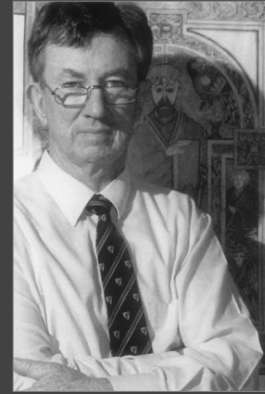


## SHARING CHRIST IN A 'POST-CHRISTIAN' SOCIETY

John Dickson



Patrick O'Farrell  
Professor of History  
University of NSW

“Perhaps Australia  
can be understood best  
as the first genuinely  
post-Christian society.”

*Patrick O'Farrell*  
*Writing a General History of Australian  
Religion Journal of Religious History,*  
*vol.9(1), 1976, 65-73*

If a “Christian society” is one where Christian belief and practice are generally accepted as norms, a “post-Christian” society is one where this was once the case but where now Christian belief and practice are generally challenged or transposed into a secular key.



Post-Christian societies share things in common both with pre-Christian / pagan culture (up to AD 800) and with Christian culture (AD 800-1800).



### Pre-Christian

Widespread scepticism toward Christianity

Accusations that Christianity is immoral and dangerous

Ignorance of Christian beliefs



### Pre-Christian

Widespread scepticism toward Christianity

Accusations that Christianity is immoral and dangerous

Ignorance of Christian beliefs

### Christian

Assumption of monotheism

Admiration for Jesus

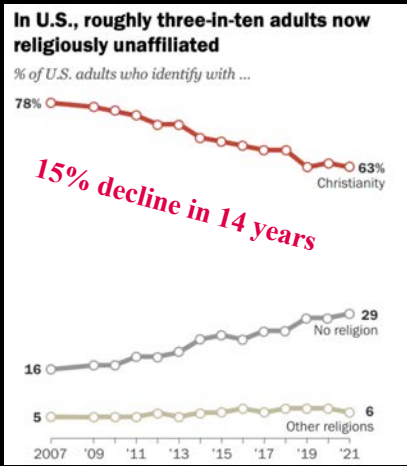
Ubiquity of Judeo-Christian ethics (assumed to be secular)

ABS CENSUS:	2011	2016	2021
'Christian'	61%	52%	44%
'No Religion'	22%	30%	39%

SEE FURTHER: <https://www.abs.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/2021-census-shows-changes-australias-religious-diversity>



Percentage of Americans who identify as 'Christian' / 'no religion'

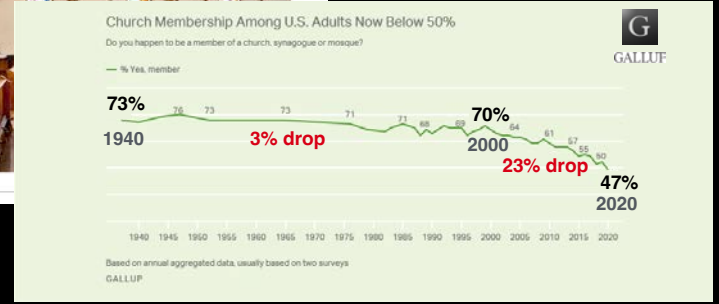
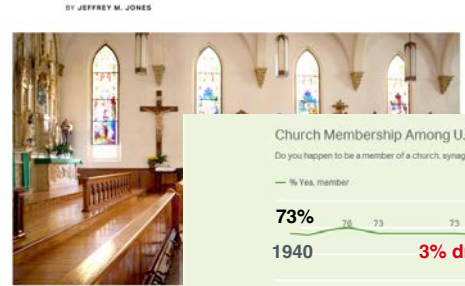


2007

2021

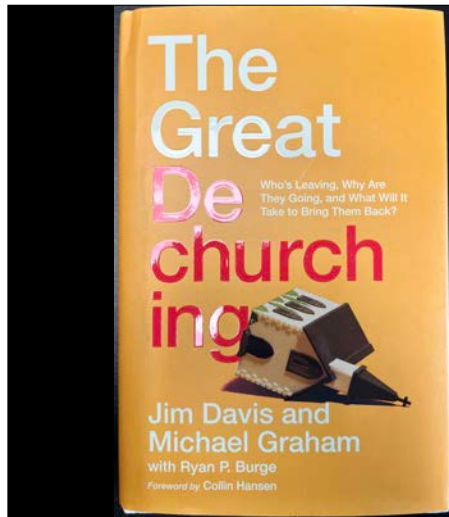
Pew Research

**U.S. Church Membership Falls Below Majority for First Time**



BY JEFFREY M. JONES

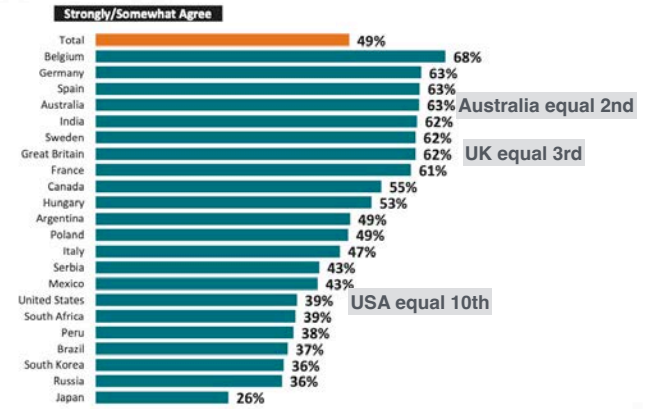
GALLUP



Zondervan, 2023

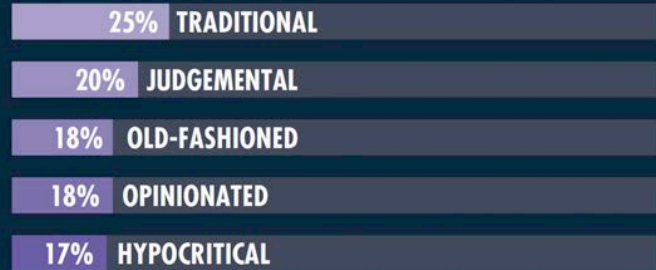
**Half of people around the world think that religion does more harm than good – but views vary greatly between some countries.**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?  
**Religion does more harm in the world than good?**



Ipsos Poll (Oct 2017)

## TOP 10 PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANS



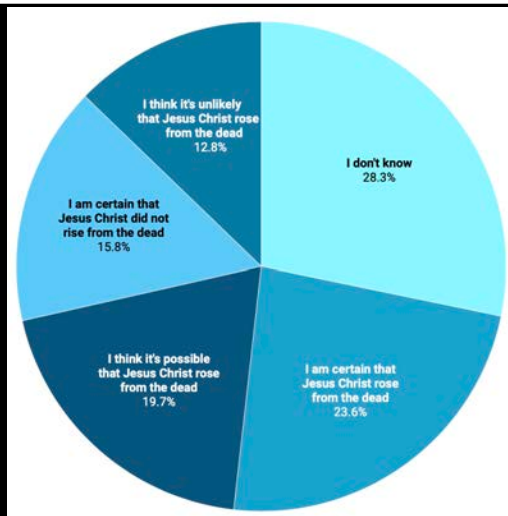
Research & report by:  
**mccrindle**  
mccrindle.com.au

## INCREASING IRRELIGION AND ENDURING BELIEF

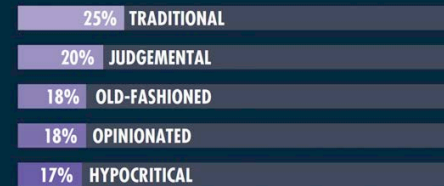
55% “God or a higher spiritual power”  
(NCLS Australian Community Survey, 2021)

57.9% “God or higher spiritual power”  
(McCrindle Research, 2021)

## Resurrection of Jesus (McCrindle Research 2021)



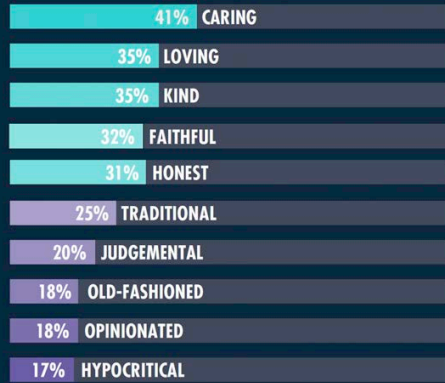
## TOP 10 PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANS



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## TOP 10 PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANS



Research & report by:

**mccrindle**  
mccrindle.com.au

## PEOPLE OFTEN HAVE TWO 'CHRISTIANITIES' IN MIND AT THE SAME TIME



The perfect point for sharing Christ

**an exciting tension between**  
*enduring plausibility and*  
*significant contestability.*



**DOOMING**





*Sharing Christ in a Post-Christian Society*



**SHARING CHRIST**  
IN A 'POST-CHRISTIAN' SOCIETY

John Dickson