

**2017 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**  
**WAVE 27.5 NEW MEMBER - MEMBER ENGAGEMENT TOPLINE**  
**MAY 30–AUGUST 9, 2017**  
**TOTAL N=5,198**

**OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE; SEE [QUESTIONNAIRE](#) FOR FULL DETAILS ON QUESTION WORDING, PROGRAMMING AND CONTEXT.**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,623]:**

KNOWPROTA Are you familiar with the term "Protestant," or not?

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2017

72

Yes

28

No

1

No answer

**ASK IF FAMILIAR WITH PROTESTANT IN KNOWPROTA:**

KNOWPROTB Just in your own words, what does the term "Protestant" mean?

**BASED ON TOTAL IN FORM 1 [N=2,623]****NOTE: RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED**May 30-Aug 9,  
2017

32	Not Catholic/Christians who are not Catholic/Christians who do not follow the Pope
12	Protestantism is a type of Christianity (generic) or one who holds Christian beliefs
4	Reformation/reform/reformers
3	Reference to Martin Luther
3	Protestantism is a type of religion/a set of beliefs
3	Offered examples of denominations (e.g., Methodist, Baptist, etc.)
2	Protestant means someone who protests
2	Bible/Bible-based
1	Believer/one who believes in God or higher power
1	Western/Western Christian/Western European churches
1	Liberal/moderate/progressive/open/modern
1	Direct, personal relationship with God (no intermediaries)
1	Conservative/strict/separatist/fundamentalist
1	One who protests against government, restrictions on religion, established or traditional religion
1	Someone who follows their own beliefs or is not religious
1	Salvation through faith alone
1	Divorce/Protestants allow divorce/Protestants split from Catholicism over divorce rules
<1	Similar to Catholic/type of Catholic
<1	Evangelical/born again
<1	One who protests against the Church of England
<1	Someone who proselytizes or evangelizes
<1	White/White Anglo Saxon
<1	Protestant means someone who belongs to a Protestant church
<1	Indulgences
<1	References to oneself (e.g., 'I am a Protestant')
2	Other
1	Don't know
9	Refused
28	No, not familiar with the term 'Protestant' (in KNOWPROTA)
1	Refused to say whether familiar with term 'Protestant' (in KNOWPROTA)

**ASK FORM 1 IF CHRISTIAN [N=1,691]:**

SOLAFIDES Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?  
[RANDOMIZE]

May 30-Aug 9,

2017

62	Both good deeds and faith in God are necessary to get into heaven
36	Faith in God is the only thing that gets people into heaven
<1	Undesignated <sup>1</sup>
2	No answer

**ASK FORM 1 IF CHRISTIAN [N=1,691]:**

SOLASCRIP Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

May 30-Aug 9,

2017

37	The Bible provides all the religious guidance Christians need
60	In addition to the Bible, Christians also need religious guidance from church teachings and traditions
<1	Undesignated <sup>2</sup>
2	No answer

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,575]:**

KLUTHER As far as you know...What was the name of the person whose writings and actions inspired the Protestant Reformation? [RANDOMIZE "MARTIN LUTHER," "THOMAS AQUINAS," AND "JOHN WESLEY"]

May 30-Aug 9,

2017

67	Martin Luther ( <i>Correct</i> )
10	Thomas Aquinas
16	John Wesley
6	Not sure <sup>3</sup>
1	No answer

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,623]:**

CATHPROTA When you think of Catholics and Protestants TODAY, are they religiously more similar than they are different, or are they religiously more different than they are similar?

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61	Religiously more similar than they are different
36	Religiously more different than they are similar
3	No answer

<sup>1</sup> For some questions asked of a subset of eligible respondents and filtered on previous questions subject to backcoding, the term "undesignated" is used to denote those respondents who did not receive the question even though they should have received it.

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

<sup>3</sup> "Not sure" only displayed if respondent originally skipped the question.

**ASK IF R SAYS MORE SIMILAR IN CATHPROTA [N=1,785]:**

CATHPROTB1 Just in your own words, what is the most important way in which Catholics and Protestants today are religiously similar?

**NOTE: RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED**

May 30-Aug 9,  
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<b>55</b>	<b>NET Beliefs</b>
20	Believe in/worship the same God or one God
18	Both worship/believe in Jesus Christ; believe that Jesus is Son of God
10	Belief in the Resurrection/salvation through Christ
8	Believe in/follow the same/similar Bible/text
3	Believe in/worship the Trinity
5	Other similar beliefs
2	<i>Similar concept of heaven/hell/afterlife</i>
1	<i>Follow Ten Commandments</i>
<1	<i>Belief in salvation through grace/salvation as a gift</i>
<1	<i>Personal relationship with God/Jesus</i>
	<i>Other similar beliefs (e.g. angels, Judgment Day, virgin birth, concept of sin/punishment, etc.)</i>
2	
5	Similar beliefs, nonspecific (e.g. "same beliefs")
<b>9</b>	<b>NET Practices</b>
7	Similar rituals/practices
2	<i>Attend church/both have weekly services</i>
1	<i>Prayer</i>
1	<i>Both observe Communion</i>
1	<i>Similar services (content)</i>
<1	<i>Observe the same holidays</i>
1	<i>Similar rituals/practices, other (e.g. baptism, tithing, etc.)</i>
2	<i>Similar rituals/practices, nonspecific (e.g., "same rituals")</i>
3	Both active in community service/helping others/good works
<b>14</b>	<b>NET Other</b>
5	Both Christian
3	Similar values/morals
7	Other
1	<i>Tolerance/loving neighbors/golden rule</i>
1	<i>Most religions are similar/they just are</i>
1	<i>Similar on social/political issues</i>
1	<i>Becoming more modern/liberal/less rigid</i>
1	<i>Faith</i>
	<i>Similar beginnings/history (e.g. lineage of Abraham, branches of the same religion)</i>
1	
<b>3</b>	<b>Other, negative traits</b>
1	Intolerant/strict/rigid/outdated
<1	Both hypocritical/liars
1	Other negative similarities
<b>1</b>	<b>Provided difference instead of similarity</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Unclear/uncodeable</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Not sure/don't know</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>No answer/refused</b>

**ASK IF R SAYS MORE DIFFERENT IN CATHPROTA [N=722]:**

CATHPROTB2 Just in your own words, what is the most important difference between Catholics and Protestants today?

**NOTE: RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED**

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2017

<b>34</b>	<b>NET Beliefs</b>
9	Views of Mary/saints/statues
7	Views of the pope
	Nature of relationship with God/Jesus (e.g. personal vs. through a priest/mediator)
5	
5	Different beliefs on salvation (e.g. grace vs. good works)
3	Believe in/worship different God
2	Views and roles of clergy; celibacy requirements
5	Other different beliefs
2	<i>Different understandings/interpret actions of the Bible/holy text</i>
1	<i>Different beliefs, other (e.g. concept of sin, forgiveness)</i>
1	<i>Different beliefs on Trinity; one believes, one does not</i>
<1	<i>Belief in Purgatory/different beliefs in afterlife</i>
5	Different beliefs, nonspecific (e.g. "different beliefs")
<b>11</b>	<b>NET Practices</b>
3	Different prayer practices
3	Different confession practice (e.g. through a priest vs. direct to God)
	Different rituals/practices, other (e.g. confirmation, Sunday School/CCD, marriage)
5	
2	Different rituals/practices, nonspecific (e.g. "different practices")
2	<i>Different services (content, liturgy)</i>
2	<i>Different Communion practices/belief in transubstantiation</i>
	<i>Different rituals/practices, other (e.g. confirmation, Sunday School/CCD, marriage)</i>
1	<i>Different baptism practice</i>
<b>16</b>	<b>Other</b>
5	Different social/political views
3	<i>Different social/political views, other</i>
2	<i>Different views on birth control</i>
1	<i>Different views on abortion</i>
1	<i>Different views on divorce</i>
13	Other differences
3	<i>Catholicism more strict/rigid/rule-based than Protestantism</i>
3	<i>Different church structure/hierarchy/institutional practices</i>
	<i>How they live their lives; how they incorporate God or religion into daily life</i>
2	
2	<i>Catholics have more of a focus on tradition/ceremony</i>
1	<i>All religions are different/they just seem different</i>
1	<i>Catholics more tolerant/open-minded</i>
1	<i>Protestants more tolerant/open-minded</i>
1	<i>Protestantism more strict/rigid/rules-based than Catholicism</i>
	<b>Provided a similarity instead of a difference/there is no difference</b>
<b>2</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Unclear/uncodeable</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Not sure/don't know</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>No answer/refused</b>

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,575]:**

BELIEVE Which of the following, if any, do you believe in?

	<u>Yes, believe in</u>	<u>No, don't believe</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Heaven			
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	74	24	2
b. Hell			
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	62	35	3
c. Purgatory (where people are cleansed of their sins before they enter heaven)			
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	33	64	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY:**ETERNAL And just in your own words, what do you think determines whether a person will gain eternal life **[IF CHRISTIAN INSERT: in heaven]**?**BASED ON CHRISTIANS [N=1,611]****NOTE: RESULTS DO NOT SUM TO 100% BECAUSE MULTIPLE RESPONSES WERE PERMITTED**May 30-Aug 9,  
2017**46****NET Actions**

- 19 Being good person/living good life/doing good works/moral values/how you live your life
- 12 Must repent/ask forgiveness for sins
- 7 Treating others nicely/as you'd like to be treated
- 6 Living life in accordance with God's commands/God's will/the Bible
- 3 Following Ten Commandments
- 3 Behaving like Jesus/living good Christian life
- 4 Other actions/generic actions

**43****NET Beliefs**

- 32 In Jesus/relationship with Jesus/Jesus' mercy/Being born again/saved
- 11 In God/the Lord/higher power/relationship with God
- <1 In the Bible
- 3 Other beliefs/having faith/generic beliefs

**5****Other**

- 3 It's up to God/God's mercy/God's grace
- 1 Intentions (e.g., having a good heart)
- <1 Karma
- 1 All others

**2****Everyone/nearly everyone achieves eternal life****<1 Nothing determines eternal life/no way to know what determines eternal life/can't gain eternal life****<1****Secular responses (e.g. science, people live on in memories/legacy)****1****Do not believe in eternal life****1****Unclear/uncodeable****2****Don't know/unsure****14****No answer**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,623]:**

KFAITH As far as you know...Which of these religious groups traditionally teaches that salvation comes through faith alone?

**[RANDOMIZE "ONLY PROTESTANTS" AND "ONLY CATHOLICS"]**

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23	Only Protestants ( <i>Correct</i> )
11	Only Catholics
45	Both
19	Neither
3	No answer

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,623]:**

KREFORM What is the term commonly used to refer to the historical period in which Protestants broke away from the Catholic Church? **[RANDOMIZE "THE REFORMATION," "THE GREAT SCHISM," "THE GREAT CRUSADE," "THE FRENCH REVOLUTION"]**

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65	The Reformation ( <i>Correct</i> )
6	The Great Schism
18	The Great Crusade
5	The French Revolution
7	Not sure <sup>4</sup>
1	No answer

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<sup>4</sup> "Not sure" only displayed if respondent originally skipped the question.

**ASK FORM 2 IF AFFILIATED WITH A RELIGION:**

COMPRELIG From what you know, please tell us whether each of the following religions and your own religion are very similar, somewhat similar, somewhat different, or very different?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, DISPLAY CHOICES IN FORWARD/REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]**

	<u>Very similar</u>	<u>Somewhat similar</u>	<u>Somewhat different</u>	<u>Very different</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<b>ASK IF AFFILIATED AND NOT CATHOLIC</b>					
<b>[N=1,399]:</b>					
a. The Catholic religion					
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	15	34	23	27	1
<b>ASK IF AFFILIATED AND NOT PROTESTANT/OTHER CHRISTIAN</b>					
<b>[N=740]:</b>					
b. The Protestant religion					
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	14	33	23	27	3
<b>ASK IF AFFILIATED AND NOT MORMON</b>					
<b>[N=1,791]:</b>					
c. The Mormon religion					
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	3	17	25	51	3
<b>ASK IF AFFILIATED AND NOT JEWISH</b>					
<b>[N=1,758]:</b>					
d. The Jewish religion					
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	6	29	28	33	4
<b>ASK IF AFFILIATED AND NOT MUSLIM</b>					
<b>[N=1,818]:</b>					
e. The Muslim religion					
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	2	14	17	64	3
<b>ASK IF AFFILIATED AND NOT BUDDHIST</b>					
<b>[N=1,821]:</b>					
f. The Buddhist religion					
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	2	12	17	65	4
<b>ASK IF AFFILIATED AND NOT HINDU</b>					
<b>[N=1,822]:</b>					
g. The Hindu religion					
May 30-Aug 9, 2017	1	11	16	68	4



**ASK FORM 2 IF R IS ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DECLINED TO ANSWER THE RELIGIOUS IDENTITY QUESTION [N=733]:**

COMPBELIEF From what you know, please tell us whether each of the following religions and your own beliefs are very similar, somewhat similar, somewhat different, or very different?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, DISPLAY CHOICES IN FORWARD/REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]**

	<u>Very similar</u>	<u>Somewhat similar</u>	<u>Somewhat different</u>	<u>Very different</u>	<u>Undesignated</u> <sup>5</sup>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The Catholic religion May 30-Aug 9, 2017	6	20	19	50	<1	5
b. The Protestant religion May 30-Aug 9, 2017	5	17	21	51	<1	5
c. The Mormon religion May 30-Aug 9, 2017	2	8	15	69	<1	6
d. The Jewish religion May 30-Aug 9, 2017	3	15	22	54	<1	5
e. The Muslim religion May 30-Aug 9, 2017	3	12	18	62	<1	5
f. The Buddhist religion May 30-Aug 9, 2017	7	31	23	35	<1	4
g. The Hindu religion May 30-Aug 9, 2017	3	21	18	53	<1	5

<sup>5</sup> For some questions asked of a subset of eligible respondents and filtered on previous questions subject to backcoding, the term "undesignated" is used to denote those respondents who did not receive the question even though they should have received it.