



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

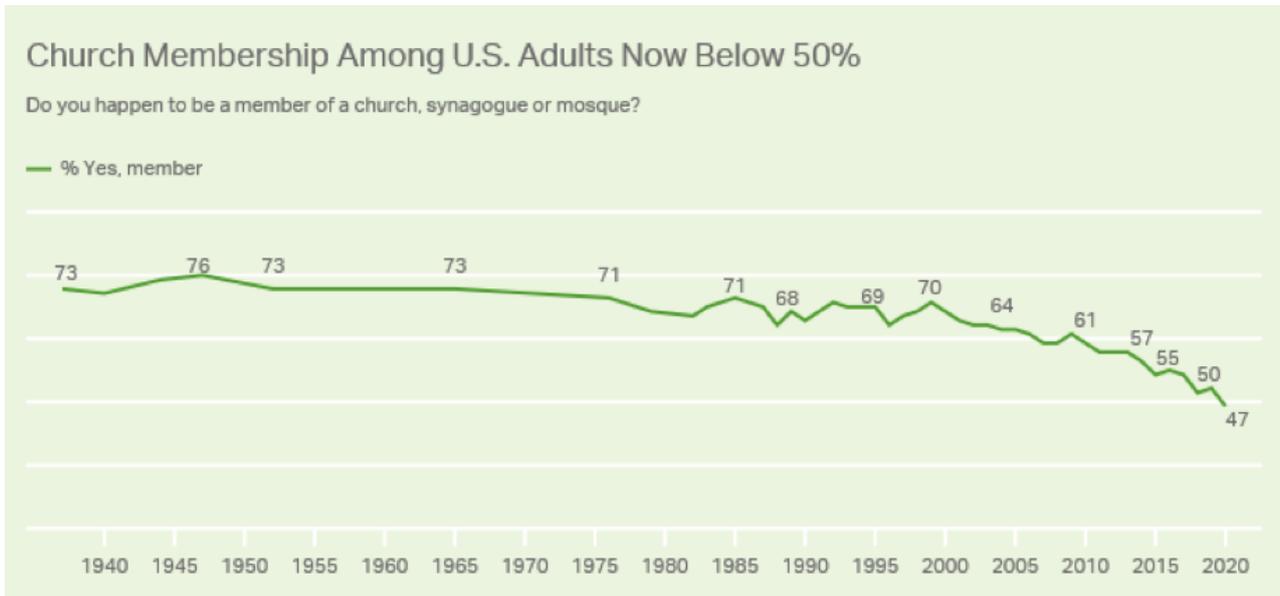
STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

I want to know...

4 QUESTIONS TO ASK
ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

I want to know...

PART 1: WHY SHOULD I GO TO CHURCH?



Is it ok to be “spiritual, but not religious”?

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” Acts 20:28

PEOPLE ARE WALKING AWAY BECAUSE THEY'RE GETTING BAD ANSWERS TO GOOD QUESTIONS.

WHAT IF THE "GOD" YOU'RE WALKING AWAY FROM NEVER EXISTED TO BEGIN WITH?

1. Bodyguard god
2. On Demand god
3. Boyfriend god
4. Guilt god
5. Anti-science god

"...many of us have been left stranded with an incoherent concept of God. We learned about God at about the same time as we were told about Santa Claus. But while our understanding of the Santa Claus phenomenon evolved and matured, our theology remained somewhat infantile. Not surprisingly, when we attained intellectual maturity, many of us rejected the God we had inherited and denied that he existed." Karen Armstrong, *The Case for God*

DID YOUR CHILDHOOD VIEW OF GOD GROW UP? OR DID YOU SIMPLY OUTGROW IT?

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." 1 Corinthians 13:11

"that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but...may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ" Ephesians 4:14-15



I want to know...

PART 2: HOW DO WE KNOW CHRISTIANITY IS RIGHT?

**THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH IS NOT THE BIBLE;
THE FOUNDATION IS JESUS CHRIST.**

**CHRISTIANITY IS NOT BASED ON A BOOK;
IT IS BASED ON A PERSON AND AN EVENT.**

*Did the Bible lead to Christianity?
Or did Christianity lead to the Bible?*

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know – Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.” Acts 2:22-24

“But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, 'These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.'" Acts 17:6

**THE CHURCH DIDN'T MAKE COPIES OF GOSPELS
BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THEY WERE INSPIRED.**

**THEY MADE COPIES BECAUSE THEY KNEW THEY
WERE TRUE.**

“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests...” Luke 3:1-2

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.”
1 Corinthians 15:3-7

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” Acts 2:41

**CHRISTIANITY AND THE CHURCH MADE ITS
GREATEST STRIDES IN THE 300 YEARS
BEFORE THE BIBLE EVEN EXISTED.**

Before the Bible was compiled, Christianity had already replaced the pantheon of Roman, Barbarian and most Egyptian gods and become the official religion of the Roman Empire.

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9



I want to know...

PART 3: FAITH CONTRADICTS SCIENCE?

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ,” Galatians 1:6

“Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!” Acts 5:28

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN SOMETHING THAT CONTRADICTS SCIENCE?

Wrong answer: *“God is the explanation for anything we can’t currently explain.”*

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” 1 Corinthians 13:11

**UNEXPLAINABLE IS NOT EVIDENCE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.
IT IS EVIDENCE OF THE IGNORANCE OF MAN.**

**IT’S NOT THE UNEXPLAINABLE THAT POINTS TO GOD BUT
RATHER THE EXPLAINABLE.**

**IF YOU BELIEVE THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED BY GOD AND
NOT BY CHANCE OR BY ITSELF, THEN YOU WOULD EXPECT
A PREDICTABLE, STABLE AND EXPLAINABLE UNIVERSE.**

“The debate isn’t between faith and science. It is between good science and bad science. Darwinists are practicing the bad science by ruling out intelligent causes before they look at the evidence. Like the opponents of Galileo, they ignore observation.” Anonymous Scientist

“Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who set the planets in motion. God governs all things and knows all that is or can be done.” Sir Isaac Newton

“When it comes to the origin of life on earth, there are only 2 possibilities: creation and spontaneous generation – there is no other possible way. Spontaneous generation was disproved over 100 years ago – so that leads to only one conclusion, that of supernatural creation. We can’t believe that for philosophical reasons so we choose to believe the impossible – that life arose spontaneously, by chance.” Anonymous Scientist

**SCIENCE WITHOUT FAITH IS FOOLISH.
FAITH WITHOUT SCIENCE IS IMMATURE.
THE GOAL IS FAITH STRENGTHENED BY SCIENCE.**

“I stand in awe of God because of what he has done through his creation. Only a rookie who knows nothing about science would say science takes away from faith. If you really study science, it will bring you closer to God.”

Dr. James Tour, Nanotechnologist

“In matters that are so obscure and far beyond our vision, we find in Holy Scripture passages which can be interpreted in very different ways without prejudice to the faith we have received. In such cases, we should not rush headlong and so firmly take our stand on one side that, if further progress in the search for truth justly undermines this position, we too fall with it.”

St. Augustine, The Literal Meaning of Genesis

**“THE RELIGION THAT IS AFRAID OF SCIENCE
DISHONORS GOD AND COMMITS SUICIDE.”**

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



I want to know...

PART 4: WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF I BELIEVE?

"The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

-JOHN 6:37

"I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that." Thomas Nagel, The Last Word

"I DON'T BELIEVE" ISN'T THE SAME AS
"I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE."

Did your decision to walk away precede the data you now use to support it?

"People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof but on the basis of what they find attractive." Blaise Pascal

"We love the truth when it enlightens us. We hate the truth when it convicts us." St. Augustine

IF I ACCEPT GOD, I ALSO ACCEPT ACCOUNTABILITY.

"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
Genesis 2:15-17

WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY, THERE CAN BE NO RELATIONSHIP.

The illusion of autonomy

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10

“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.” Romans 14:22

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:13

GOOD NEWS: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

**IF I ACCEPT GOD, I ALSO ACCEPT FORGIVENESS, HELP,
AND PEACE.**

*“Therefore submit to God... Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded...
Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”*

James 4:7-10



STSA MINISTRIES

BRING AN ANCIENT FAITH
TO YOUR MODERN WORLD

STSA MINISTRIES IS
A COMMUNITY OF
RESOURCES, INSPIRATION,
AND LEARNING DESIGNED T
O ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP
ORTHODOX CHURCH
LEADERS AND INDIVIDUALS
IN THEIR LOCAL
COMMUNITIES.

JOIN NOW FOR FREE AT [STSAMINISTRIES.ORG](https://stsamministries.org) FOR
COMPLETE ACCESS!

Resources Available and Coming Soon:

- Membership Group Package
- Life Group Series Packages
- Liturgy Powerpoint Template
- Ancient Faith Class: Who is God
- Leadership Podcast
- Volunteer Management Guide
- Preschool Program Guide
- Orthodox Preschool Curriculum
- Virtual Youth Games and Activities
- Welcoming Environment Guide