

Finding Faith Today

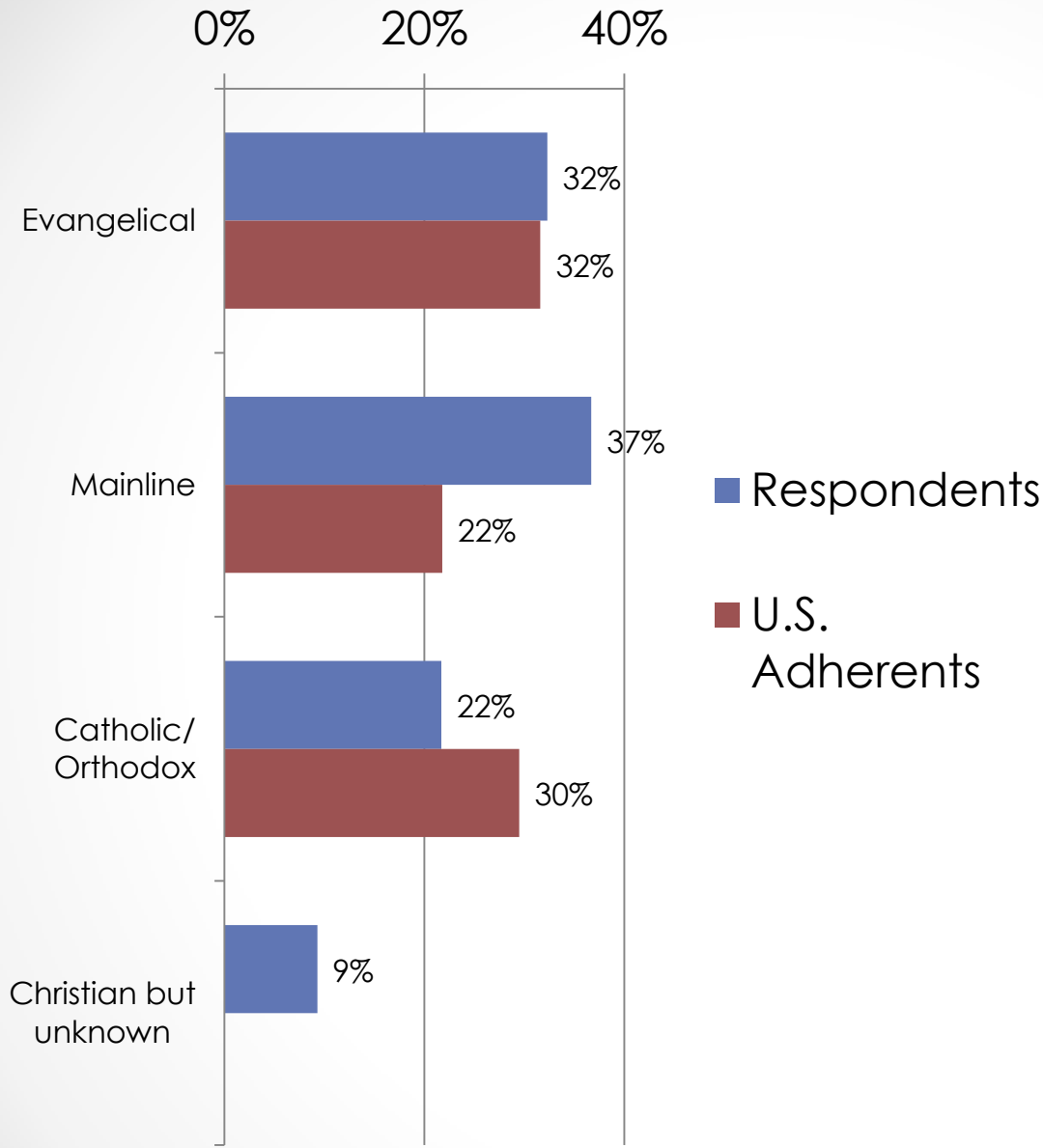
www.bu.edu/cpt/fft

Bryan Stone, Principal Investigator

- The Finding Faith Today (FFT) Project is a nationwide research project that surveys and interviews adults age 18 and over who, in the past 3 years (since Jan 1, 2011), have made a new declaration of faith or otherwise signaled that they adopted a religious faith as their own (or “converted,” or “become a member,” depending on the appropriate language), even if that happens to be a “return” to faith from an earlier commitment in their lives.
- An initial study was conducted on Christian populations in the United Kingdom over twenty years ago by Bishop John Finney, but surprisingly little research has been done since then. Finding Faith Today is an expansion and follow-up of that study and it will also have a comparative interfaith component that will look at those who become adherents of other major religious traditions in the U.S.
- The study asks about how persons come to faith, what they understand to be the most important factors during the process, and how they understand faith, including any changes in values, practices, and lifestyles that might have accompanied this process.

Finding Faith Today

Christian Population by Theological Family



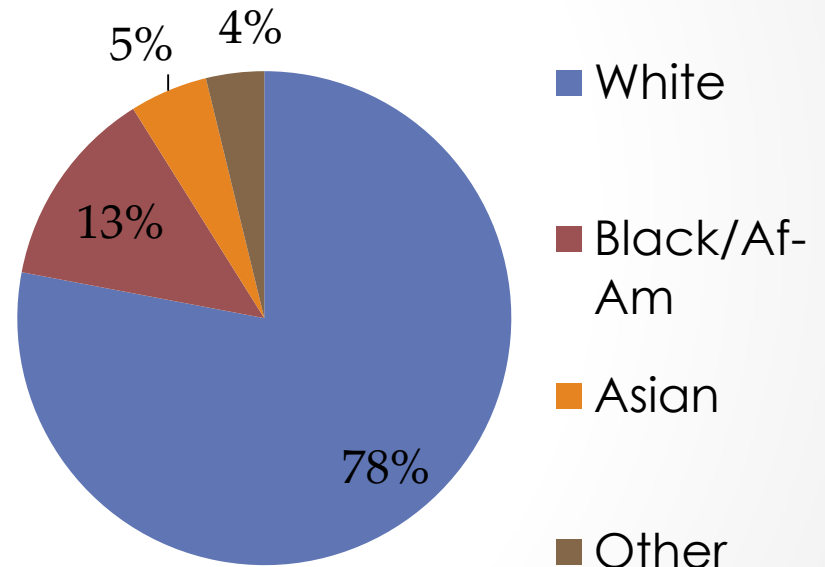
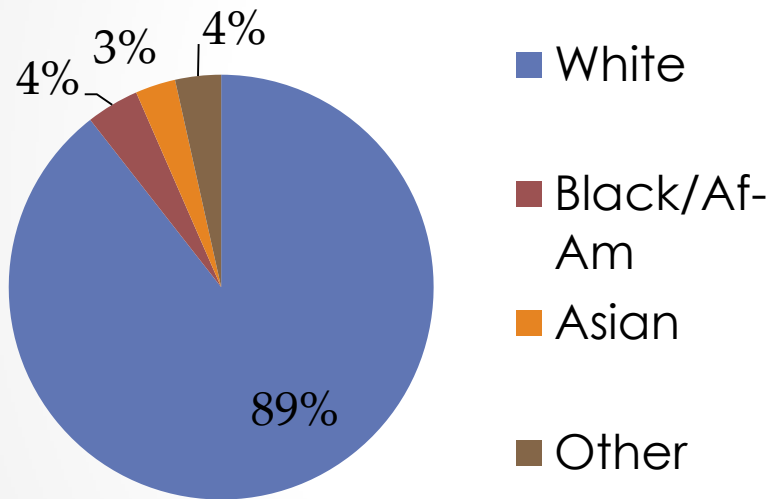
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Respondents

U.S. Population (2011)

Race/Ethnicity

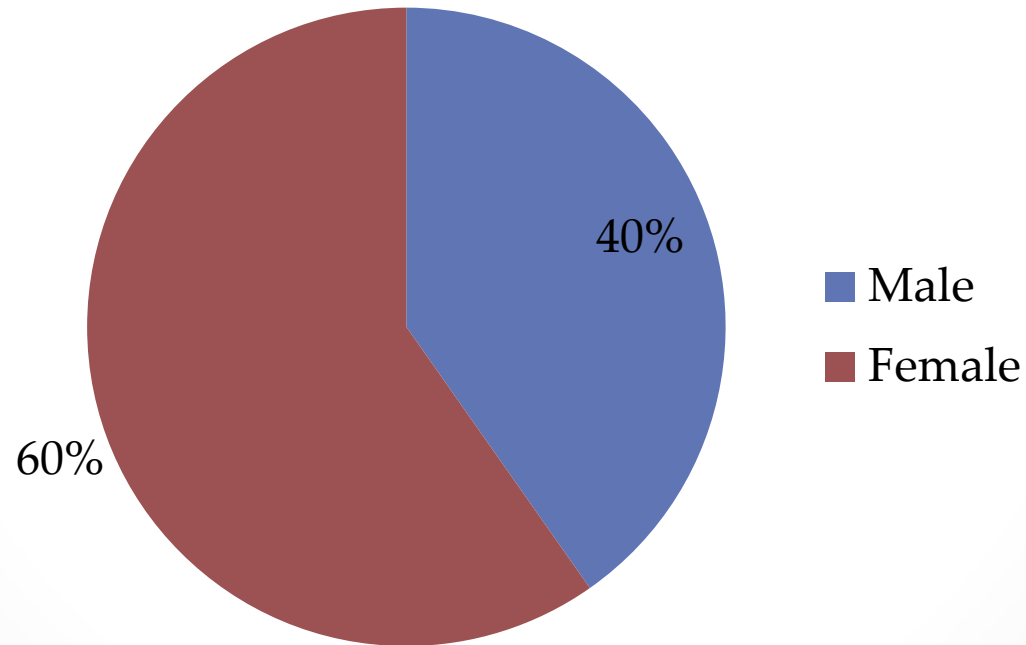
Race/Ethnicity



Hispanic/Latino Respondents = 5.7%

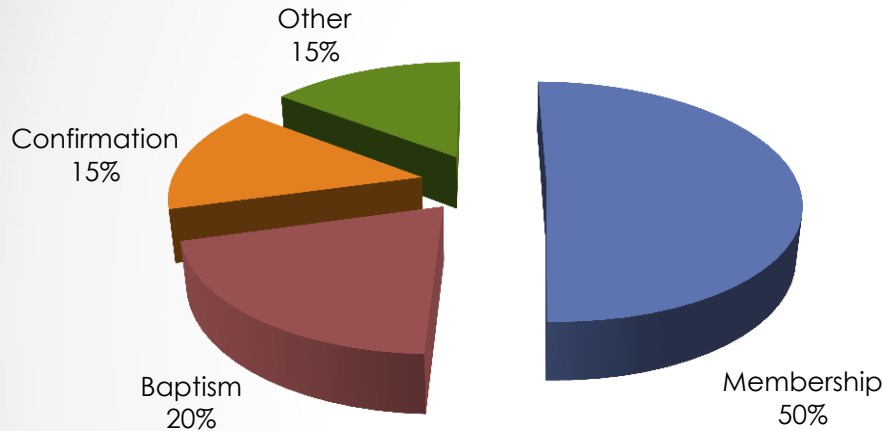
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Gender

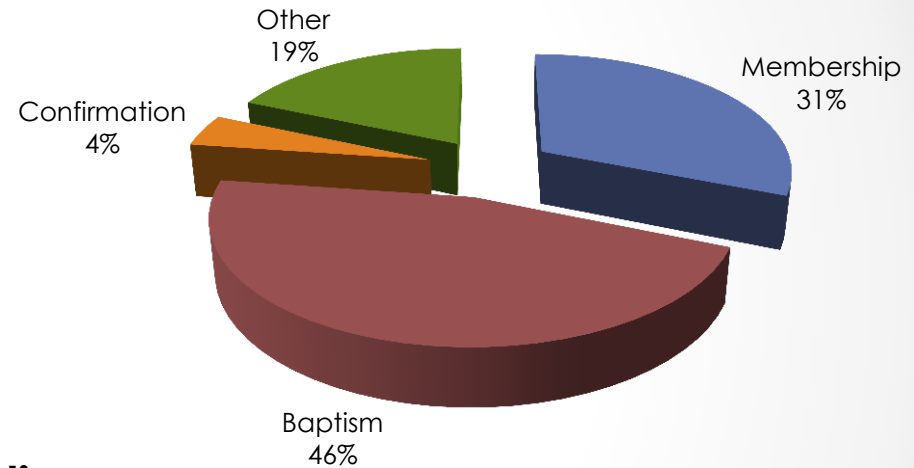


Ways of Signaling New Faith Commitment

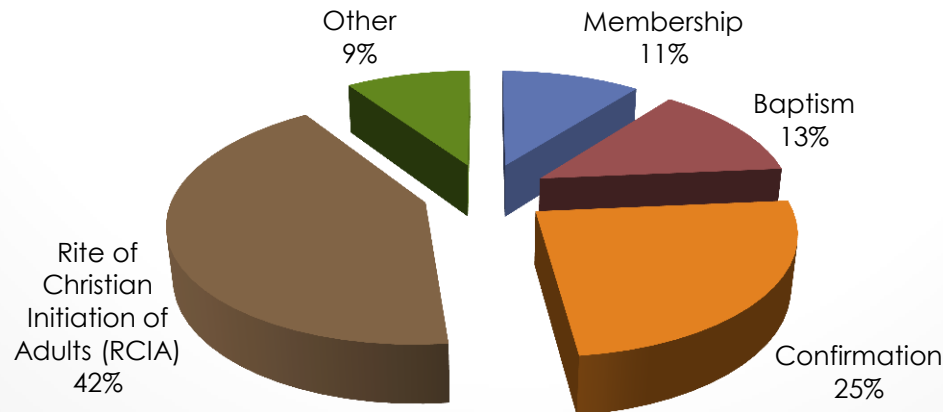
Mainline Protestant



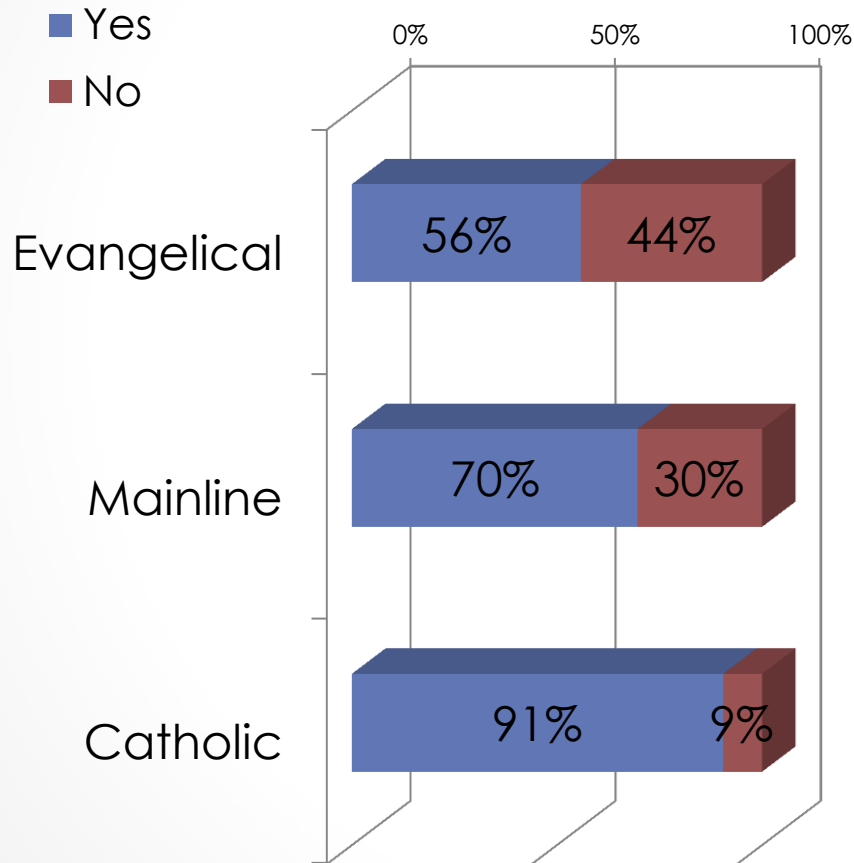
Evangelical/Black Protestants



Catholic

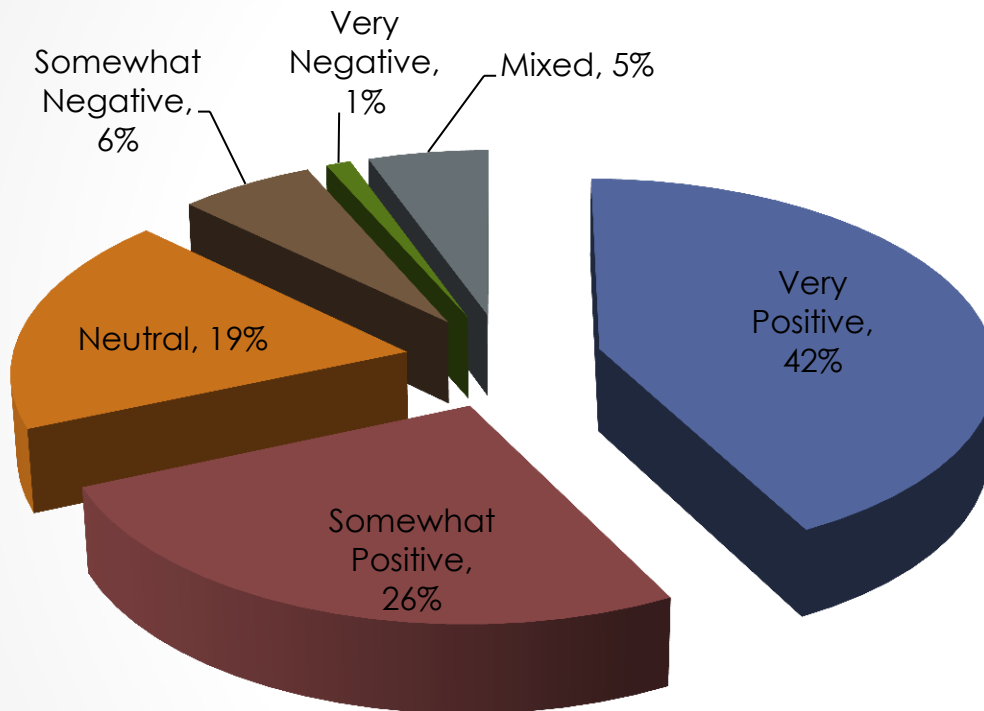


Instructional Classes?



95% of those who took classes found them helpful. This did not vary at all from tradition to tradition.

Family's Attitude Toward Christianity



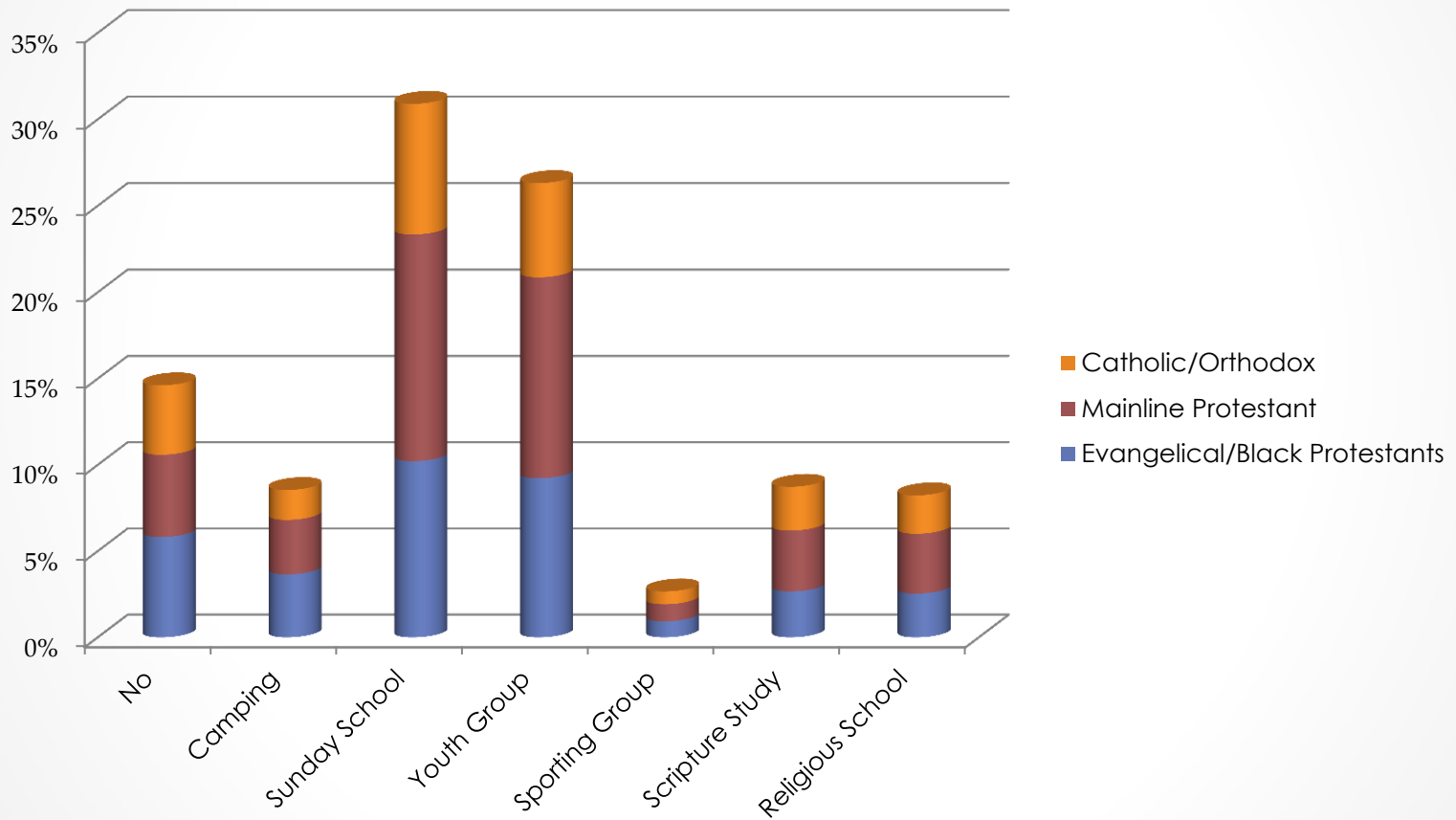
68% claimed to have a positive background (compared to 52% in the UK study 20 years ago).

7% claimed to have a negative background (compared to 7% in the UK).

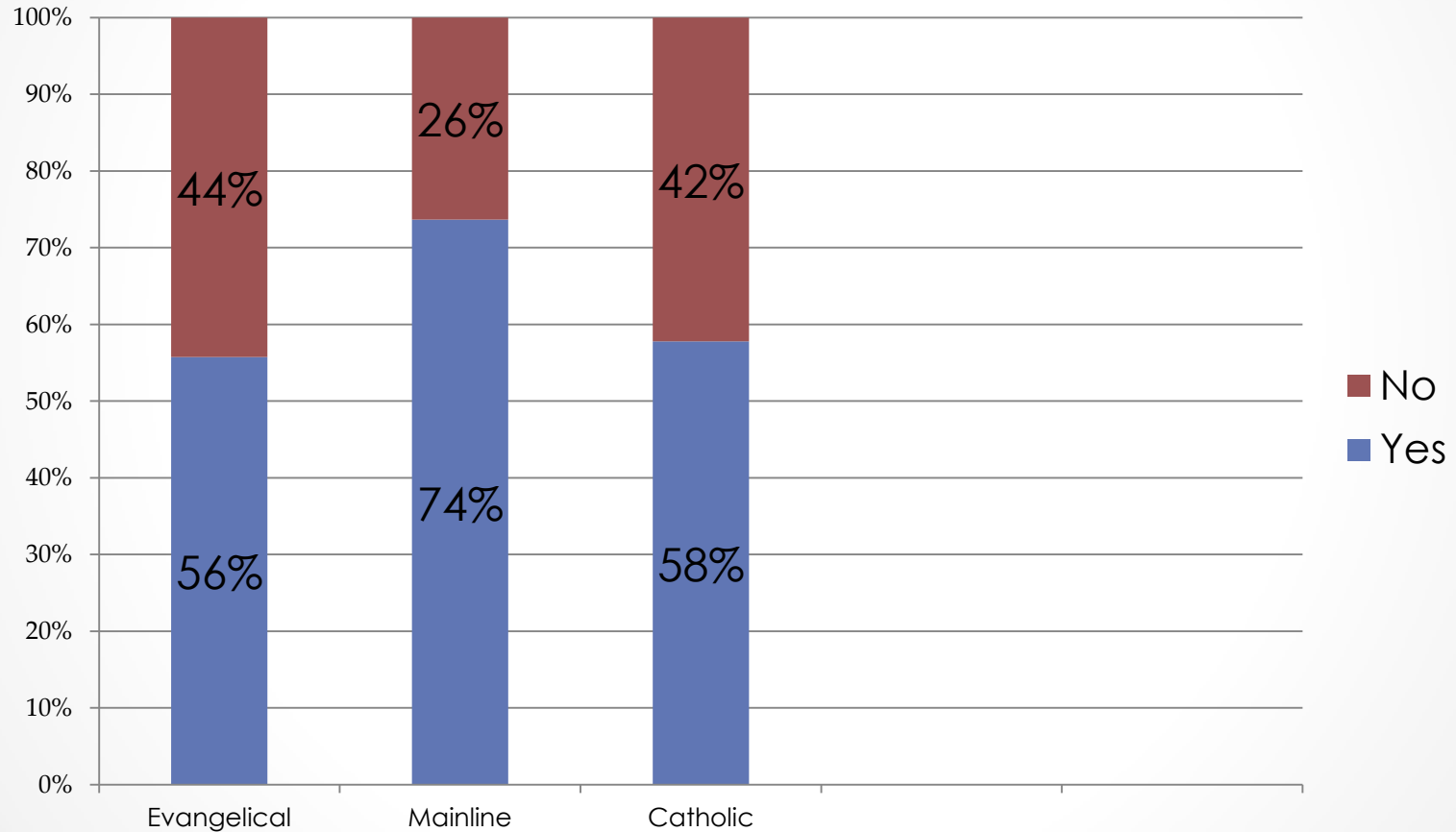
Those who claimed a "neutral" family attitude was considerably smaller (19%) than the 36% in the UK study.

No appreciable differences among denominational families

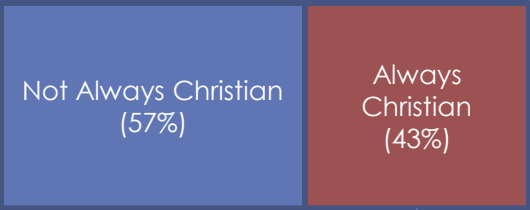
Involvement in any organizations attached to a church during your youth?



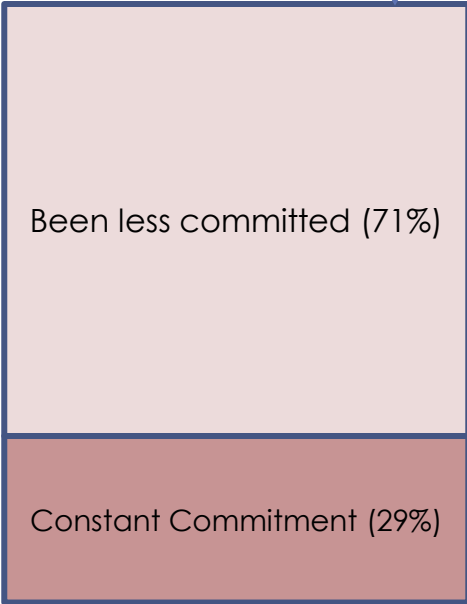
Had you ever made a profession of faith prior to this?



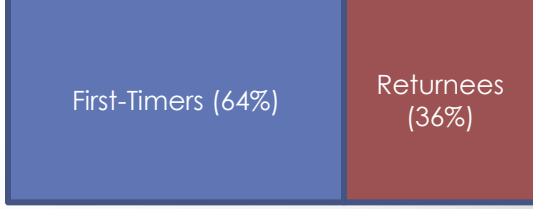
Evangelicals



Mainline



Catholic



When you re-committed or committed to faith, was it sudden or gradual?

	Evangelical	Non-Evangelical
Gradual	65%	78%
Sudden	35%	22%

Of those who did not consider themselves as always Christian:

- 65% described it as gradual
- 35% described it as sudden

Of those who considered themselves as always Christian:

- 80% described it as gradual
- 20% described it as sudden

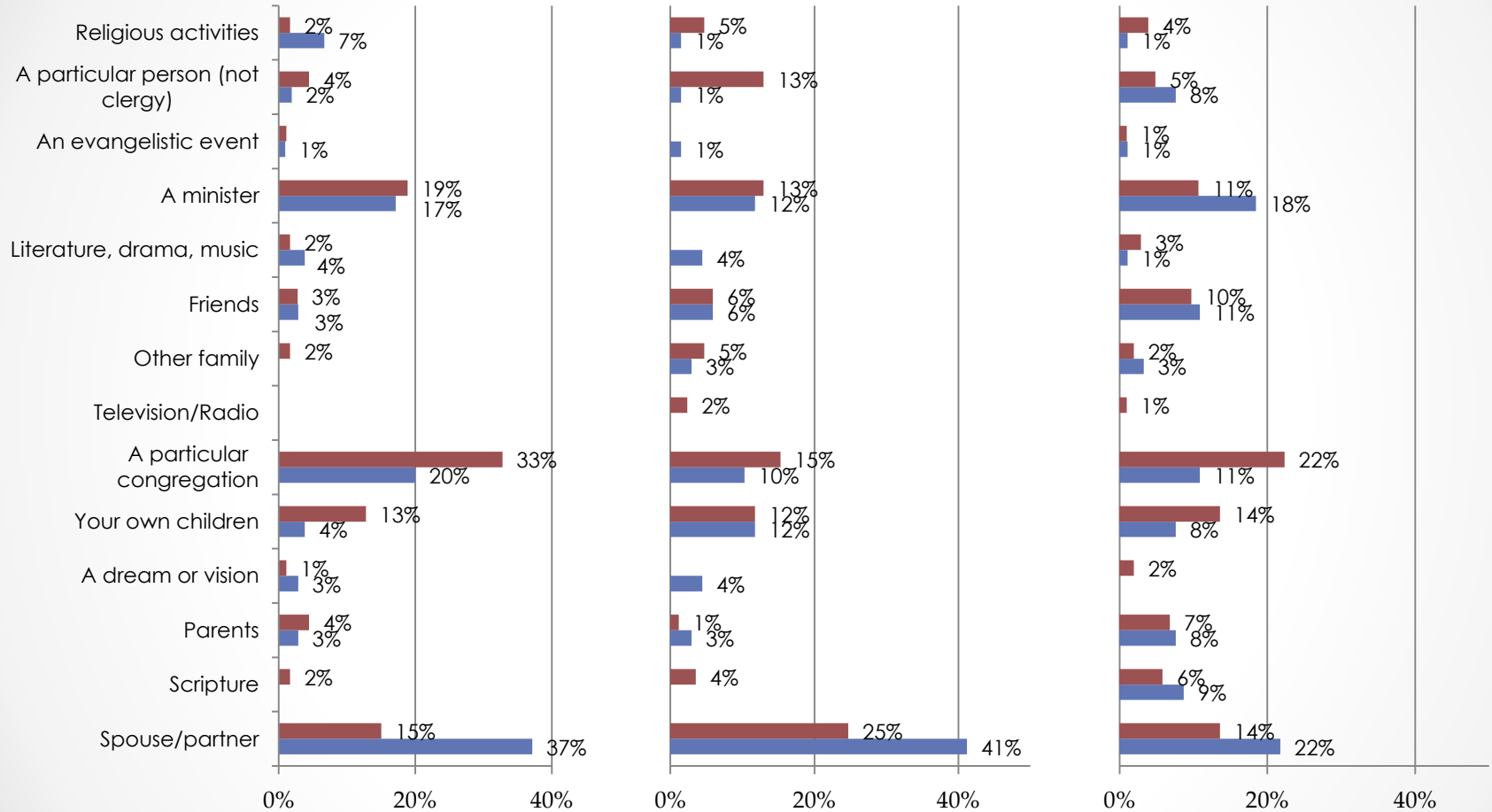
Female ■
 Male ■

Main factor (other than God) in your faith commitment?

Mainline

Catholic/Orthodox

Evangelical



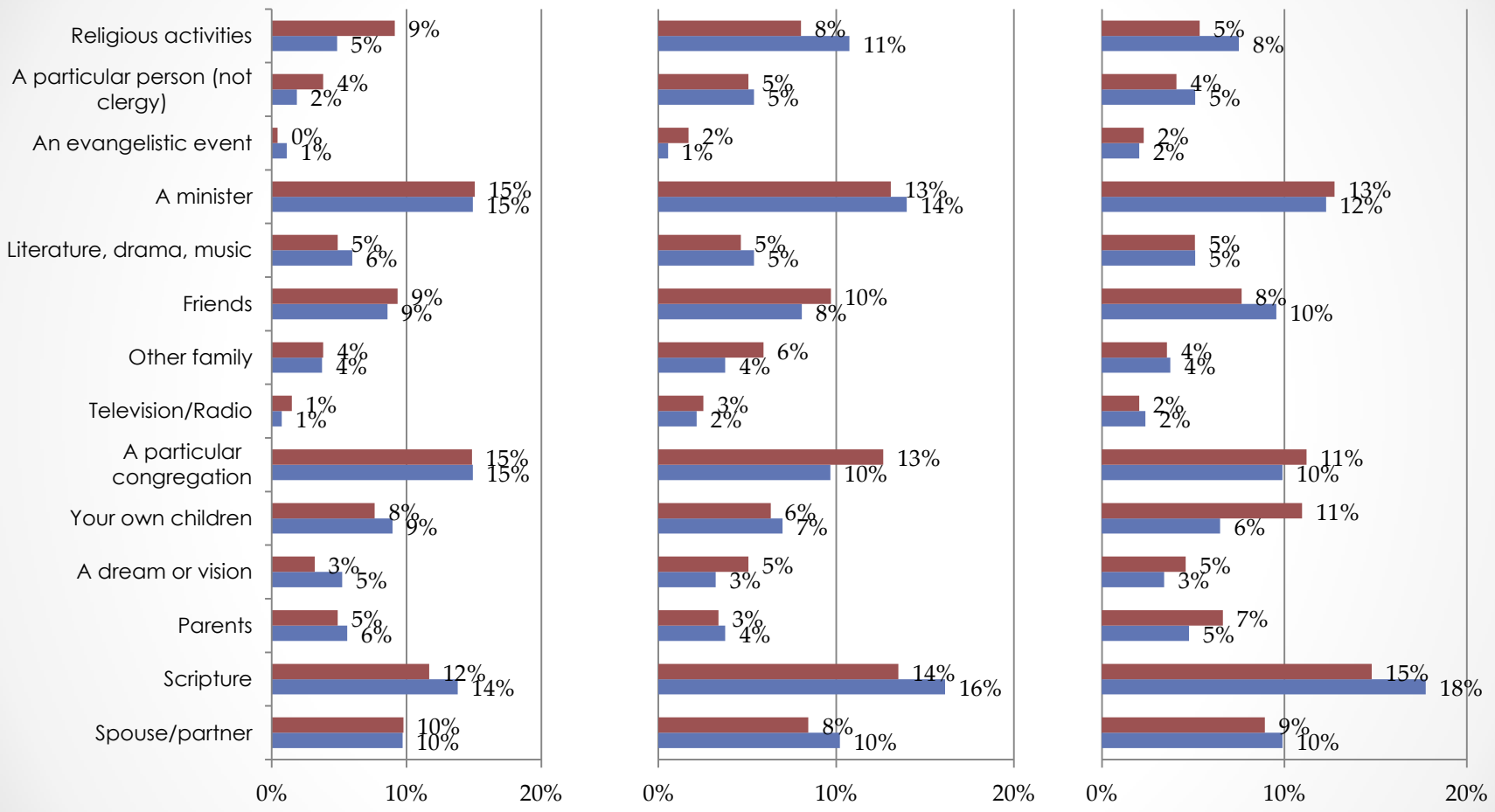
Female 
 Male 

Other main factors in your faith commitment?

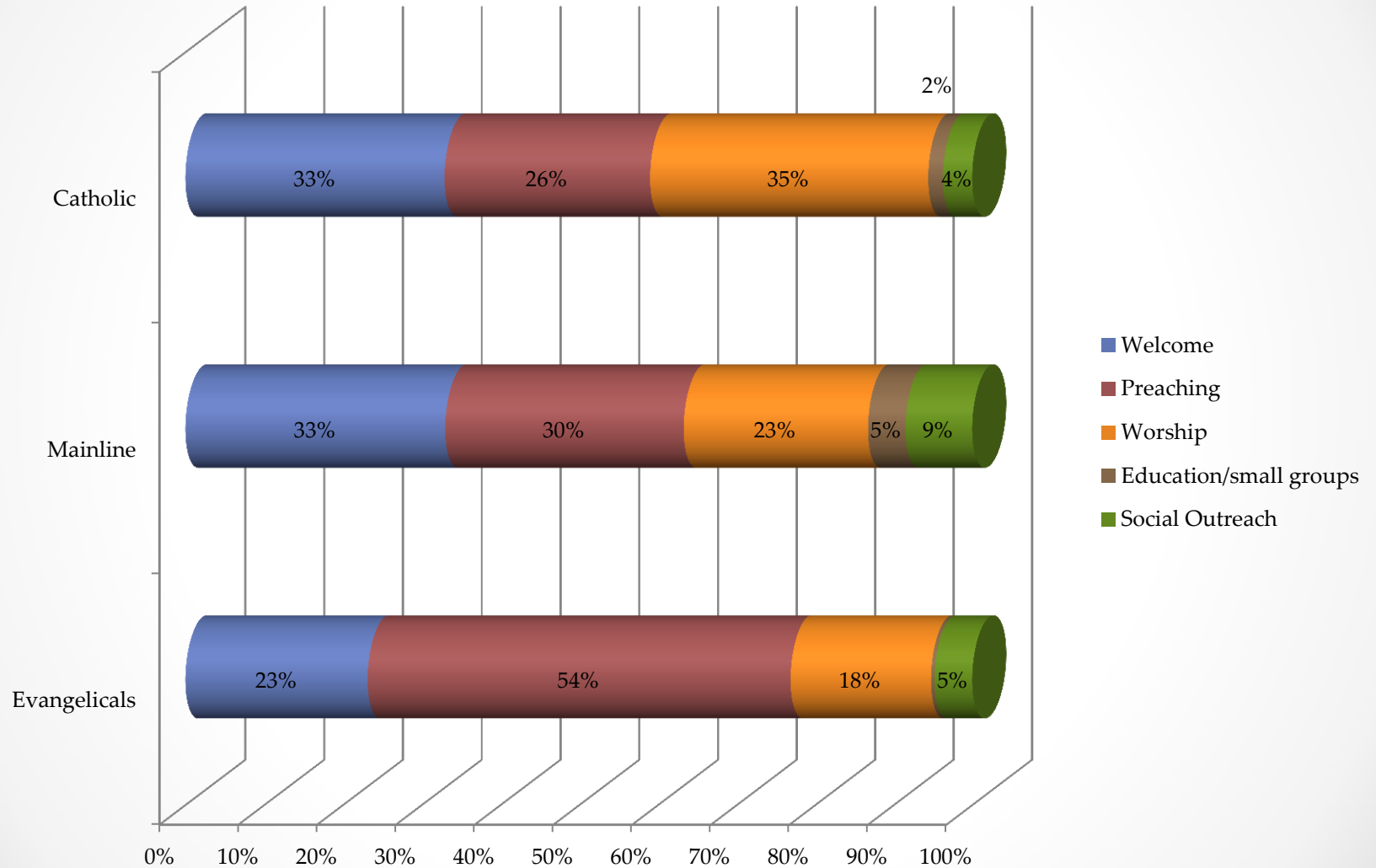
Mainline

Catholic/Orthodox

Evangelical



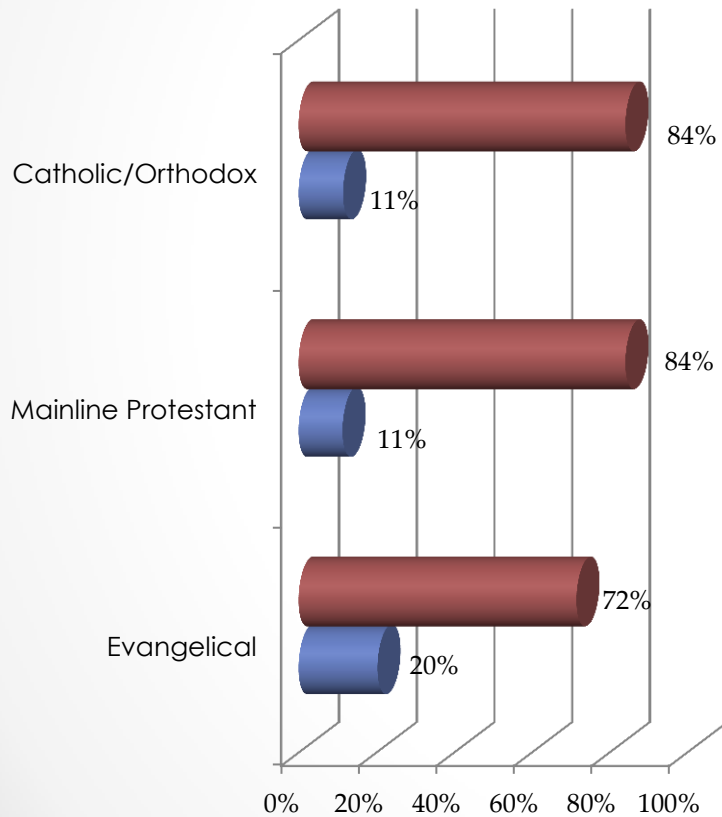
Most important feature of the congregation



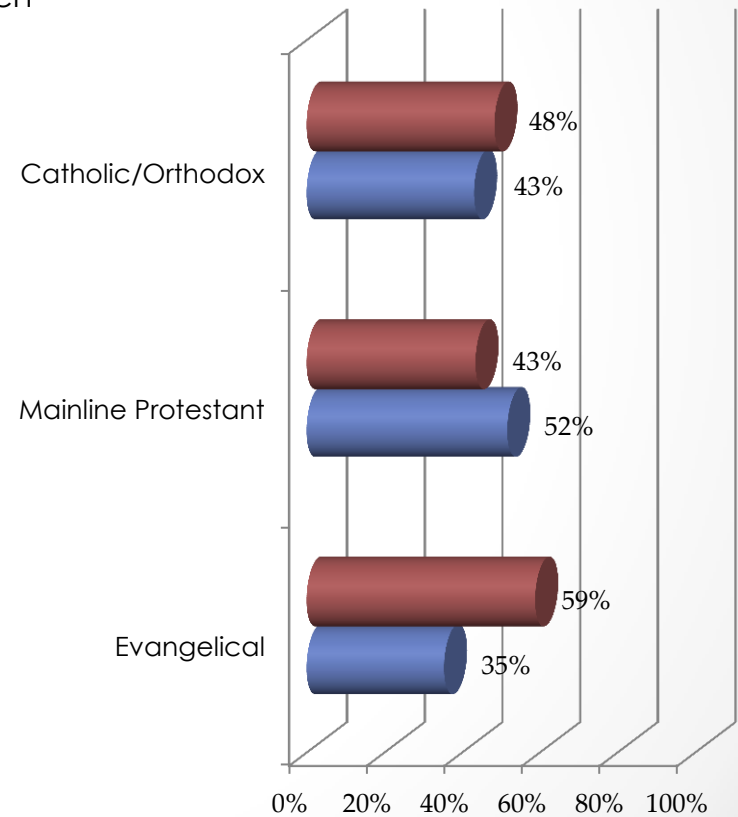
Were you drawn in or an active seeker?

Active Seeker?

- Somewhat or Very Much
- Not at all or not so much



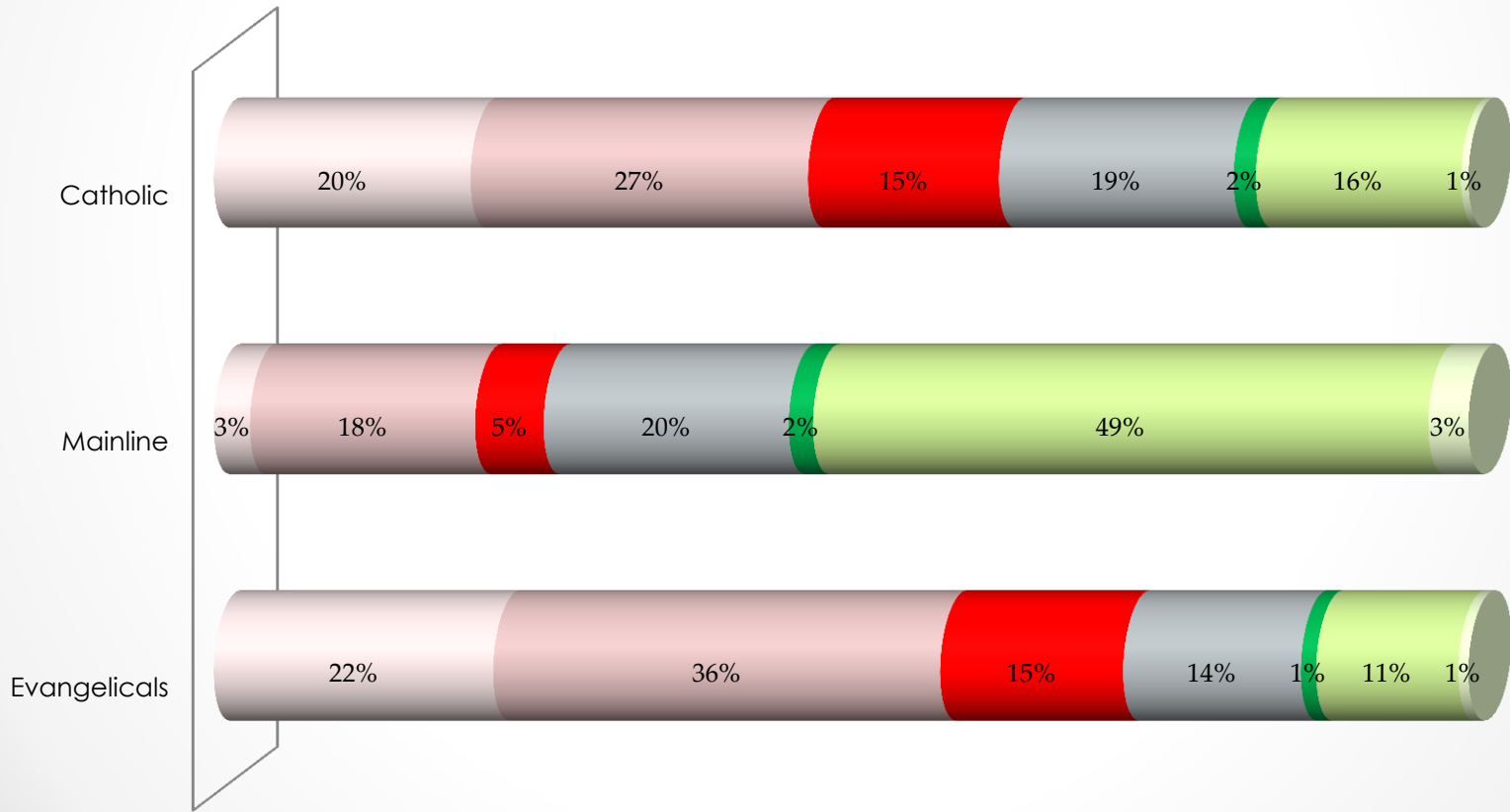
Drawn in by Others Without Actively Seeking



Changes in attitudes toward Social Issues

Right to Abortion

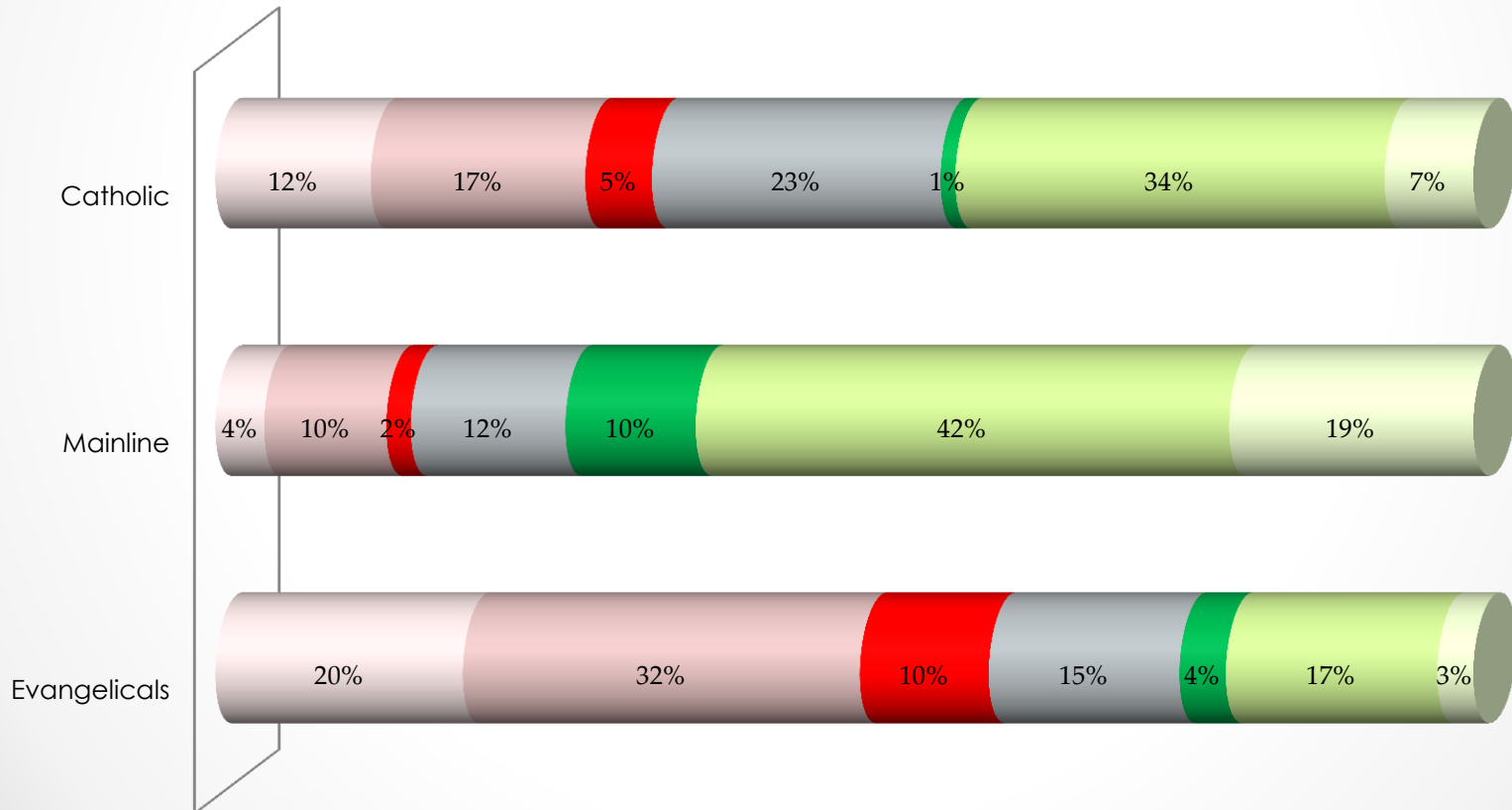
■ Became More Opposed
 ■ Already opposed
 ■ Became Opposed
 ■ No opinion/Don't know
■ Became Supportive
 ■ Already supportive
 ■ Became More Supportive



Changes in attitudes toward Social Issues

Gay Marriage

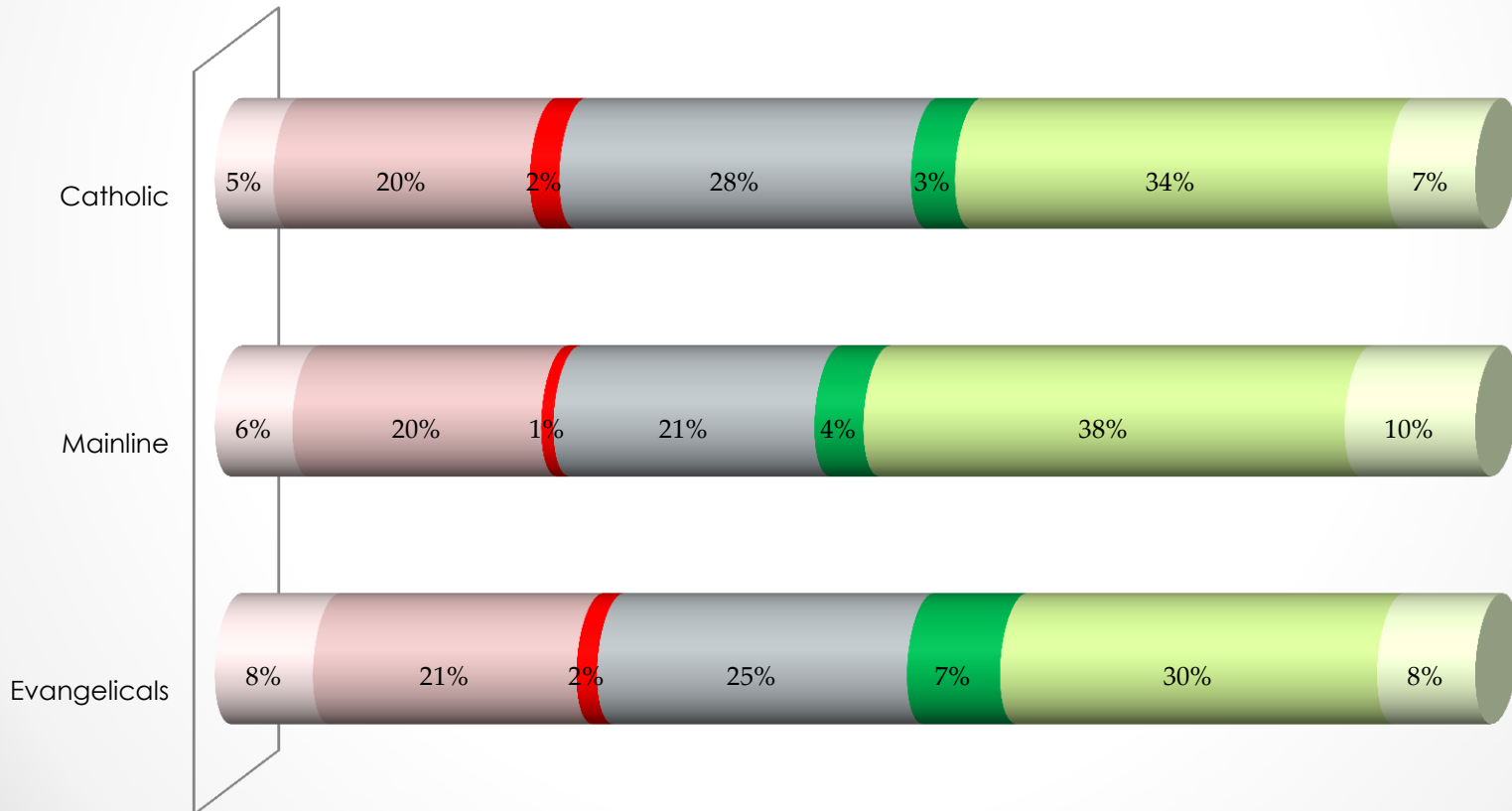
■ Became More Opposed
 ■ Already opposed
 ■ Became Opposed
 ■ No opinion/Don't know
■ Became Supportive
 ■ Already supportive
 ■ Became More Supportive



Changes in attitudes toward Social Issues

Gun Control

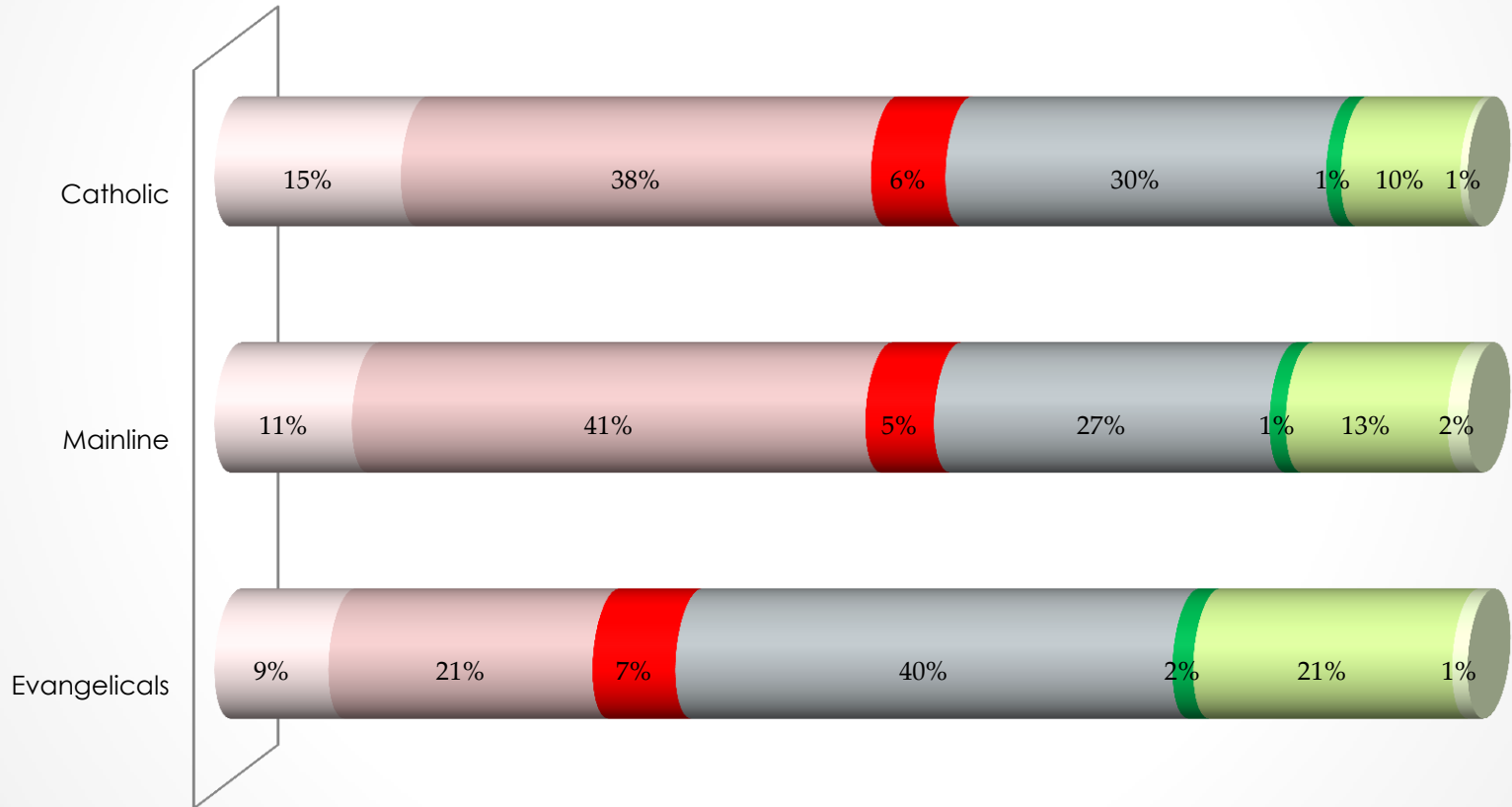
- Became More Opposed
- No opinion/Don't know
- Became More Supportive
- Already opposed
- Became Supportive
- Already supportive
- Became Opposed
- Already supportive



Changes in attitudes toward Social Issues

War

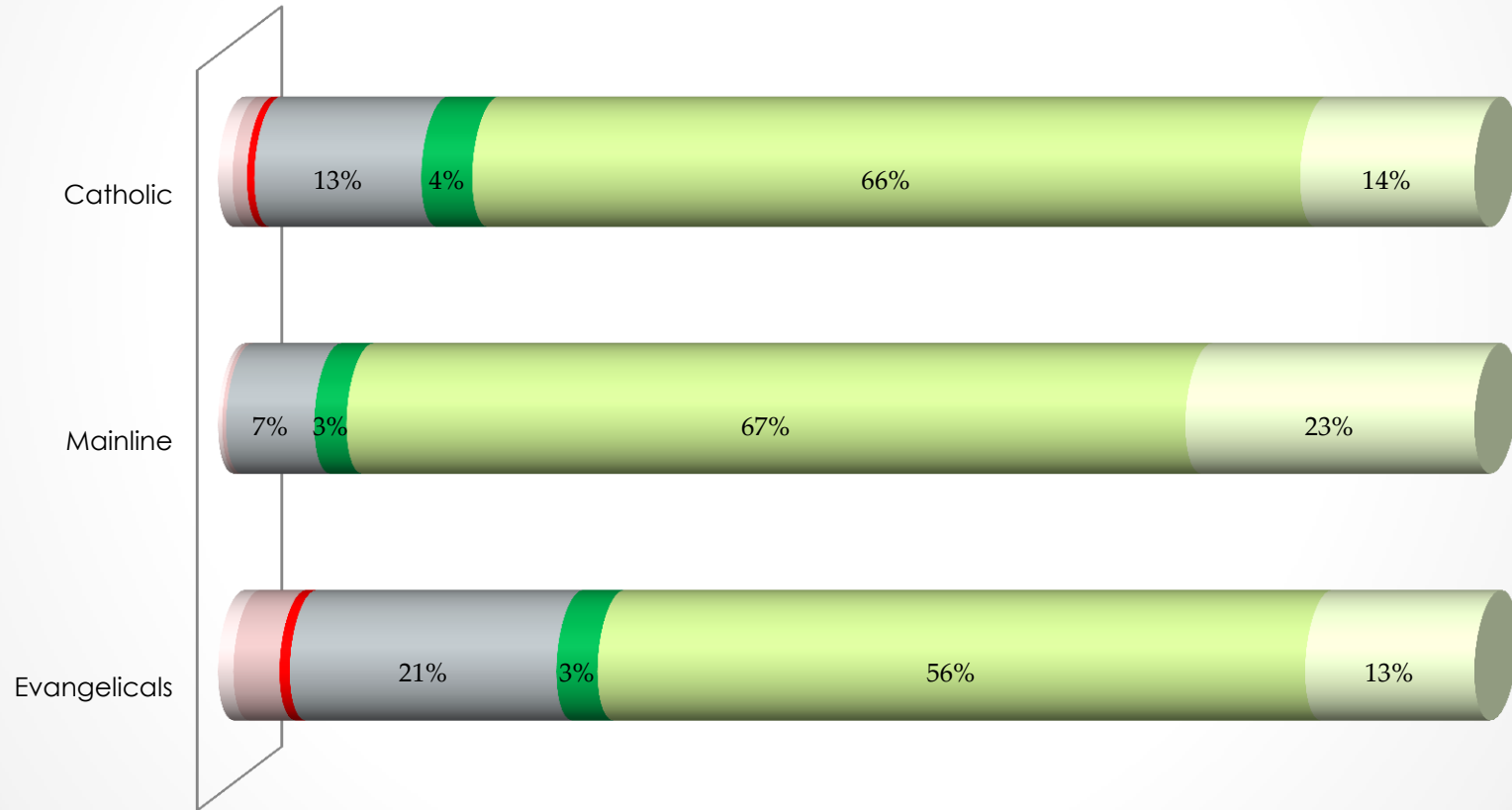
- Became More Opposed
- Already opposed
- Became Opposed
- No opinion/Don't know
- Became Supportive
- Already supportive
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Changes in attitudes toward Social Issues

Women's Equality

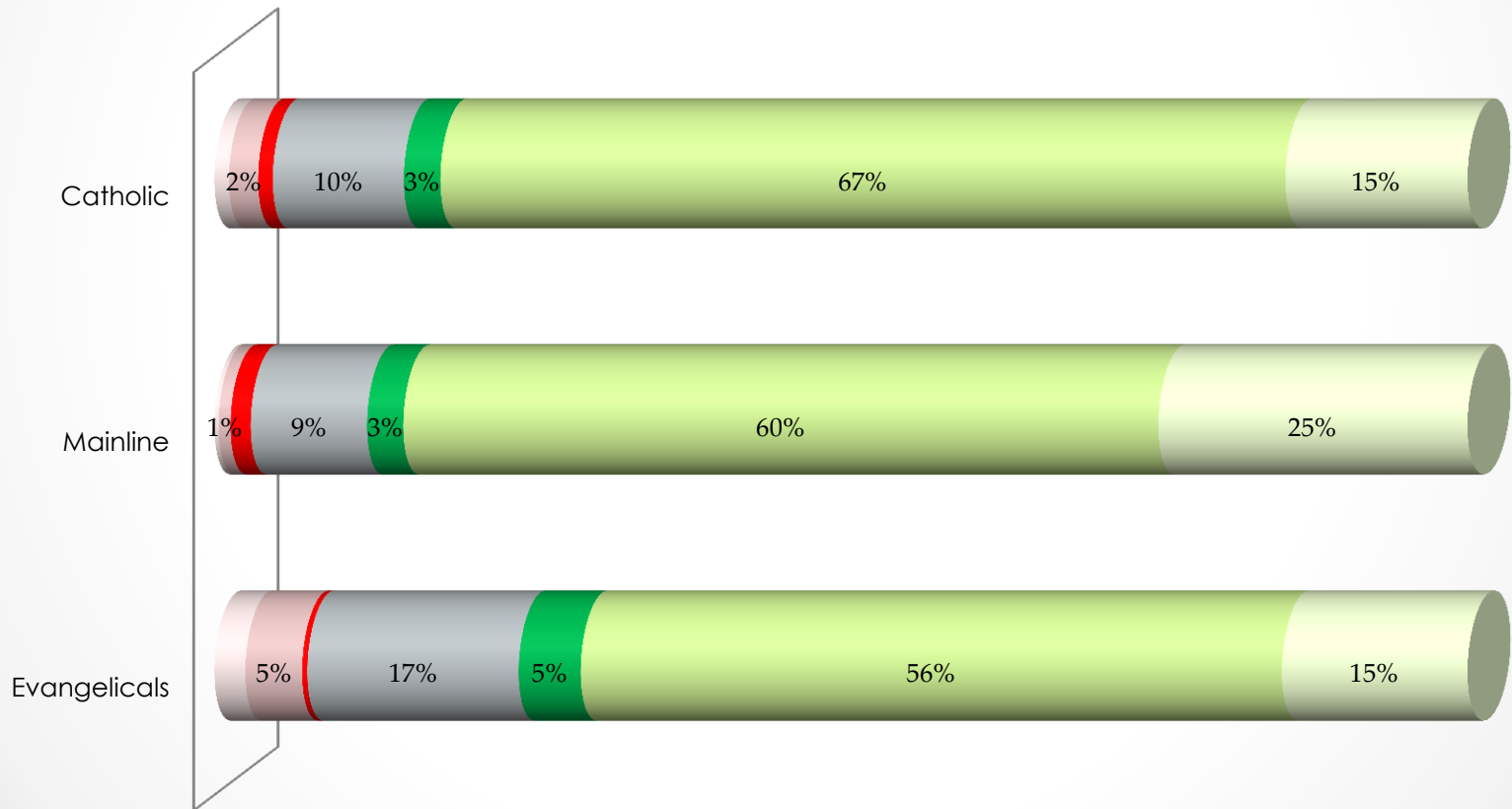
- Became More Opposed
- Already opposed
- Became Opposed
- No opinion/Don't know
- Became Supportive
- Already supportive
- Became More Supportive



Changes in attitudes toward Social Issues

Racial Justice

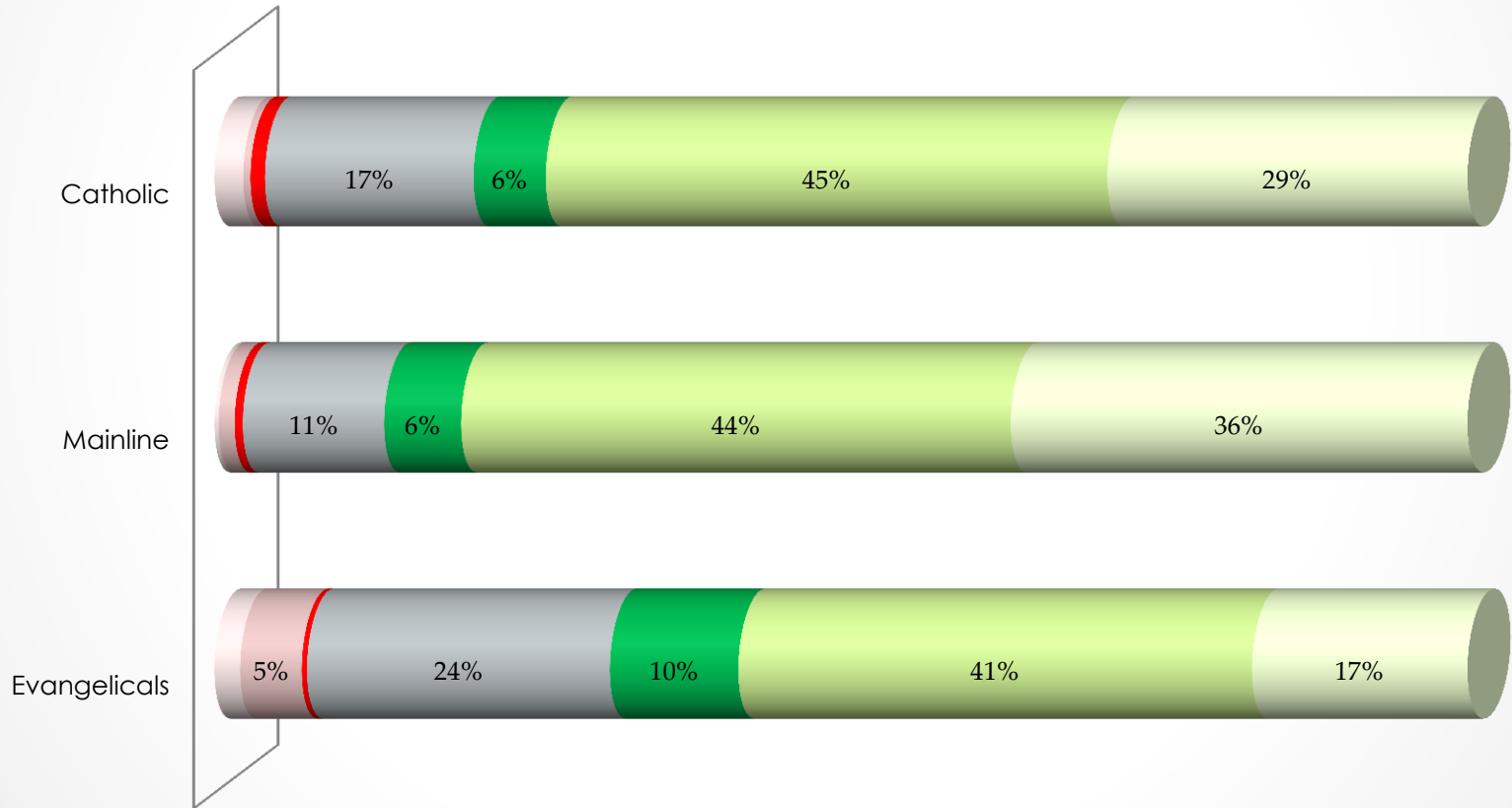
■ Became More Opposed ■ Already opposed ■ Became Opposed ■ No opinion/Don't know
■ Became Supportive ■ Already supportive ■ Became More Supportive



Changes in attitudes toward Social Issues

Economic Justice for the Poor

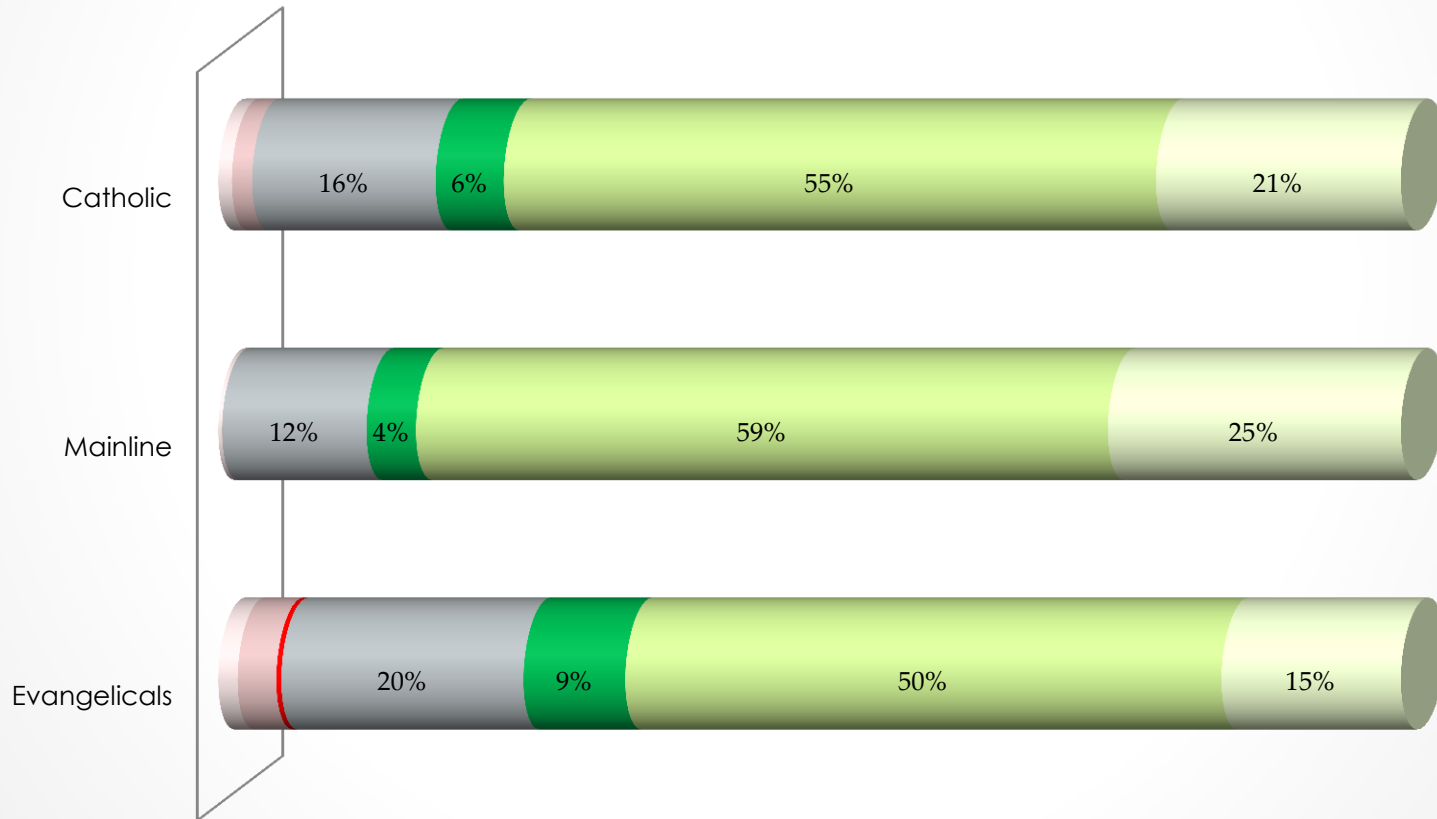
■ Became More Opposed ■ Already opposed ■ Became Opposed ■ No opinion/Don't know
■ Became Supportive ■ Already supportive ■ Became More Supportive



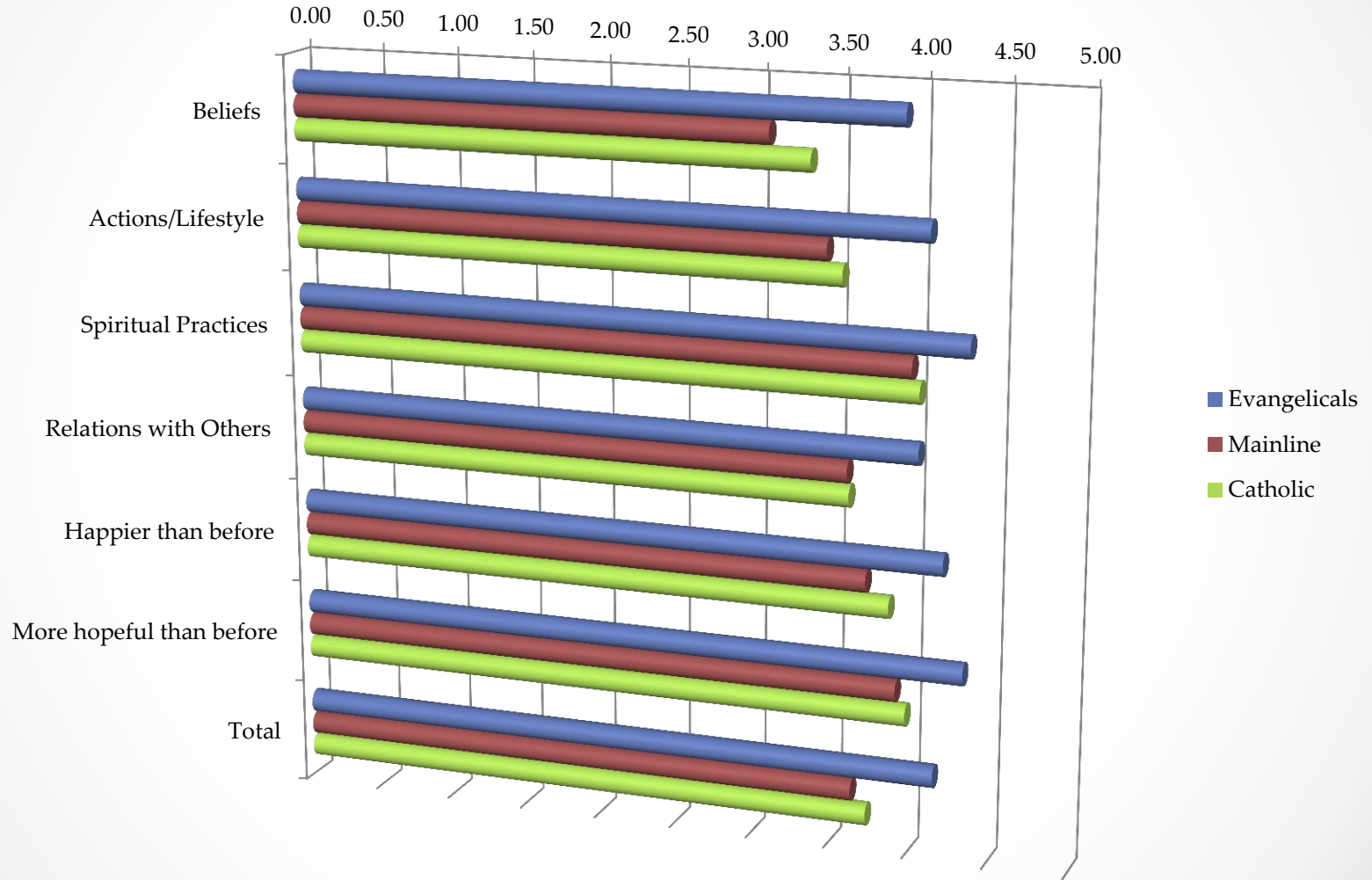
Changes in attitudes toward Social Issues

Care for the Natural Environment

■ Became More Opposed
 ■ Already opposed
 ■ Became Opposed
 ■ No opinion/Don't know
■ Became Supportive
 ■ Already supportive
 ■ Became More Supportive



Changes claimed by new Christians (5=Very Significant)



Do you participate in any other religious services or activities from other religions?

3% of Evangelical Protestants

9% of Mainline Protestants

5% of Roman Catholics

Spiritual or Religious?

