Varieties of Church Experience Survey - Friends

Start of Block: Screening

Q4 **Varieties of Church Experience Survey**   Many if not most experiences in church or Christian groups are quite positive and meaningful. This survey, however, is mostly focused on negative experiences.   
 Are you 18 years or older?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Varieties of Church Experience Survey   Many if not most experiences in church or Christian group... = No

Q6 Have you identified as a Christian at some point in your life and/or were you raised Christian?

* YES I have identified as a Christian at some point in my life and/or I was raised Christian (1)
* NO, I have never identified as a Christian and I was not raised Christian (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Have you identified as a Christian at some point in your life and/or were you raised Christian? = NO, I have never identified as a Christian and I was not raised Christian

Q5 How many episodes of progressive Christian podcasts do you listen to per week?    
    
(Examples include: The Liturgists, The RobCast, You Have Permission, BadChristian, For the Love with Jen Hatmaker, Homebrewed Christianity, The Bible for Normal People, Ask Science Mike, The Deconstructionists, nomad, Seminary Dropout, Inglorious Pasterds, Heretic Happy Hour, Almost Heretical, VOX Podcast with Mike Erre, and others)

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End of Block: Screening

Start of Block: Consent

Q13 "Informed Consent" for the Varieties of Church Experience Survey   Researcher: Dan Koch Northwest University, College of Behavioral Sciences daniel.koch19@northwestu.edu   Institutional Contact: Institutional Review Board Northwest University irb@northwestu.edu  
   1. Introduction and Purpose of the Study The goal of this survey is to collect information on how common various experiences have been in church and Christian group settings.   
   2. Description of the Research You will be asked to complete a multi-part survey consisting of three sections. The first and longest section will ask about a range of events you may have witnessed in your time in Christian churches or groups. The second section will ask primarily about internal states and feelings that you may have experienced as a result of negative church or Christian group experiences. The third section consists of demographic questions. The survey should take 15 minutes to complete.   3. Potential Risks and Discomforts Many items included in the survey could bring up troubling memories and other forms of distress or discomfort. In case of serious distress, visit https://ovc.ojp.gov/help-for-victims/toll-free-and-online-hotlines for a list of free hotlines for victims of crime, or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK. If taking the survey brings up questions that might be best addressed with a therapist who understands Christian backgrounds, resources on finding such a therapist can be found at https://www.soyouredeconstructing.com/therapy. For a more general mental health specialist search, head to https://www.psychologytoday.com/. Due to the nature of some of the proceeding questions, if the participant has a diagnosed emotional health issue and they choose to proceed with the survey, it would be strongly advised that the participant have an ongoing relationship with or access to a mental health professional.   4. Potential Benefits  Participation in the study may offer a space for sharing and processing one’s own experiences.   
   5. Confidentiality  Your responses are completely anonymous. No names, email addresses, IP addresses, or any identifying information will be collected.   
   6. Compensation  No compensation will be offered for participating in this survey.  
   7. Voluntary Participation Your decision to participate in this study is completely voluntary.     8. Use of Results The results from this study will be utilized for a doctoral dissertation and may be presented at psychological conferences, utilized in peer-reviewed research articles, and/or presented within a variety of psychological forums (formal and informal).   
   9. Withdrawal from the Study and/or Withdrawal of Authorization    If you decide to participate in this study, you may withdraw from your participation and leave the survey unfinished at any time without penalty.

Q14 Do you consent to participate?

* YES, I understand the consent form and agree to participate in the study (1)
* NO, I prefer not to participate (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Do you consent to participate? = NO, I prefer not to participate

End of Block: Consent

Start of Block: External Events

Q15 **Section 1 deals with how often you have experienced various external events in church or Christian group settings. Your answers are completely anonymous.**   
    
**For each item, please answer: How often have you experienced the following *in a church or Christian group setting?***

Q7   
My pastor/leader explicitly claiming to speak on God's behalf

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q10   
Being asked to give up personal, vocational, and/or educational goals by a pastor or group leader

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q11   
Seeing that anyone who disagreed with my church/pastor was consequently portrayed as evil

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q16   
My church community abandoning me in a difficult time

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q17   
Being treated as “less than” because of my sexual orientation

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q18   
Discouragement of critical thinking by my church or pastor

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q19   
Behavior being excessively monitored by my pastor or group members

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q20   
Seeing specific members being pressured to give money despite well-known personal financial hardship

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q21   
Being taught that I would be risking Hell if I left my particular church/group

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q22   
Being expected to follow my pastor/leader’s personal rules/advice around dating, marriage, and sex

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q23   
Prayer replacing needed medical interventions

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q24   
Being expected to consult my pastor/leader before making non-religious decisions

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q25   
Feeling unable to raise questions and issues

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q26   
Being pressured to forgive an abuser while the abuse was ongoing

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q27   
Being denied opportunities to serve/volunteer because of my gender

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q28   
Seeing the leadership or group protecting abusive individuals

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q29   
Feeling special when in my pastor/leader’s good graces; feeling ignored when I wasn’t

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q30   
Being deterred from seeking mental health treatment, counseling and/or medication

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q31   
Being shunned or ignored by my pastor or church/group

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q32   
Feeling unable to express unhappiness

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q34   
Seeing Scripture used to justify physical punishment or other types of severe discipline

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q35   
Being explicitly taught to distrust my emotions

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q36   
Mental or physical problems being interpreted as spiritual/moral weakness

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q37   
Being made to feel less spiritually advanced/mature than my pastor/leadership

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q38   
Having unrealistic demands placed on my moral or religious behavior

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q39   
Being made to feel shame over naturally occurring sexual desires (not actions)

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q40   
Threatening Divine punishment to keep group members in line

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q41   
Being denied opportunities to serve because of my sexual orientation

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q42   
Seeing others shamed or shunned by the pastor/leader or group

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q43   
Being shamed by my pastor or the group for poor spiritual/moral performance

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q44   
Love or acceptance only being offered if spiritual or moral performance was high

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q45   
Vivid descriptions of Hell, Satan, or demons being taught to young children that are developmentally inappropriate and/or anxiety-provoking

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q46   
Being treated as “less than” because of my skin color

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q47   
Medical care being postponed or not given at all for religious reasons

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q49   
The leadership or group not only protecting but elevating abusive individuals

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q50   
Being treated as “less than” because of my gender

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q51   
Experiencing extreme pressure to take on a role of pastor, missionary, or other spiritual leader

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q52   
Being blamed for harm that I suffered, rather than blaming those who harmed me

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q53   
Seeing Scripture used to justify abusive parent-child behavior

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q54   
Being explicitly taught to distrust my intuitions

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q55   
Hearing cultural references in sermons that were not commonly known to members of my racial or ethnic subculture

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q56   
Being made to feel like I was crazy or weird for having doubts or questions

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q57   
Developing mental or physical ailments as a result of stress from conforming to the group/leader’s expectation

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q58   
Terror or horror being used to motivate religious decisions

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q59   
Seeing the pastor or group blame the victim of abuse for the abuse itself

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q60   
How often have you experienced the following in a church or Christian group setting?  
  
   
Being encouraged to remain in an abusive marriage by religious leaders

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q61   
Vivid descriptions of the end of the world being taught to young children that are developmentally inappropriate and/or anxiety-provoking

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q62   
Seeing Scripture used to justify physical violence

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q63   
Being shamed by my pastor or the group for raising questions or concerns

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q64   
Witnessing women being pressured to stay in unfaithful or abusive marriages

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q65   
Being “cut off” or shunned by more religious family members

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q66   
Seeing others treated as “less than” because of their sexual orientation

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

End of Block: External Events

Start of Block: Internal States

Q67 **Section 2 measures how often you have experienced various internal states *as a result of negative experiences in church or Christian group settings*. Your answers are completely anonymous.**   
    
**For each item, please answer: At any point, how often have you felt or experienced the below *as a result of negative religious experiences?***

Q68   
Anxiety attacks triggered by religious stimuli

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q69   
A lack of spiritual direction or purpose

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q70   
Feeling betrayed by God

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q71   
Personally avoiding religious activities or settings to reduce distressing feelings

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q72   
Feeling as if God harmed me directly

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q73   
Self-hatred or self-loathing

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q74   
Sadness over the loss of my faith/religious community

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q76   
Feeling that I wasted years of my life in a particular church or set of beliefs

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q77   
Anger upon reflecting on negative religious experiences

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q78   
A lack of self-worth

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q79   
Distrust of God

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q80   
Feeling isolated

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q81   
Nightmares about my negative religious experiences

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

Q82   
Having trouble navigating life outside my church/community

* Never (1)
* Once or twice (2)
* Sometimes (3)
* Often (4)
* All the time (5)

End of Block: Internal States

Start of Block: Demographics

Q83 **Finally, please answer some demographic questions. Your answers are completely anonymous.**

Q84 Your age (in years):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q85 Your gender:

* Cisgender Male (1)
* Cisgender Female (2)
* Transgender Male (3)
* Transgender Female (4)
* Other (5)
* Prefer not to say (6)

Q86 Your sexual orientation:

* Straight (1)
* Gay/Lesbian (2)
* Bisexual (3)
* Asexual (4)
* Queer (5)
* Don't Know (6)

Q87 Your race:

* Ethnically of Hispanic/Latino origin (1)
* Black/African American (2)
* White/European American (3)
* Asian (4)
* American Indian/Alaska Native (5)
* Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (6)
* Other (7)

Q88 Were you raised in a Christian home?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

Q89 The denomination or group type that most accurately describes the church or group where you experienced the greatest incidence of negative religious experiences is:

* Catholic (1)
* Charismatic/Pentacostal (2)
* Baptist (3)
* Mainline (Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal/Anglican, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, etc.) (4)
* Non-denominational (5)
* Orthodox Christian (Greek, Russian, Ethiopian, etc.) (6)
* Mormon (7)
* Christian church other than the above (8)
* Evangelistic/Missions organization (Billy Graham Assoc., YWAM, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Teen Missions, Africa Inland Mission, Wycliff Bible Translators, Youth for Christ, etc.) (9)
* College Christian organization (Cru/Campus Crusade for Christ, InterVarsity, Navigators, etc.) (10)
* Christian Youth Organization (YoungLife, Awana, Teen Challenge, etc.) (11)
* Christian Media Company (Publisher, Record Label, Focus on the Family, etc.) (12)
* Christian school or university (13)
* Christian political/activist group (14)
* Christian aid/social services group (World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, Catholic Relief Services, etc.) (15)
* Local Bible study or small group (16)
* Christian group other than the above (17)

Q90 The racial makeup of that same church’s *congregation* or group’s *membership* (referred to in the above question) could best be described as:

* Predominantly white (1)
* Mixed race (2)
* Predominantly people of color (3)

Q91 The racial makeup of that church or group’s *leadership* could best be described as:

* Predominantly white (1)
* Mixed race (2)
* Predominantly people of color (3)

Q92 The gender makeup of that church or group’s leadership could best be described as:

* All male (1)
* Mostly male (2)
* Mixed gender (3)
* Mostly female (4)
* All female (5)

Q95 "I was very involved in that church or Christian group." Agree or disagree?

* 1 - Strongly disagree (1)
* 2 (2)
* 3 (3)
* 4 (4)
* 5 (5)
* 6 (6)
* 7 - Strongly agree (7)

Q93 How do you religiously identify today?

* Protestant (1)
* Catholic (2)
* Mormon (3)
* Orthodox Christian (4)
* Other religious tradition (Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc.) (5)
* Atheist (6)
* Agnostic (7)
* Nothing in particular (8)

Display This Question:

If How do you religiously identify today? = Protestant

Or How do you religiously identify today? = Catholic

Or How do you religiously identify today? = Mormon

Or How do you religiously identify today? = Orthodox Christian

Q97 Theologically, how do you see yourself?

* 1 - Very Conservative (1)
* 2 (2)
* 3 (3)
* 4 - In the Middle (4)
* 5 (5)
* 6 (6)
* 7 - Very Liberal (7)

Q98 Which one of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about the Bible?

* The Bible is the actual word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word (1)
* The Bible is the inspired word of God but not everything should be taken literally, word for word (2)
* The Bible is an ancient book of fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man (3)

End of Block: Demographics