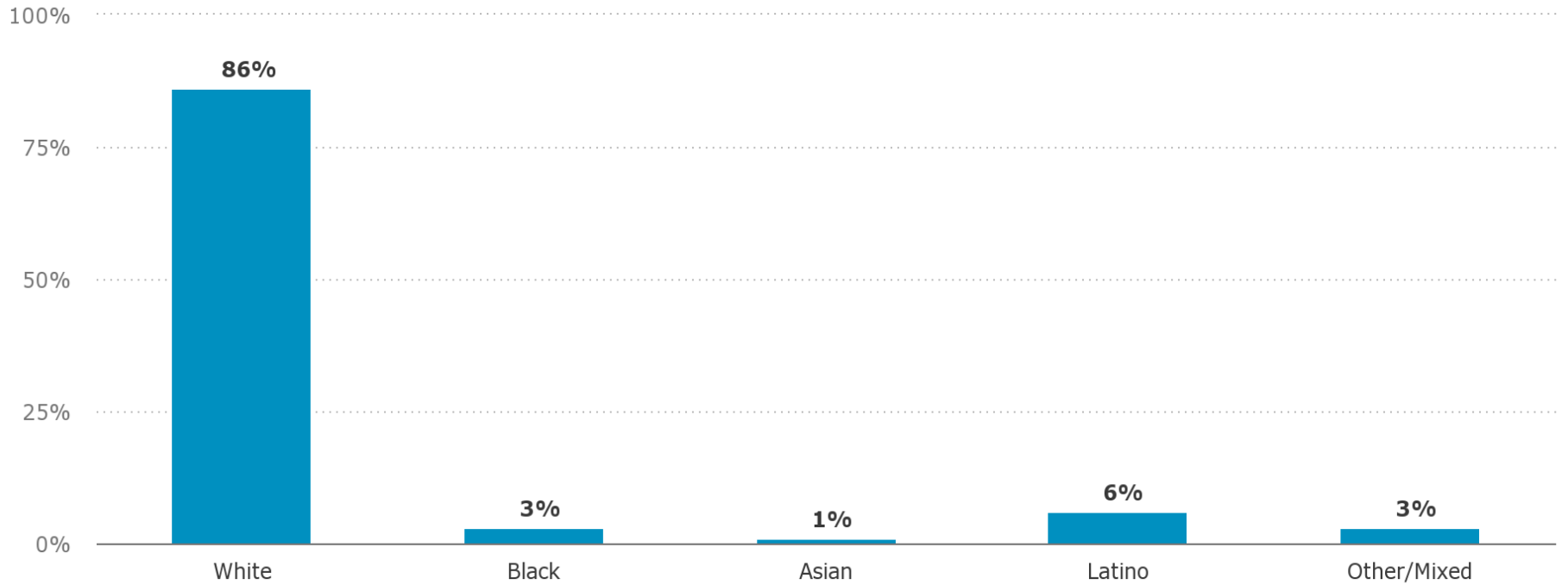
Age distribution among Mainline Protestants

% of Mainline Protestants who are ages...



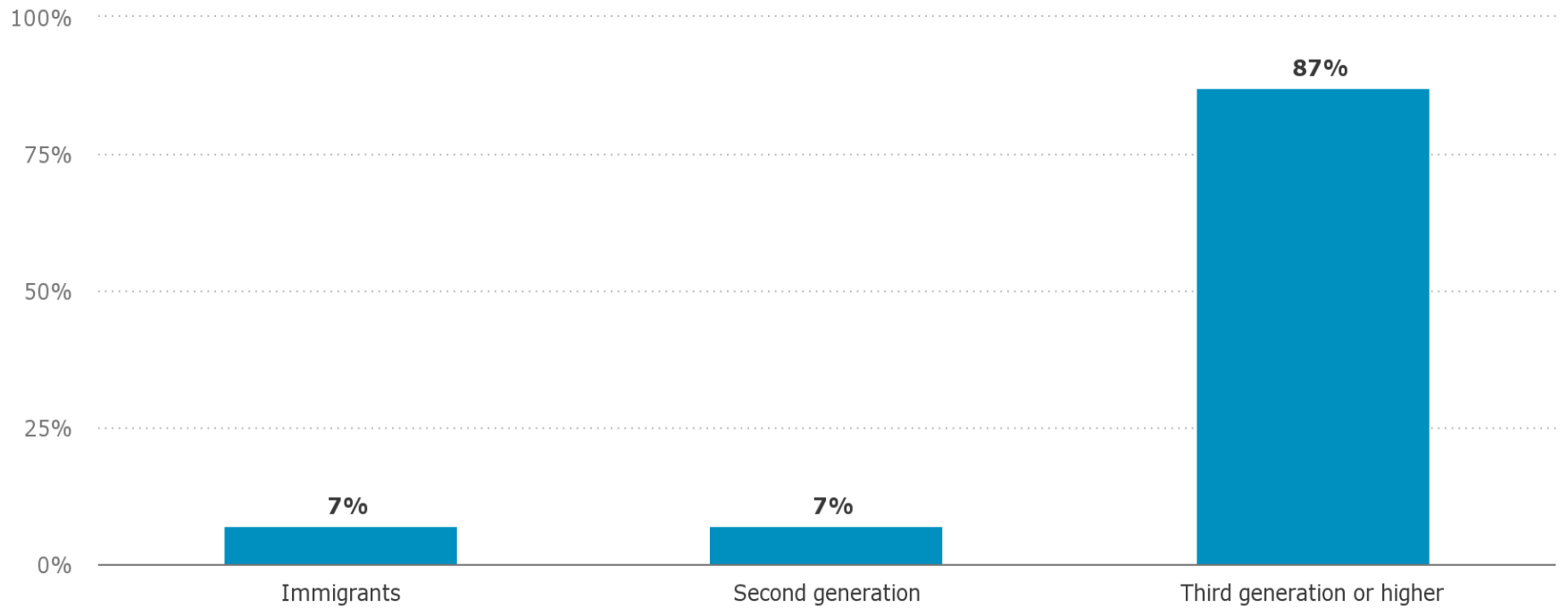
Racial and ethnic composition among Mainline Protestants

% of Mainline Protestants who identify as...



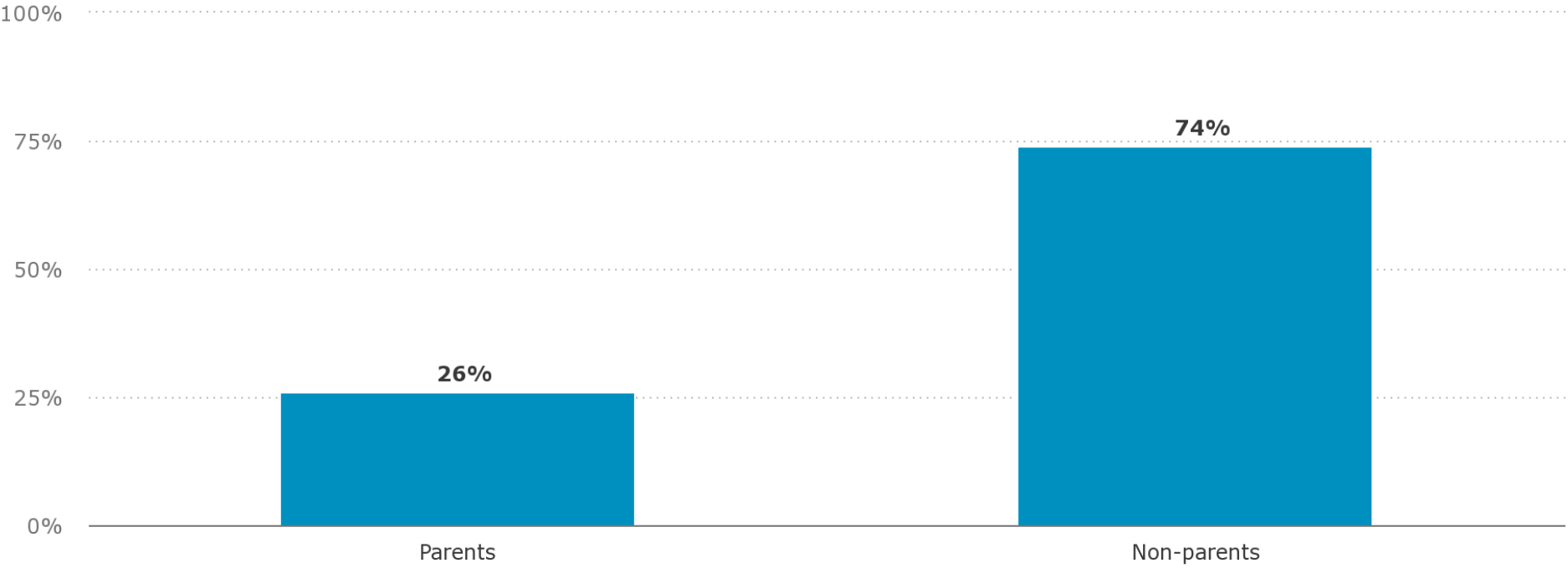
Immigrant status among Mainline Protestants

% of Mainline Protestants who are...



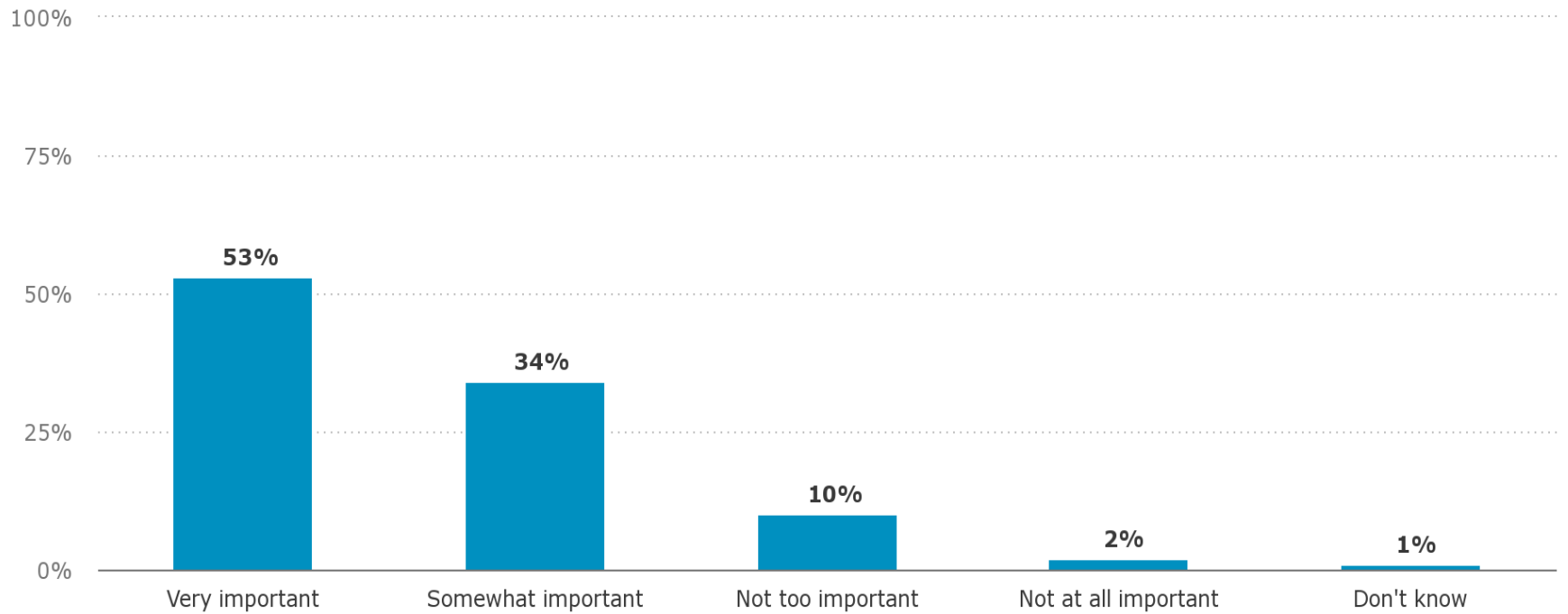
Parent of children under 18 among Mainline Protestants

% of Mainline Protestants who are...



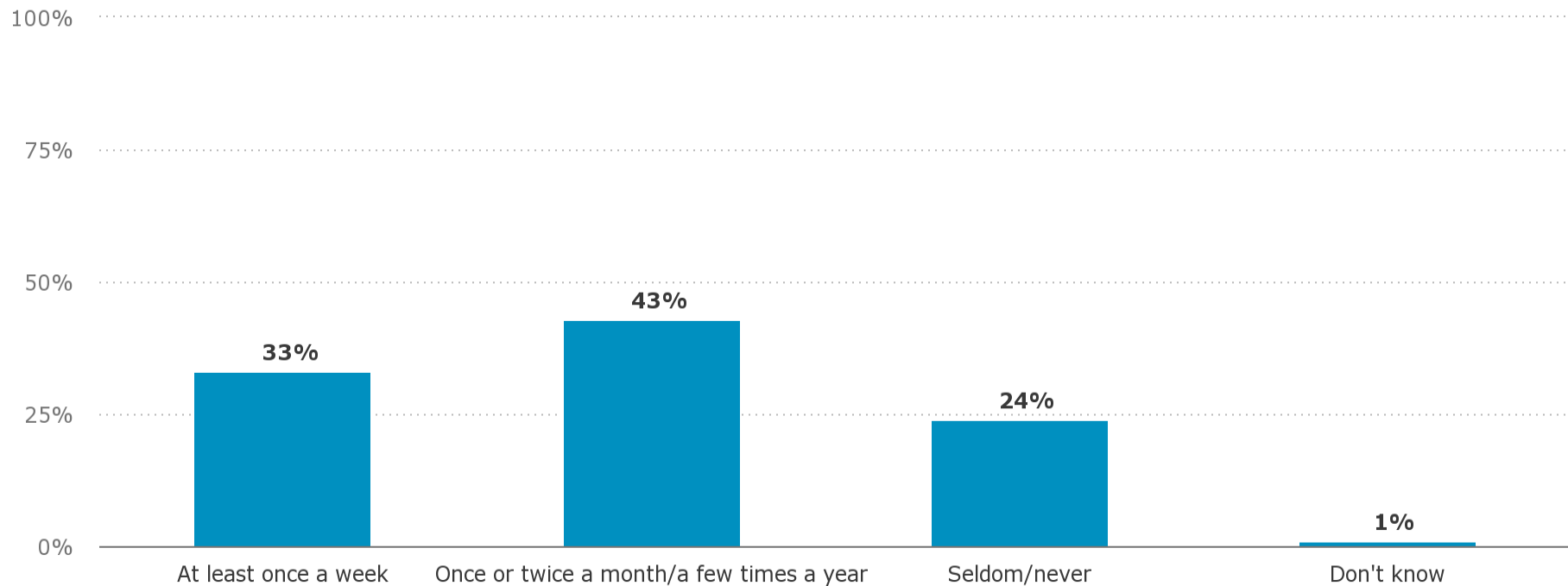
Importance of religion in one's life among Mainline Protestants

% of Mainline Protestants who say religion is...



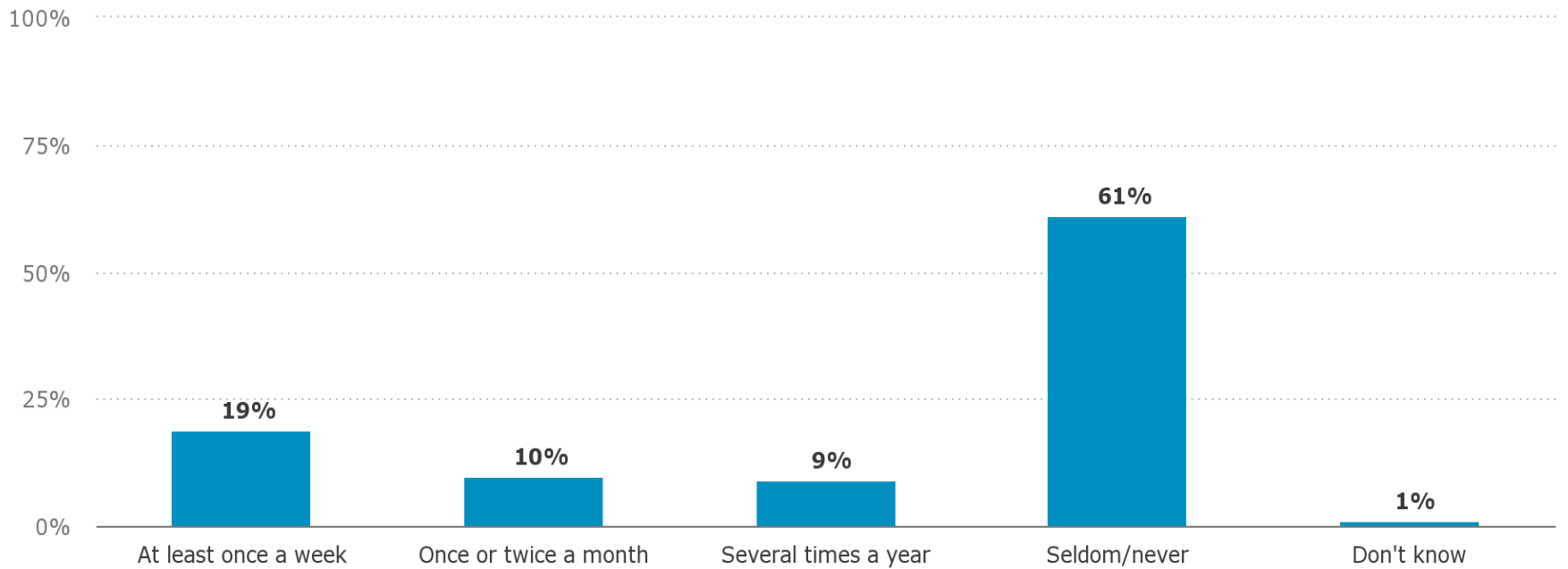
Attendance at religious services among Mainline Protestants

% of Mainline Protestants who attend religious services...



Frequency of participation in prayer scripture study or religious education groups among Protestants

% of Mainline Protestants who attend prayer group...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

PCUSA membership

1996	2,458,473
2006	1,874,675
2016	1,482,767

Equivalent of losing 50,000 every year for 20 years

Or twenty churches the size of Fox Chapel in all 50 states between 1996 and 2016

20 Years at FCPC

2016 vs. 1996

Members	1215	2449
Attendance	358	620

10 Years at FCPC

2016 and 2006

Members	1215	1758
Attendance	358	467

5 Years at FCPC

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Members	1215	1218	1235	1278	1497
Attendance	358	349	372	390	358

WHERE

DO WE GO

FROM HERE?

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

CONSIDER
OUR
STRENGTHS

STRENGTHS

1) A GREAT FACILITY

STRENGTHS

- 1) A GREAT FACILITY
- 2) SOUND FINANCES

STRENGTHS

- 1) A GREAT FACILITY
- 2) SOUND FINANCES
- 3) CLEAR VALUES

STRENGTHS

- 1) A GREAT FACILITY
- 2) SOUND FINANCES
- 3) CLEAR VALUES
- 4) GREAT WORSHIP

STRENGTHS

- 1) A GREAT FACILITY
- 2) SOUND FINANCES
- 3) CLEAR VALUES
- 4) GREAT WORSHIP
- 5) GREAT CHILDREN/YOUTH PROGRAMS

STRENGTHS

- 1) A GREAT FACILITY
- 2) SOUND FINANCES
- 3) CLEAR VALUES
- 4) GREAT WORSHIP
- 5) A GREAT CHILDREN/YOUTH PROGRAM
- 6) A GREAT STAFF

STRENGTHS

- 1) A GREAT FACILITY
- 2) SOUND FINANCES
- 3) CLEAR VALUES
- 4) GREAT WORSHIP
- 5) A GREAT CHILDREN/YOUTH PROGRAM
- 6) A GREAT STAFF
- 7) A GREAT CONGREGATION!!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

BE

THE

CHURCH!

BE THE CHURCH!

WORSHIP THE LORD

MAKE DISCIPLES

BUILD COMMUNITY

REACH OUT TO OTHERS

TWO KEY PIECES

1) CONGREGATION-BASED
MINISTRIES

TWO KEY PIECES

1) CONGREGATION-BASED
MINISTRIES

2) FINANCIAL HEALTH

TWO KEY PIECES

1) CONGREGATION-BASED
MINISTRIES

2) FINANCIAL HEALTH

A) ENDOWMENT

TWO KEY PIECES

1) CONGREGATION-BASED
MINISTRIES

2) FINANCIAL HEALTH

A) ENDOWMENT

B) YEARLY GIVING

JOSHUA 24:15

Choose this day whom you
will serve...

But as for me and my house,
We will serve the Lord.