

**2017 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 30 December topline  
December 4-18, 2017  
TOTAL N=4,729**

**OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK IF UNAFFILIATED [N=1,321]<sup>1</sup>:**

WHYNONE\_1 In a previous survey, you told us that, when it comes to religion, you are [**IF ATHEIST**, "an atheist"; **IF AGNOSTIC**, "agnostic", **IF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR**, "nothing in particular"]. How important, if at all, is each of the following reasons for why [**IF ATHEIST**, "you are an atheist"; **IF AGNOSTIC**, "you are agnostic", **IF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR**, "your religion is nothing in particular"]?

**[RANDOMIZE]**

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not important <u>at all</u>	Undesig- <u>nated</u> <sup>2</sup>	No <u>answer</u>
a. I don't believe in God Dec 4-18, 2017	37	20	40	<1	2
b. I don't like religious leaders Dec 4-18, 2017	34	35	30	<1	1
c. I don't like religious organizations Dec 4-18, 2017	41	31	26	<1	2
d. I question a lot of religious teachings Dec 4-18, 2017	60	24	15	<1	1
e. Religion is irrelevant to me Dec 4-18, 2017	36	30	33	<1	1
f. I don't like the positions that churches take on social or political issues Dec 4-18, 2017	49	26	23	<1	2

<sup>1</sup> Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular."

<sup>2</sup> For some questions asked of a subset of eligible respondents and filtered on previous questions subject to backcoding, the term "undesigned" is used to denote those respondents who did not receive the question even though they should have received it.

**ASK IF UNAFFILIATED AND IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "VERY IMPORTANT" IN WHYNONE\_1<sup>3</sup>:**

WHYNONE\_2 What is the MOST important reason that you are [IF ATHEIST, "an atheist"; IF AGNOSTIC, "agnostic", IF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, "nothing in particular"]?

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: DISPLAY SELECTED ITEMS IF SELECTED MORE THAN ONE ITEM AS "VERY IMPORTANT" IN WHYNONE\_1]**

**BASED ON TOTAL UNAFFILIATED [N=1,321]**

**Summary table: Each row includes those who *only* said the corresponding item is a "very important" reason they are an atheist/agnostic or say their religion is "nothing in particular," as well as those who said more than one reason is very important (in WHYNONE\_1a-f) and then indicated, in a follow-up question (WHYNONE\_2), that the corresponding item is the "most important" reason.**

Dec 4-18

2017

25	I question a lot of religious teachings
22	I don't believe in God
16	I don't like the positions that churches take on social or political issues
9	Religion is irrelevant to me
6	I don't like religious organizations
2	I don't like religious leaders
19	Did not select any reason as very important (in <b>WHYNONE_1a-f</b> )/no answer (in <b>WHYNONE_2</b> )

---

<sup>3</sup> Respondents' religion is based on their answer to a question about religious identity administered in a previous wave of the ATP; nearly all respondents (n=4,699) most recently answered the question about their religious identity in an ATP wave conducted May 30-Oct. 23, 2017, though a few respondents (n=30) last answered the question about their religious identity in an earlier survey. The religious identity question in the May 30-Oct. 23, 2017 ATP wave was "What is your present religion, if any? Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.), Roman Catholic, Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS), Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox Church) Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, Agnostic, Something else (SPECIFY), Nothing in particular."