

## A Faith Check-Up

How mature is your understanding of Jesus Christ? A recent survey by Ligonier Ministries discovered that many American Christians do not understand the Gospel as well as they might think. How about you? Here is a sampling of the statements contained in that survey. Do you agree or disagree with these statements?

1. God is a perfect being and cannot make a mistake.
2. There is one true God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. God accepts the worship of all religions.
4. God created male and female.
5. Biblical accounts of the physical (bodily) resurrection of Jesus are completely accurate. This event actually occurred.
6. Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.
7. Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.
8. The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being.
9. The Holy Spirit can tell me to do something which is forbidden in the Bible.
10. Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature.
11. God counts a person as righteous not because of one's works but only because of one's faith in Jesus Christ.
12. The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.
13. Modern science disproves the Bible.
14. God will always reward true faith with material blessings in this life.
15. Hell is a real place where certain people will be punished forever.
16. There will be a time when Jesus Christ returns to judge all the people who have lived.
17. Worshiping alone or with one's family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church.
18. God chose the people he would save before he created the world.
19. Churches must provide entertaining worship services if they want to be effective.
20. God is unconcerned with my day-to-day decisions.
21. The Bible has the authority to tell us what we must do.
22. Sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin.

23. Abortion is a sin.
24. Gender identity is a matter of choice.
25. The Bible's condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn't apply today.
26. Religious belief is a matter of personal opinion; it is not about objective truth.
27. The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.
28. Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.
29. Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation.

Now compare your results with the results from the survey. Keep in mind, this survey was given to American "Evangelicals", not to the population in general. The original survey offered five categories – disagree strongly; disagree somewhat; no opinion; agree somewhat; agree strongly. But since these statements all represent truths recognized over the centuries and taught plainly by the Scriptures, the results listed below only represent the "agree strongly" or "disagree strongly" result, since God hates a "lukewarm faith" that hedges its bets "somewhat".

From the results below, it is clear that – in Evangelical churches in the United States at least - the Church has lost its "saltiness" and its light is quickly becoming darkness. Such a faith stands little chance of changing its culture, and must soon either renew its conviction regarding Truth or be "spit out" of God's mouth and trampled underfoot by the culture – which is indeed happening.

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| 1. 50% (agree);    | 11. 33% (agree)    | 21. 28% (agree)    |
| 2. 53% (agree);    | 12. 26% (disagree) | 22. 31% (agree)    |
| 3. 16% (disagree); | 13. 31% (disagree) | 23. 34% (agree)    |
| 4. 65% (agree);    | 14. 32% (disagree) | 24. 37% (disagree) |
| 5. 45% (agree)     | 15. 34% (agree)    | 25. 30% (disagree) |
| 6. 21% (disagree)  | 16. 41% (agree)    | 26. 20% (disagree) |
| 7. 27% (disagree)  | 17. 14% (disagree) | 27. 37% (agree)    |
| 8. 16% (disagree)  | 18. 13% (agree)    | 28. 40% (agree)    |
| 9. 47% (disagree)  | 19. 29% (disagree) | 29. 36% (agree)    |
| 10. 14% (disagree) | 20. 41% (disagree) |                    |