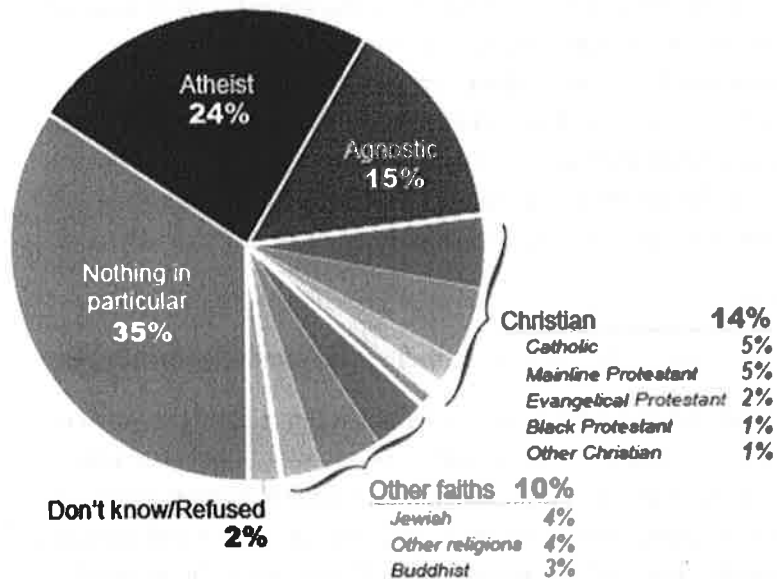


FEB 19, 2015

Myths of the Modern American Mind: Religion

Wesley Cecil PhD.

Religious self-identification of the 5% of Americans who do not believe in God or a universal spirit



THE PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
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Original Colonies Established Religions:

Congregationalist: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,

Church of England: Georgia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia

None: Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island

First Five Presidents Religious Outlook: 1789-1825

Washington: Extremely private about his faith and very public about freedom of religion – likely a Deist.

Adams: A non-conformist at least, potentially anti-religious.

Jefferson: Likely Deist who later leaned towards Unitarianism. Often accused of Atheism.

Madison: Enemy of orthodox religion – likely Deist.

Monroe: Complete enigma, made no direct reference to religion in his letters or public statements.

List of Denominations with roughly a million or more members:

Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Four Square, Anglican, Episcopalian, Mormon, Churches of Christ, United Church of Christ, Unaffiliated, Jehovah Witnesses, Assemblies of God, Evangelical Free, Church of God, Seventh Day Adventist, Otrhodox.

Issues about which these denominations disagree: Which books belong in the bible, which translation of the bible to use, the relative importance of the Old and New Testaments, the importance of Baptism, when and if believers should be baptized, literal versus metaphoric meaning of biblical texts, the importance of the communion, is the communion literal or symbolic, should wine be used for communion, attitudes towards homosexuality, role of prophecy, meaning of Revelations, existence and importance of Heaven, Hell and Purgatory, importance of extra-biblical texts, role of Mary, meaning of the Trinity, nature of Jesus, role of priests, should priests be elected by the congregation, nature of church governance, relationship between the Bible and science, origin of man, etc.

(Exodus 20:12) "Honor thy father and mother."

(Luke 14:26) "If anyone comes to me and hates not his father and mother . . . he cannot be my disciple."

(Deuteronomy 21:18-21) If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them. Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

(Matthew 5:17) Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest part or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place."

This is not just a 'Christian' issue, it is an American issue:

The Tao of Dating: The Smart Woman's Guide to Being Absolutely Irresistible, The Tao of Business: Using Ancient Chinese Philosophy to Survive and Prosper in Times of Crisis, White Collar Zen: Using Zen Principles to Overcome Obstacles and Achieve Your Career Goals, The Zen of Selling Art: Essays on Art Business Success, Zen Entrepreneurship: Walking the Path of the Career Warrior

The Ultimate Expression:

Unitarian Universalist: "Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition that encourages each individual to develop a personal faith. It draws from many different religions, in the belief that no one religion has all the answers and that most have something to teach us."

Next Lecture March 19th "Myths of the Modern American Mind: Education"

Lectures are available on Youtube