



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press



**THE PEW
FORUM**
ON RELIGION
& PUBLIC LIFE

FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2007 2:00 PM

Benedict XVI Viewed Favorably But Faulted on Religious Outreach
PUBLIC EXPRESSES MIXED VIEWS OF ISLAM, MORMONISM

Also inside...

- Mormons & Muslim Americans Viewed Favorably
- 31% Say Mormons Are Not Christian
- 45% Say Islam Encourages Violence
- Partisan Divide Over Pope Benedict

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Pew Research Center for
the People & the Press**

Andrew Kohut Director
Scott Keeter Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty Associate Director, Editorial
Michael Dimock Associate Director, Research

Tel (202) 419-4350
www.people-press.org

**Pew Forum on Religion
& Public Life**

Luis Lugo Director
Sandra Stencel Deputy Director
John Green Senior Fellow in Religion
and American Politics
Gregory Smith Research Fellow

Tel (202) 419-4550
www.pewforum.org

Benedict XVI Viewed Favorably But Faulted on Religious Outreach PUBLIC EXPRESSES MIXED VIEWS OF ISLAM, MORMONISM

The Muslim and Mormon religions have gained increasing national visibility in recent years. Yet most Americans say they know little or nothing about either religion's practices, and large majorities say that their own religion is very different from Islam and the Mormon religion.

A new national survey reveals some notable similarities, as well as major differences, in the ways that Americans view these faiths and their followers. Public impressions of both religions are hazy – 58% say they know little or nothing about Islam's practices, while 51% have little or no awareness of the precepts and practices of Mormonism. The number of people who say they know little or nothing about Islam has changed very little since 2001.

Most Americans believe that their own religion has little in common with either Islam or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Fully 70% say that their religion is very different from Islam, while 62% say this about the Mormon religion. The proportion who say that Islam has little or nothing in common with their own religion has increased substantially since 2005 (from 59% to 70%).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, conducted Aug. 1-18 among 3,002 adults, finds that overall evaluations of Mormons and Muslim Americans are on balance positive: 53% say they have a favorable opinion of Mormons, while an identical percentage views Muslim Americans favorably. As in past surveys, more people have a positive impression of "Muslim Americans" (53%) than of "Muslims" (43%).

Despite these similarities, there also are clear differences in public attitudes about Islam and Mormonism. These are reflected in the single-word descriptions people use in summarizing their impressions of each religion. Twice as many people use negative words as positive words to

Opinions of Muslim, Mormon Religions			
	Muslim religion	Mormon religion	
<i>Know about Muslim/Mormon religion...</i>	%	%	
Great deal/some	41	49	
Not very much/nothing	58	51	
Don't know	1	*	
	100	100	
<i>Muslim/Mormon religion and your religion...*</i>			
A lot in common	19	25	
Very different	70	62	
Don't know	11	13	
	100	100	
Opinions of Religious Groups			
	Fav	Unfav	No opinion
<i>Opinion of...</i>	%	%	%
Jews	76	9	15
Catholics	76	14	10
Evangelical Christians	60	19	21
Mormons	53	27	20
Muslim Americans	53	29	18
Muslims	43	35	22
Atheists	35	53	12
*Based on those with a religion other than Islam or Mormonism.			

describe their impressions of the Muslim religion (30% vs. 15%). The most frequently used negative word to describe Islam is “fanatic,” with “radical” and “terror” often mentioned as well. Among the positive terms, “devout” or some variant is the most frequently cited.

The words that people use to describe the Mormon religion are, on balance, more positive. Nearly a quarter (23%) gives a positive word to describe their impression of the Mormon religion while 27% use a negative term. Although the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints banned polygamy almost a century ago, many Americans still associate the church with this practice. The most commonly used negative words to describe Mormonism are “polygamy,” “bigamy” or some other reference to plural marriage. Among positive words used to describe the Mormon religion, “family” – or some variant of the term – is the most frequent response.

One-Word Impressions of Islam, Mormonism		
<u>Muslim religion</u>		
%		
15	Positive	<i>Devout, peaceful, dedicated</i>
30	Negative	<i>Fanatic, radical, terror</i>
23	Neutral	<i>Different, strict</i>
<u>Mormon religion</u>		
%		
23	Positive	<i>Family, dedicated, devout</i>
27	Negative	<i>Polygamy, bigamy, cult</i>
19	Neutral	<i>Different, strict</i>

Public views of other religious groups have changed little over the past few years. About three-quarters of those polled have a favorable opinion of Jews and Catholics (76% each), while substantially fewer are favorable toward evangelical Christians (60%). Atheists are viewed far more negatively, with just 35% holding a positive view and 53% saying they have an unfavorable opinion.

The survey also finds that, two years after Pope Benedict XVI was installed as spiritual leader of the world’s Catholics, the pontiff is viewed favorably by nearly three-quarters (73%) of those familiar enough to offer an opinion. However, significantly fewer people say they have a favorable opinion of the pontiff than expressed positive opinions of Pope Benedict’s predecessor, Pope John Paul II, during his more than two decades as pope (86% in 1996).

Moreover, nearly half (46%) of those who have heard at least a little about Pope Benedict XVI say he is doing only a fair or poor job at promoting good relations with other major religions; just 38% say the pope is doing an excellent or good job in this regard. Catholics themselves are divided

How Well Has Pope Done Promoting Relations with Other Religions?			
	Excellent/ <u>good</u> %	Fair/ <u>poor</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	38	46	16=100
Total Catholic	54	40	6=100
Conservative	63	33	4=100
Moderate	50	45	5=100
Liberal	45	49	6=100
Total Protestant	36	44	20=100
White evangelical	40	38	22=100
White mainline	33	50	17=100
Black Protestant	29	49	22=100
Unaffiliated	26	57	17=100

Based on those who have heard at least a little about Pope Benedict.

ideologically over the pope's performance in fostering ties with other religions: 63% of self-identified conservative Catholics say the pope has done well in promoting good interfaith relations, but just 50% of moderate Catholics and 45% of liberal Catholics agree.

People who have heard at least a little about Pope Benedict are in general agreement about the pope's own ideological leanings: 56% say he is either very conservative (20%) or conservative (36%); 17% say the pope is a moderate, while just 5% view him as a liberal. And among Catholics, fully 68% say Pope Benedict is a conservative.

Section 1: Opinions about Muslims and Islam

Public attitudes about Muslims and Islam have grown more negative in recent years. About four-in-ten Americans (43%) say they have a favorable opinion of Muslims, while 35% express a negative view. Opinion about Muslims, on balance, was somewhat more positive in 2004 (48% favorable vs. 32% unfavorable). As in previous surveys, Muslim Americans are seen more positively than Muslims (53% vs. 43%); however, unfavorable opinions of Muslim Americans have also edged upward, from 25% in 2005 to 29% currently.

There continue to be substantial age, education, political and religious differences in opinions about both Muslims and Muslim Americans. Young people and college graduates express more favorable views of Muslims than do older people and those with less education. Fully 66% of liberal Democrats have a positive impression of Muslims, the highest proportion in any major demographic or political group. That compares with roughly half of conservative and moderate Democrats (48%) and the same number of independents, 41% of moderate and liberal Republicans, and just 26% of conservative Republicans.

Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants stand out for their negative views of Muslims. While roughly half of white mainline Protestants (51%) and white Catholics (48%) express favorable views of Muslims, only about quarter of white evangelicals (24%) say the same. Similar religious divisions are seen in views of Muslim Americans.

The biggest influence on the public's impressions of Muslims, particularly among those who express an unfavorable opinion of

	Fav- orable %	Unfav- orable %	No opinion %
Total	43	35	22=100
March 2004	48	32	20=100
July 2003	47	31	22=100
March 2002	47	29	24=100
18-29	51	30	19=100
30-49	48	31	21=100
50-64	43	35	22=100
65+	28	45	27=100
College grad	54	28	18=100
Some college	45	34	21=100
HS or less	37	38	25=100
Conserv Rep	26	58	16=100
Mod/Lib Rep	41	38	21=100
Independent	48	32	20=100
Cons/Mod Dem	48	31	21=100
Liberal Dem	66	17	17=100
Total Protestant	40	40	20=100
White evangelical	24	57	19=100
White mainline	51	30	19=100
Total Catholic	47	30	23=100
White non-Hispanic	48	29	23=100
Unaffiliated	55	21	24=100

	Total %	Opinion of Muslims	
		Fav %	Unfav %
Media	32	20	48
Personal experience	18	26	8
Education	18	24	10
Religious beliefs	11	8	14
Views of friends/family	6	8	3
Something else	11	10	13
Don't know	4	4	4
	100	100	100

Muslims, is what people hear and read in the media. About a third of the public (32%) – including nearly half of those who offer a negative opinion of Muslims (48%) – say what they have seen or read in the media has had the biggest influence on their views. Other factors, such as personal experience and education, are less influential, though they are cited far more often by those who have favorable impressions of Muslims than those who express negative views.

Islam and Violence

Public opinion about whether Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence has fluctuated in recent years. In 2005, a plurality (47%) said that Islam does not encourage violence more than other religions; 36% said Islam is more likely than others to encourage violence among its believers. In the current survey, the balance of opinion has shifted: a 45% plurality says Islam is more likely to encourage violence, while 39% disagree. The current measure is similar to public views on this issue in 2003 and 2004.

The belief that Islam encourages violence has increased among groups that express mostly negative views of Muslims, such as conservative Republicans, but also among those groups that have relatively favorable opinions of Muslims, such as college graduates. The proportion of college graduates saying Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence has increased by 17 points (from 28% in 2005 to 45% today). College graduates are now about as likely as those with no college experience (44%) to express this point of view.

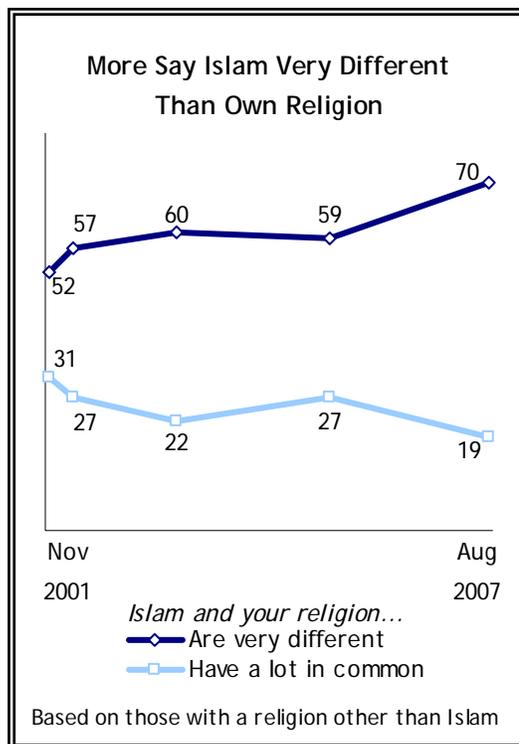
More Say Islam Encourages Violence			
	July 2005	Aug 2007	Change
	%	%	
Total	36	45	+9
College grad	28	45	+17
Some college	33	49	+16
HS or less	42	44	+2
Conserv Rep	49	68	+19
Mod/Lib Rep	45	45	0
Independent	34	41	+7
Cons/Mod Dem	34	45	+11
Liberal Dem	25	26	+1
Protestant	38	48	+10
White evangelical	49	56	+7
White mainline	28	47	+19
Catholic	40	46	+6
White non-Hispanic	42	49	+7
Unaffiliated	26	40	+14

Similarly, there have been sharp increases in the percentages of white mainline Protestants and people with no religious affiliation who believe that the Islamic religion is more likely than others to encourage violence (by 19 points and 14 points, respectively).

Muslim Religion Viewed as Different

Fully 70% of non-Muslims say that the Muslim religion is very different from their own religion, compared with just 19% who say Islam and their own religion have a lot in common. Two years ago, 59% viewed Islam as very different from their own religion. And in November 2001, just 52% expressed this view.

Large majorities in every demographic and political group say that their religion is very different from the Muslim religion. However, there are sizable differences in opinions about this: 83% of white evangelical Protestants view Islam as very different, compared with 74% of black Protestants, 69% of white non-Hispanic Catholics and 66% of white mainline Protestants.



Islam in a Word

When asked for the single word that best describes their impression of Islam, far more Americans mention negative words than positive ones (30% vs. 15%); roughly a quarter (23%) characterize the religion with neutral words; about a third (32%) do not offer an opinion.

The single most common word used to describe the Muslim religion is “devout,” or a variant of this word, such as “devotion” or “devoted”; 43 respondents use one of these words to describe their impression of Islam. Nearly as many (40 respondents in all) say that words like “fanatic” or “fanatical” come to mind when thinking about Islam. Other words commonly used to describe impressions of Islam include “different” (35 total responses), “peace” or “peaceful” (34 responses), “confused” or “confusing” (31 responses), “radical” (30 responses), “strict” (26 responses) and “terror” or “terrorism” (25 responses).

One-Word Impressions of Islam	
	<u>Number of mentions</u>
Devout/devoted	43
Fanatic/fanatical	40
Different	35
Peace/Peaceful	34
Confused/Confusing	31
Radical	30
Strict	26
Terror/terrorism	25
Dedicated	23
Violence/violent	21

Figures show the number of respondents out of 1,541 mentioning each word. The numbers are not percentages.

More Familiar, More Positive

Nearly half of all non-Muslims (45%) say they know someone who is Muslim, while 41% say that they know a great deal (7%) or some (34%) about the Muslim religion. The proportion of the public expressing at least some familiarity with the Muslim religion has increased modestly from 33% in 2005; in 2002, 34% said they knew a great deal or some about the Muslim religion.

Nearly two-thirds of college graduates (64%) say they know a Muslim, compared with 53% of those with some college experience and just 32% of those with a high school education or less. Similarly, far more college graduates than those with less education say they have at least some knowledge of the Muslim religion and its practices.

There also are substantial age differences in familiarity with Muslims and knowledge of their religion. Roughly half of those ages 18-29 say they know a Muslim, as do 50% of those ages 30-49 and 45% of those in their 50s and early 60s; however, just 29% of those ages 65 and older say they are acquainted with a Muslim. The gap is comparable across age groups in self-reported knowledge of the Muslim religion.

The survey shows that knowing a Muslim is associated with more positive views of the religion. Among those who know a Muslim, for instance, a majority (56%) has a favorable overall impression of Muslims, compared with just 32% of those who are not acquainted with a Muslim.

This pattern extends across several other measures of views of Muslims and Islam. Among those who know a Muslim, most (59%) say that a Muslim candidate's religion would make no difference in deciding how to vote in a presidential election. But among those who do not know a Muslim, a majority (52%) says they would be less likely to vote for a Muslim presidential candidate.

Among...	Yes %	No %	DK %
Total	45	54	1=100
18-29	52	47	1=100
30-49	50	50	*=100
50-64	45	53	2=100
65+	29	68	3=100
College grad	64	35	1=100
Some college	53	46	1=100
HS or less	32	67	1=100

	Total %	Know a Muslim?	
		Yes %	No %
<i>Opinion of Muslims</i>			
Favorable	43	56	32
Unfavorable	35	29	40
No opinion	22	15	28
	100	100	100
<i>Vote for a Muslim for president?</i>			
More likely	3	2	3
Less likely	45	37	52
No difference	49	59	40
Don't know	3	2	5
	100	100	100
<i>Islamic religion encourages violence?</i>			
Does encourage	45	42	48
Does not encourage	39	50	29
Neither/DK	16	8	23
	100	100	100
<i>Muslim religion and your religion...*</i>			
A lot in common	19	30	10
Very different	70	64	76
Don't know	11	6	14
	100	100	100

*Based on those with a religion other than Islam.

People who say they know a Muslim are divided over whether the Muslim religion encourages violence; 50% say it does not, while 42% say it does. By 48%-29%, those who do not know a Muslim say that Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence.

Section 2: Views of Mormons and Mormonism

Overall, a slim majority of the public (53%) expresses a favorable view of Mormons, while 27% view Mormons unfavorably. Among religious groups, solid majorities of white mainline Protestants (62%) and white non-Hispanic Catholics (59%) express favorable opinions of Mormons. But among white evangelical Protestants, just 46% have a positive impression of Mormons, while 39% have an unfavorable opinion.

There also are substantial educational differences in opinions about Mormons: 64% of college graduates express favorable opinions of Mormons, as do 56% of those with some college experience. But fewer than half of those with a high school education or less (45%) have a positive impression of Mormons.

About three-in-ten (31%) of those who express favorable opinions of Mormons cite personal experience as the biggest influence on their opinions, but a fairly large proportion of those with negative opinions of Mormons (23%) also point to their personal experiences as being most influential.

A slim majority of the public (52%) says that Mormonism is a Christian religion, while nearly one-in-three (31%) say that Mormonism is not a Christian religion. White evangelicals stand out for their view that the Mormon religion is not Christian: a 45% plurality says that Mormonism is not Christian, while 40% say it is. Among white evangelicals who attend services at least weekly, 52% believe that the Mormon religion is not Christian.

Among...	Opinion		No opinion %
	Fav %	Unfav %	
Total	53	27	20=100
College grad	64	21	15=100
Some college	56	27	17=100
HS or less	45	31	24=100
Protestant	50	31	19=100
White evangelical	46	39	15=100
White mainline	62	21	17=100
Black Protestant	42	28	30=100
Catholic	55	22	23=100
White non-Hispanic	59	21	20=100
Unaffiliated	52	30	18=100

	Total %	Opinion of Mormons	
		Fav %	Unfav %
Personal experience	29	31	23
Media	20	20	21
Education	14	15	12
Religious beliefs	11	7	19
Views of friends/family	10	12	8
Something else	12	11	13
Don't know	4	4	4
	100	100	100

By contrast, large majorities of white mainline Protestants (62%) and white non-Hispanic Catholics (59%) say that Mormons are Christians. In addition, those with no formal religious affiliation also say that the Mormon religion is Christian by a wide margin (59%-25%).

Even though a slim majority of the public views Mormonism as a Christian religion, most Americans say it is very different from their own religion. Among non-Mormons who express a religious preference (most of whom are Christians themselves), more than six-in-ten (62%) say that Mormonism and their own religion are very different; just a quarter says that Mormonism and their own religion have a lot in common. The vast majority of white evangelical Protestants (67%) reject the idea that Mormonism and their own religion have a lot in common, as do smaller majorities of white mainline Protestants (56%) and white non-Hispanic Catholics (61%).

	Yes %	No %	DK %
Total	52	31	17=100
Protestant	49	34	17=100
White evangelical	40	45	15=100
White mainline	62	23	15=100
Black Protestant	43	30	27=100
Catholic	52	29	19=100
White non-Hispanic	59	25	16=100
Unaffiliated	59	25	16=100

Based on non-Mormons.

Mormonism in a Word

When asked to describe their impression of the Mormon religion in a single word, somewhat more offer a negative word than a positive one (27% vs. 23%); 19% give a neutral descriptor. The most common negative word expressed is “polygamy,” including “bigamy” or some other reference to plural marriage (75 total responses), followed by “cult” (57 total mentions). But while many people associate polygamy with Mormonism, nearly as many think of “family” or “family values” (74 total mentions). Other positive words commonly used to describe Mormonism include “dedicated” (34 mentions), “devout” or “devoted” (32 mentions), “good” (31 mentions), and “faith” or “faithful” (25 total mentions).

	Number of mentions
Polygamy/bigamy	75
Family/family values	74
Cult	57
Different	40
Dedicated	34
Devout/devoted	32
Good	31
Strict	27
Faith/faithful	25

Figures show the number of respondents out of 1,461 mentioning each word. The numbers are not percentages.

Familiarity with Mormonism and Mormons

Overall, the public's level of self-reported familiarity with Mormonism and Mormons is not much greater than its level of familiarity with Islam and Muslims. Roughly half (49%) say they know a great deal or some about the Mormon religion and its practices, while about as many people (48%) say that they know someone who is Mormon. (By comparison, 41% have at least some knowledge of Islam and 45% say they know a Muslim.)

As might be expected, people in the Western part of the United States have more contact and greater familiarity with Mormons than do people in other parts of the country. Fully 74% of those in the West say they know a Mormon, compared with fewer than half in other regions. In addition, 66% of Westerners say they know a great deal or some about the Mormon religion, also a much higher proportion than among residents of other regions. Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants show somewhat greater familiarity with Mormons and Mormonism, compared with white mainline Protestants, white non-Hispanic Catholics and the religiously unaffiliated.

Just as knowing a Muslim is associated with positive views of Muslims and Islam, having an acquaintance who is Mormon is linked with more positive opinions of Mormons and Mormonism. The large majority of those who know a Mormon (60%) express a favorable view of Mormons, compared with fewer than half (44%) of those who do not personally know a Mormon. And those who are acquainted with a Mormon are 11 points more likely than others to say that Mormonism and their own religion have a lot in common.

But compared with knowing someone who is Mormon, one's view of whether or not Mormonism is a

Christian religion has a much greater impact on overall opinions of Mormons. Among non-

	Know...	
	A Mormon %	About Mormonism*
Total	48	49
Northeast	36	39
Midwest	41	44
South	46	47
West	74	66
Protestant	50	50
White evangelical	58	60
White mainline	53	49
Black Protestant	20	28
Catholic	41	38
White non-Hispanic	47	43
Unaffiliated	52	50

Based on non-Mormons.
* Know a great deal/some about Mormon religion.

	Know a Mormon?		Mormons Christian?	
	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %
<i>View of Mormons</i>				
Favorable	60	44	68	34
Unfavorable	27	28	16	49
No opinion	<u>13</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Vote for Mormon?</i>				
More likely	4	6	5	4
Less likely	24	27	16	42
No difference	71	61	77	51
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Mormonism & your religion...*</i>				
Have lot in common	31	19	40	10
Are very different	63	62	49	85
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100

*Based on those with a religion other than Mormonism.

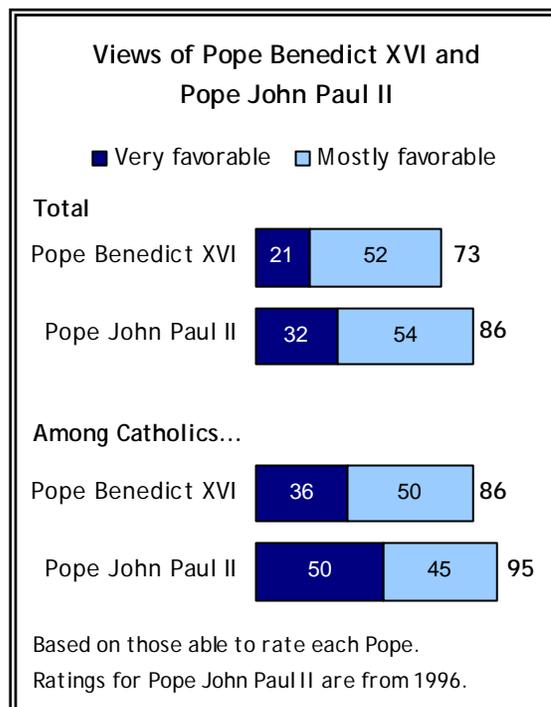
Mormons who see Mormons as Christian, more than two-thirds (68%) express a favorable view of Mormons, twice as many as among those who say Mormonism is not a Christian religion (34%). Equally striking, fully 42% of those who believe the Mormon religion is not Christian say they would be less likely to vote for a Mormon for president; among those who believe Mormonism is a Christian religion, just 16% express reluctance about supporting a Mormon.

Section 3: Opinions about Pope Benedict XVI

Roughly three-quarters (73%) of Americans who are familiar with Pope Benedict XVI have a favorable opinion of him. Catholics, not surprisingly, view the pope most favorably (86%). But large majorities of other religious groups, including more than seven-in-ten white evangelical Protestants (72%), mainline Protestants (75%) and black Protestants (70%), also are favorably inclined towards Pope Benedict. Among the religiously unaffiliated, however, just 57% have a favorable opinion of the pope.

As expected, Pope Benedict XVI is now better known among the public than he was two years ago. Currently, 68% offer an opinion of the pope, up from 55% in July 2005. Yet greater visibility has not improved the pope's image. In 2005, 81% of those able to rate Pope Benedict expressed a favorable opinion of him, compared with 73% currently.

Pope Benedict's predecessor, Pope John Paul II, had higher favorability ratings. In 1996, an overwhelming majority (86%) of those who could rate Pope John Paul II expressed a favorable opinion of him. Moreover, about a third of Americans (32%) had a "very favorable" view of Pope John Paul II, compared with just 21% for the current pope, based on those who could rate each.



The gap in very positive views is particularly evident among Catholics. Half of Catholics had a very favorable opinion of Pope John Paul II in 1996; currently, 36% express strongly positive opinions of Pope Benedict XVI. There is a similar, though less dramatic, difference in opinions of the two popes among white evangelical and white mainline Protestants. More than a quarter of white evangelical Protestants (26%) and white mainline Protestants (28%) had a very favorable opinion of Pope John Paul II, but only 16% and 14%, respectively, view Pope Benedict this way.

Divided Views of Pontiff's Outreach

A plurality of Americans (46%) who have heard at least a little about Pope Benedict say he is doing only a fair or poor job of promoting good relations with other religions; 38% say the pope is doing an excellent or good job. Though Catholics give the pope higher marks for building interfaith relations (54%), even many among this group (40%) say he is doing only a fair job or a poor job in this regard.

	Total	Cons Rep	Mod/ Lib Rep	Ind	Cons/ Mod Dem	Lib Dem
<i>Opinion of Benedict XVI*</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	73	84	79	68	79	59
Unfavorable	27	16	21	32	21	41
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Pope's job in promoting relations w/ other faiths**</i>						
Excellent/good	38	48	41	36	37	24
Only fair/poor	46	36	41	51	47	61
Don't know	16	16	18	13	16	15
	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Based on those who can rate.
 ** Based on those who have heard "a lot" or "a little" about Pope Benedict XVI.

There are substantial political differences in views on this issue, as in overall opinions about Pope Benedict. Conservative Republicans are the only political group in which a plurality believes the pope is doing an excellent or good job in promoting positive relations with other religions. Moderate and liberal Republicans are evenly divided over the pope's performance in this area, while roughly half of independents (51%) and conservative and moderate Democrats (47%), and 61% of liberal Democrats, say he is doing only a fair or poor job in dealing with other religions.

There is a similar pattern in general views of Pope Benedict. By greater than five-to-one (84%-16%), conservative Republicans have a favorable opinion of the pope; substantial majorities of moderate and liberal Republicans (79%), independents (68%), and conservative and moderate Democrats (79%) also express highly positive views of Pope Benedict. But liberal Democrats have a less favorable view: 59% have a positive impression of the pope, compared with 41% who express an unfavorable opinion.

When asked whether they believe the pope is conservative, moderate or liberal most Americans who have heard of him say that the pope is conservative (56%). Another 17% say he is moderate and only 5% of Americans say he is liberal.

Views of the pope differ markedly by education level. Fully 71% of college graduates say the pope is very conservative (30%) or conservative (41%). Those with no college experience are less sure of the pope's ideology; fewer than half of Americans (46%) with less than a high school education view the pope as a conservative.

Views of Other Religious Leaders

Evangelist Billy Graham is viewed positively by three-quarters of Americans who say they are familiar with the preacher. Graham is viewed favorably among most religious groups, especially among white evangelicals, 92% of whom have a favorable impression of him. Only among the religiously unaffiliated does a majority (52%) view him unfavorably.

Older Americans have a particularly favorable opinion of Graham. Among those who could rate Graham, 85% of those ages 50 and older – and 89% of those ages 65 and older – have a favorable opinion of him. Among those younger than age 30, 60% have a positive view of Graham. Roughly three-in-ten (29%) Americans under the age of 30 have never heard of Graham.

Although fewer Americans are familiar with Graham today than 20 years ago, views of him have been remarkably stable. In 1987, 72% of the American public who could rate him said they had a favorable view of him.

Dr. James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, is not nearly as well-known or as highly regarded as Billy Graham. The vast majority of Americans (64%) do not know enough about Dobson to have an opinion. Among those who do express an opinion of Dobson, 59% view him favorably and 41% view him unfavorably.

Most Americans See Pope Benedict as Conservative				
	Percentage describing Pope Benedict as...			
	Conser- vative %	Mod- erate %	Lib- eral %	DK %
Total	56	17	5	22=100
College grad	71	13	2	13=100
Some college	58	17	4	21=100
H.S. or less	46	19	8	27=100
Protestant	46	18	8	28=100
White evangelical	42	20	6	32=100
White mainline	56	15	5	24=100
Black Protestant	34	25	12	29=100
Catholic	68	18	4	10=100
White non-Hispanic	70	16	3	11=100
Attend weekly +	75	16	3	6=100
Less often	67	16	2	15=100
Unaffiliated	67	12	4	17=100

Based on those who have heard at least a little about Pope Benedict.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Schulman, Ronca, & Bucuvalas, Inc. among a nationwide sample of 3,002 adults, 18 years of age or older, from August 1-18, 2007. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=1,541) or Form 2 (N=1,461) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

ABOUT THE PROJECTS

This survey is a joint effort of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Both organizations are sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts and are projects of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life delivers timely, impartial information on issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs. The Forum is a nonpartisan organization and does not take positions on policy debates. Based in Washington, D.C., the Forum is directed by Luis Lugo.

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. The Center’s purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of the Center’s current survey results are made available free of charge.

This report is a collaborative product based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

Luis Lugo, Director
Sandra Stencel, Deputy Director
John C. Green, Senior Fellow in Religion and American Politics
Gregory Smith, Research Fellow
Dan Cox, Research Associate
Allison Pond, Research Associate
Tracy Miller, Copy Editor

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Carolyn Funk, Richard Wike and Kim Parker, Senior Researchers
April Clark, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Robert Suls, and Shawn Neidorf, Research Associates
James Albrightain, Executive Assistant

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
AUGUST 2007 RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
August 1-18, 2007
N= 3,002**

QUESTIONS 1-8 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ROTATE Q9a-g BLOCK WITH Q10a-k BLOCK

Q.9 Now thinking about some specific religious groups... Is your overall opinion of [INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE; ITEM d SHOULD ALWAYS COME LAST] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

How about (NEXT ITEM)? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN NEVER HEARD OF AND CANT RATE.]

	-----Favorable-----			----Unfavorable----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Rate/Ref</u>
a. Catholics	76	21	55	14	4	10	*	10=100
July, 2005	73	24	49	14	4	10	0	13=100
Mid-July, 2003	69	21	48	18	6	12	*	13=100
March, 2002	74	19	55	13	4	9	*	13=100
Mid-November, 2001	78	29	49	8	3	5	*	14=100
March, 2001	74	19	55	13	3	10	1	12=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	78	29	49	9	3	6	*	13=100
b. Jews	76	21	55	9	3	6	*	15=100
March, 2006	84	27	57	6	2	4	*	10=100
July, 2005	77	23	54	7	2	5	*	16=100
Late May, 2005	77	37	40	7	2	5	--	16=100
Mid-July, 2003	72	20	52	9	3	6	1	18=100
March, 2002	74	18	56	9	2	7	*	17=100
Mid-November, 2001	75	24	51	7	2	5	*	18=100
March, 2001	72	16	56	10	2	8	*	18=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	77	27	50	8	3	5	*	15=100
June, 1997	82	26	56	9	2	7	1	8=100
c. Evangelical Christians	60	18	42	19	6	13	5	16=100
March, 2006	68	22	46	18	5	13	2	12=100
July, 2005	57	17	40	19	5	14	5	19=100
Mid-July, 2003	58	18	40	18	6	12	3	21=100
March, 2002	55	13	42	18	5	13	7	20=100
March, 2001	55	13	42	16	4	12	8	21=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	63	21	42	16	3	13	3	18=100
February, 1996	39	13	26	38	15	23	11	12=100
July, 1994	43	10	33	32	10	22	11	14=100
May, 1990	43	12	31	38	19	19	7	12=100
d. Atheists, that is people who don't believe in God	35	7	28	53	30	23	*	12=100

Q.9 CONTINUED...

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never Heard of	Can't Rate/Ref
July, 2005	35	7	28	50	28	22	0	15=100
Mid-July, 2003	34	7	27	52	33	19	*	14=100
March, 2002	34	5	29	54	31	23	*	12=100
Mid-November, 2001	32	7	25	49	28	21	*	19=100
March, 2001	29	4	25	57	35	22	*	14=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	32	8	24	52	32	20	*	16=100
e. Mormons	53	10	43	27	9	18	2	18=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1461]:

f.F2 Muslims	43	7	36	35	13	22	1	21=100
March, 2004	48	13	35	32	14	18	--	20=100
Mid-July, 2003	47	9	38	31	12	19	--	22=100
June, 2003	50	12	38	30	10	20	--	20=100
March, 2002	47	7	40	29	11	18	--	24=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1541]:

g.F1 Muslim Americans	53	10	43	29	11	18	1	17=100
July, 2005	55	9	46	25	9	16	*	20=100
Mid-July, 2003	51	10	41	24	9	15	1	24=100
March, 2002	54	8	46	22	8	14	2	22=100
Mid-November, 2001	59	15	44	17	5	12	1	23=100
March, 2001	45	7	38	24	8	16	4	27=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	50	11	39	21	8	13	2	27=100

QUESTIONS 10a-10h PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 10i-10l

ASK ALL

Q.10 Now I'd like your views on some people. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

How about (NEXT NAME)? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

	----Favorable----			----Unfavorable----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
m. Pope Benedict XVI	50	14	36	18	6	12	8	24=100
July, 2005	44	10	34	11	4	7	4	41=100
June, 1996 (John Paul II)	76	28	48	13	4	9	1	10=100
May, 1990 (John Paul II)	79	31	48	11	4	7	1	9=100
May, 1987 (John Paul II)	76	28	48	14	4	10	1	9=100
n. Billy Graham	60	28	32	20	8	12	10	10=100
May, 1987	66	22	44	26	16	10	2	6=100
o. James Dobson	21	8	13	15	6	9	46	18=100

QUESTIONS 11-31 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 32-34

RELIG What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS “nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc.” **BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH:** and would you say that’s atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?]

- 46 Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.)
- 23 Roman Catholic (Catholic)
- 2 Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
- * Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
- 2 Jewish (Judaism)
- * Muslim (Islam)
- 1 Buddhist
- * Hindu
- 2 Atheist (do not believe in God)
- 2 Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
- 1 Something else (**SPECIFY**)
- 10 Nothing in particular
- 9 Christian (**VOL.**)
- * Unitarian (Universalist) (**VOL.**)
- 2 Don’t Know/Refused (**VOL.**)
- 100

IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR CHR=1), ASK:

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

BASED ON TOTAL

- 34 Yes
- 43 No
- 4 Don’t know/refused (**VOL.**)
- * Undesignated
- 81% Christian

ASK ALL:

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

		July <u>2006</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>	Mid- Nov <u>2001</u>	March <u>2001</u>	Sept <u>2000</u> ¹	June <u>1997</u>	June <u>1996</u>
14	More than once a week	15	14	13	16	15	15	16	17	17	12	14
26	Once a week	25	27	25	27	24	25	26	26	28	26	25
16	Once or twice a month	15	14	15	15	15	17	14	17	16	17	17
18	A few times a year	18	19	20	18	21	18	17	17	17	20	21
16	Seldom	14	14	15	14	15	15	16	15	13	15	13
9	Never	12	11	11	10	9	9	10	7	8	10	9
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.35 How important is religion in your life – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

61	Very important
24	Somewhat important
8	Not too important
6	Not at all important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100	

Q.36 Which of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible? [**READ, IN ORDER**]

		July <u>2006</u>	July <u>2005</u>	March <u>2004</u> ²	Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2001</u>	June <u>1996</u>
34	The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word, OR	35	36	40	35	36	35
44	The Bible is the word of God, but not everything in it should be taken literally, word for word, OR	43	40	42	43	43	47
16	The Bible is a book written by men and is not the word of God.	18	18	13	16	14	14
2	[VOL. DO NOT READ] Other	2	2	1	2	3	2
<u>4</u>	[VOL. DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ September 2000 results are based on registered voters.

² In 2004 and 2003, the response categories were read in reverse order to half of the samples.

Q.37 People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, do you pray several times a day, once a day, a few times a week, once a week, a few times a month, seldom, or never?

35 Several times a day
 21 Once a day
 15 A few times a week
 4 Once a week
 6 A few times a month
 11 Seldom
 6 Never
2 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
 100

Q.38 Do you believe in God or a universal spirit?

IF BELIEVE IN GOD/UNIVERSAL SPIRIT (Q.38=1), ASK:

Q.39 How certain are you about this belief? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain, not too certain, or not at all certain?

		<i>Gallup</i> Dec <u>1994</u>	<i>Gallup</i> Dec <u>1988</u>	<i>Gallup</i> Nov <u>1978</u>	<i>Gallup</i> June <u>1976</u> ³
94	Yes, believe in God	96	95	94	94
73	Absolutely certain				
16	Fairly certain				
3	Not too certain				
1	Not at all certain				
1	Don't know/refused (VOL.)				
4	No, do not believe in God	3	5	4	3
<u>2</u>	Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	101	100	99

QUESTION 40 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 41-44

ROTATE Q.45-Q.50 BLOCK WITH Q.55-Q.60 BLOCK

Turning to another subject...

Q.45 How much would you say you know about the Muslim religion and its practices? **[READ, IN ORDER]**

		July <u>2005</u>	Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>
7	A great deal	5	4	5	6
34	Some	28	27	29	32
33	Not very much	36	39	37	37
25	Nothing at all	30	29	28	24
<u>1</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100

³ Based on responses from a national sample aged 15 and over. Percentages from the Gallup 1988 and 1976 surveys may not add to 100% due to rounding.

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1541]:

Q.46F1 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of Islam, the Muslim religion. Tell me just the one best word that comes to mind. **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW” ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.)**

ANSWERS HAVE BEEN SORTED INTO CATEGORIES AND ARE REPORTED AS PERCENTAGES

30	TOTAL NEGATIVE
6	General negative
6	Fanatic/Radical
4	Strict/Dogmatic/Controlling
3	Cult/Wrong/Not Real
3	Misguided/Confused
2	Terrorists/Killers/Death
2	Angry/Dangerous/Violent
2	Bad/Evil
1	Crazy/Strange
1	Fearful/Scary
23	TOTAL NEUTRAL
6	Religious/Cultural Reference
3	Confusing/Mysterious
2	Different
2	Allah/Koran/Muhammad
1	Acceptable/OK
1	Organized/Unified
1	Separate/Closed off/Secretive
7	Other
15	TOTAL POSITIVE
7	Faithful/Devout/Committed
3	General Positive
3	Peaceful/Respectful/Compassionate
1	Strong/Good
1	Misunderstood
<u>32</u>	Don't Know
100	

ASK IF R HAS A RELIGION OTHER THAN ISLAM (RELIG=1-5, 7-8, 11, 13-14 OR CHR=1):

Q.47 From what you know, do you think that the Muslim religion and your own religion have a lot in common, or do you think that the Muslim religion and your religion are very different?

BASED ON ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS EXCEPT MUSLIMS [N=2578]

		July <u>2005</u>	Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>
19	A lot in common	27	22	27	31
70	Very different	59	60	57	52
<u>11</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
100		100	100	100	100

IF R IS ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK & NOT CHRISTIAN (RELIG=9, 10, 12 OR (RELIG=99 AND CHR=2, 9)), ASK:

Q.47a From what you know, do you think that the Muslim religion and your own beliefs have a lot in common, or do you think that the Muslim religion and your own beliefs are very different?

BASED ON ALL UNAFFILIATED [N=413]

18	A lot in common
67	Very different
14	Don't know/refused (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Undesignated
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

IF R HAS FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE VIEW OF MUSLIMS (Q.9fF2=1-4), ASK [N=1140]:

Q.48F2 Earlier you said that you had a [INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q.9fF2] opinion of Muslims. Which of the following has had the biggest influence on your view of Muslims ... [READ IN ORDER]

	----View of Muslims----		
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Total</u>
A personal experience	26	8	18
The views of your family and friends	8	3	6
What you have seen or read in the media	20	48	32
Your religious beliefs	8	14	11
Your education, OR	24	10	18
Something else	10	13	11
Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100

ASK ALL IF R IS NOT MUSLIM (RELIG≠6):

Q.49 Do you, yourself happen to know anyone who is Muslim?

BASED ON ALL NON-MUSLIMS [N=2991]

		Mid- Nov <u>2001</u>
45	Yes	38
54	No	61
<u>1</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.50 As I read you a pair of statements, tell me whether the **FIRST** statement or the **SECOND** statement comes closer to your own views even if neither is exactly right.

		July <u>2005</u>	July <u>2004</u>	Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>
45	The Islamic religion is more likely than others to encourage violence among its believers	36	46	44	25
	OR				
39	The Islamic religion does not encourage violence more than others	47	37	41	51
4	Neither (VOL.)	3	2	3	3
<u>12</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>21</u>
100		100	100	100	100

NO QUESTIONS 51-54

Now, thinking about Mormonism, also known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints...

Q.55 How much would you say you know about the Mormon religion and its practices? [**READ, IN ORDER**]

11	A great deal
38	Some
32	Not very much
19	Nothing at all
*	[VOL. DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1461]:

Q.56F2 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of the Mormon religion. Tell me just the one best word that comes to mind. (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW” ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.**)

ANSWERS HAVE BEEN SORTED INTO CATEGORIES AND ARE REPORTED AS PERCENTAGES

27	TOTAL NEGATIVE
5	Wrong/False/Not Christian
5	Polygamy
4	General Negative
4	Cult
2	Crazy/Strange/Weird
2	Deceptive/Manipulative
1	Exclusionary/Secretive
1	Aggressive/Pushy
1	Bigoted/Racist/Sexist
1	Extreme/Radical
1	Rigid/Restrictive
23	TOTAL POSITIVE
8	Devout/Faithful/Religious
5	General Positive
4	Family/Family Values
3	Caring/Kind/Sincere
2	Good People/Religion
1	Community/Unity/Close-Knit
*	True/Truth
19	TOTAL NEUTRAL
4	Different/Unusual
2	Strict/Abstinence
2	Utah/Salt Lake City
1	Neutral/Fine/OK
1	Christian/Jesus/God
1	Proselytizing/Missionaries
1	Confusing/Mysterious/Complex
1	Joseph Smith/Brigham Young
1	Organized/Structured
1	Conservative
*	Money/Wealth
4	Other
<u>31</u>	Don't Know
100	

ASK IF R HAS A RELIGION OTHER THAN MORMONISM (RELIG=1-2, 4-8, 11, 13-14 OR CHR=1):

Q.57 From what you know, do you think that the Mormon religion and your own religion have a lot in common, or do you think that the Mormon religion and your religion are very different?

BASED ON ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS EXCEPT MORMONS [N=2530]

25	A lot in common
62	Very different
<u>13</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100	

IF R IS ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK & NOT CHRISTIAN (RELIG=9, 10, 12 OR (RELIG=99 AND CHR=2, 9)), ASK:

Q.57a From what you know, do you think that the Mormon religion and your own beliefs have a lot in common, or do you think that the Mormon religion and your beliefs are very different?

BASED ON ALL UNAFFILIATED [N=413]

15 A lot in common
 71 Very different
 13 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
1 Undesignated
 100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

IF R HAS FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE VIEW OF MORMONS (Q.9e=1-4), ASK [N=1269]:

Q.58F1 Earlier you said that you had a [INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q.9e] opinion of Mormons. Which of the following has had the biggest influence on your view of Mormons... [READ IN ORDER]

	---View of Mormons---		
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Total
A personal experience	31	23	29
The views of your family and friends	12	8	10
What you have seen or read in the media	20	21	20
Your religious beliefs	7	19	11
Your education, OR	15	12	14
Something else	11	13	12
Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100

ASK ALL IF R IS NOT A MORMON (RELIG≠3), [N=2943]:

Q.59 Do you, yourself happen to know anyone who is Mormon?

BASED ON ALL NON-MORMONS

48 Yes
 51 No
1 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
 100

Q.60 Based on what you have read or heard about Mormons, do you think their religion is a Christian religion, or do you think it is not a Christian religion?

52 Yes, it is a Christian religion
 31 No, it is not a Christian religion
17 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
 100

ASK ALL:

Q.61 In 2005, Pope Benedict the sixteenth became head of the Roman Catholic Church. How much have you heard about Pope Benedict...a lot, a little, or nothing at all

19 A lot
62 A little
18 Nothing at all
1 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100

IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE (Q.61=1,2), ASK [N=2518]:

Q.62 From what you know, how good a job is the pope doing in promoting good relations between the Catholic Church and other major religions? Is he doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job of promoting good relations with other major religions?

6 Excellent
32 Good
35 Only fair
11 Poor
16 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100

Q.63 And how would you describe Pope Benedict the sixteenth...is he very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal or very liberal?

20 Very conservative
36 Conservative
17 Moderate
4 Liberal
1 Very liberal
22 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) <u>No Preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other Party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
August, 2007	26	32	32	5	1	4=100	10	16
July, 2007	27	32	34	4	*	3=100	11	17
June, 2007	25	34	32	6	*	3=100	10	17
April, 2007	25	28	40	5	*	2=100	13	17
March, 2007	25	36	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
February, 2007	25	34	34	4	*	3=100	10	18
Mid-January, 2007	24	35	34	3	*	4=100	12	18
Early-January, 2007	23	31	39	4	*	3=100	12	18
December, 2006	25	35	32	5	*	3=100	11	17
Mid-November, 2006	25	36	32	4	*	3=100	9	18
Late October, 2006	26	32	33	5	1	3=100	10	16
Early October, 2006	27	34	33	3	*	3=100	12	15
Early September, 2006	30	34	30	3	*	3=100	10	14
August, 2006	30	33	30	4	*	3=100	12	14
July, 2006	29	33	31	4	1	2=100	11	14
June, 2006	29	34	31	4	*	2=100	11	16
April, 2006	29	32	30	5	*	4=100	10	14
Early April, 2006	29	32	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100	11	15
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100	11	16
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100	10	15
Yearly Totals								
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	0.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	0.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.5	33.1	30.0	4.0	0.4	3.0=100	11.8	13.6
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	0.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	0.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	0.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	0.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	0.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	0.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	0.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	0.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	0.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					

IF ANSWERED 1 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG Republican or NOT a strong Republican?

	<u>Strong</u>	Not Strong/ <u>Don't Know</u>
August, 2007	14	12=26%
July, 2007	16	11=27%
June, 2007	13	12=25%
April, 2007	14	11=25%
January, 2007	12	11=23%
Mid-November, 2006	14	11=25%
Late-October, 2006	14	12=26%
Early-October, 2006	15	12=27%
September, 2006	17	13=30%
December, 2005	16	13=29%
December, 2004	18	13=31%
July, 2004	17	12=29%
August, 2003	14	13=27%
September, 2000	14	13=27%
Late-September, 1999	10	14=24%
August, 1999	11	14=25%
November, 1997	11	14=25%
October, 1995	11	19=30%
April, 1995	15	15=30%
October, 1994	16	15=31%
June, 1992	11	17=28%
May, 1990	13	15=28%
February, 1989	15	16=31%
May, 1988	13	15=28%
January, 1988	12	15=27%
May, 1987	11	14=25%

IF ANSWERED 2 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG Democrat or NOT a strong Democrat?

	<u>Strong</u>	Not Strong/ <u>Don't Know</u>
August, 2007	18	14=32%
July, 2007	19	13=32%
June, 2007	19	15=34%
April, 2007	15	13=28%
January, 2007	17	14=31%
Mid-November, 2006	22	14=36%
Late-October, 2006	18	14=32%
Early-October, 2006	19	15=34%
September, 2006	18	16=34%
December, 2005	20	14=34%
December, 2004	19	15=34%
July, 2004	20	13=33%
August, 2003	15	16=31%
September, 2000	19	15=34%

PARTYSTR CONTINUED...

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not Strong/ Don't Know</u>
Late-September, 1999	15	16=31%
August, 1999	15	18=33%
November, 1997	14	18=32%
October, 1995	14	16=30%
April, 1995	14	15=29%
October, 1994	18	14=32%
July, 1994	15	18=33%
June, 1992	14	18=32%
May, 1990	16	17=33%
February, 1989	17	21=38%
May, 1988	19	19=38%
January, 1988	19	20=39%
May, 1987	18	19=37%