

RELIGION ALIVE AND WELL IN CANADA

But While Many Christian Beliefs Are Holding Ground In
Canada, Some Appear To Have Weakened Slightly In The United
States From 10 Years Ago



Ipsos Reid

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RELIGION ALIVE AND WELL IN CANADA

But While Many Christian Beliefs Are Holding Ground In Canada, Some Appear To Have Weakened Slightly In The United States From 10 Years Ago

Toronto, ON – Today six in ten Canadians (62%, essentially unchanged from 63% in 1996) believe that “through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God provided the way for the forgiveness of sins”, according to one of the many findings of a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted in both Canada and the United States in the week leading up to the Easter Holiday.

The survey, conducted on behalf of CanWest News Service/Global News shows that many Christian beliefs among Canadians have remained largely unchanged from 1996 to today. But while these Christian beliefs are holding their ground in Canada, some appear to have weakened slightly in the United States from 10 years ago.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News. For the survey, a representative sample of 814 adult Canadians, and 768 adult Americans were interviewed via telephone, from April 11th-12th, 2006. The sample used in this study has been weighted according to Census data to accurately reflect the population of both countries. With a sample of this size, the results for both countries are considered accurate to within ± 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire population of each country been polled. The margin of error will be larger within each sub-grouping of the survey population.



For each of the following statements, please tell me if you agree or disagree:

CANADA	Agree 1996	Agree 2006	Change
I believe that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God provided the way for the forgiveness of my sins	63%	62%	-1%
I have committed my life to Christ and consider myself to be a converted Christian	35%	41%	6%
I feel it is very important to encourage non-Christians to become Christians	26%	25%	-1%
The world will end in the Battle of Armageddon between Jesus and the Antichrist	17%	20%	3%

U.S.	Agree 1996	Agree 2006	Change
I believe that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God provided the way for the forgiveness of my sins.	84%	76%	-8%
I have committed my life to Christ and consider myself to be a converted Christian.	60%	60%	0%
I feel it is very important to encourage non-Christians to become Christians.	53%	46%	-7%
The world will end in the Battle of Armageddon between Jesus and the Antichrist.	42%	46%	4%

CANADA VS. U.S.	CANADA	USA	DIFFERENCE
I believe that through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God provided the way for the forgiveness of my sins.	62%	76%	14%
I have committed my life to Christ and consider myself to be a converted Christian.	41%	60%	19%
I feel it is very important to encourage non-Christians to become Christians.	25%	46%	21%
The world will end in the Battle of Armageddon between Jesus and the Antichrist.	20%	46%	26%

Four In Ten Canadians (42%)/Six In Ten Americans (58%) Feel That They Have Been In The Presence Of God...

In Canada:

- Atlantic Canadians (50%), those over age 35 (45%), and women (47% vs. 37% among men), are among the most likely to believe they've had this experience.



Have you ever, as an adult, had the feeling you were somehow in the presence of God?

CANADA		REGION					
	TOTAL	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
Yes	42%	38%	44%	36%	41%	44%	50%

U.S.		REGION			
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Yes	58%	44%	64%	62%	58%

And, Three In Ten Canadians (29%)/Half Of Americans (47%) Believe They Have Had A “Religious Or Mystical Experience”...

In Canada:

- Those living West of the Ontario/Manitoba border are the most likely to say they’ve had this type of experience.

Would you say that you have ever had a 'religious or mystical experience' that is a moment of sudden religious insight and awakening?

CANADA		REGION					
	TOTAL	BC	ALB	SK/MN	ONT	QUE	ATL
Yes	29%	41%	42%	45%	24%	19%	29%

U.S.		Region			
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Yes	47%	34%	53%	51%	44%



Church Attendance Has Remained Stable In Canada And U.S. Since Ten Years Ago...

Other than on special occasions, such as weddings, funerals or baptisms, how often did you attend religious services or meetings in the last 12 months?

CANADA	1996	2006	Change
More than once a week	7%	6%	-1%
Once a week	14%	11%	-3%
A few times a month	11%	6%	-5%
Once a month	5%	5%	0%
A few times a year	20%	18%	-2%
At least once a year	10%	14%	4%
Not at all	33%	37%	4%

UNITED STATES	1996	2006	Change
More than once a week	18%	15%	-3%
Once a week	21%	21%	0%
A few times a month	14%	11%	-3%
Once a month	7%	6%	-1%
A few times a year	17%	15%	-2%
At least once a year	7%	6%	-1%
Not at all	17%	25%	8%

-30-

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