

**SESSION 1: CAN I
MAKE ANY
DIFFERENCE IN
PRESENT CULTURE?**

MISSIONAL APOLOGETICS TRAINING

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OUTLINE

- Program Overview
- All Sessions Topics
- Survey Review
- Open Discussion on Current Evangelism Methods
- Why are we not seeing results?
- Challenges in Post Modern Generation Outreach
- Introduction to Methodologies

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- 5 Sessions Program
- This program will focus on providing training in the area of evangelism with a focus on dialogue based apologetics.
- Most of the methods used are based on a push methodology.
- This program will equip the participants to do more dialogue based evangelism to reach out to a post-modern society more effectively.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW CONT.

- The main objective for the participants is to evaluate evangelism methodologies used currently and to be challenged to use relevant methods which will work in current culture.
- The main objective is to train the church members and also gain more experience in the subject of missional apologetics.
- There will be some open discussions conducted during this program which will help me to understand the challenges faced by people and then do research to find solutions for those challenges and help members of the congregation.
- Confidentiality of sensitive issues discussed is expected from all participants.

ALL SESSIONS TOPICS

1. Can I Make Any Difference in Present Culture?
2. Is Absolute Truth Relevant?
3. What to do with all the Challenging Questions?
4. How can we Share Our Faith when Others don't want to listen?
5. Great Commission, Overwhelmed, How to get started?

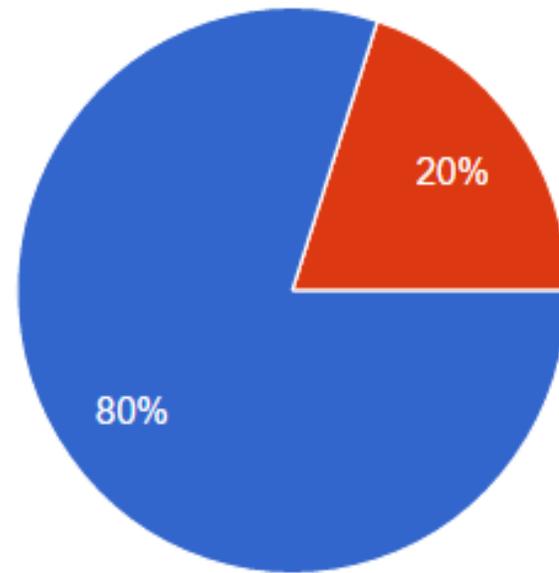
1 PETER 3:15-16

- But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (NIV)

SURVEY 1 REVIEW -1

1. I have a deep desire to see others coming to faith in Jesus Christ through me.

(55 responses)

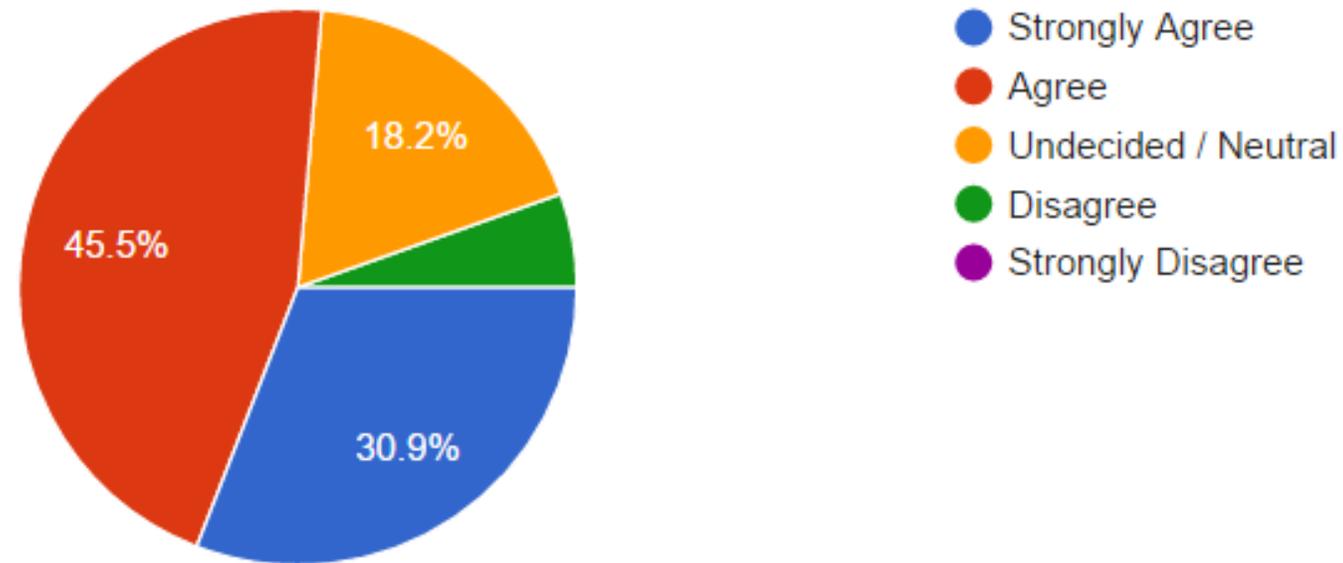


- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided / Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 2

2. I feel confident sharing the gospel with others including my non-Christian family, friends, and co-workers.

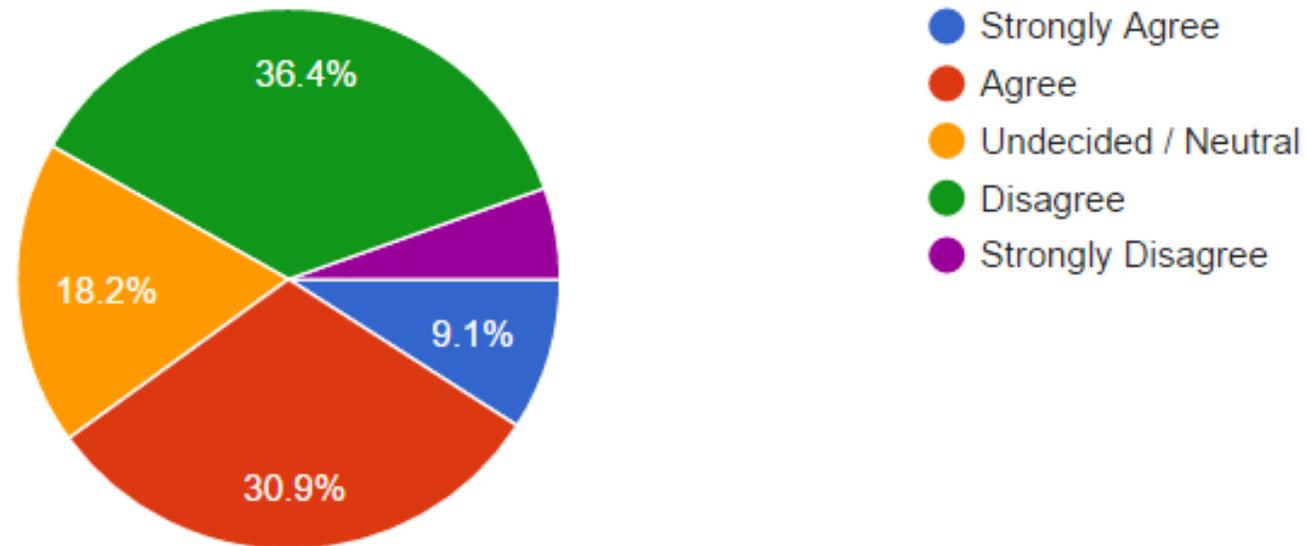
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SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 3

3. I am very satisfied with my personal witnessing experience of the last year. I did the best I could.

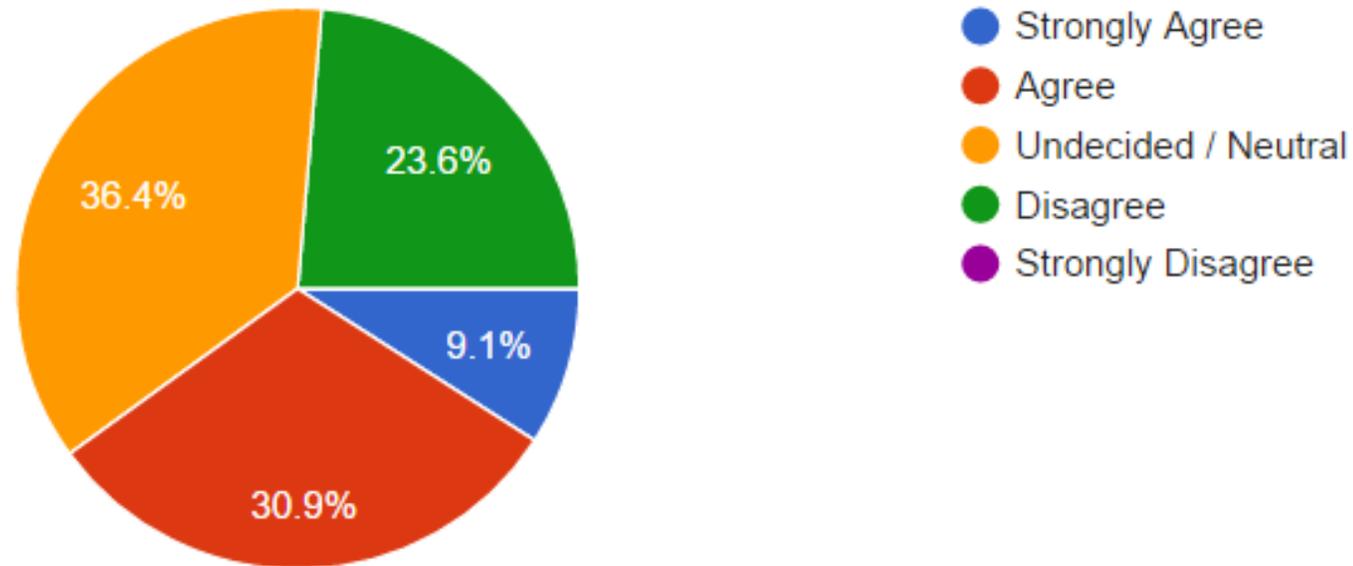
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SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 4

4. I feel well-equipped to handle the challenges of sharing the gospel in the current culture.

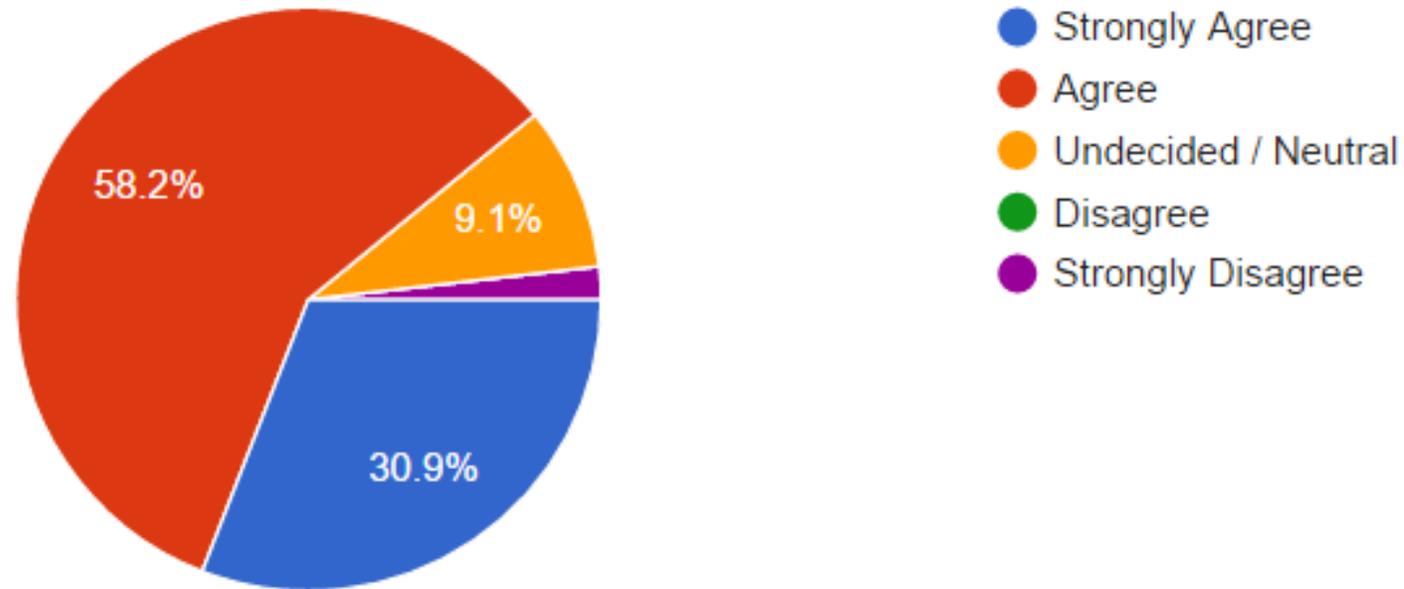
(55 responses)



SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 5

5. As culture changes, it's important to change evangelism methods to be more effective.

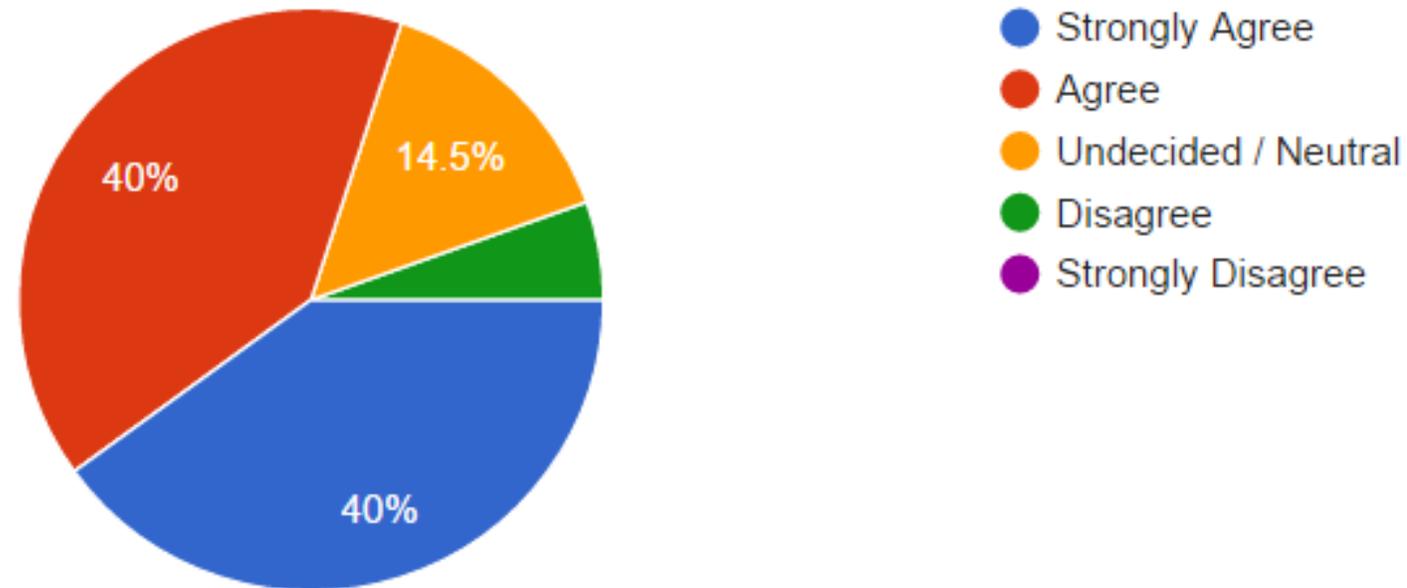
(55 responses)



SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 6

6. All the people who know me know that I am a Christian, and that I desire that they should know Jesus.

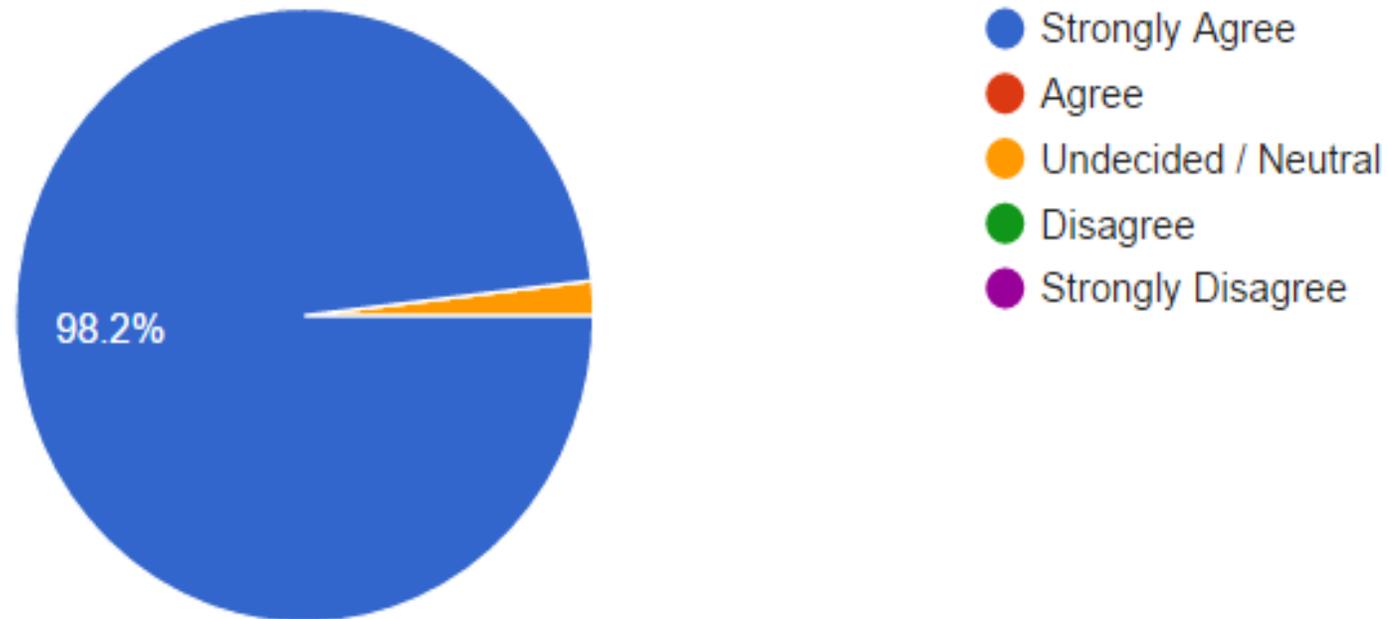
(55 responses)



SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 7

7. Jesus Christ is the only way for eternal salvation; I don't believe there are other ways for people to be saved.

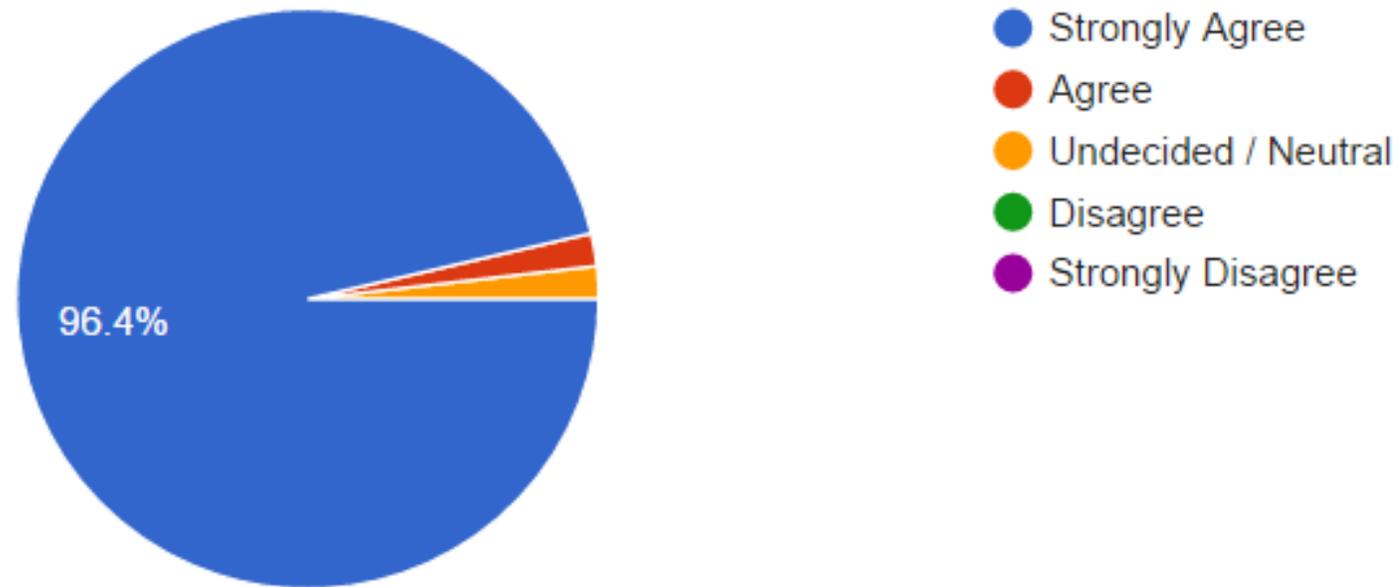
(55 responses)



SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 8

8. I believe the Bible is reliable, and I accept the inspiration and authority of the Bible. There are other holy books, but the Bible is the Word of God.

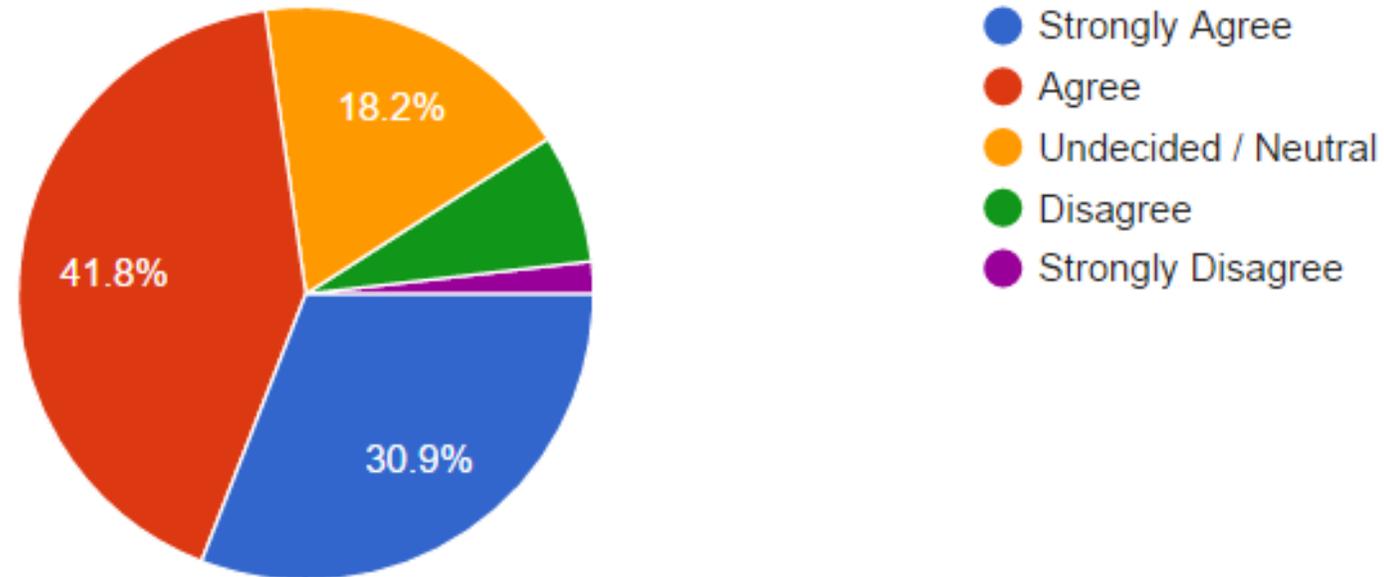
(55 responses)



SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 9

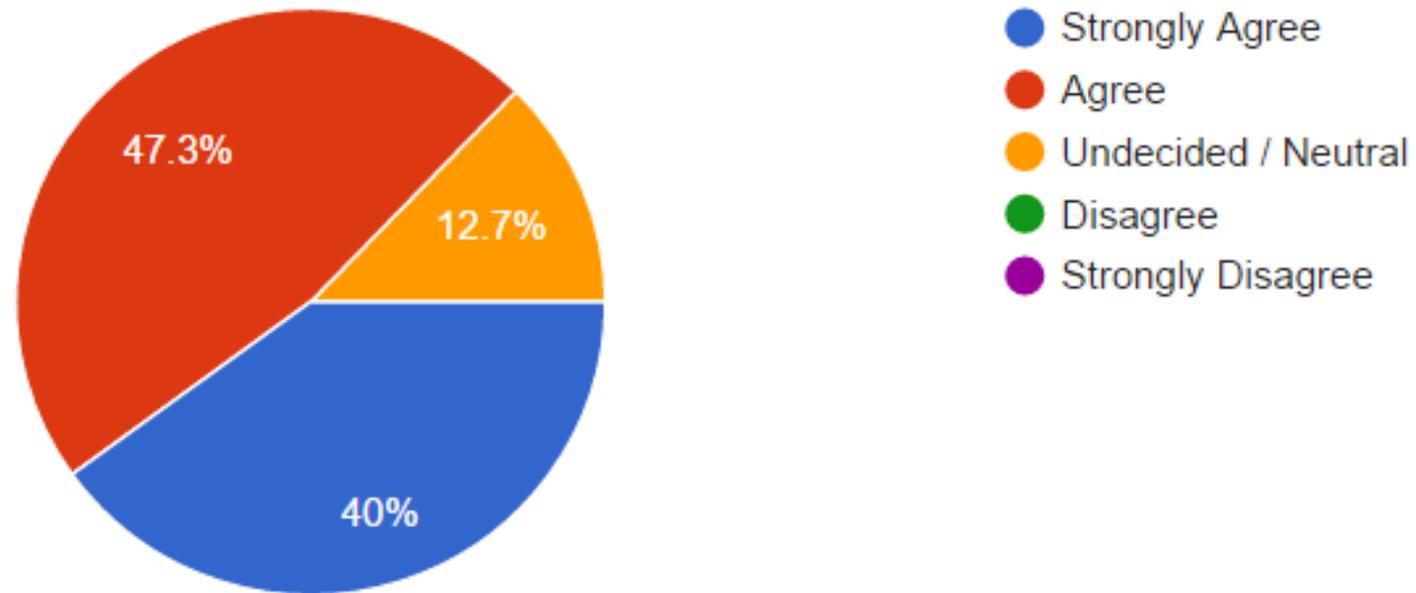
9. I feel confident that I can address the issue of evil and suffering in a world created by a good God.

(55 responses)



SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 10

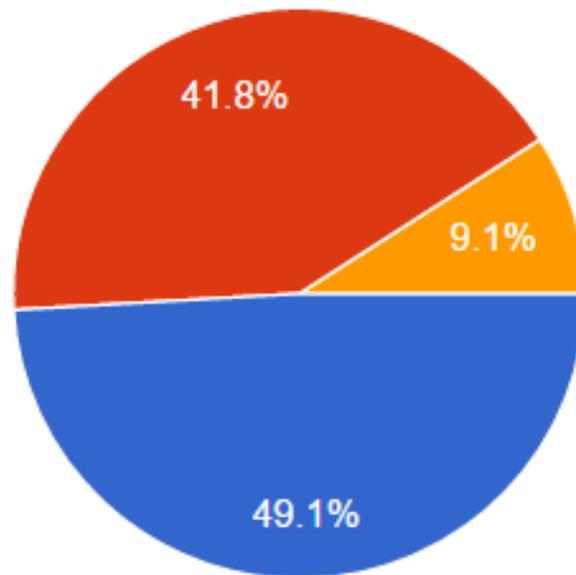
10. I comprehend and I can discuss the love and wrath of God. (55 responses)



SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 11

11. I believe it is moral for a merciful God to send people for punishment in an eternal hell.

(55 responses)

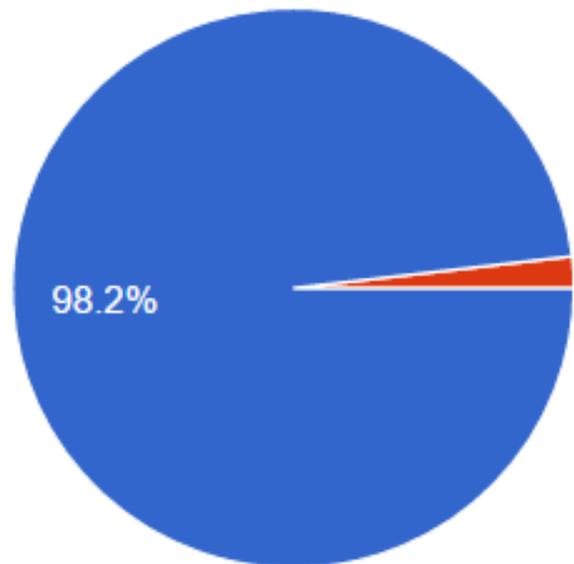


- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided / Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

SURVEY 1 REVIEW - 12

12. I believe Jesus Christ died and rose again from the dead; others may think it is a myth, but I think it is the truth.

(55 responses)



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided / Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

SURVEY 2 REVIEW

- <https://docs.google.com/a/bethel.edu/forms/d/IE0P0WQfPww8zovWeIDxN3JAkhXhlssfODz6c hPxmfl8/edit#responses>
- Focus on Questions with diverse answers

CURRENT EVANGELISM METHODS

- Review all current evangelism methods.
- What are the methods mentioned in the Bible?
- What do we do often?
- Push vs Pull

RESULTS?

- Did the evangelism methods in the Bible yield results?
- Which methods used by us are giving us results?
- Which are the methods which are not giving us any results?
- Can we spend time on methods which does not yield results when a person without Jesus is going to be lost eternally?
- What should we stop doing?
- What should we start doing?

CHALLENGES IN POST MODERN GENERATION OUTREACH

- “True for You But Not True for me” – Paul Copan
 - Absolutely Relative
 - Absolutism of Moral Relativism
 - The Exclusivism of Religious Pluralism
 - The uniqueness of Jesus Christ: Myth or Reality?
 - “No other Name” :The question of the Unevangelized

POST MODERN CHALLENGE ARTICLE REVIEW - 1

- <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2008/11/reaching-the-secular-world.html> - Reaching the secular world - Ernan Norman
 - In our largely secularized society, it has become increasingly difficult for the church to reach secular people, a problem made even more difficult by the “postmodern condition.”
 - The church, which no longer has the kind of cultural support it once enjoyed, must now take its gospel message to this radically new world.
 - Religious pluralism offers not one, but a number of ways, humans supposedly can connect with God. Other options include Islam, animism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, Judaism, Confucianism, Native American religion, Unitarian Universalism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Baha’i faith, Sikhism, Wicca, Eckankar, secularism, Shinto, and New Ageism of varying stripes, to name a few.
 - Alfred McClure, former president of the North American Division of Seventhday Adventists, stated,
 - We must not expect the unchurched to come to us on our terms and adjust to our unique culture. . . . It is imperative that we be willing to devise new wineskins to serve as vehicles for the Water of Life. . . . We must be intentional about reaching those who speak another language—ethnically or culturally—even if it means planting a new and different kind of church.

POST MODERN CHALLENGE ARTICLE REVIEW - 2

- <https://www.gci.org/church/youth/postmodern> - Evangelizing Postmodern Youths
- To lead a person to Christ, you have to reach them where they are and communicate with them in a way they can relate to.
- Postmodern's are convinced of the reality of God's love not by propositional arguments or one-time evangelistic rallies, but by a daily consistent, practical demonstration that Christianity works and that God's love is real.
- Process evangelism can be distilled down to four essentials:
- **1. Authenticity**—we must be authentic and committed to Jesus Christ. The Christian life must be the core reality of our lives, not just an act.
- **2. Caring**—we must demonstrate genuine care and unconditional love for the pre-Christian—regardless of their level of belief or lifestyle. This does not mean that we never confront sin, but we must always show love and acceptance of the individual, no matter what the sin.
- **3. Trust**—we must demonstrate absolute integrity, truthfulness, loyalty, confidentiality and openness. Only after we have established a deep level of trust will we be able to share how the story of Jesus Christ has intersected with our life.
- **4. Transparency**—we must be real and allow others to see the reality of our lives through our openness and vulnerability. We must admit our mistakes, confess our sin and tell the story of our pain and our problems so they can see God at work in our lives

POST MODERN CHALLENGE ARTICLE REVIEW - 2

- The incarnational approach to evangelism has five steps:
- **1. Do what they do**—as we bond with non-Christians trust is built, which lays the foundation for evangelism. While the traditional approach to evangelism involves inviting people to do what we do, the incarnational approach involves going to do what they do.
- **2. Enjoy and accept them**—if I just go through the motions of doing what pre-Christians do and don't give them my heart, they will feel patronized, not loved. Evangelism is most effective when it is natural and unprogrammed—when we truly enjoy spending time with and talking to the people we are witnessing to.
- **3. Affirm what is good in their values**—as Christians we have a tendency to be judgmental. We are afraid that any affirmation we give will make them believe that we agree with all their values and even their sinful habits. But refusing to affirm what is good in their value system creates distance between us. It also ignores the fact that God is already at work in their hearts—planting biblical learnings and values in their mind and drawing them close to himself.
- **4. Share the story of Jesus in their terms**—this is the transition step and is the most tricky. We may have done the hard work of building trust and incarnating ourselves into their worlds, but then we can blow it by using church jargon that they don't understand and which turns them off.
- **5. Invite them to follow Jesus in a way they can relate to**—there are two dangers here—either we get so religious that we scare the person off, or we never get around to inviting the pre-Christian at all. But if we have really gotten to know the person, it will not be difficult to ask whether they are up to following Jesus.

METHODOLOGIES

- There are various approaches to, or methods for, addressing the question of whether God exists- some positive and some negative

AGNOSTICISM

- Agnosticism is the view that the truth values of certain claims – especially metaphysical and religious claims, such as whether God, the divine, or the supernatural exist – are unknown and perhaps unknowable.
- “No-knowledge”
- Two basic kinds of agnostics:
 - Those who claim that the existence and nature of God are not known, - limited – not a threat to Christianity but is compatible with its claim of finite knowledge of an infinite God.
 - Those who hold God to be unknowable – unlimited – It is self-destructive, for it implies knowledge about reality in order to deny the possibility of any knowledge of reality
- David Hume
- Immanuel Kant

ATHEISM

- Atheism is, in the broadest sense, the absence of belief in the existence of deities.
- Less broadly, atheism is the rejection of belief that any deities exist.
- In an even narrower sense, atheism is specifically the position that there are no deities.
- Atheism is contrasted with theism, which, in its most general form, is the belief that at least one deity exists.

RATIONALISM

- Stresses the mind in the knowing process
- The heart of rationalism is the thesis that the rationally inescapable is the real
- Rationalistic theism holds that the existence of God can be demonstrated with logical necessity.
- Logic can eliminate false but cannot in and of itself establish what must be true.

FIDEISM

- Truth in religion is solely on faith and not on a reasoning process.
- Faith alone is the way to God.
- Truth is not found in the purely rational or objective realm
- Evidence and reason do not point definitely in the direction of God
- The tests for truth are existential, not rational. Truth is tested personally on one's life by faith or submitting to God
- God's revelation is the source of all truths. Truth comes from the top down.

EXPERIENTIALISM

- It offers experience as the final court of appeal.

PRAGMATISM

- One does not think or even feel truth, but can discover it by attempting to live it.

PANTHEISM

- Pantheism is the belief that all of reality is identical with divinity, or that everything composes an all-encompassing, immanent god.
- Pantheists thus do not believe in a distinct personal or anthropomorphic god.

CONCLUSION

- Review
- Next Session Date & Time
- Assignments
- Other Questions