

HomeLifeProfile

As pastors and church leaders seeking to develop godly homes both in your church and in your community--our means of conceptualizing these homes, or households, is vital to our conceptualizing how we shape and form our ministries.

Whatever our living arrangements, home is where we keep our stuff, where we return to after the rigors of our day, where we share life with our loved ones who come to our home or share it 24/7/365. Home is where you put down roots—with hopes and dreams that may or may not come true as planned. There is something about inviting someone to “*come on over to my home*” that communicates our sense of identity both present, and future.



Part of general revelation is that we humans, God’s created, can handle around seven variables of life, at a time.

Some have been blessed to push that to nine—others struggle with five —and most of us live somewhere in between. Add newness to a variable, and the learning curve spikes. Add a measure of conflict to a variable and the intensity—and there may be less of us to hold together the other variables in our lives. Add another person as coupling leads to marriage—and the adjustments that come with life’s transitions may fill us with excitement and energy or fill us with frustration and exhaustion. Add a baby (or the frustration of not having a child) to a couple trying to figure out what the new titles of “Dad” or “Mom” mean to their titles of “husband” or “wife”. Add age—the natural marker of young life, midlife and older life—and we begin to see a conceptualizing the homes from which people come to worship and spiritually grow through the ministries of your church.

We acknowledge each person and home is unique, and equally acknowledge no church can build unique ministries for each person and home. We can minister to all—as we adjust our thinking to ministering ***one-to-many***; ***one-to-some***; and ***one-to-one*** based on the needs of the homes.

We trust you will find the **HomeLifeProfile** views of your findings help you and your teams shape ministries for years to come.

HomeLifeProfile: Fellowship North																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	N= 305	Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total
Segment Assignment	Count	15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305

A transition, for our purposes here, is a bridge between stages of relative certainty. It is a time of uncertainty, or change, as one-time winds down and a new one emerges. Change—even change that’s predictable and expected—carries elements of risk, insecurity, and vulnerability. Our days on earth are not a progression of fixed points. In fact, stable times are the exception; transition is the norm—key points in our spiritual journey.

To some, the word **change** offers a sense of hope—drawing us to fresh possibilities or the potential of newness, and we embrace them accordingly. To others—to most—even the word itself represents a threat, a disruption of comfort and safety, and change is resisted as such. Some make outward or cosmetic changes but intentionally strive to keep the essence of everything statically the same.

Perhaps the most straightforward way to conceptualize the **HomeLifeProfile** is: the old, or what has been, dies so that the new can be born. A transition *starts* with an ending: we release the old to make way for the new. One reason change seems difficult is that even if what we had was flawed and we’ve known it—we’re familiar with it and it’s comfortable. One gets familiar with living as a never-married person, yet for many—becoming a married person is a desired change. The same may come with a desire to have children. I’ve found that for family ministry purposes, transition has three “parts”: an ending, a neutral zone, and a beginning.

In the ending, we lose or let go of our old outlook, our old reality, our old attitudes, our old values, our old self-image. We resist this ending for a while. We may try to talk ourselves out of what we are feeling, and when we do give in, we may be swept up by feelings of anxiousness, sadness or anger.

What follows is a neutral zone between the old and the new—yet not really being either the old or the new. This confusing state is a time when our lives feel as though they have broken apart or gone dead. We experience the anxiousness of mixed signals—some from our old way of being and some from a way of being that is still unclear to us. Nothing feels solid—and we haven’t gotten our *sea legs*, yet. Everything is up for grabs. Yet—for some reason—it is a time when we sometimes feel that anything is possible. So, the in-between time can be a very creative and growing time, too.



And finally, in God’s mercy, we take hold of and identify with some new outlook and some new reality as well as new attitudes and a new self-image. When we have done this—we feel that we are finally starting a new chapter in our lives. No matter how impossible it once was to imagine a future earlier—life now feels as if it is back on track again. We have a new sense of ourselves, a new outlook, and a new sense of purpose and possibility. And most of the time, we have a new sense of God—and His glory!

Many **endings**, end up as losses (either actual or perceived). None of us care for losses, but they, too, are a necessary part of life—and of family ministry. Though **loss** is a constant companion, we don’t frequently talk about it—as if there’s a silent conspiracy, we seem to have an unspoken agreement with others to avoid it. Somehow, we must come to realize, though, that with every loss comes the potential for change, for growth, for insight, for understanding, for refinement, and maybe most importantly, to see God with us—in the midst of it all. All of these are positive descriptions—**they’re words of hope!**

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1-Whom shared with us “A bit about their life story”.

Over a series of four (4) Sundays and a grace week that followed, a total of 305 adults took the church’s cues to follow the path provided to open the Fellowship North survey, complete it in one sitting or use the “SAVE AND RETURN LATER” option, and clicking the “SUBMIT” tab to “speak for themselves”. Through our preparation discussions, it was concluded that a pool of potentially 400 adults were regularly involved at least once a month at Fellowship North. Using that estimate, a target response rate of 260, or 65% was established. With each weekly “Tuesday Update” it became increasingly apparent that the progression of inviting across both public ministry and personal ministry modes would be appropriate and was indeed blessed. The 305 respondents are a 76% response rate—a true treasure for you moving forward.

Why is that?

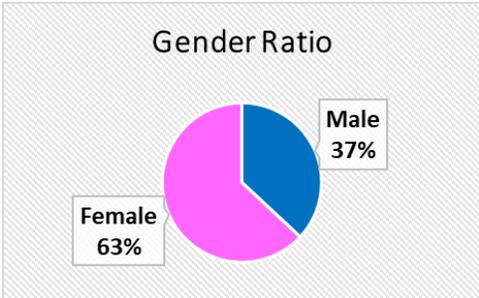
The answer is simple—most modern church research is built around gathering a small, proportionate representative sample. The church staff and key leaders pick/invite those whom they already have a relationship and are confident will complete the survey. All too often in the use of this method, you only “hear from the choir”. The same risk when only pastors, staff and leadership boards/teams are the only ones to represent the households of the church, via their own context and contacts.

As Christian leaders, we have a clear model in Jesus’ approach to determining needs—and though he already knew people’s needs—he still asked them questions giving each, the opportunity to respond. Jesus’ ministry was based on effectiveness—not efficiency. Approach men and women as he spoke to the crowds, as he spoke with different segments specific to their context, and of course, spoke to men and women one-to-one.

By seeking a 65% response from all once-a-month adults, we can gather sufficient insight to speak with confidence of the experience of “being blessed” and provide ourselves the opportunity to also hear from those experiencing a “less than blessed” intersection of faith & life, surrounding the writing of their personal story.

In our work over the past 20+ years with congregations, we have seen a rather steady ratio of 43% males and 57% females. In face-to-face “reveal” sessions, we have affirmed this to represent the typical involvement within the church family and its ministries.

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Male	129	36.94
Female	176	63.06
Total	305	100.00



As you look at the response rate and gender ratio of your church’s Faith & Life Survey...

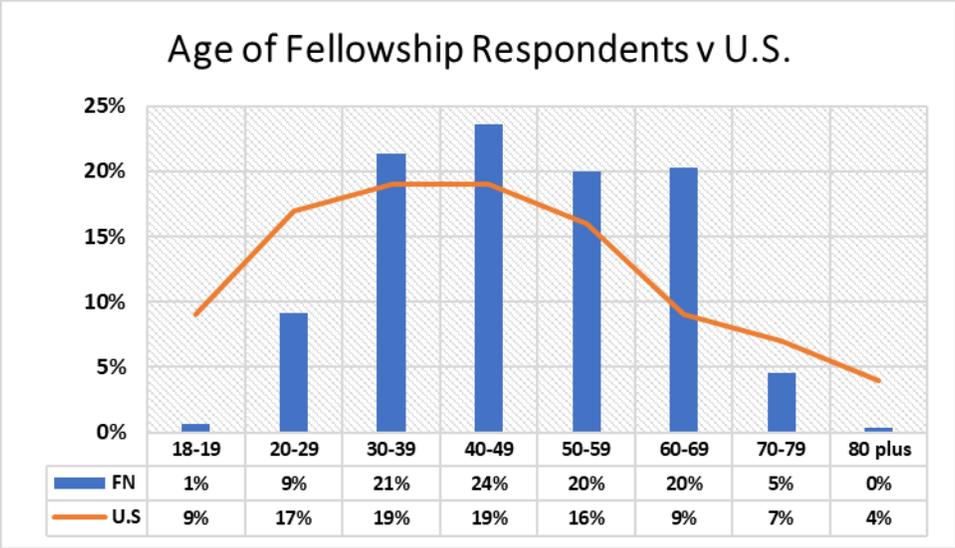
- 1- What parts of your survey process do you feel worked best? Surprised you? Explain how.

- 2- Does the gender ratio of your findings mirror who you see weekly? Explain.

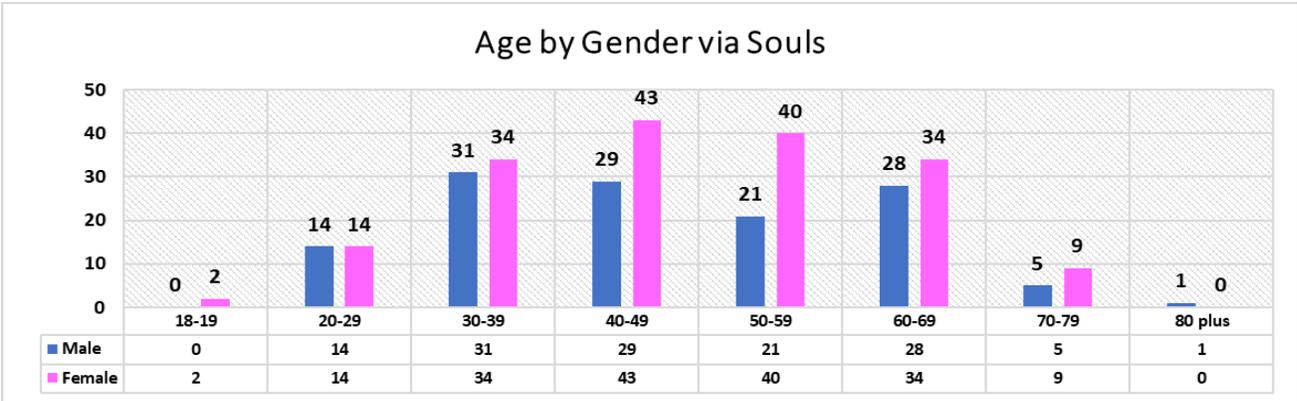
Age is a key measure in terms of thinking of family ministry in terms of the *HomeLifeProfile* where very predictable life transitions seem to interplay with variables such as to be single/to be married; to not be a parent/to be a parent; and such things like caring for an aging parent or in-law—while parenting in your own household happens.

As you view the graph to the right, the blue bars indicate the percentage of the 305 respondents which fit into each age segment. The red line indicates the U.S. census percentage for each age segment, across the country.

As churches, bar exceeding the U.S. average indicate a past emphasis/affinity which influences the church's makeup, today. Only those who have been a part of a church over many years bring the context to name and understand just how this may have come to be. It is an important discussion to have amongst the different segments of your family ministry effort.



“So God made man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” Gen. 1:27 (ESV).



In an age where elements want to proclaim that there is no difference between men and women AND proclaim that the life story of men and women ARE different is a special challenge for 21st century family ministry.

Why do men and women *write* such different intersections at the corner of faith & life?

We trust that as you work through your church's findings, your answers will become clearer.

How closely does this gender ratio appear to represent the church you see weekly?

Generation is one of America's most misunderstood constructs. As a church, this is an area which must be biblically grounded: *God has composed the body, the church, so that every member is significant. The members should have "the same care for one another"* (1 Cor. 12:25 NASB). To have this same care for one another we must possess an understanding of the space between the generations.

A generation is a group of people who are connected by their place in time with common boundaries and a common character. To describe the persona of a generation, three attributes must be identified: perceived membership in a common generation, common beliefs and behaviors, and a common location in history.

Although the generations live in the same world, they **do not** experience the world in the same way. Generations tend to think and act in unison on many matters.

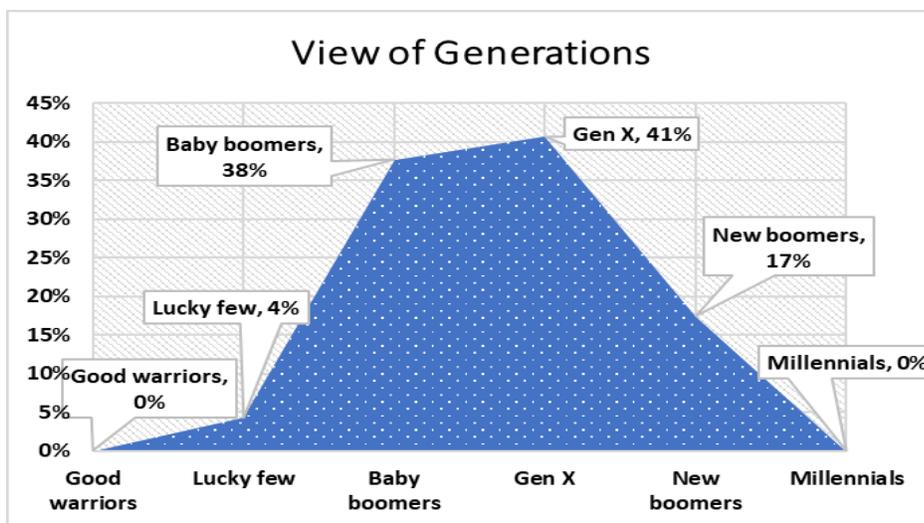
American demographers have invested a lot of energy into the friction of generational transitions. Below is a table of the context from which generational segments, and their attributes will be discussed in this report:

1. The New Worlders	2. The Hard Timers	3. The Good Warriors	4. The Lucky Few	5. The Baby Boomers	6. Generation X	7. The New Boomers
(born from 1871 through 1889, median member born in 1880) lived on farms more than any other American generation during the 20th century. One-fifth of all children born into this generation died in childhood. They are known as New Worlders because about one of every four people in this generation immigrated to the United States	(born from 1890 through 1908, median member born in 1899) first fought in World War I, then struggled through the Great Depression, and finally finished their working lives in the wartime economy of World War II. They often married late, had fewer children, and generally had the fewest choices about the direction of their lives of any generation during the century	(born from 1909 through 1928, median member born in 1918) were called the Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw in 1998. They fought in World War II and led all other generations in blue-collar jobs and union membership. They and the Lucky Few were the most native-born generations in U.S. history	(born from 1929 through 1945, median member born in 1937) had the smallest share of immigrants of any generation in the century, and were the first generation in U.S. history with fewer people than the preceding generation. Many educated Lucky Few men skipped blue-collar jobs for white-collar careers. Their military service came mostly during peacetime rather than wartime. Lucky Few women married earlier than any other generation in U.S. history	(born from 1946 through 1964, median member born in 1955) nearly doubled the number of people in the Lucky Few to become the largest generation of the century. While baby-boomer men had problems finding jobs, women in this generation nearly matched men in education and made great strides in the career world	(born from 1965 through 1982, median member born in 1974) marks the first generation with a greater share of women than men graduating from college. Generation X once again includes many foreign-born immigrants. They delayed marriage and parenthood more than any other generation before them in the century. Men continued to struggle with jobs while women moved forward in careers as well as education	(born from 1983 through 2001, median member born in 1992) include almost as many births as the original baby boom and will add a larger share of new immigrants in adulthood than any generation since the New Worlders. They will become the largest generation of any living during the century. Most of their lives will take place in the 21st century however, so we only get a few hints about them here

Okay—I already can hear the, “where did this label New Boomers come from?” Why does the media call those born 1983-2001 “millennials” and you are not?

The answer is quite simple—since 11 September 2001, every child born/living in the U.S. has lived under the threat of terrorism, has seen photos of caskets draped with flags, has been taught a global world view new to the 21st century—true millennials.

Source: Elwood Carlson, *The Lucky Few: Between the Greatest Generation and the Baby Boom* (New York: Springer Publishers, 2008).



Heritage serves to clarify each of our personal stories even further, by helping identify where we experienced our generation’s knowledge, skills and attitudes—the guiding elements in our expectations of life in families. For some, just one heritage needs to be included in telling one’s story-yet for others, there might be two or more heritages that added extra complexity to understanding how to live at the intersection of faith & life.

First, let’s look at how to determine the segment of individuals who find themselves writing their story through the lens of two or more self-identified heritages. Look at the table below—drawing your attention specifically to the column of percentages. Look at the percentage on the total respondent row (bottom right).

Self-identification of Heritage (You may mark more than one, as your story unfolds)		
White (for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.)	255	83.6%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (for example, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadorian, Dominican, etc.)	4	1.3%
Black or African American (for example African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somalian, etc.)	47	15.4%
Asian (for example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.)	0	0.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native (for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional	3	1.0%
Middle Eastern or North African (for example, Lebanese, Iran	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Figian, Marshallese, etc.)	0	0.0%
Some other race, ethnicity, or origin.	1	0.3%
Other:	0	0.0%
total respondents	305	101.6%

Is this number at 100%, indicating all respondents expressed a single-heritage experience, or is that number >100%? And if so, how much greater?

What implications does this finding bring to a person’s self-identification friction?

One of the obstacles to some individuals marrying is the perceived barrier of meeting a potential spouse, yet one whose own self-identified heritage is far too complex to try to figure out.

Self-identification of Spousal Heritage		
<i>I am not married</i>	54	
White (for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc.)	211	21.5%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (for example, Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadorian, Dominican, etc.)	4	84.1%
Black or African American (for example African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somalian, etc.)	31	1.6%
Asian (for example, Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, etc.)	2	12.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native (for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional	2	0.8%
Middle Eastern or North African (for example, Lebanese, Iran	0	0.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Figian, Marshallese, etc.)	0	0.0%
Some other race, ethnicity, or origin.	1	0.0%
Other:	0	0.4%
total respondents	251	121.5%

As you did above, look at the percentage column to the right, and look down to the percentage listed on the total respondent row. Is this number right at 100%, or is it greater? And if greater, how much greater?

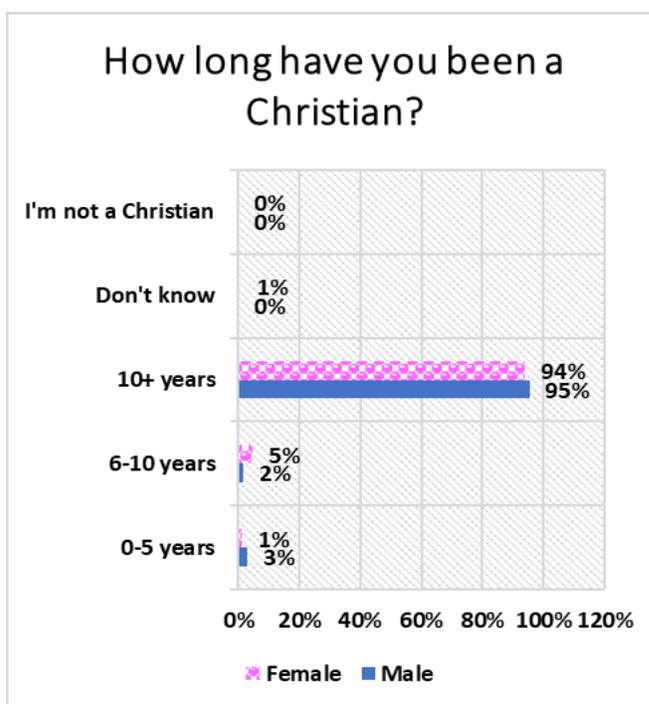
[Note: percentages describe “your spouse’s heritage, if married”]

So much happens at the corner of **Faith & Life**. While we do not pick our family of origin (unless adopted after age 4 or 5), nor when or where we begin our spiritual journey story—they do impact our generation to generation transfer of faith.

So, let's look at the **spiritual activities** of our respondents to your **Faith & Life Survey**.

The first measures the response to the question, "How long have you been a Christian?" Self-identification as a Christian in the post-World War II era of the 20th century increased greatly—even though it became a bit less clear just what this meant.

How long have you been a Christian?				
0-5 years	6-10 years	10+ years	Don't know	I'm not a Christian
2%	3%	94%	0%	0%
6	10	288	1	0
305				



In your church's culture, what words would you attach to those adults self-identifying as a Christian who responded: 0-5 years, and 6-10 years?

Again, in your church's culture, what words would you attach to those adults self-identifying as a Christian 10+ years?

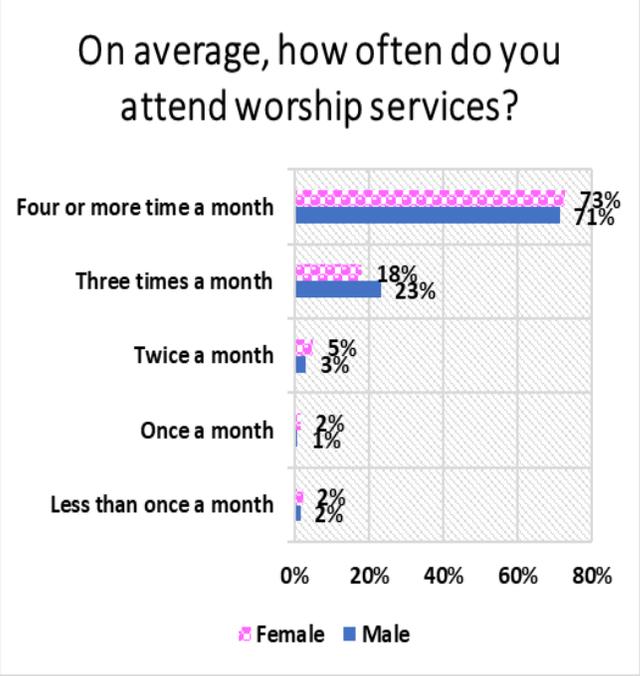
You will note that we offered a distinct response option: "I'm not a Christian", to begin to gather information about spiritually-mismatched couples. We also offer the response option, "Don't know". What did we find regarding these two very important self-identifications?

Let's draw your attention to a key check we've come to see in verifying that your respondents are representative of your actual church family. We ask you to look at the percentage difference between males and females for this question. IF the percentages are nearly equal—you have a HIGHLY representative sample—if they are not, the males are probably under represented. So, what did you find?

A characteristic of church life in the 21st century is that pastors must now plan their sermon series to account for the three-congregations that gather across the average of four Sunday's a month. Even you F&LS process was based on having only one-third of your church family gathered any given weekend.

And while Chick-fil-A and Hobby Lobby honor the seventh day for faith, family and rest—children and youth athletics, music, drama and the like, no longer do. Any parents are torn by the desire for succeeding in faith, or all these other endeavors.

On average, how often do you attend worship services?					
Less than once a month	Once a month	Twice a month	Three times a month	Four or more time a month	
2%	1%	4%	20%	72%	
6	4	13	62	220	305



As you look at the self-identified account of attending weekend worship services, do you find they suggest this “three-congregations” to plan for pattern, and if so, has this been taken into account in terms of both the weekend faith formation efforts; and/or coming alongside adults (and their children) through equipping the to guide faith-formation-at-home?

How closely does this self-identification to worship attendance match your earlier perceptions?

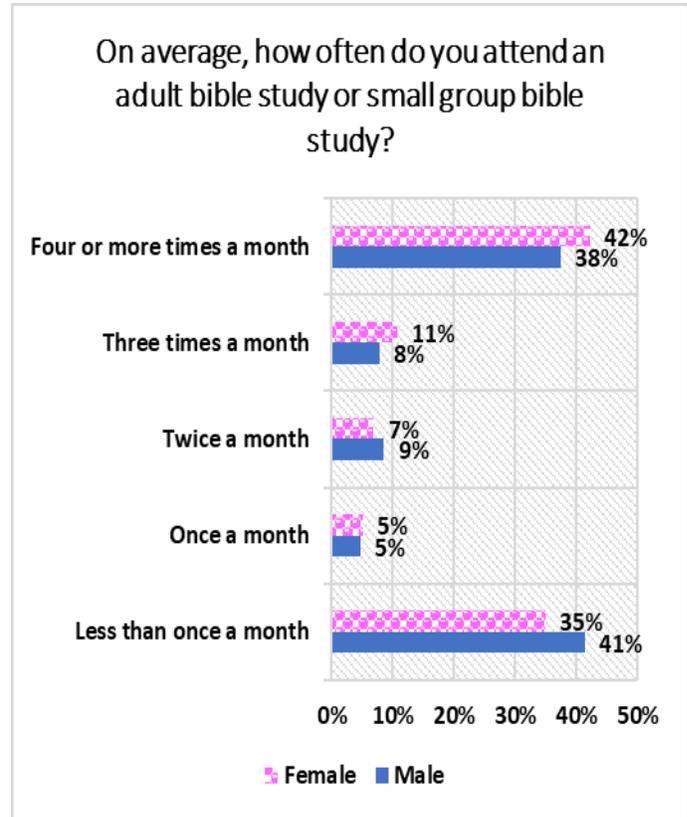
The last of the three faith demographic items focused on attending adult Bible study or small group Bible study—or our “faith-between Sundays” measure.

Why is this so important at the corner of Faith & Life?

²⁹ And immediately he^{al} left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them Mark 1:29-31 ESV).

By Jesus’ example, our **public ministry** is planned, rehearsed, and forced into a 3-part outline that must fit into a 25-minute time slot, or something like that. Our **personal ministry** is spontaneous, unrehearsed and always takes place at the most in opportune times that can go late into the night.

For these reasons, we give great importance to providing a measure of receptiveness not only know what our obedience to God looks like—but also, how to progressively demonstrate a more Christ-like response to the challenge of every day life as an individual, as a couple, and/or as a parent.



On average, how often do you attend an adult bible study or small group bible study?

Less than once a month	Once a month	Twice a month	Three times a month	Four or more times a month	
38%	5%	8%	10%	40%	
114	15	23	29	122	303

As you look at the findings regarding receptive to personal ministry (whether evangelism or discipleship), are you surprised? Write a sentence or two to capture these thoughts before we work through a more detailed look at spiritual activities throughout this report.

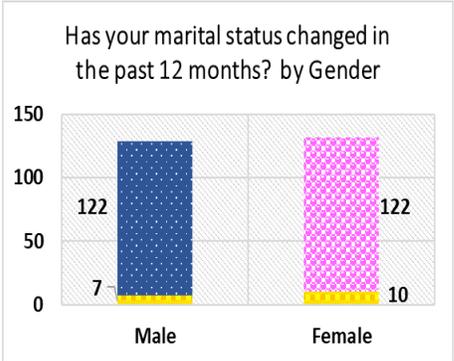
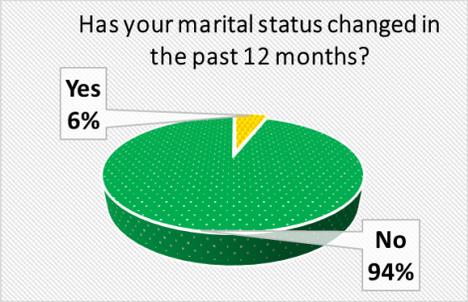
Has “house ministry” been a part of the church’s conversations? Have you made past efforts to move this direction? Do these findings encourage or discourage?

To be single; To be married? There is a lot of complexity built into all our personal lives in our families of origin—but nothing close to the added complexity should we marry. And what if we did marry, only to suddenly have our marital status change? Sudden transitions can be overwhelming—disrupting our simple ways of seeing our own corner of Faith at Life.

Viewing the graph on the right, whom, if anyone experienced a change in their marital status in the 12 months preceding their writing the F&LS?

The lower graph to the right shows us the story of loss being written noting the male and female “souls”—real people, right here in your church family.

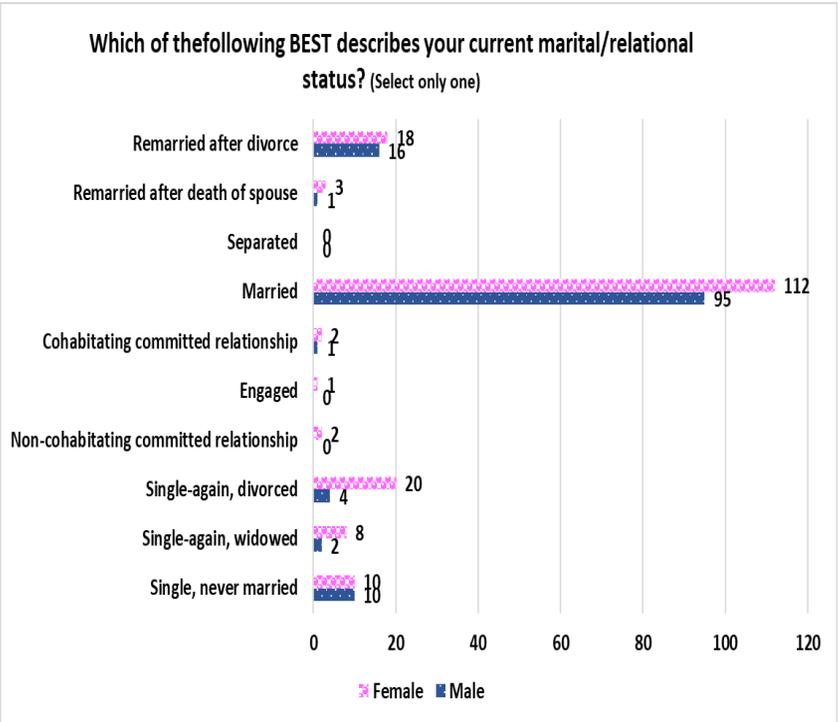
As you read, would you pray for God to grant wisdom in knowing how to better come alongside each “soul”?

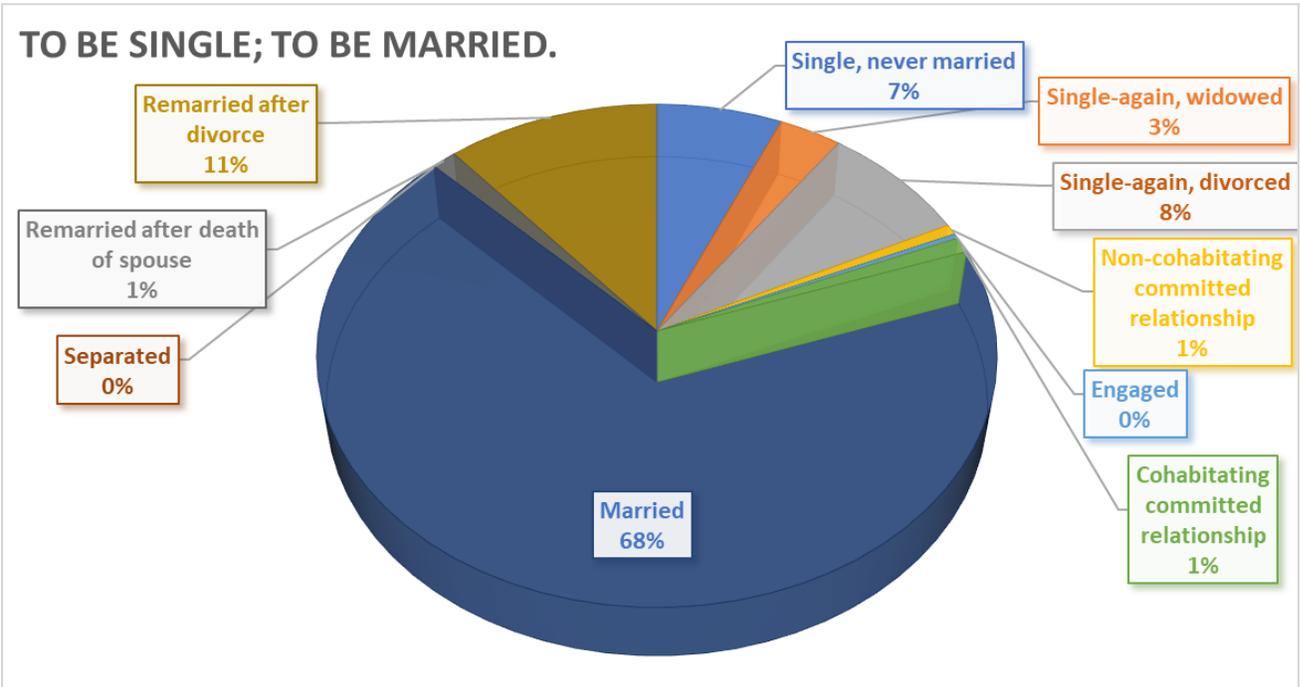


It is very easy to think that there are only three forms of marital/relational stories being written: unmarried, engaged and married. A simple way to consider ministering—but far from representing the households from which men and women come worship, connect and grow.

As you can see in the graph below, there are ten (10) segments to marital/relational life—each with their own meta-narrative of both their life, and how each views God involved.

Again, we challenge you to read, and think of “souls” from amongst your midst who are writing their marital/relational stories of God’s faithfulness (or sorrow and loss) on a fly-over maze of cloverleaves, rather than a one-lane country path. This report will discuss the importance of establishing a theology of marriage, divorce and remarriage, the purpose at this time is to begin to see the one-to-some and one-to-one possibilities of future family ministry flowing from your church.



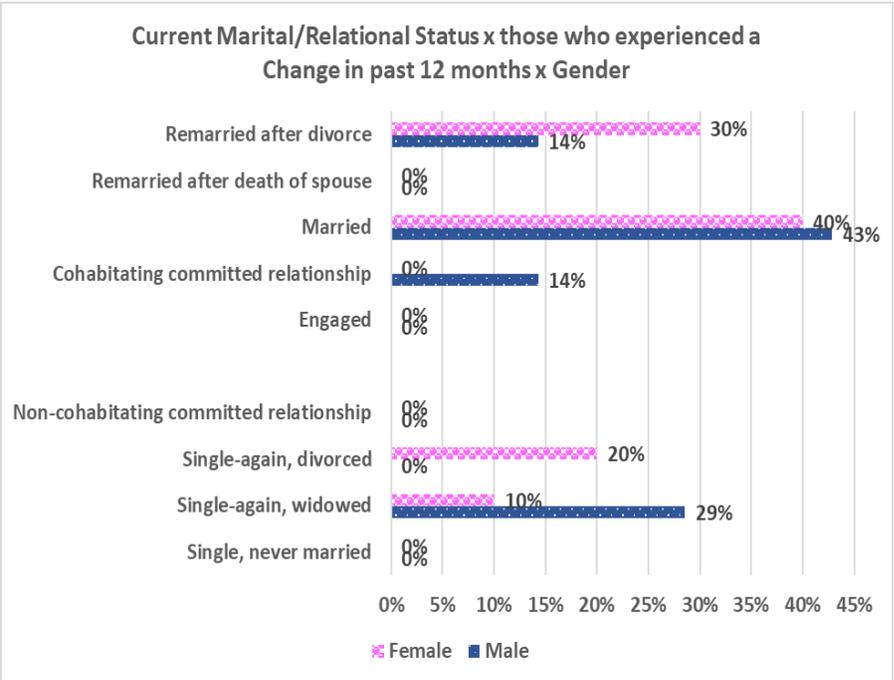


And while this report will zoom-in more closely on the separate lanes of that fly-over maze—our purpose here is again to look closely at the snapshot taken, by the Faith & Life Survey—and remind you much has been already written anew.

To zoom in right now, note the graph to the lower right. In it you will see the crosstabulation of Current Marital/Relational Status by Those seventeen (17) souls who experience a Change in the past 12 months by Gender.

Consider two questions:
 Was I aware of any of these changes? If so, which ones?

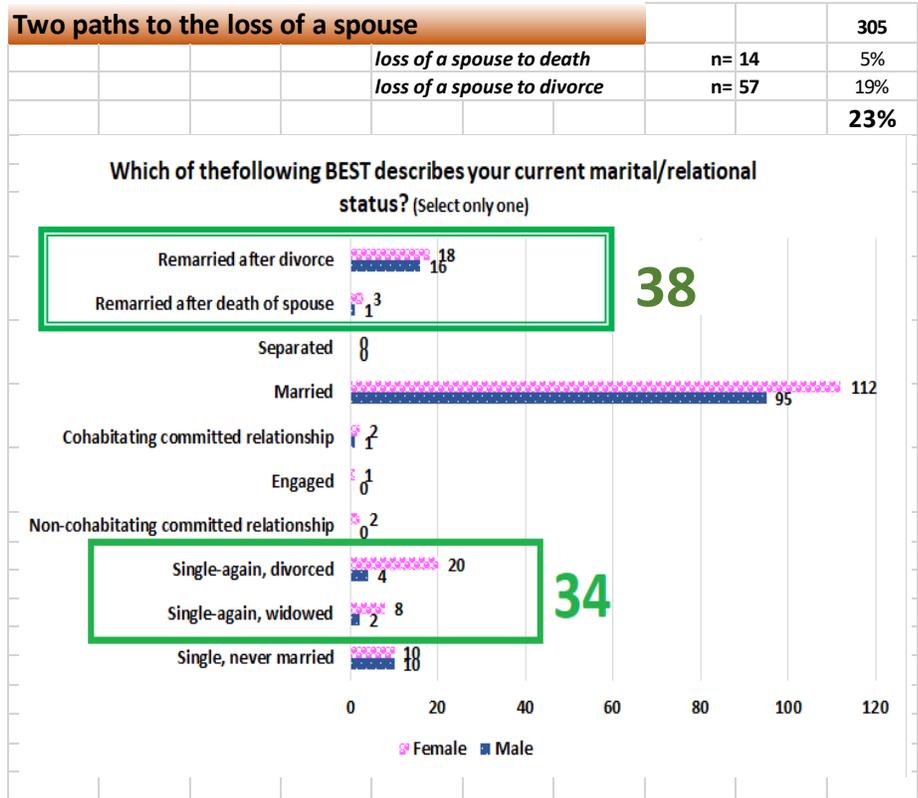
 Which am I finding I was very unaware of?



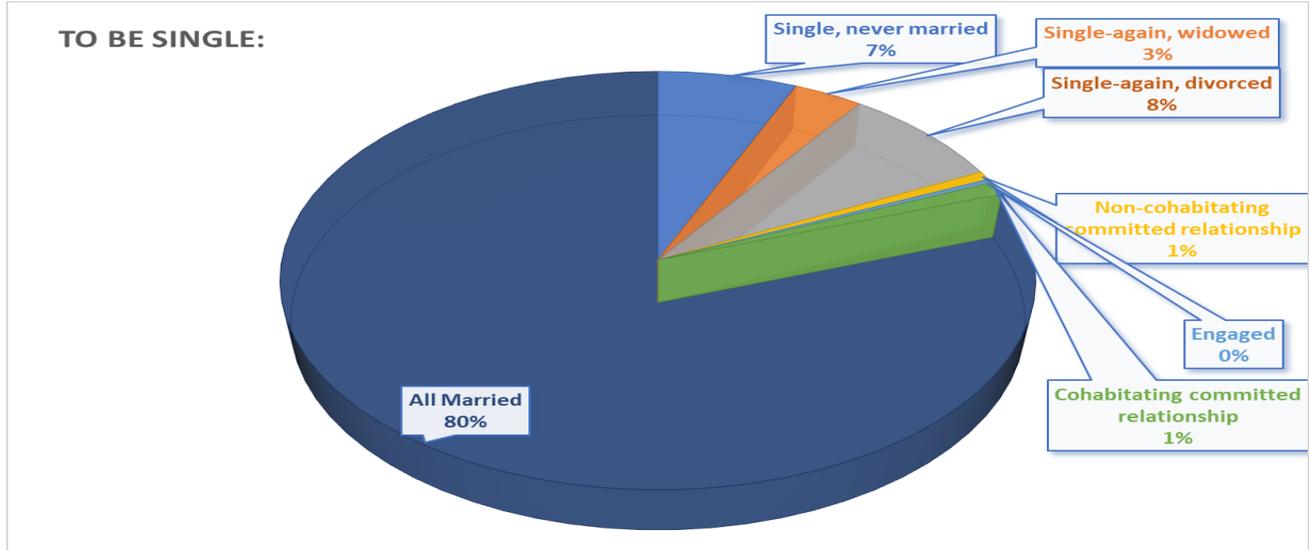
Loss changes many people’s stories from comedies to tragic drama—and for some, a story of God’s faithfulness and restoration of one’s soul.

Look at the far-right column of percentages in the graph/table below. What percentage of the adult who gave you a glimpse of their lives between Sundays have experienced the loss of a spouse?

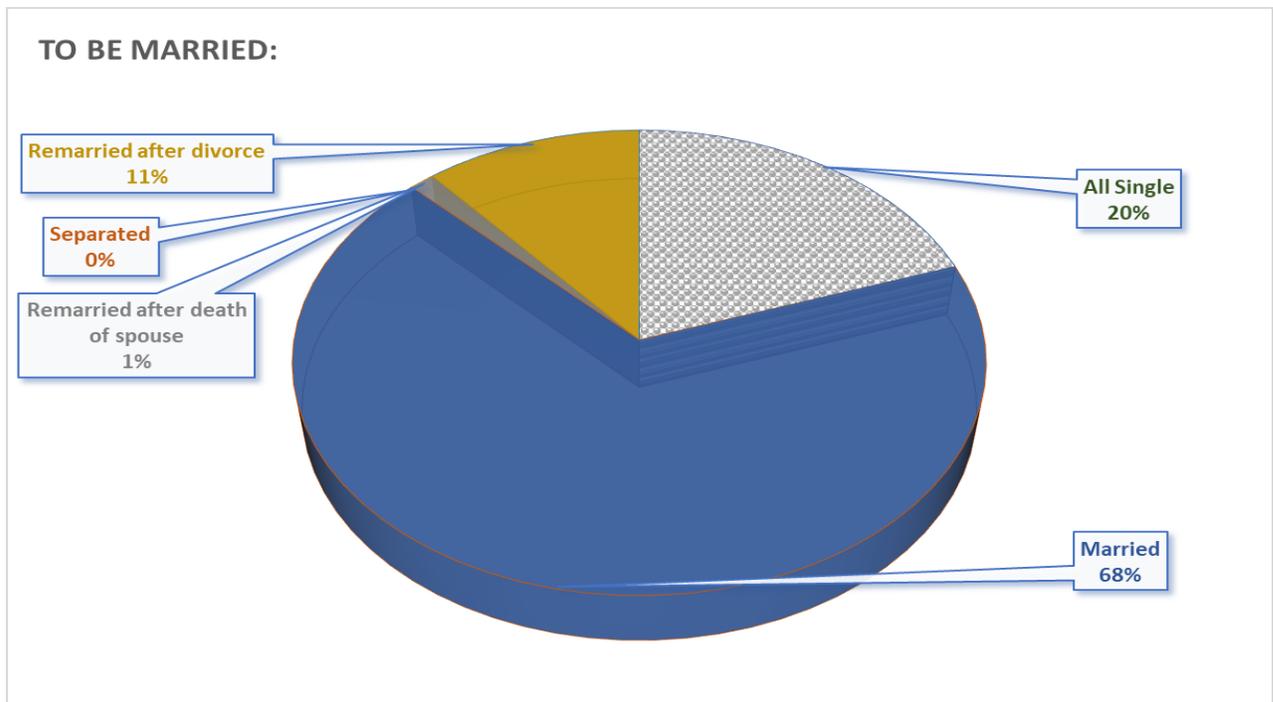
Single and Single-again are not similar stories—or dramas. Again, our purpose here is to help you understand how your findings will be shared, and the segments of the adults of the church for whom closer looks will be provided.



A first glimpse at the segments of single life:



As pastors and church workers/leaders, we tend to prefer the unmarried-engaged-married form of thinking about the couples in the church. In many cases we don't really want to know how their marriage was formed, out of what preceding story, and the forms and sub-plots faced back in their household environments. **Second marriages and families are different!** Seldom does a remarriage form without experiencing loss—and the presence of children who now juggle two or more family heritages, before figuring out how to do so with just one.



One of the intentional goals of the redesigned Faith & Life Survey has been to draw greater attention to the existence of lasting promising through Christian marriage. How many times have you heard someone throw out the quote, “half of all marriages in America end in divorce, and there is no difference to that success rate in the homes of those in Christian churches?”

What if we said, that statement is FAR from true? Would you believe us?

Take a closer look at the graph above—find the callout box for “Married”. Since we have specifically requested people to self-identify their current marital status and offer “Separated”, “Remarried after divorce” and “Remarried after death of spouse”, we now identify those who have found a path to living out a “lasting promise”—that is, still married to the bride or groom of their youth.

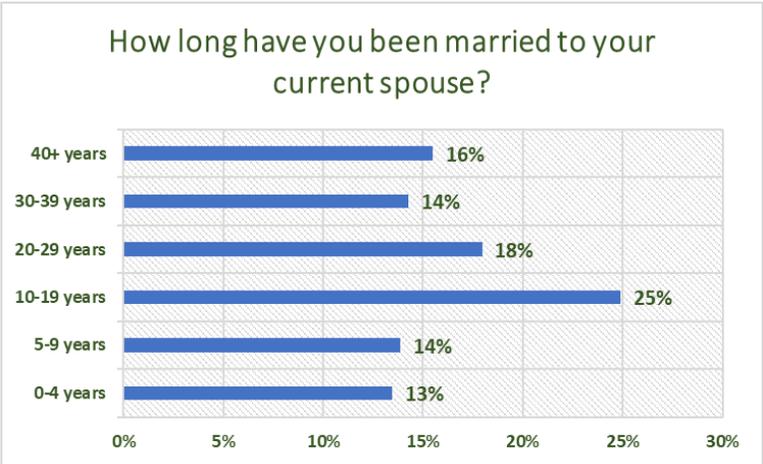
What percentage of the respondents from your church checked “Married”—and in doing so indicated they have not added loss of a spouse to their marital/relational story?

What is an appropriate response to this discovery?

Over some 40+ years at this family ministry adventure, I’ve learned to always ask a couple, “How long have the two of you been together?”, rather than, how long have you been married. Why? Those who are married will give you a specific number of years—even though the man and the women tend to give different answers! They will always mark a specific chapter (or set of chapters) than began with line drawn in the sand separating singleness from married life. And you feel less embarrassed when you discover that the couple has been together quite a while—but can’t seem to embrace God’s blessing and design for us through marriage.

For those who do marry, anniversaries are culturally built in a celebration of God’s faithfulness, grace and mercy.

How long have you been married to your current spouse?						
0-4 years	5-9 years	10-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40+ years	
33	34	61	44	35	38	245



And the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him” (Gen. 2:18 ESV). The “companionship covenant” implies we were not designed to be independent creatures, but interdependent. Both of worth, both with God-given roles, and both to give and receive blessings from their spouse.

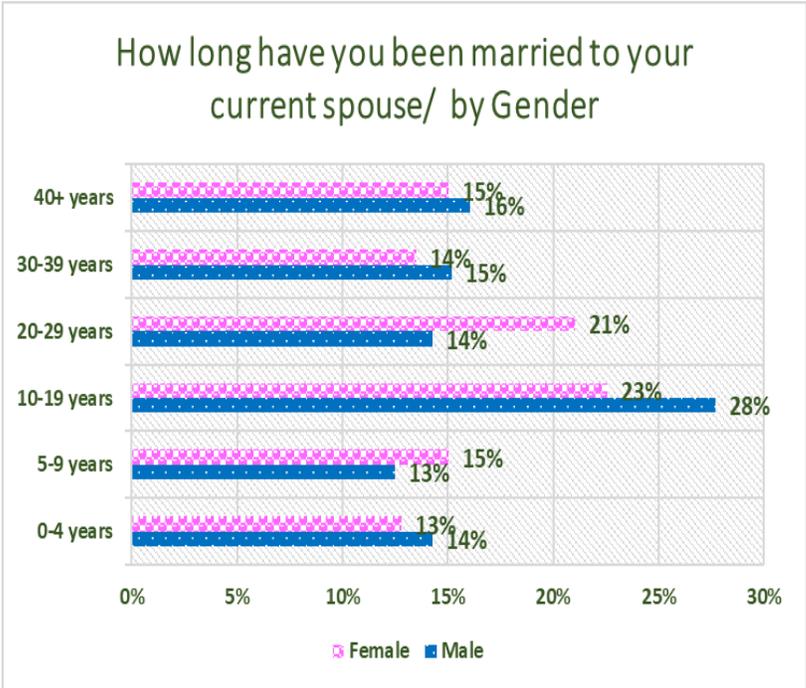
While longevity of a marriage speaks to how long the story has been taking form—it does not necessarily tell us the quality of the “companionship covenant” nor the quality of love, joy, peace and patience.

Yet, longevity suggests a spirit of taking-each-other-into-account operating sufficiently well to sustain the couple bond.

Later in this report, we will provide five reliable measures of marital health—and provide you with a Global marital health measure to help discern your ministry priorities.

As we read the narrative of Jesus’ public ministry beginning, John’s clarity in writing, *On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there* John 2:1 (ESV)—we are immediately required to take note of the context of what follows.

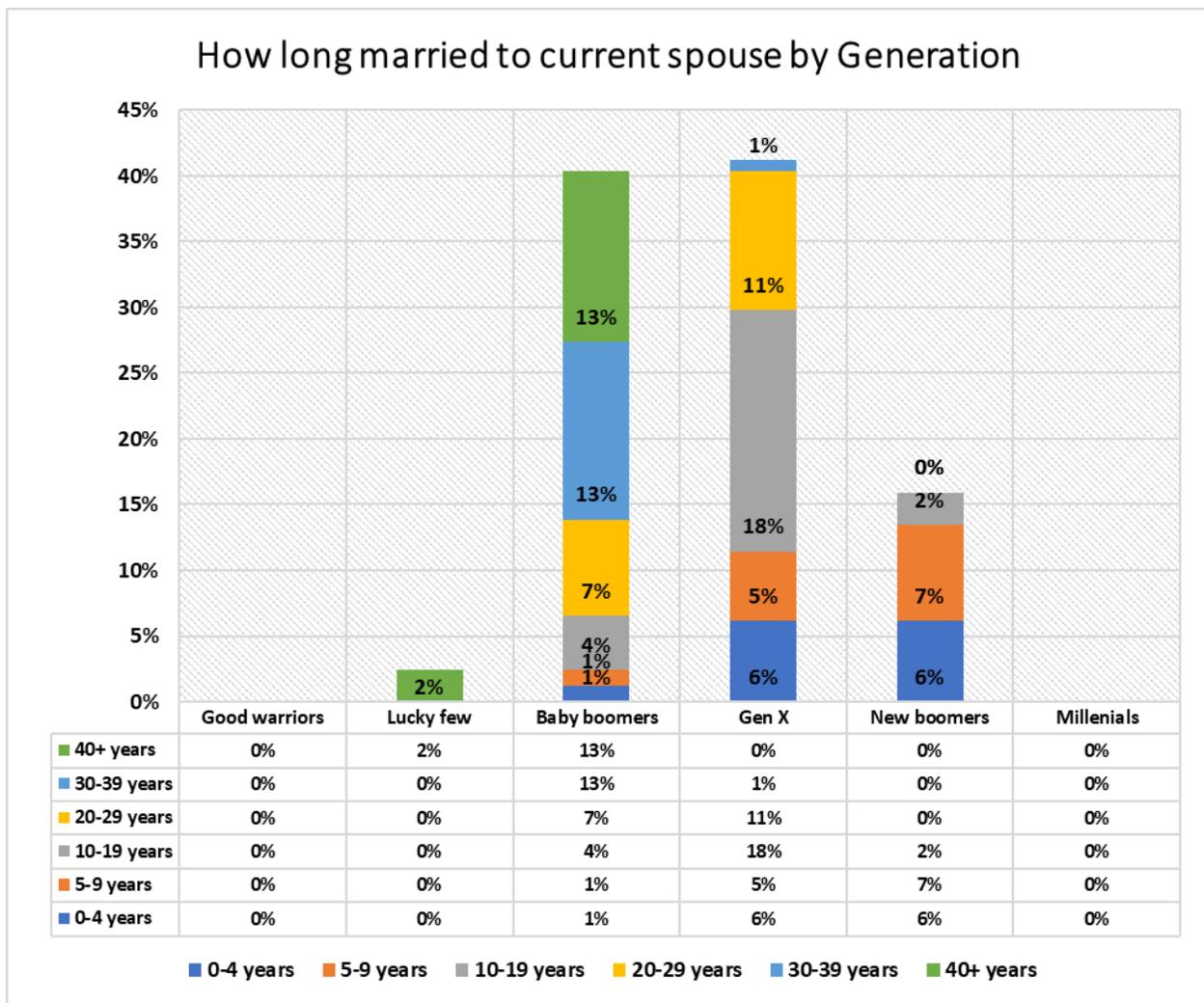
The father of the groom had given the approval for the groom and his groomsman to go and get the betrothed (and her dowry and stuff) plus her family and friends and bring them to the wedding feast. The days events go as planned and the couple goes to the wedding tent—in some cases to meet for the first time, to lift the veil and for the groom to see his bride’s face for the first time, and then consummate the marriage—this part of the story marked by the couple coming out of the wedding tent, and back to the party!



Well—apparently, there were some extended conversations and discoveries—because they’d run out of wine for all the guests—and everyone was getting worried. Jesus’ mother knew what went on in the wedding tent—and *When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They ran out of wine.”* v3. Most of us have assumed his response, “Woman what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” v4 was about the wine. Is it possible, Jesus was referring to the fallen nature of a man and a woman (even redeemed ones) facing a lot of very predictable challenges even before the honeymoon?

Why mention this here?

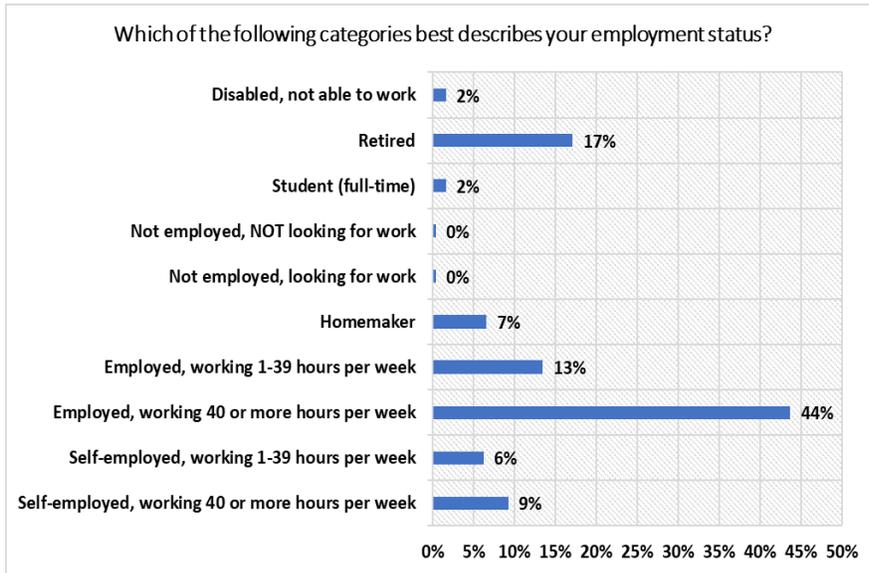
The answer to this question is probably best viewed through the lens of Generation. Each generation views the precursors to marriage in the context of many extrinsic variables bouncing around in the world around them. For some generations, there is no father to grant his son a portion of his estate to have as his own, to build a home in anticipation of going to bring his betrothed to the wedding. A study of generation reminds us of a difficult truth, **“life isn’t fair—so don’t compare!”** While one would prefer to say that each generation walks down the aisle bearing the same expectations, character, values and preparedness—this just is not true.



As you look at the duration of marriages by generation in your church—what “ah-ha’s” come to mind?

Work always interrupts a romance story. Just as the groom-to-be had to demonstrate his ability to take his father into account, deliver a livelihood, and provide a home—today’s world of work serves these same purposes. Still, it is not just a factor in the “whom do I marry” but also in sustaining the now coupled pair around their often-differing financial expectations. And when life is indeed unfair—the sudden loss of employment, or the ability to work—touches us to our bones.

The following is the overhead view of the employment life of your respondents:

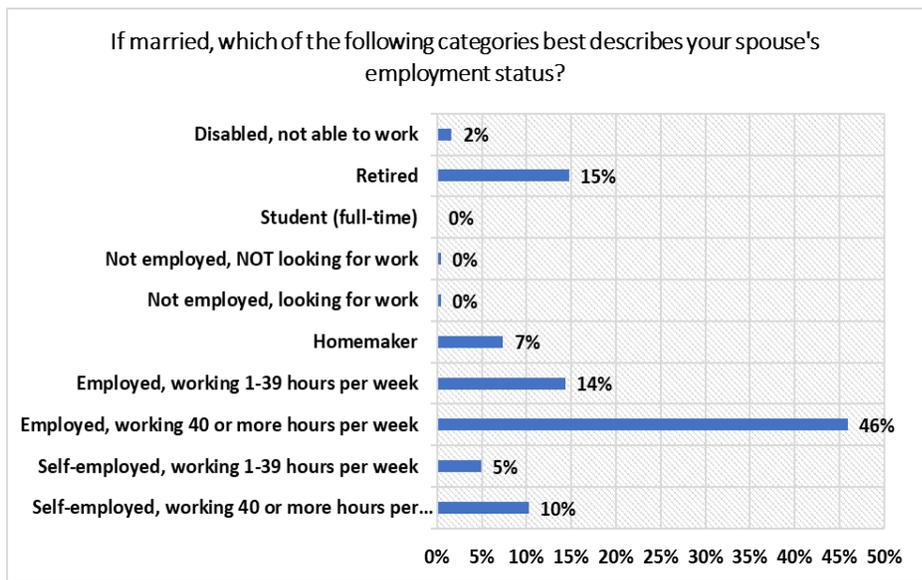


What, if any surprises do you see?

In our American culture, work has grown to comprise a huge part of our sense of personhood, as an individual, and as we see ourselves as a spouse, and parent. The more consumer-driven we become, the more vulnerable we are to define ourselves by a job title or salary. Too much of our identity is found before seeing our identity in Christ, and Christ alone.

With housing consuming the largest portion of today’s remuneration, there are certain cities and regions in America where a two-income marriage is essential in calling a pastor—no different than forming a new household—or sustaining it.

Any surprises as you view spousal employment status information?



See below a working table to refer to where Gender is used to sort the responses:

		If married, which of the following categories best describes your spouse's employment status?												
		.00	I am not married	Self-employed, working 40 or more hours per week	Self-employed, working 1-39 hours per week	Employed, working 40 or more hours per week	Employed, working 1-39 hours per week	Homemaker	Not employed, looking for work	Not employed, NOT looking for work	Student (full-time)	Retired	Disabled, not able to work	
Gender	Male			2%	8%	33%	24%	13%	1%	1%	0%	15%	4%	
	Female			17%	2%	57%	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	
Gender	Male	2	15	2	9	37	27	14	1	1	0	17	4	112
	Female	3	41	23	3	75	8	4	0	0	0	19	0	132

As you view the table above, are there any differences that jump off the page? If so, what implications do they hold as you consider ministering to your couples?

PS- Churches are volunteer organizations, so what impact does this have on people’s availability to serve others, as well as be ministered to?

Living in the presence (or absence) of children.

And of course, the interplay between work prior to becoming parents with the interplay of work after **becoming parents** can bring a whole new level of complexity as the household shifts from one, to two, to...? There are few experiences that change a person’s life story more than the words, *“you’re going to be a mom”*, or *“you’re going to be a dad.”*

The magnitude of adding roles to one’s life, and in doing so, one’s life story is difficult to comprehend. One moment, you are just responsible for yourself, and probably in a period of your life seeking to attain forms of freedom you did not experience in your home of origin. Part of young adult life was meeting people who never had to listen to Uncle Lou’s terrible jokes or be around people who constantly reminded you of your “old-life”.

The magnetic force of coupling offered a myriad of anticipated new benefits—yet often, little in terms of knowledge, skills or attitudes needed to move from attraction to secure bond. And the thought of a “parachute-option” to this newly minted couple life, for many, is tucked away in their Notes app on their phone.

The family which we grow up in is our “null-curriculum” for future family life, unless we open the door to explore new knowledge, skills and attitudes to write a different story for ourselves, our future spouse, and our future children.

Part of our “null curriculum” included a sense of how many siblings had to share the attention of mom or dad, or both. No demographic would be complete without presenting a lens through which to see the measure of complexity a person studies their “null curriculum of origin” and how many child development stage transitions the parent(s) were having to make, as adults.

When you have one entering a transition, everything is new. When a second enters that same transition, there is a bit of context from which to evaluate the first effort and make “tweaks” based on what you learned.

	Please indicate the number of children you have ...					
	1	2	3	4	5 or more	
preg-5	10%	8%	3%	0%	0%	22%
age 6-9	14%	4%	0%	0%	0%	19%
age 10-12	13%	1%	0%	0%	0%	15%
age 13-18	17%	7%	0%	0%	0%	25%
age 19-25	11%	5%	3%	1%	1%	20%
age 26+	8%	19%	9%	0%	2%	38%
				parent of some form		259

A church also looks at the number of children entering the varied ministry stages so that appropriate equipping and assembling of volunteers is possible. Which age segments appear to be approaching? Which are on the decline?

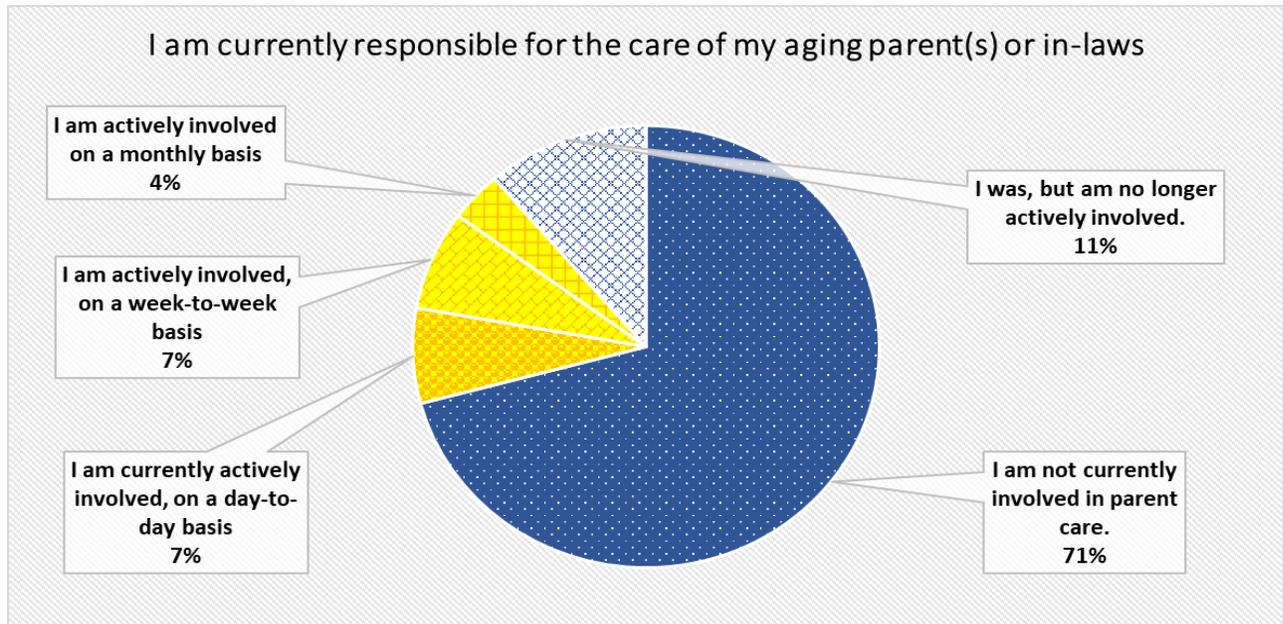
A quick look at the total N= in the table below and the total number of children in the table below suggest an average of 2 children per parental respondent. Now keep in mind, that these are individual adults, some of which are counting the same (we hope for many) kids attached to both parents.

Our promise was to provide an objective, anonymous and comprehensive set of findings. Any effort to pair couples and parent with children would violate that essential principle. Therefore, you received the highly favorable response rate—near to, or above the desired 65%.

The table does accurately tell us the degree of parental responsibility experienced by each mom or dad who granted such a favor as to honestly describe their parental life.

	Please indicate the number of children you have ... in counts						total kiddos
	1	2	3	4	5 or more		
preg-5	25	44	24	4	5	102	102
age 6-9	37	20	0	4	0	61	61
age 10-12	34	6	3	4	0	47	47
age 13-18	45	36	3	4	0	88	88
age 19-25	29	26	21	8	10	94	94
age 26+	22	98	69	4	20	213	213
siblings	192	230	120	28	35	605	

Caring for aging parent(s) and/or in-law(s) adds yet one more element of family life complexity. This remains one of our most sensitive biblical counseling problems—and as Baby Boomers age, their adult children will experience a challenge they may have watched their parents face—but never were aware of the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to honor God, as they honor their aging parent.



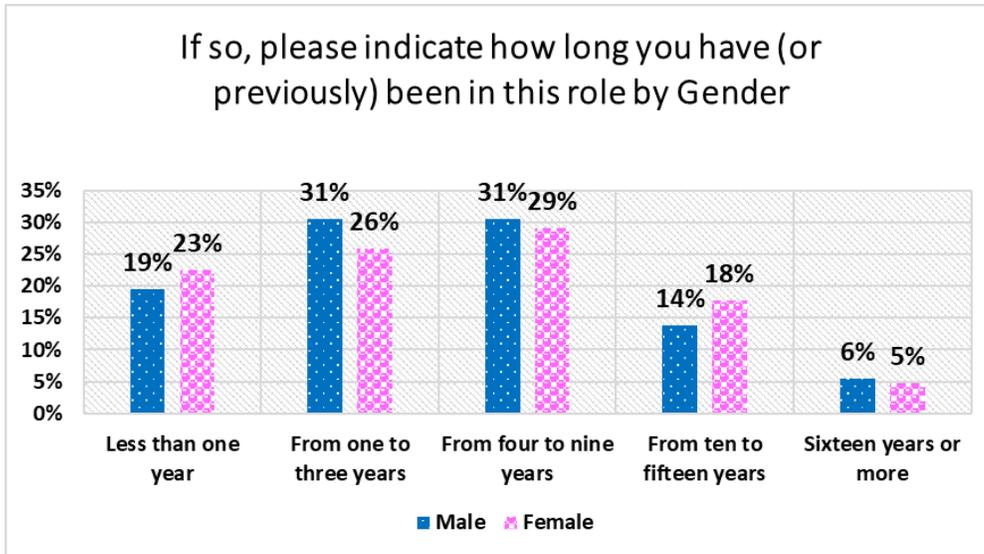
Again, we see several segments of adult-children looking at “honoring their (aging) father and mother” as the 2nd Commandment requires. Here, more than anywhere else, a person’s heritage serves to guide the self-imposed expectation AND the externally imposed parent expectation. Over the 40+ years of family ministry, this role has exposed more of people’s past family life stories than ANY other transition.

Why is that?

While this is NOT a simple question and will be addressed later in this report, it is fair to say that this role tends to fall on the adult child (or their spouse) who ALREADY is handling the greatest complexity, among their siblings.

I am currently responsible for the care of my aging parent(s) or in-laws						
	I am not currently involved in parent care.	I am currently actively involved, on a day-to-day basis	I am actively involved, on a week-to-week basis	I am actively involved on a monthly basis	I was, but am no longer actively involved.	
<i>Male</i>	75%	4%	6%	2%	13%	100%
<i>Female</i>	68%	9%	8%	5%	10%	100%
<i>Male</i>	95	5	8	2	17	127
<i>Female</i>	119	16	14	9	17	175

A quick look at the table below will show how the heritage of one’s family of origin has already involved them, or looms on the horizon, in terms of expected duration of carrying out this role. While in some heritages, the role is weighted greater to a female or male adult child, we have found it important to interpret the view by Gender to also include spouses, carrying for their in-law(s).



As you read through the caring for aging parent(s) or in-law(s), were you already seeing yourself as part of this segment? If so, how has this already impacted your ability to juggle that seven ± two set of life elements?

While we will expand on our look at life... as a parent, it will be helpful to begin to get a sense of just whom your parents are, and **the type of parenting roles** they now live out, day to day.

The first table below shows all the “life time parent roles” the respondents hold (or have held) spanning their lives. We want to draw your attention to the bottom row in the table—which denotes the “to not be a parent/to be a parent” bridge. It is typical in this view to find that among those who are parents—the percentage indicating a life time parent role nears or exceeds 200%. Remember, we invite people to mark ALL that apply, or did along the way.

Across the span of our lifetimes we put on and take off numerous parental roles. Please mark <u>ALL</u> of the role you have put on, along the way.																			
I am not a parent but desire to become one someday	I am not a parent and desire to remain childless	My spouse and I are unable to have children	We are pregnant for the first time	I am a biological parent	I am a custodial parent	I am a non-custodial parent	Single parent (never married)	I am a step parent	I am an adoptive parent	I am a foster parent	I am the parent of a special needs child	I am an empty nest parent	I am a grandparent	I am a parent with a child who died before me	I am a grandparent raising a grandchild	I have adult children living with me	I have adult children & their children living with me		
43	11	13	8	206	16	8	8	45	22	5	6	79	83	20	10	24	6		613
14%	4%	4%	3%	68%	5%	3%	3%	15%	7%	2%	2%	26%	27%	7%	3%	8%	2%		305
n=	67	22%					n=	613	201%										

While it is good to know where people have been in the parenting “great adventure”, most churches are more interested in the current role that defines each parent, in their own mind. Were there wounds and hurts in the past chapters of parenting? Of course! And some may long for someone to come alongside and help in the healing of their soul.

Of the list of parent statuses, which <u>ONE</u> do you resonate, or identify with most?																			
I am not a parent but desire to become one someday	I am not a parent and desire to remain childless	My spouse and I are unable to have children	We are pregnant for the first time	I am a biological parent	I am a custodial parent	I am a non-custodial parent	Single parent (never married)	I am a step parent	I am an adoptive parent	I am a foster parent	I am the parent of a special needs child	I am an empty nest parent	I am a grandparent	I am a parent with a child who died before me	I am a grandparent raising a grandchild	I have adult children living with me	I have adult children & their children living with me		
35	7	4	0	128	5	5	2	8	7	2	5	30	46	6	4	9	2		259
11%	2%	1%	0%	42%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	10%	15%	2%	1%	3%	1%		305
n=	46	15%					n=	259	85%										

But the church can be most effective in help in the form of knowledge, skills and attitudes surrounding today’s role, and the transition just down the road. As you look at the table below—which ONE segment defines your parent life? Which ONE surprises you the most?

The HomeLifeProfile

This section of your Faith & Life Survey findings has sought to provide you with a context of demographics—that is, whom God gathers together for weekend worship, and live at the intersection of faith & life between Sundays.

Home Life Profile Category	Definition																N= 305		
1-Young Single	Young Life -age 39 or younger	Never married, not a parent														4.92%	15	21.05%	
2-Yng Mrd no kids		Married, not a parent														4.59%	14		
3-Yng Sgl Agn no kids		Single or single-again, not a parent														0.66%	2		
4-Yng Mrd w/kids		Married, and a parent of some form														19.34%	59		
5-Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids		Single or si														2.30%	7		
6-Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Life -age 40-59	Married, and a parent of some form														19.34%	59	47.37%	
7-Mid Age Single no kids		Single, not a parent														1.31%	4		
8-Mid Mrd no /kids		Married, not a parent														3.28%	10		
9-Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids		Single or single-again, not a parent														0.00%	0		
10-Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids		Single or single-again, and a parent of some form														2.95%	9		
11-Mid Married Launched		Married, with child(ren) launched														14.43%	44		
12-Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ launche	Single or single-again, with child(ren) launched														1.64%	5			
13-Older Married	Older Life ≥ ag 60	Married														19.67%	60	31.58%	
14-Older Unmarried		Unmarried														5.57%	17		
																	100.00%	305	100%

HomeLifeProfile																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total	
Segment Assignment	Count	15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305	
	Percentage	5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%	

HomeLifeProfile

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total
Segment Assignment	Count	15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305
	Percentage	5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%
Gender	Male	8	8	0	28	1	24	2	6	0	2	16	0	4	4	103
	Female	7	6	2	31	6	35	2	4	0	7	28	5	30	13	176
Gender %	Male	8%	8%	0%	27%	1%	23%	2%	6%	0%	2%	16%	0%	4%	4%	
	Female	4%	3%	1%	18%	3%	20%	1%	2%	0%	4%	16%	3%	17%	7%	
age	18-19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	20-29	9	11	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
	30-39	4	3	2	51	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65
	40-49	0	0	0	0	2	41	2	5	0	4	16	2	0	0	72
	50-59	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	5	0	5	28	3	0	0	61
	60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	9	62
	70-79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	14
	80 plus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305
age	18-19	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%										
	20-29	60%	79%	0%	14%	0%										
	30-39	27%	21%	100%	86%	71%										
	40-49	0%	0%	0%	0%	29%	69%	50%	50%	0%	44%	36%	40%			
	50-59						31%	50%	50%	0%	56%	64%	60%			
	60-69													88%	53%	
	70-79													12%	41%	
	80 plus													0%	6%	
Generations	Good warriors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Lucky few	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	
	Baby boomers	0	0	0	0	0	17	2	4	0	2	24	2	54	10	
	Gen X	2	2	1	32	7	42	2	6	0	7	20	3	0	0	
	New boomers	13	12	1	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Millenials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17
Generations	Good warriors						0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
	Lucky few						0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	41%		
	Baby boomers						29%	50%	40%	0%	22%	55%	40%	90%	59%	
	Gen X	13%	14%	50%	54%	100%	71%	50%	60%	0%	78%	45%	60%			
	New boomers	87%	86%	50%	46%	0%										
	Millenials	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%										

HomeLifeProfile

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total
Segment Assignment	Count	15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305
	Percentage	5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%
Has your marital status changed in the past 12	Yes	0	5	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	17
	No	15	9	0	58	7	56	4	10	0	9	43	5	59	13	288
		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305
Has your marital status changed in the past 12	Yes	0%	36%	100%	2%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	24%	
	No	100%	64%	0%	98%	100%	95%	100%	100%	0%	100%	98%	100%	98%	76%	
Current marital status	married	0	14	0	59	0	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	0	
	unmarried	14	0	2	0	7	0	4	0	0	9	1	5	0	17	
	engaged	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	
Current marital status	married	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	98%	0%	100%	0%	
	unmarried	93%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	2%	100%	0%	100%	
	engaged	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
* Which of the following BEST describes your current marital/relationship status? (Select only one)	Single, never married	14	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Single-again, widowed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
	Single-again, divorced	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	9	0	5	0	5	
	Non-cohabitating committed relationship	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Engaged	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Cohabitating committed relationship	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
	Married	0	14	0	57	0	47	0	8	0	0	35	0	46	0	
	Separated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Remarried after death of spouse	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
Remarried after divorce	0	0	0	2	0	11	0	2	0	0	7	0	12	0		
		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	
* Which of the following BEST describes your current marital/relationship status? (Select only one)	Single, never married	93%	0%	0%	0%	29%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Single-again, widowed	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	59%	
	Single-again, divorced	0%	0%	100%	0%	43%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	29%	
	Non-cohabitating committed	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	
	Engaged	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Cohabitating committed	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	6%	
	Married	0%	100%	0%	97%	0%	80%	0%	80%	0%	0%	80%	0%	77%	0%	
	Separated	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Remarried after death of spouse	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	3%	0%	
Remarried after divorce	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	19%	0%	20%	0%	0%	16%	0%	20%	0%		

2. As an Individual...

It Is Well with My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

- *Refrain:*
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford's life. The first was the death of his son at the age of 2 and the [Great Chicago Fire](#) of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the *SS Ville du Havre*. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business concerning zoning problems following the Great Chicago Fire. While crossing the Atlantic, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the *Loch Earn*, and all four of Spafford's daughters died.

His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram "Saved alone ...". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.

Many of life's transitions come in the form of tragic loss. Yet many of us forget that a series of small losses can result in the same form of collective anxiousness as a large one. As with our physical health—there are steps we can take to provide us for greater resiliency to life's surprises. Self-awareness within the *Faith & Life Survey* views several strengths and weaknesses attached to such resiliency. The challenge within resiliency is that we are often unaware of both our self-awareness and other-awareness.

What does this look like?

We had one Savior who walked this earth, and He was able to relate to all of us. **One man relates to every man because all men are essentially the same.** When it comes to our problems, there are only four types:

1. We have a **Theological** Problem – our problem with God.
2. We have a **Psychological** Problem – our problem with ourselves.
3. We have a **Sociological** Problem – our problem with others.
4. We have an **Ecological** Problem – our problem with the world in which we live.

The array of self-awareness and other-awareness items helps us begin to see these four types of problems—as they play out in family ministry within the local church and provide needed insight into the heart and mind of those we seek to serve.

As earth-air breathing men and women, we tend to focus on our problem with ourselves or our problem with others, and at times, can pan out and see our problem with the world in which we live.

A key lesson from our 40+ years of family ministry is that we can never begin to consider ministry plans to men and women as a couple, or as a parent, until we have first considered **their problem as an individual**, that is, their problem(s) within themselves.

That said, let's look at the questions of the F&LS:

Key to reading the tables that follow:

Very true of me The **GREEN** highlighted items (including q16 & q17 in **not at all true** of me column) suggest a self or other awareness that acknowledges the wrestling with the loss or trauma has passed yet demonstrating a sense of resiliency that has overcome the anxiousness (and as such, less prone to depression).

Somewhat true of me The **YELLOW** highlighted items suggest a self or other awareness in that “fuzzy neutral zone” phase of transition (between saying “good-bye” and saying “hello”). Anxiousness comes in quiet moments—usually with some protest and argument with God. This is the most teachable time.

Not at all true of me The **RED** highlight items (including q 16 & 17 in the **very true of me** column) suggest a self or other awareness of the wrestling and protest with the loss or trauma is in full bloom—demonstrating a frayed sense of resiliency that leaves one filled with anxious (and in fatigue, a proneness to depression).

For much of the day, and with most they come into contact—**these are difficult people**. Difficult to love. Difficult to help pan the lens open to see Jesus in the picture. Difficult to see the true nature of their problem.

It is well with my soul... or is it? (Self/Other-awareness)

		average n= 302.67		
		Very true of me	Somewhat true of me	Not at all true of me
1	<i>I am aware of my emotions as I experience them.</i>	75%	24%	1%
2	<i>I feel that I am a person of worth, at least on an equal status/value with others.</i>	82%	16%	2%
3	<i>People tell me that I am a good listener.</i>	57%	35%	8%
4	<i>When someone is talking, I try to understand beyond their actual words what they are actually trying to say.</i>	72%	27%	1%
5	<i>I can accurately put into words my own strengths and weaknesses.</i>	65%	31%	4%
6	<i>I am aware of my emotions as I experience them.</i>	71%	28%	1%
7	<i>I am able to name my feelings--both positive and negative.</i>	68%	31%	2%
8	<i>I do not have a difficult time controlling my emotions.</i>	41%	49%	10%
9	<i>I go back and apologize when I've hurt or offended another person.</i>	67%	32%	1%
10	<i>People do not seem to see me as an angry person.</i>	79%	19%	2%
11	<i>I do not blame other people for how I feel.</i>	63%	36%	1%
12	<i>People tell me that I am a forgiving person.</i>	59%	36%	6%
13	<i>I do not need the help of others to calm me down when I am upset.</i>	62%	34%	5%
14	<i>People do not avoid me because of sensing I have a bad temper.</i>	83%	13%	5%
15	<i>People close to me do not think I hold a grudge too long.</i>	74%	20%	6%
16	<i>I have experienced a loss or trauma in the past 12 months that has shaken my world.</i>	28%	11%	62%
17	<i>Someone dear to me has experienced a loss or trauma in the past 12 months that has shaken my world.</i>	38%	16%	46%
18	<i>I have a more intimate walk with the Lord today than I did a year ago.</i>	63%	27%	10%

Okay—the percentages in the GREEN columns indicates those less prone to be “difficult people”. Where, if any, do you see percentages values for **GREEN** < 66%?

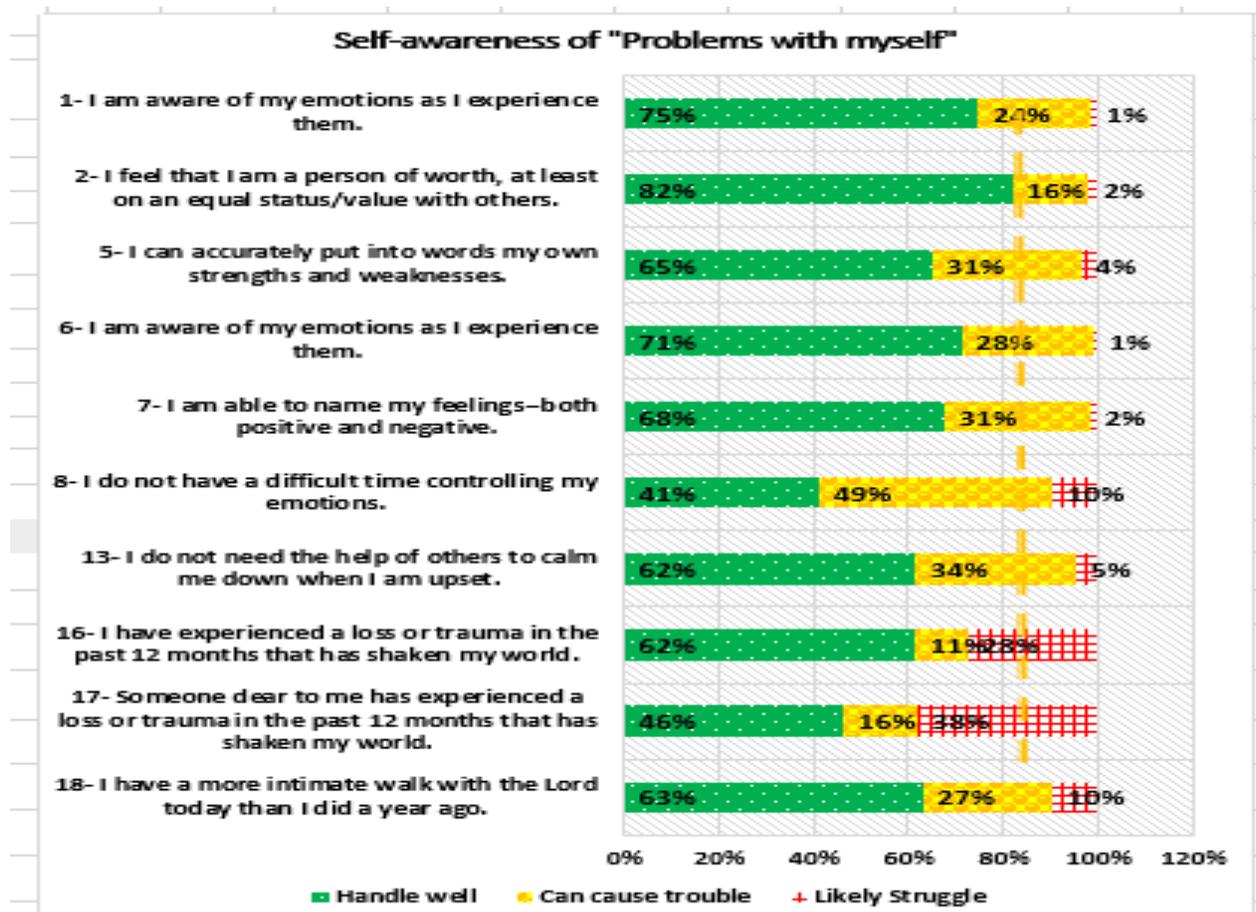
Throughout this report we are going to be using **three colors** to convey the moments to celebrate (GREEN), the moments to raise questions and demonstrate a measure of concern (YELLOW), and the moments to get serious and recognize the urgency of the need (RED), in your findings.



Like when you get in your car—if the dash glows with that calm green—and there is gas in the tank—it is indeed well with your soul. But when one of those pesky yellow “service required” lights come—there is an anxiousness—especially if you never read the owner’s manual to see what the symbols really meant. With those yellow lights—you have a bit of time to remedy the issue—but anxiousness can flow quickly.

But let one of those red major system/catastrophic problem lights come one—you only have a few moments to pull to the side of the road—and let the anxiousness well up depending where in life all of this suddenly unfolded.

Let’s use our first two close-up measures to better understand the family life education/family ministry implications in the health measures used throughout this report.



The first step is to find the vertical dot-dash line—our 66% favorable (GREEN) tipping point indicator. What is a “tipping point” as all this plays out in a local church? At 66% the “it is well with my soul” measures of the church are the normative response to suffering in life. When we are aware of our emotion (our problem with ourselves), agree that while other, sometimes difficult people or difficult times in the world help magnify them—we still know we are responsible for our response. In these moments we can consider what our act of obedience to God might be—even in this set of circumstances.

And we do the same with our self-awareness of “problems with others”. We again look for that vertical dot-dash line—and look for all measures that extend past it in GREEN. These are the areas we can celebrate and be thankful to God as not yet taking on an urgency in our family ministry plan.



Yet, we must be honest as well, and give notice to the measure of YELLOW and RED. Should they sum to greater than 33%—the risk of becoming the normative way to handle suffering will begin to impact the entire church. If the YELLOW + RED was to exceed 50%—you have just identified a potential source of some of the difficulties, and difficult people you’ve encountered from among those gathering as a church.

From among the self-awareness “problem with myself”, which, if any statements exceed the “tipping point”, and are worthy of further review?

In the same manner but with self-awareness “problem with others”, which if any statements exceed the “tipping point”, and are worthy of further review?

It is well with my soul... or is it? (Self-awareness) by Gender

		average number of Male responses	128		
		average number of Female responses	180		
			Very true of me	Somewhat true of me	Not at all true of me
1	<i>I am aware of my emotions as I experience them.</i>	Male	71%	28%	2%
		Female	78%	21%	1%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-7%	7%	0%
2	<i>I feel that I am a person of worth, at least on an equal status/value with others.</i>	Male	87%	11%	2%
		Female	78%	20%	2%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		9%	-9%	1%
3	<i>People tell me that I am a good listener.</i>	Male	48%	38%	14%
		Female	64%	33%	3%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-16%	5%	11%
4	<i>When someone is talking, I try to understand beyond their actual words what they are actually trying to say.</i>	Male	67%	31%	2%
		Female	76%	24%	0%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-9%	7%	2%
5	<i>I can accurately put into words my own strengths and weaknesses.</i>	Male	68%	29%	3%
		Female	44%	23%	33%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		25%	5%	-30%
6	<i>I am aware of my emotions as I experience them.</i>	Male	77%	22%	1%
		Female	67%	32%	1%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		10%	-10%	0%
7	<i>I am able to name my feelings--both positive and negative.</i>	Male	69%	29%	2%
		Female	67%	32%	1%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		2%	-4%	1%
8	<i>I do not have a difficult time controlling my emotions.</i>	Male	43%	46%	11%
		Female	40%	51%	9%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		3%	-5%	3%
9	<i>I go back and apologize when I've hurt or offended another person.</i>	Male	63%	35%	2%
		Female	71%	29%	0%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-8%	6%	2%
10	<i>People do not seem to see me as an angry person.</i>	Male	76%	22%	2%
		Female	76%	17%	2%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		0%	4%	0%
11	<i>I do not blame other people for how I feel.</i>	Male	71%	29%	0%
		Female	57%	41%	2%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		13%	-11%	-2%
12	<i>People tell me that I am a forgiving person.</i>	Male	54%	39%	7%
		Female	63%	33%	5%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-9%	7%	2%
13	<i>I do not need the help of others to calm me down when I am upset.</i>	Male	73%	25%	2%
		Female	53%	40%	6%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		19%	-15%	-4%
14	<i>People do not avoid me because of sensing I have a bad temper.</i>	Male	77%	17%	6%
		Female	88%	9%	3%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-11%	8%	3%
15	<i>People close to me do not think I hold a grudge too long.</i>	Male	76%	14%	10%
		Female	73%	24%	3%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		3%	-10%	7%
16	<i>I have experienced a loss or trauma in the past 12 months that has shaken my world.</i>	Male	21%	8%	71%
		Female	33%	13%	54%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-12%	-5%	17%
17	<i>Someone dear to me has experienced a loss or trauma in the past 12 months that has shaken my world.</i>	Male	31%	12%	57%
		Female	43%	18%	39%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-12%	-7%	19%
18	<i>I have a more intimate walk with the Lord today than I did a year ago.</i>	Male	63%	27%	10%
		Female	63%	28%	9%
	difference from Male response, by female response:		0%	0%	1%



A part of the **Faith & Life Survey** is to have 8-15 current key church and family ministry leaders (staff and lay) complete the Leadership Perceptions component BEFORE being the first to take the survey.

Why? Leaders operate based on their held assumptions of what the needs are (ascribed needs) while most people experience their own assumptions of what their needs are (felt needs). IF the two closely match—THEN there is ministry harmony. IF they do not closely match—THEN there is ministry disharmony, and in some cases strife.

Below is the summary of your church’s Leadership Perception tally:

Fellowship North Leadership Perceptions 2017-18

- **Instructions:** As leader in the areas of family ministry at your church, we would appreciate your input concerning the following items through your eyes, according to the following criteria:
- This item involves a significant number of people or financial resources.
- The church presently runs a quality program for this item.
- Everyone who wants, or needs to, knows about our programming for this item.
- Lives are changed because of programming and care for this issue/concern.

Mark each item as follows

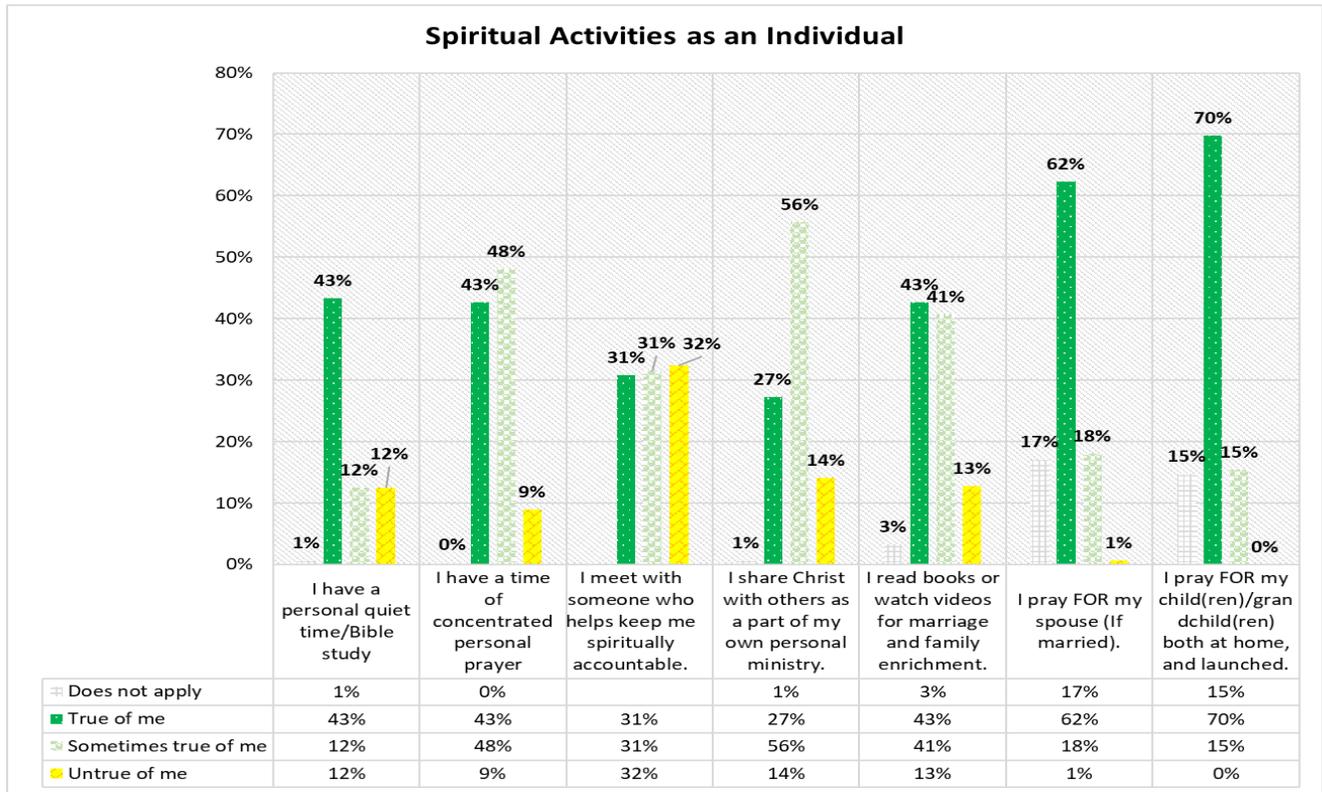
- **Significant Emphasis-** Meets at least three of the above criteria
- **Some Emphasis-** Meets any two of the above criteria
- **Little Emphasis-** Meets none or one of the above criteria

	Little Emphasis	Some Emphasis	Significant Emphasis	
1	3	9	0	1—Establishing friendships outside the home
2	11	1	0	2—Managing my finances/money
3	0	2	10	3—Growing in my relationship with God & spiritual disciplines
4	8	4	0	4—Managing the hurriedness of life
5	7	4	1	5—Help in guarding my heart (and that of my family) regarding my (our) time and choice with the internet, television/movies, or other forms of media.
6	0	6	6	6—Finding opportunities to serve/help others
7	7	5	0	7—Resolving conflict in my relationships and/or recovering from divorce
8	8	4	0	8—Coping with changes in myself, my roles/responsibilities, and the stages of life
9	7	5	0	9—Coping with changes in my (our) employment, health, and lifestyle
10	1	8	3	10—Pursuing healthy lifestyle habits (eating, sleeping, exercise, etc.)
11	2	6	4	11—Knowing better how to share my faith with others
12	9	3	0	12—Dealing with current or past drug/alcohol abuse
13	8	4	0	13—Dealing with current or past sexual/physical/emotional abuse
14	1	10	1	14—Adjusting to living alone (after graduation, divorce, being widowed, etc.)

Where does it appear the leadership is investing with a significant emphasis? Where little emphasis?

About the **faith life** of our responders, as an individual:

Below are the respondent responses to key spiritual activity elements.



Spiritual Activities: Faith between Sundays by gender								
		Gender	Does not apply	True of me	Sometimes true of me	Untrue of me	Male n=	Female n=
1	I have a personal quiet time/Bible study	Male	1%	36%	45%	15%	133	
		Female	1%	49%	42%	10%		173
		difference from Male response, by female response:		0%	-12%	3%	5%	
2	I have a time of concentrated personal prayer	Male	1%	38%	49%	12%	129	
		Female	0%	45%	47%	7%		176
		difference from Male response, by female response:		1%	-7%	2%	5%	
3	I meet with someone who helps keep me spiritually accountable.	Male		29%	36%	35%	123	
		Female		35%	31%	34%		166
		difference from Male response, by female response:			-6%	4%	1%	
4	I share Christ with others as a part of my own personal ministry.	Male	1%	26%	55%	16%	129	
		Female	1%	29%	58%	13%		171
		difference from Male response, by female response:		0%	-4%	-3%	3%	
5	I read books or watch videos for marriage and family enrichment.	Male	2%	44%	41%	12%	129	
		Female	4%	43%	42%	14%		169
		difference from Male response, by female response:		-2%	1%	-1%	-3%	
6	I pray FOR my spouse (If married).	Male		78%	22%	0%	115	
		Female		58%	18%	1%		171
		difference from Male response, by female response:			20%	4%		
7	I pray FOR my child(ren)/grandchild(ren) both at home, and launched (if a parent).	Male		81%	19%	0%	108	
		Female		72%	15%	0%		176
		difference from Male response, by female response:			9%	5%	0%	

The thing behind the thing... and behind each type of problem examined.

Often in biblical counseling a counselee will look me in the eye and say, “You have not told me anything that I did not already know.” I’m not bothered or put off by their comment, **but** I do wonder if they already knew what to do, why aren’t they doing it.

The Christian life is not rocket science. After the Lord regenerates you, it’s a matter of deciding whether you want to live for Him. May I ask you, “Are you a Christian?” It’s a straightforward question. **Are you?**

Writing to pastors and church leaders, in the context of the findings of a survey of folks who attend worship four or more times a month and even meet in a small church setting once or twice a month—this question probably sounds odd. In parts of America you can go to any part of town and pick a person at random and ask them if they are a Christian. Most of the time, they will answer, “yes”.

When we asked you the question earlier, it was not asking if God saved you, or if you made a profession of faith. It is not asking if you “go to church”, or if your parents reared you in a Christian family. And it is not about baptism. What we’re asking—and the Faith & Life Survey seeks out—is asking if you are a Christian in the James 2 perspective. *So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead* (James 2:14).

As the words form on the page, my daily activity is how I would desire you to examine me. Don’t listen to what I tell you, watch what I do as I live out my faith. It is possible for you to trick me with your words, but it is harder to deceive you by my actions.

Through the years, a sort of MRI set of questions has helped reveal the authentic story that counselee’s have been presenting to those around them. These questions can expose the actual condition of the heart and life.

A caveat that must accompany they questions: Answering “yes” or “no” do not affirm or deny whether you are a Christian. What you’re doing is examining the practical outworking of your Christian life.

1. Are you a joy to be around? – [Hebrews 13:17](#)
2. Would you be characterized as an encourager? – [Ephesians 4:29](#)
3. Are you ready and willing to forgive those who sin against you? – [Matthew 6:15](#)
4. Are you known as a person who seeks to serve others? – [Mark 10:45](#)
5. Do others want to be around you because of your relationship with Christ? – [John 6:2](#)
6. Is your Christianity exportable to the next generation? – [2 Timothy 2:2](#)
7. How would you describe a person if they imitated your life? – [1 Corinthians 11:1](#)
8. Do you consider yourself as the foremost sinner? – [1 Timothy 1:15](#)
9. Is your primary goal in life to love God and others? – [Matthew 22:36-40](#)
10. Are you approachable? Are you correctable? – [Philippians 2:1-5](#)
11. How do you practically resist pride and pursue humility? – [James 4:6](#)
12. Are you consistently Christian in every context of your life? – [1 Corinthians 10:31](#)
13. Ask your spouse to name three ways in which they see Jesus in you. – [Ephesians 5:21](#)
14. Do you lead your family or friends in spiritual disciplines? – [2 Timothy 2:15](#)
15. Do you confess your sins more than talking about other’s sins? – [1 John 1:7-10](#)
16. Ask your closest friends to describe you in one sentence. What did they say? – [1 Corinthians 2:2](#)
17. How would you say that you are affected by the gospel? – [Philippians 4:11-13](#)
18. Do you look down on, criticize, or gossip about any person? – [Philippians 2:14](#)
19. Do you usually get sinfully angry? – [James 4:1-3](#)
20. Which do you do more: confess sins? Commit sins? – [Matthew 6:24](#)
21. Do you regularly confess your sins to everyone you sin against, not just God? – [James 5:16](#)

Blessed--as an individual?

Feeling blessed is in vogue. A quick glance into the social-media world finds that saying you're blessed might really be a way of boasting while trying to sound humble. As Christians, we use the term "blessed" too. We pray God will bless our life's, those we love deeply and our family. We attribute our undeserved gifts to "God's blessings." And as churches, we talk about our ministries being blessed.

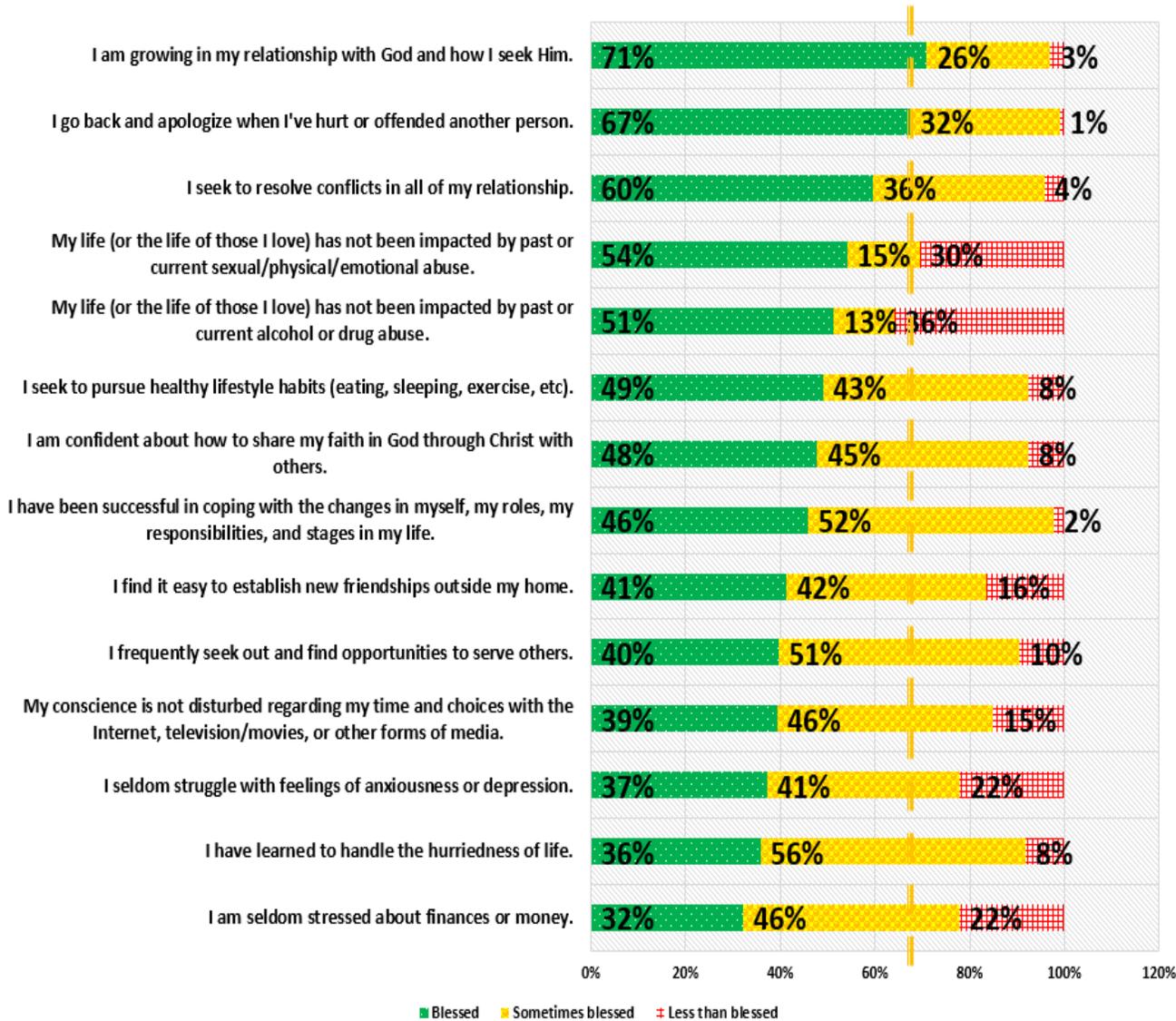
Yet, my desire for God is greatly fueled by my need. And it is often in the areas of loss where I feel my need most intensely. Unmet desires keep me on my knees, deepen my prayer life, and make me ransack the Bible for God's promises. Trials often ground us in ways abundance never can.

Each of the statements in this section is written to express fulfillment of a desire. As you think of your life today, select from response options: "True of me"; "Sometimes true of me"; and "Untrue of me" to reflect your current experience for each statement.

	True of me	Sometimes true of me	Untrue of me
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The **GREEN** segment of the graph for each issue signifies the percentage of those expressing a sense of "being blessed". Notice the dot-dash **YELLOW** bar indicating the "tipping-point" of 66%, in this case, feeling "blessed".

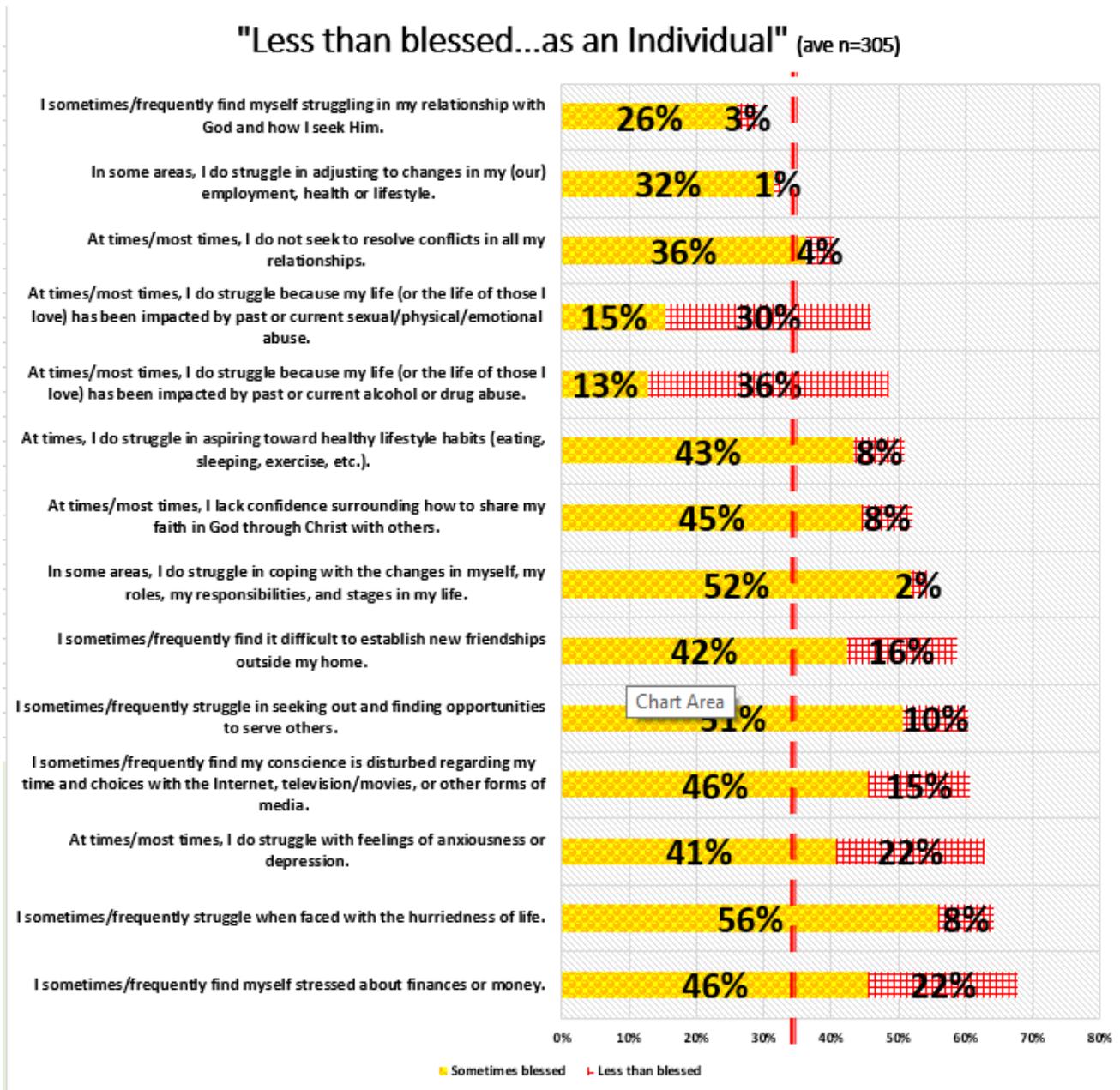
"Blessed"... as an Individual (ave n=305)



When people express a sense of "being blessed", when the issue is written in the positive... more on this in a moment.

While we celebrate and give great praise and glory to God for all the GREEN in the “blessed” graph, as leaders, we also must zoom-in on those feeling “less than blessed”. Take note of the new vertical RED dot-dash line, at 34%, on the “less than blessed...as an individual” graph below.

As a leader, these are the *felt needs* revealed by default. This is the graph that stirs us to prayer, because each of these negatively phrased statements points us to the type(s) of problems with one self, with others, with the world around, and yes, ultimately, with God. While we all rejoice to see lots of GREEN, shouldn't we all agree, there is a lot of anxiousness in the “stuff of life” where faith in God through Jesus Christ gets tough?



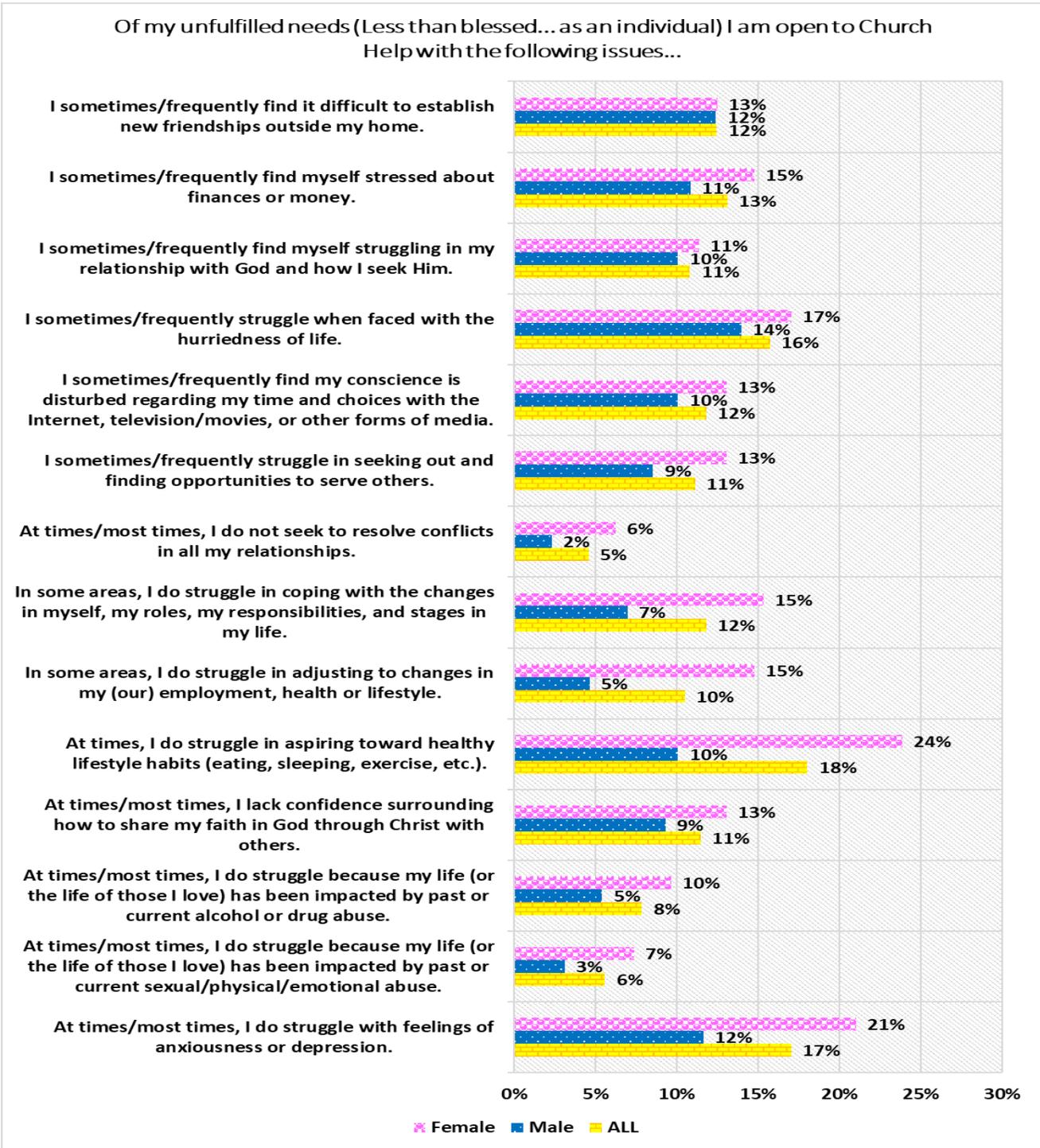
Take a moment and flip between the “blessed” and the “less than blessed” views, and then back to the Leadership Perception table. At first pass—what, if any previously unidentified need stirs your heart?

"Less-than-blessed" --as an individual?

What is "blessing", then? Scripture shows that blessing is anything God gives that makes us fully satisfied in him. Anything that draws us closer to Jesus. Anything that helps us relinquish the temporal and stirs us to hold on tightly to the eternal. And often it is the struggles and trials, the aching disappointments and the unfulfilled longings that best enable us to do that.

Thinking back on your previous responses to "Blessed—as an individual" (go ahead and click the "GO BACK" tab on the bottom left of this page) to draw your attention to those statements you marked either "Sometimes true of me" or "Untrue of me." After doing so, click the "CONTINUE" tab at the bottom of the page, and complete the "Less-than-blessed—as an individual" question.

When the statements were inverted to reflect a "less than blessed" statement... and then named "current, unmet needs, WHOM indicated their receptiveness from the church with the need?

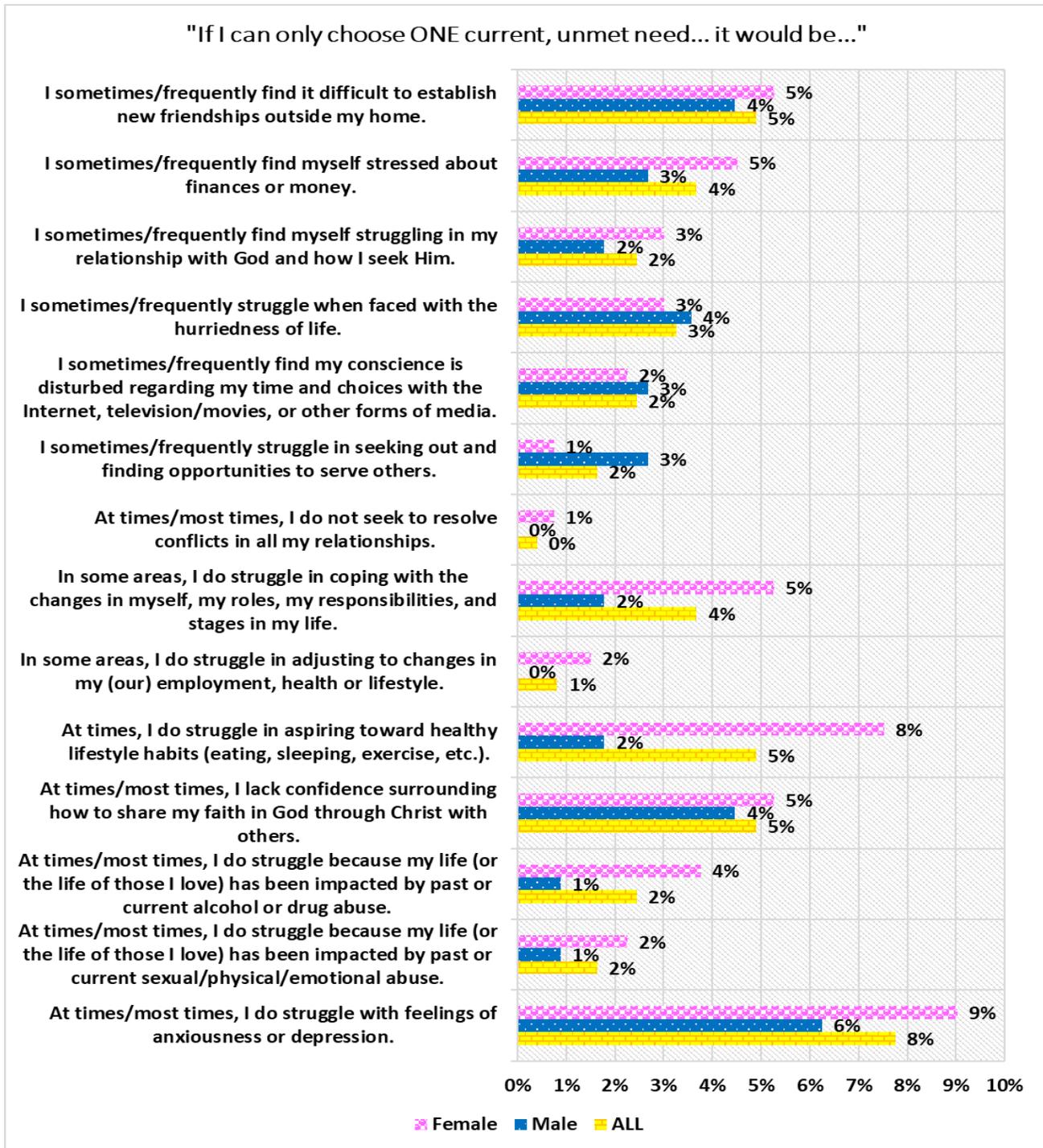


Most pressing--as an individual?

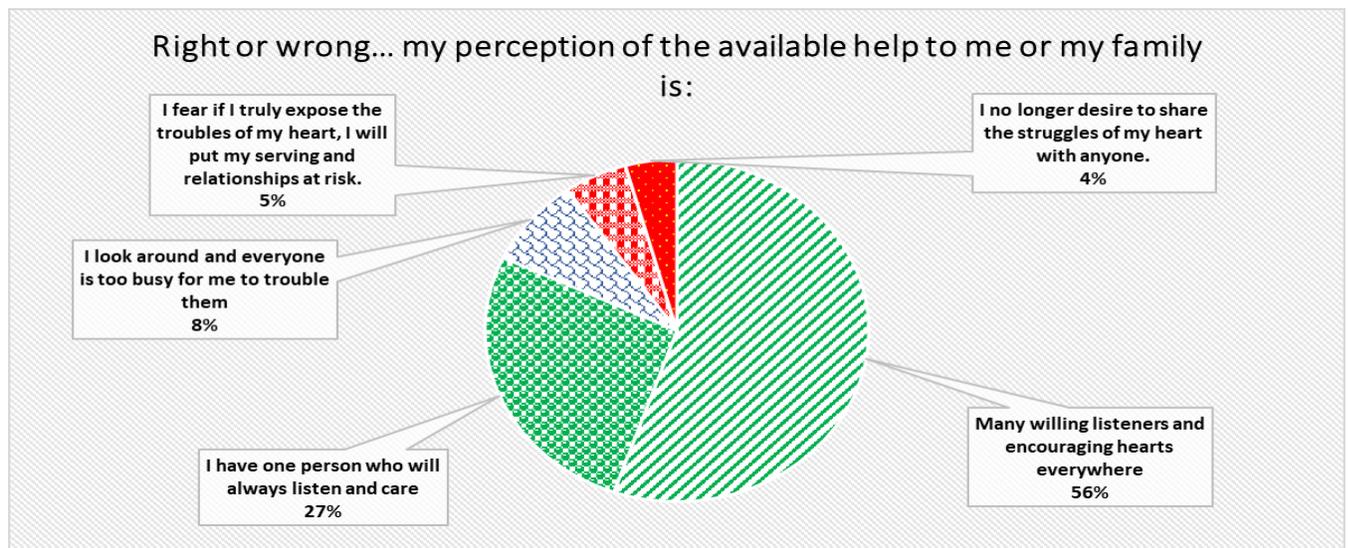
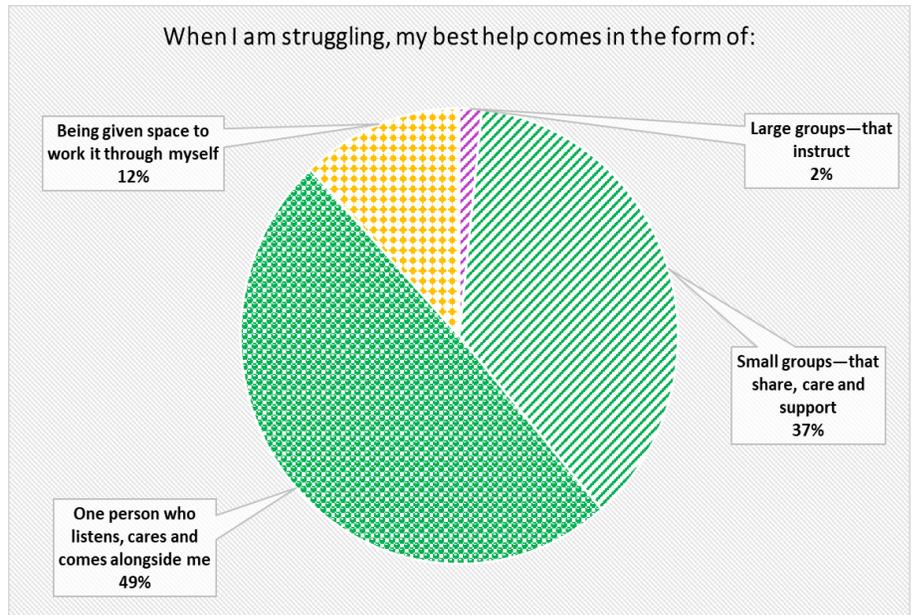
What if tomorrow's blessings come through as today's rain drops? What if trials in this life—the rain, the storms, the hardest nights—are your mercies in disguise? But which is most pressing—the one that absorbs the most of your attention?

Think back to your previous responses to "Less-than-blessed—as an individual" (go ahead and click the "GO BACK" tab on the bottom left of this page) to draw your attention back to those you marked. From those statements you marked, which ONE is most pressing in your intersection of faith and life today? When ready to mark your choice, click the "CONTINUE" tab at the bottom of the page and tic your choice in the drop-down box provided.

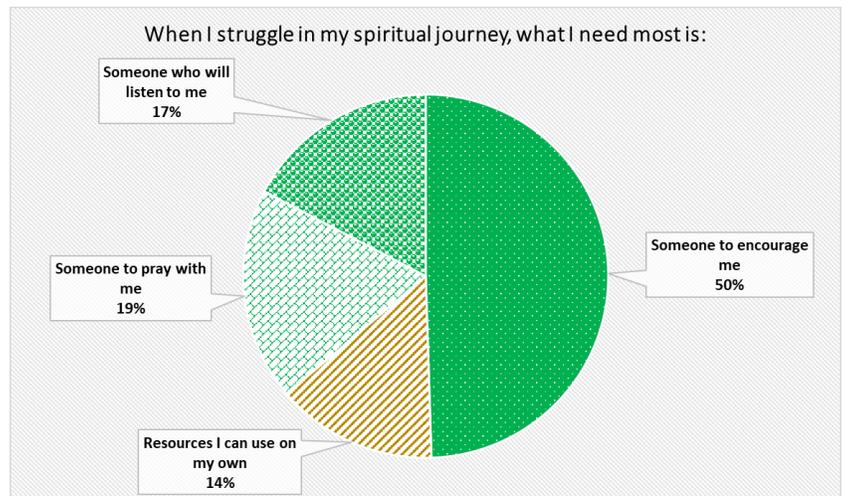
Priority, and urgency are often best reflected when just ONE current, unmet need is identified:



Before we zoom-in any further, we need to introduce the measures of “how people desire their help to come.” Throughout our years of family ministry much of our frustration came in the form of having a clear sense of the need—yet no one, responding to our offer of organized help, through the church. Sound familiar. Out of that frustration came *the novel idea of asking* those we knew struggled with the unmet need—what form of help would allow the church to come alongside in their story



So, as you look at how when asked these three questions, *people intuitively recognized the function of public and personal ministry, do you see any hints to past “hits-and-misses” in your efforts?*



Out of this came our ministry grid for determining what we called “the ministry delivery channels” of *One-to-Many*; *One-to-Some*; and *One-to-One*.

The *One-to-Many* moments must bring with them all the 21st century elements of public ministry—with a focus on gathering lots of people, rehearse and plan everything for excellence, and give a 100% effort to pull together the “big event.”

When I am struggling, my best help comes in the form of:						
		Large groups—that instruct	Small groups—that share, care and support	One person who listens, cares and comes alongside me	Being given space to work it through myself	
	.00					
Male	3	1	39	65	21	126
Female	0	4	73	84	15	176
		5	112	149	36	302
Male		1%	31%	52%	17%	100%
Female		2%	41%	48%	9%	100%

As you view the table, upper left, what are people telling you about the place of one-to-many methods during struggles?

The *One-to-Some* is far more personal ministry in that the focus is on acknowledging the presence of a similar struggle + an appropriate acknowledgement of the “you too?” factor. With some struggles, caring communication surrounding the knowledge, skills and attitudes to cope with, and eventually, to overcome the struggle bear some sense of structure, but count on the spontaneous conversations that can follow. Yet for some, the perceived risk in exposing the presence of a struggle may find that their heart is not yet ready for such an approach.

Right or wrong... my perception of the available help to me or my family is:							
		Many willing listeners and encouraging hearts everywhere	I have one person who will always listen and care	look around and everyone is too busy for me to trouble them	I fear if I truly expose the troubles of my heart, I will put my serving and relationships at risk.	I no longer desire to share the struggles of my heart with anyone.	
	.00						
	2	63	44	11	3	6	127
	3	103	36	14	13	7	173
		166	80	25	16	13	300
		50%	35%	9%	2%	5%	100%
		60%	21%	8%	8%	4%	100%

As you view the table to the above—what appears to be the perception that help is available?

And, from the table to the right, what are people saying they need most, in their spiritual journey?

When I struggle in my spiritual journey, what I need most						
		Someone to encourage me	Resources I can use on my own	Someone to pray with me	Someone who will listen to me	
	.00					
Male	2	63	22	24	18	127
Female	2	86	21	33	34	174
		149	43	57	52	301
Male		50%	17%	19%	14%	100%
Female		49%	12%	19%	20%	100%

HomeLifeProfile																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total	
Segment Assignment		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305	
Percentage		5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%	
I am "blessed" 1-14 as an Individual																	
bless1	I find it easy to establish new friendships outside my home.	67%	29%	0%	39%	0%	42%	25%	50%	0%	22%	52%	40%	37%	47%		
bless2	I am seldom stressed about finances or money.	27%	36%	0%	39%	0%	14%	0%	60%	0%	33%	23%	0%	58%	24%		
bless3	I am growing in my relationship with God and how I seek Him.	67%	67%	0%	83%	14%	14%	75%	80%	0%	67%	64%	100%	70%	59%		
bless4	I have learned to handle the hurriedness of life.	20%	36%	0%	32%	14%	27%	100%	60%	0%	33%	30%	40%	47%	29%		
bless5	My conscience is not disturbed regarding my time and choices with the Internet, television/movies, or other forms of media.	33%	43%	0%	41%	14%	32%	50%	60%	0%	56%	34%	20%	45%	29%		
bles6	I frequently seek out and find opportunities to serve others.	47%	43%	0%	36%	0%	36%	75%	60%	0%	56%	50%	60%	33%	35%		
bless7	I seek to resolve conflicts in all of my relationship.	60%	86%	0%	58%	0%	58%	50%	70%	0%	67%	52%	80%	57%	59%		
bless8	I have been successful in coping with the changes in myself, my roles, my responsibilities, and stages in my life.	60%	50%	50%	37%	0%	41%	25%	80%	0%	78%	39%	20%	52%	53%		
bless9	I have been successful in coping with the changes in myself, my roles, my responsibilities, and stages in my life.	40%	50%	0%	47%	14%	41%	75%	70%	0%	33%	32%	40%	53%	59%		
bless10	I seek to pursue healthy lifestyle habits (eating, sleeping, exercise, etc).	60%	79%	100%	56%	14%	49%	50%	80%	0%	11%	45%	60%	38%	35%		
bless11	I am confident about how to share my faith in God through Christ with others.	47%	29%	0%	37%	14%	54%	50%	50%	0%	56%	57%	60%	48%	41%		
bless12	My life (or the life of those I love) has not been impacted by past or current alcohol or drug abuse.	47%	64%	100%	44%	43%	54%	75%	70%	0%	67%	41%	40%	47%	65%		
bless13	My life (or the life of those I love) has not been impacted by past or current sexual/physical/emotional abuse.	27%	57%	50%	54%	14%	53%	75%	90%	0%	44%	48%	40%	63%	53%		
bless14	I seldom struggle with feelings of anxiousness or depression.	33%	50%	0%	27%	0%	36%	75%	40%	0%	56%	32%	40%	48%	47%		

The *HomeLifeProfile* views zoom the lens in even further, to identify **who feels most blessed**, in what areas of life.

HomeLifeProfile																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total	
Segment Assignment		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305	
Percentage		5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%	
Needs: Living in a "less than blessed" 1-14 manner																	
need1	I sometimes/frequently find it difficult to establish new friendships outside my home.	33%	71%	100%	61%	43%	58%	75%	50%	0%	67%	45%	60%	63%	53%		
need2	I sometimes/frequently find myself stressed about finances or money.	73%	64%	100%	61%	43%	86%	100%	40%	0%	56%	75%	100%	42%	76%		
need3	I sometimes/frequently find myself struggling in my relationship with God and how I seek Him.	33%	29%	100%	63%	29%	34%	25%	20%	0%	22%	34%	0%	30%	41%		
need4	I sometimes/frequently struggle when faced with the hurriedness of life.	80%	64%	100%	68%	29%	73%	0%	40%	0%	56%	68%	60%	53%	71%		
need5	I sometimes/frequently find my conscience is disturbed regarding my time and choices with the Internet, television/movies, or other forms of media.	67%	0%	100%	59%	29%	68%	50%	40%	0%	33%	64%	80%	55%	71%		
need6	I sometimes/frequently struggle in seeking out and finding opportunities to serve others.	53%	33%	100%	64%	43%	64%	25%	40%	0%	33%	48%	40%	67%	65%		
need7	At times/most times, I do not seek to resolve conflicts in all my relationships.	40%	14%	100%	42%	14%	42%	50%	30%	0%	22%	45%	20%	43%	41%		
need8	In some areas, I do struggle in coping with the changes in myself, my roles, my responsibilities, and stages in my life.	40%	50%	50%	63%	43%	59%	75%	20%	0%	11%	59%	80%	48%	47%		
need9	In some areas, I do struggle in adjusting to changes in my (our) employment, health or lifestyle.	60%	50%	100%	53%	29%	59%	25%	30%	0%	56%	66%	60%	47%	41%		
need10	At times, I do struggle in aspiring toward healthy lifestyle habits (eating, sleeping, exercise, etc.).	40%	21%	0%	44%	29%	51%	50%	20%	0%	78%	52%	40%	62%	65%		
need11	At times/most times, I lack confidence surrounding how to share my faith in God through Christ with others.	53%	71%	100%	63%	29%	46%	50%	50%	0%	33%	41%	40%	52%	59%		
need12	At times/most times, I do struggle because my life (or the life of those I love) has been impacted by past or current alcohol or drug abuse.	53%	36%	0%	56%	0%	46%	25%	30%	0%	22%	57%	60%	53%	35%		
need13	At times/most times, I do struggle because my life (or the life of those I love) has been impacted by past or current sexual/physical/emotional abuse.	73%	43%	50%	46%	29%	47%	25%	10%	0%	44%	50%	60%	37%	47%		
need14	At times/most times, I do struggle with feelings of anxiousness or depression.	67%	50%	100%	73%	43%	64%	75%	60%	0%	33%	66%	60%	52%	53%		

The *HomeLifeProfile* views zoom the lens in even further, to identify who feels less than blessed, in what areas of life.

HomeLifeProfile																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total	
Segment Assignment		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305	
Percentage		5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%	
"Less than blessed" 1-14 and open to Church Help																	
chhelp1	I sometimes/frequently find it difficult to establish new friendships outside my home.	7%	43%	50%	37%	43%	34%	25%	30%	0%	33%	20%	0%	33%	29%		
	n=	1	6	1	22	3	20	1	3	0	3	9	0	20	5		
chhelp2	I sometimes/frequently find myself stressed about finances or money.	53%	14%	0%	41%	43%	51%	50%	10%	0%	11%	32%	0%	23%	24%		
	n=	8	2	0	24	3	30	2	1	0	1	14	0	14	4		
chhelp3	I sometimes/frequently find myself struggling in my relationship with God and how I seek Him.	60%	36%	50%	39%	43%	27%	0%	20%	0%	33%	32%	20%	25%	29%		
	n=	9	5	1	23	3	16	0	2	0	3	14	1	15	5		
chhelp4	I sometimes/frequently struggle when faced with the hurriedness of life.	47%	29%	0%	51%	29%	53%	0%	20%	0%	22%	34%	20%	35%	18%		
	n=	7	4	0	30	2	31	0	2	0	2	15	1	21	3		
chhelp5	I sometimes/frequently find my conscience is disturbed regarding my time and choices with the Internet, television/movies, or other forms of media.	27%	29%	0%	31%	14%	32%	25%	20%	0%	22%	32%	20%	28%	41%		
	n=	4	4	0	18	1	19	1	2	0	2	14	1	17	7		
chhelp6	I sometimes/frequently struggle in seeking out and finding opportunities to serve others.	7%	43%	100%	31%	0%	36%	0%	20%	0%	11%	16%	0%	25%	29%		
	n=	1	6	2	18	0	21	0	2	0	1	7	0	15	5		
chhelp7	At times/most times, I do not seek to resolve conflicts in all my relationships.	20%	7%	0%	22%	0%	19%	25%	0%	0%	0%	18%	20%	25%	18%		
	n=	3	1	0	13	0	11	1	0	0	0	8	1	4	3		
chhelp8	In some areas, I do struggle in coping with the changes in myself, my roles, my responsibilities, and stages in my life.	33%	29%	0%	39%	29%	39%	0%	0%	0%	0%	32%	40%	27%	0		
	n=	5	4	0	23	2	23	0	0	0	0	14	2	16	5		
chhelp9	In some areas, I do struggle in adjusting to changes in my (our) employment, health or lifestyle.	27%	21%	0%	27%	29%	29%	25%	0%	0%	11%	25%	60%	25%	0		
	n=	4	3	0	16	2	17	1	0	0	1	11	3	15	3		
chhelp10	At times, I do struggle in aspiring toward healthy lifestyle habits (eating, sleeping, exercise, etc.).	40%	29%	0%	39%	29%	58%	50%	20%	0%	67%	36%	60%	43%	41%		
	n=	6	4	0	23	2	34	2	2	0	6	16	3	26	7		
chhelp11	At times/most times, I lack confidence surrounding how to share my faith in God through Christ with others.	40%	29%	50%	51%	14%	34%	50%	10%	0%	33%	23%	0%	32%	18%		
	n=	6	4	1	30	1	20	2	1	0	3	10	0	19	3		
chhelp12	At times/most times, I do struggle because my life (or the life of those I love) has been impacted by past or current alcohol or drug abuse.	13%	14%	0%	19%	0%	19%	0%	10%	0%	0%	23%	20%	22%	24%		
	n=	2	2	0	11	0	11	0	1	0	0	10	1	13	4		
chhelp13	At times/most times, I do struggle because my life (or the life of those I love) has been impacted by past or current sexual/physical/emotional	33%	14%	50%	20%	14%	14%	25%	0%	0%	11%	16%	20%	15%	24%		
	n=	5	2	1	12	1	8	1	0	0	1	7	1	9	4		
chhelp14	At times/most times, I do struggle with feelings of anxiousness or depression.	67%	50%	100%	51%	29%	34%	75%	20%	0%	33%	39%	60%	23%	41%		
	n=	10	7	2	30	2	20	3	2	0	3	17	3	14	7		

HomeLifeProfile																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
Segment Assignment		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305
	Percentage	5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%
If only one... 1-14 as an individual																
Urgent1	I sometimes/frequently find it difficult to establish new friendships outside my home.	0%	21%	0%	10%	0%	7%	0%	10%	0%	11%	5%	0%	5%	6%	
	n=	0	3	0	6	0	4	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	1	
Urgent2	I sometimes/frequently find myself stressed about finances or money.	20%	7%	0%	14%	14%	14%	0%	0%	0%	11%	5%	0%	5%	18%	
	n=	3	1	0	8	1	8	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	3	
Urgent3	I sometimes/frequently find myself struggling in my relationship with God and how I seek Him.	7%	14%	0%	10%	0%	10%	0%	10%	0%	22%	2%	0%	10%	12%	
	n=	1	2	0	6	0	6	0	1	0	2	1	0	6	2	
Urgent4	I sometimes/frequently struggle when faced with the hurriedness of life.	7%	0%	0%	12%	0%	8%	0%	20%	0%	0%	11%	0%	5%	0%	
	n=	1	0	0	7	0	5	0	2	0	0	5	0	3	0	
Urgent5	I sometimes/frequently find my conscience is disturbed regarding my time and choices with the Internet, television/movies, or other forms of media.	7%	0%	0%	5%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	11%	2%	0%	3%	0%	
	n=	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	
Urgent6	I sometimes/frequently struggle in seeking out and finding opportunities to serve others.	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	7%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	
Urgent7	At times/most times, I do not seek to resolve conflicts in all my relationships.	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	25%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	8%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
Urgent8	In some areas, I do struggle in coping with the changes in myself, my roles, my responsibilities, and stages in my life.	0%	0%	0%	5%	14%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	20%	8%	6%	
	n=	0	0	0	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	6	1	5	1	
Urgent9	In some areas, I do struggle in adjusting to changes in my (our) employment, health or lifestyle.	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	
	n=	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Urgent10	At times, I do struggle in aspiring toward healthy lifestyle habits (eating, sleeping, exercise, etc.).	0%	7%	0%	0%	14%	10%	25%	10%	0%	33%	11%	20%	8%	12%	
	n=	0	1	0	0	1	6	1	1	0	3	5	1	5	2	
Urgent11	At times/most times, I lack confidence surrounding how to share my faith in God through Christ with others.	7%	7%	50%	12%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	8%	0%	
	n=	1	1	1	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	
Urgent12	At times/most times, I do struggle because my life (or the life of those I love) has been impacted by past or current alcohol or drug abuse.	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%	20%	5%	6%	
	n=	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	
Urgent13	At times/most times, I do struggle because my life (or the life of those I love) has been impacted by past or current sexual/physical/emotional abuse.	7%	7%	0%	3%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	5%	0%	
	n=	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	
Urgent14	At times/most times, I do struggle with feelings of anxiousness or depression.	1%	14%	50%	15%	0%	10%	25%	0%	0%	0%	16%	20%	5%	24%	
	n=	6	2	1	9	0	6	1	0	0	0	7	1	3	4	

“As an Individual” worksheet

Let’s pause for a moment and reflect on what you’ve discovered with all the views, in mind.

“I feel blessed...”

Which of the issues of life do people feel most blessed?

Are there any differences by Gender? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

Does this differ by *HomeLifeProfile*? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

“I feel less than blessed...”

Which of the issues of life do people feel less than blessed?

Are there any differences by Gender? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

Does this differ by *HomeLifeProfile*? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

“Openness to Church Help with current, unmet needs in my life”

With which issues do you see a significant (and sometimes a greater) percentage of those with a need receptive to the church coming alongside them to overcome their need?

By contrast, with which issues do you see a reluctance, that is a small (and sometimes lesser) percentage of those with a need receptive to the church coming alongside—almost a resistance to engage their needs?

Urgency: “If I can only choose one...”

With whom—about what, do you see the greatest sense of urgency of living “less than blessed?”

SOLI DEO GLORIA Glory belongs to God alone. God’s glory is the central motivation for salvation, not improving the lives of people—though that is a wonderful by product. God is not a means to an end—he is the means and the end.

Our view of God greatly influences our view of sexual relations. The apostle Paul writes: *Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”* ² *But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. –* ³² *I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. I Cor. 7:1-2; 32. ESV).*

When we marry—our list of possible sources of anxiousness tends to get big—and our energies to please God get small. Later in his letter Paul writes, ³¹ *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* (I Cor. 10:31, ESV). As many confessions of faith state, the chief purpose of human life is “to glorify God and enjoy him forever.” Sexual relations matter to God—but stir many questions with God for those who seek to *please the Lord*. The task for Christians (and thereby church leaders) is how to come alongside both the currently unmarried and married, as each seeks to know how to *glorify God and enjoy him forever*.

And whether married or unmarried—we live at the intersection of faith and life surrounding sexuality, too.

As you view the tables: has your understanding of the scope of singleness and coupled life changed? How so?

Current Marital/Relational Status				
* Which of the following best describes your current marital/relationship status? (Select only one)	%	ALL	Single	Married
		Count	Count	Count
Single, never married	7%	21	21	
Single-again, widowed	3%	10	10	
Single-again, divorced	8%	23	23	
Non-cohabitating committed relationship	1%	2	2	
Engaged	0%	1	1	
Comitted co-habiting relationship	1%	3	3	
Married	68%	207		207
Separated	0%	0		0
Remarried after death of spouse	1%	4		4
Remarried after divorce	11%	34		34
total		305	60	245

HomeLifeProfile

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarrie d	Total
Segment Assignment	Count	15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305
	Percentage	5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%

* Which of the following BEST describes your current marital/relationship status? (Select only one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Single, never married	93%	0%	0%	0%	29%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Single-again, widowed	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	59%
Single-again, divorced	0%	0%	100%	0%	43%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	29%
Non-cohabitating committed	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
Engaged	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cohabiting committed	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	6%
Married	0%	100%	0%	97%	0%	80%	0%	80%	0%	0%	80%	0%	77%	0%
Separated	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Remarried after death of spouse	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	3%	0%
Remarried after divorce	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%	19%	0%	20%	0%	0%	16%	0%	20%	0%

There is nothing like the public reading of Scripture: Song of Solomon 1 (ESV)

She^[a]

² *Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!
For your love is better than wine;*

³ *your anointing oils are fragrant;
your name is oil poured out;
therefore virgins love you.*

⁴ *Draw me after you; let us run.
The king has brought me into his chambers.*

He

⁸ *If you do not know,
O most beautiful among women,
follow in the tracks of the flock,
and pasture your young goats
beside the shepherds' tents.*

⁹ *I compare you, my love,
to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.*

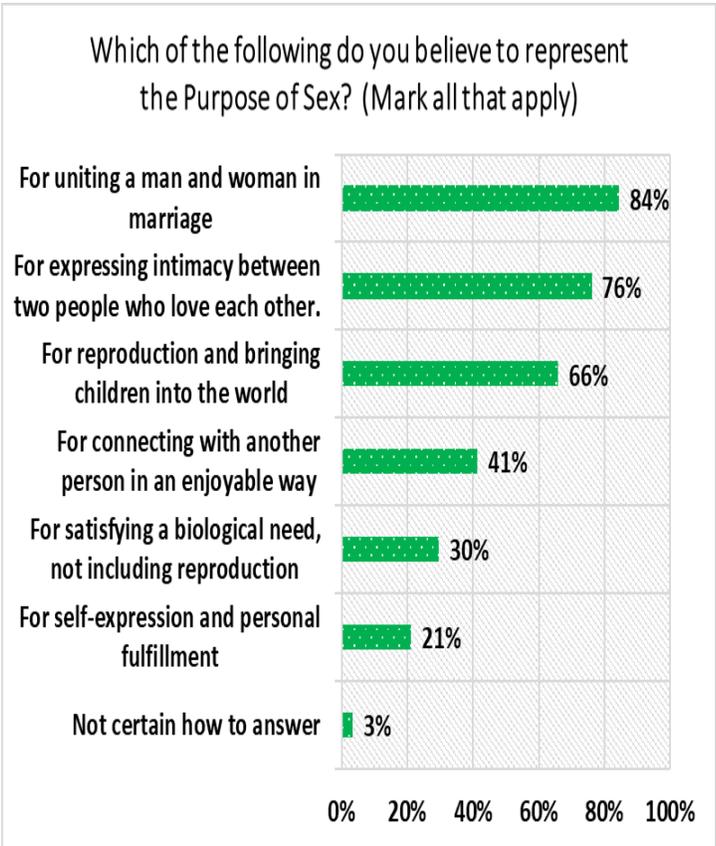
¹⁰ *Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,
your neck with strings of jewels.*

The Bible narrative begins with a wedding in Genesis—and the narrative ends with a wedding. And sexuality is a stream which runs through it. Marriage in Eden was to provide a context of fellowship with God, and companionship with each other, while breathing earthly air. As man was cast out of Eden, what was created to represent God’s original plan for joining two hearts all too often now, generates much human suffering.

So, we asked a simple question:

At first glance, what thoughts come to mind?

Does what we found surprise you?



What appears to be a rather simple question takes on a whole new level of complexity when we refocus the lens to see the segment-by-segment responses to this question—and identification with the response options.

For starters—the view by Gender:

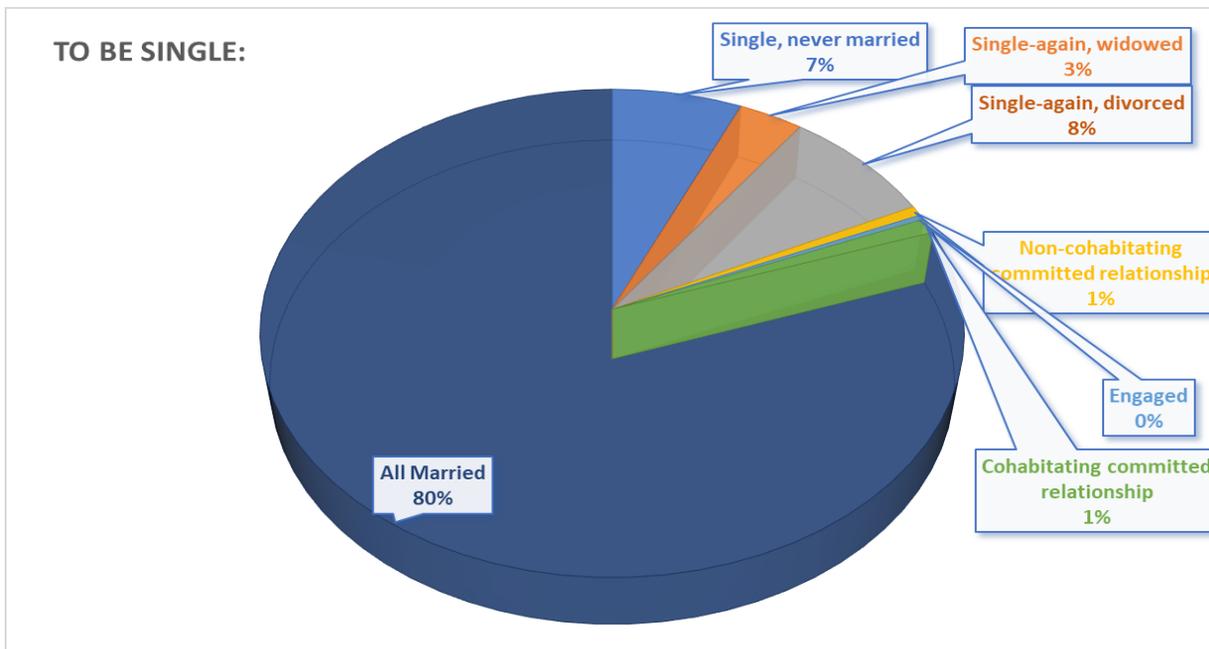
Where, if any, do we find a significant difference in response? And by whom?

The Purpose of Sex by gender		
	Male 129	
	Female 176	
		Percent
For self-expression and personal fulfillment	Male 22.5%	
	Female 19.9%	
		difference from Male response, by female response: 2.6%
For expressing intimacy between two people who love each other.	Male 76.7%	
	Female 75.6%	
		difference from Male response, by female response: 1.2%
For connecting with another person in an enjoyable way	Male 44.2%	
	Female 39.2%	
		difference from Male response, by female response: 5.0%
For uniting a man and woman in marriage	Male 82.9%	
	Female 85.2%	
		difference from Male response, by female response: -2.3%
For reproduction and bringing children into the world	Male 68.2%	
	Female 64.2%	
		difference from Male response, by female response: 4.0%
For satisfying a biological need, not including reproduction	Male 38.8%	
	Female 22.7%	
		difference from Male response, by female response: 16.0%
Not certain how to answer	Male 2.3%	
	Female 4.0%	
		difference from Male response, by female response: -1.7%

Examine the table below with the top half reflecting the view “to be single” and then the lower half reflecting the “to be married”. What, if any, difference(s) do you see?

	Which of the following phrases reflect your thoughts regarding the purpose of sex? (Mark all that apply)								
	Count	For self-expression and personal fulfillment	For expressing intimacy between two people who love each other	For connecting with another person in an enjoyable way	For uniting a man and woman in marriage	For reproduction and bringing children into the world	For satisfying a biological need, not including reproduction	Not certain how to answer	
Single, never married		4	15	7	13	9	2	3	21
Single-again, widowed		1	8	2	9	7	1	0	10
Single-again, divorced		2	16	7	19	15	6	2	23
Non-cohabitating committed relationship		0	1	0	1	1	0	1	2
Engaged		0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Cohabitating committed relationship		1	3	2	2	2	1	0	3
		8	44	18	45	35	10	6	60
		13%	73%	30%	75%	58%	17%	10%	
Married		48	161	96	178	143	71	4	207
Separated		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Remarried after death of spouse		0	1	0	4	2	1	0	4
Remarried after divorce		8	26	12	30	21	8	0	34
		56	188	108	212	166	80	4	245
		23%	77%	44%	87%	68%	33%	2%	

3a



In God’s sense of humor, back in the early 1990’s, our Lead Pastor first complimented us on how we’d recruited, equipped and empowered a team of lay leaders to grow a thriving ministry to those who were married. Then came the, **BUT...** The next sentence was, “I want you to shift your focus to do the same in our community with those who are single.” Looking back, we learned more about marriage ministry in those fifteen years ministering to and with those who were single, and single-again.

At that time, the conventional church thought premarital preparation for those engaged to be the BIG emphasis with single adults, as doing so transitioned young adults in the more familiar married spectrum of family ministry. BUT, ask any single adult—and they will quickly inform you their single life story is unique!

We quickly saw six (6) potential one-to-some segments across our young, middle and older life age groups turn into eight (8). Using this basic matrix b, does anything surprise you in the matrix below?

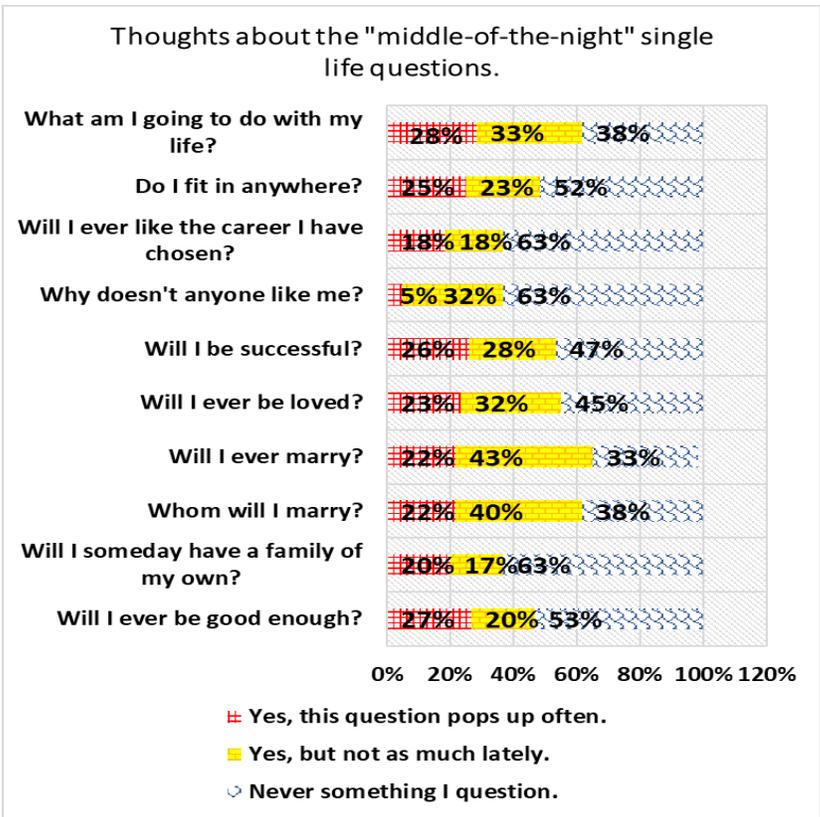
HomeLifeProfile		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
Segment Assignment	Count	15	2	7	4	9	5	17	305							
	Percentage	5%	1%	2%	1%	3%	2%	6%	100%							
Gender	Male	8	0	1	2	2	0	4	108							
	Female	7	2	6	2	7	5	13	176							
Gender %	Male	8%	0%	1%	2%	2%	0%	4%								
	Female	4%	1%	3%	1%	4%	3%	7%								
age	18-19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2							2
	20-29	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	28							28
	30-39	4	2	5	2	0	0	0	65							65
	40-49	0	0	2	2	0	4	2	72							72
	50-59	0	0	0	2	0	5	3	61							61
	60-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9							9
	70-79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7							7
	80 plus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1							1
		15	2	7	4	9	5	17	305							
age %	18-19	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%										
	20-29	60%	0%	0%	0%											
	30-39	27%	100%	71%												
	40-49	0%	0%	29%			50%				0%	44%		40%		
	50-59						50%				0%	56%		60%		
	60-69															53%
	70-79															41%
	80 plus															6%

* Which of the following BEST describes your current marital/relationship status? (Select only one)						
Single, never married	Single-again, widowed	Single-again, divorced	Non-cohabiting committed relationship	Engaged	Cohabiting committed relationship	ALL Singles
7%	3%	8%	1%	0%	1%	20%
20	10	24	2	1	3	60

By contrast, **symptoms of those who tend to struggle at the intersection of faith & single life include:**

- **Identity-** (Who am I? What is my purpose?) Ephesians 2:10
- **Loneliness-** (I need someone to share my life. I feel so alone.) Hebrews 13:5
- **Rejection-** (I am not wanted. I must not be lovable.) I John 3:1
- **Fear-** (I will be alone when I am old. I don't want to be hurt again) Isaiah 41:10
- **Bitterness-** (I am not receiving the best life has to offer. I am being punished.) Psalms 84:11
- **Sexuality-** (A sexual relationship is the only means to intimacy. I don't know what to do with my sexual desires.) Romans 12:1
- **Self-worth-** (I don't feel valuable. I am not worthy enough to be loved.) Isaiah 43:4

From the graph of your single respondents to the right, which of the "middle-of-the-night" questions hint at the symptoms listed above?



It is from this context that we zoom in on a sub-segment of single adults—those who self-identify their current relational status toward marriage.

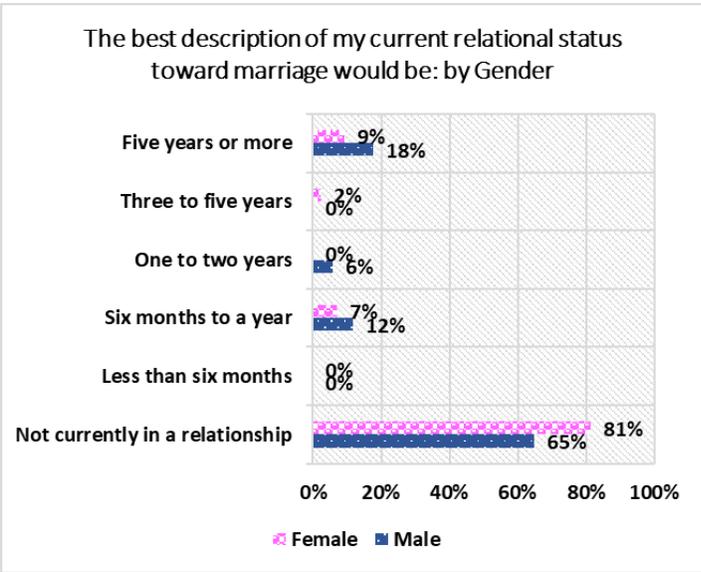
The best description of my current relational status toward marriage would be:					
Not currently in a relationship	Less than six months	Six months to a year	One to two years	Three to five years	Five years or more
77%	0%	8%	2%	2%	12%
46	0	5	1	1	7
60					

From the table (upper right) what percentage is/has been for some time, at least contemplating their existing relationship potentially headed toward marriage? What percentage are not currently in a relationship?

The graph to the right zooms-in on the gender perspective of relational hopes, dreams and possibly budding frustrations as the duration of the relationship grows.

From what you've seen so far, are you seeing an increased urgency to be prepared to help couples prepare for marriage?

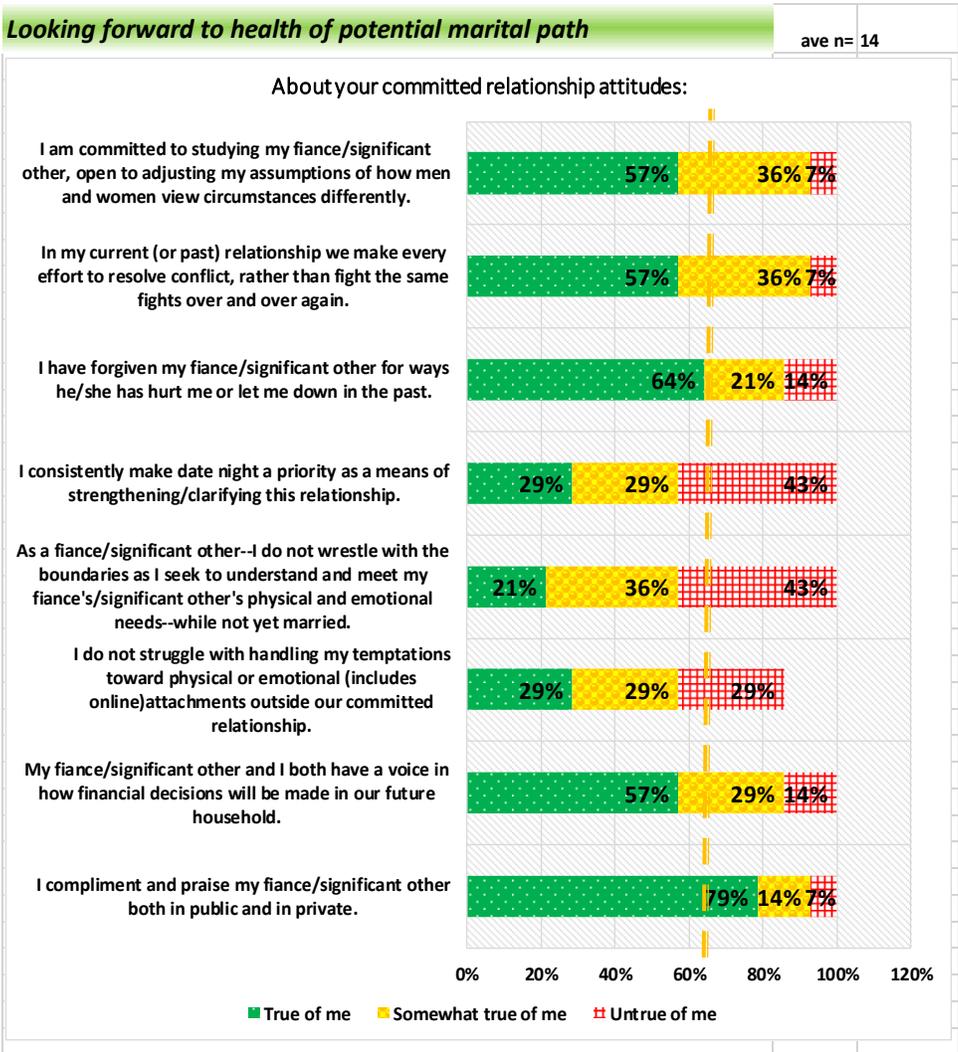
A tougher question, what additional story is there in those not currently in a relationship?



Of those who self-identified as “currently in a relationship”, we also asked a series of future marital health habits—that we later ask of those currently married. Any YELLOW and/or RED in the graph below hints of areas where knowledge, skills and attitudes of healthy Christian marriage are confused.

From the graph to the right—what areas capture your attention?

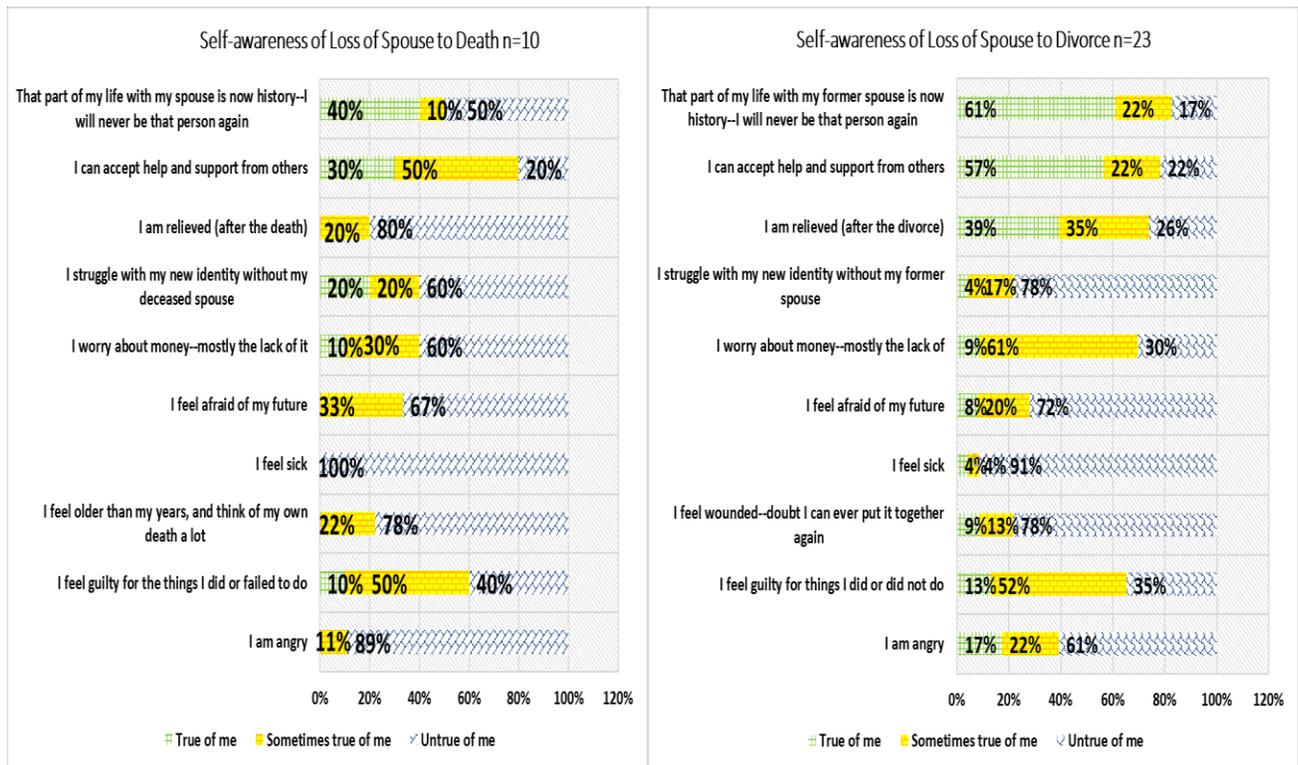
Which affirm what you had already come to notice?



Looking forward to health of potential marital path			Very true of me	Somewhat true of me	Not at all true of me
I am committed to studying my fiancée/significant other, open to adjusting my assumptions of how men and women view circumstances differently.	Male		33%	50%	17%
	Female		75%	25%	0%
	<i>difference male vs female</i>		-42%	25%	17%
In my current (or past) relationship we make every effort to resolve conflict, rather than fight the same fights over and over again.	Male		67%	17%	17%
	Female		50%	50%	0%
	<i>difference male vs female</i>		17%	-33%	17%
I have forgiven my fiancée/significant other for ways he/she has hurt me or let me down in the past.	Male		67%	17%	17%
	Female		63%	25%	13%
	<i>difference male vs female</i>		4%	-8%	4%
I consistently make date night a priority as a means of strengthening/clarifying this relationship.	Male		0%	50%	50%
	Female		50%	13%	38%
	<i>difference male vs female</i>		-50%	38%	13%
As a fiancée/significant other--I do not wrestle with the boundaries as I seek to understand and meet my fiancée's/significant other's physical and emotional needs--while not yet married.	Male		17%	33%	50%
	Female		25%	13%	38%
	<i>difference male vs female</i>		-8%	21%	13%
I do not struggle with handling my temptations toward physical or emotional (includes online) attachments outside our committed relationship.	Male		33%	50%	17%
	Female		25%	38%	38%
	<i>difference male vs female</i>		8%	13%	-21%
My fiancée/significant other and I both have a voice in how financial decisions will be made in our future household.	Male		50%	33%	17%
	Female		63%	25%	13%
	<i>difference male vs female</i>		-13%	8%	4%
I compliment and praise my fiancée/significant other both in public and in private.	Male		83%	17%	0%
	Female		75%	13%	13%
	<i>difference male vs female</i>		8%	4%	-13%

Work through the table above, giving special attention to the *difference male vs female* rows. Take note of anywhere the difference is $\pm 8\%$ or more.

All “Loss of a Spouse” is not the same.



Viewing the graphs and tables on this page—are there any areas you may need to rethink, as you look at your care and coming alongside those who have experienced loss of a spouse?

Life as one single-again by death or divorce		True of me	Sometimes true of me	Untrue of me
wid1	I am angry	0%	11%	89%
div1	I am angry	17%	22%	61%
	difference widowed vs divorced	-17%	-11%	28%
wid2	I feel guilty for the things I did or failed to do	10%	50%	40%
div2	I feel guilty for things I did or did not do	13%	52%	35%
	difference widowed vs divorced	-3%	-2%	5%
wid3	I feel older than my years, and think of my own death a lot	0%	22%	78%
div3	I feel wounded--doubt I can ever put it together again	9%	13%	78%
	difference widowed vs divorced	-9%	9%	0%
wid4	I feel sick	0%	0%	100%
div4	I feel sick	4%	4%	91%
	difference widowed vs divorced	-4%	-4%	9%
wid5	I feel afraid of my future	0%	33%	67%
div5	I feel afraid of my future	8%	20%	72%
	difference widowed vs divorced	-8%	13%	-5%
wid6	I worry about money--mostly the lack of it	10%	30%	60%
div6	I worry about money--mostly the lack of it	9%	61%	30%
	difference widowed vs divorced	1%	-31%	30%
wid7	I struggle with my new identity without my deceased spouse	20%	20%	60%
div7	I struggle with my new identity without my former spouse	4%	17%	78%
	difference widowed vs divorced	16%	3%	-18%
wid8	I am relieved (after the death)	0%	20%	80%
div8	I am relieved (after the divorce)	39%	35%	26%
	difference widowed vs divorced	-39%	-15%	54%
wid9	I can accept help and support from others	30%	50%	20%
div9	I can accept help and support from others	57%	22%	22%
	difference widowed vs divorced	-27%	28%	-2%
wid10	That part of my life with my spouse is now history--I will never be that person again	40%	10%	50%
div10	That part of my life with my former spouse is now history--I will never be that person again	61%	22%	17%
	difference widowed vs divorced	-21%	-12%	33%

3a “To be Single” worksheet

Let’s pause for a moment and reflect on what you’ve discovered with all the views, in mind.

“I feel blessed...”

Which of the issues of **Single life** do people feel most blessed?

Are there any differences by Gender? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

Does this differ by **HomeLifeProfile**? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

“I feel less than blessed...”

Which of the issues of **Single life** do people feel less than blessed?

Are there any differences by Gender? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

Does this differ by **HomeLifeProfile**? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

“Openness to Church Help with current, unmet needs in my life”

With which issues do you see a significant (and sometimes a greater) percentage of those with a need receptive to the church coming alongside them to overcome their need?

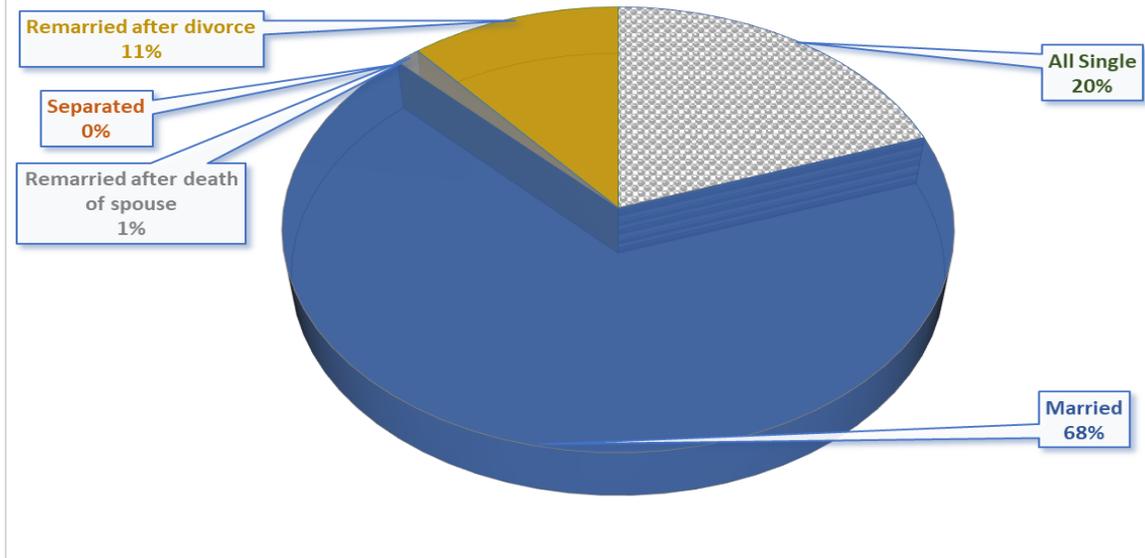
By contrast, with which issues do you see a reluctance, that is a small (and sometimes lesser) percentage of those with a need receptive to the church coming alongside—almost a resistance to engage their needs?

Urgency: “If I can only choose one...”

With whom—about what, do you see the greatest sense of urgency of living “less than blessed?”

3b-

TO BE MARRIED:



HomeLifeProfile		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total
Segment Assignment	Count		14		59		59		10			44		60		305
	Percentage		5%		19%		19%		3%			14%		20%		100%
Gender	Male		8		28		24		6			16		4		103
	Female		6		31		35		4			28		30		176
Gender %	Male		8%		27%		23%		6%			16%		4%		
	Female		3%		18%		20%		2%			16%		17%		
age	18-19		0		0		0		0			0		0		2
	20-29		11		8		0		0			0		0		28
	30-39		3		51		0		0			0		0		65
	40-49		0		0		41		5			16		0		72
	50-59		0		0		18		5			28		0		61
	60-69		0		0		0		0			0		53		62
	70-79		0		0		0		0			0		7		14
	80 plus		0		0		0		0			0		0		1
			14		59		59		10			44		60		305
age	18-19		0%		0%											
	20-29		79%		14%											
	30-39		21%		86%											
	40-49		0%		0%		69%		50%			36%				
	50-59						31%		50%			64%				
	60-69													88%		
	70-79													12%		
	80 plus													0%		

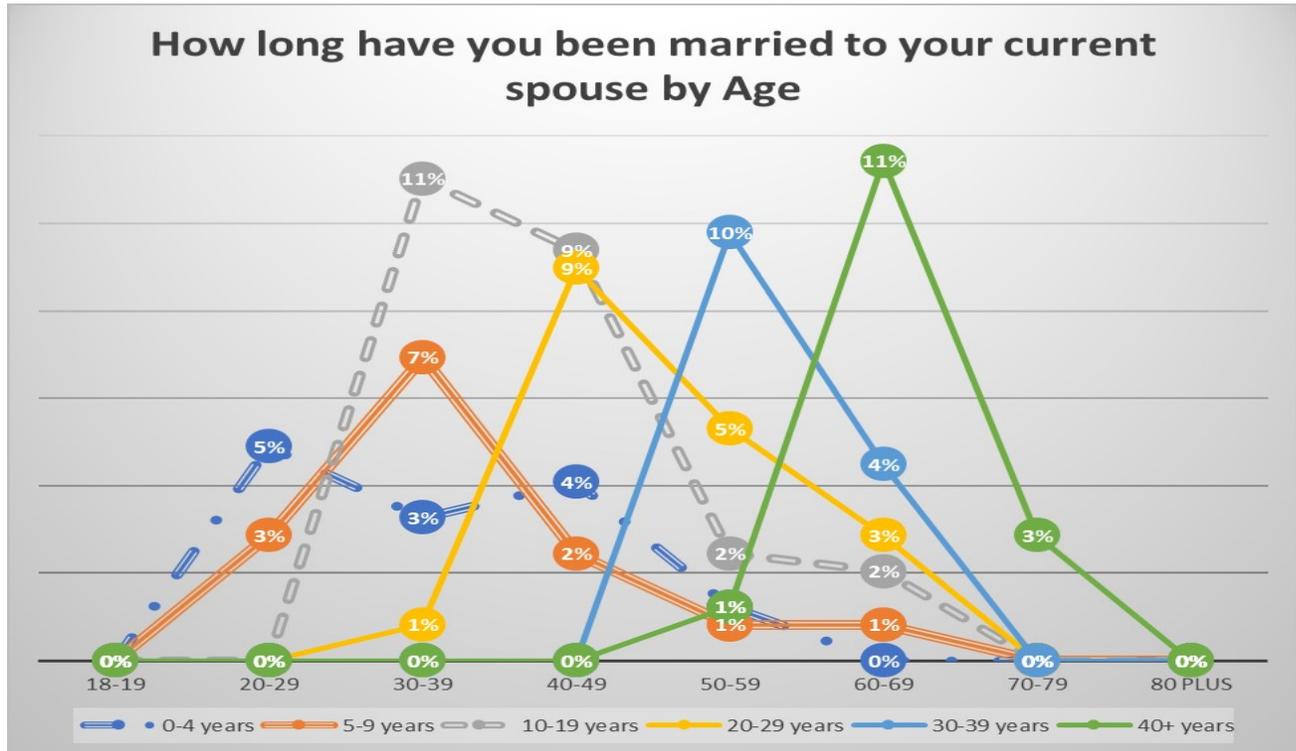
The apostle Paul offered clear characteristics of *cleaving into companionship* in II Corinthians 6:14-16:

- Partnership
- Fellowship
- Harmony
- Common Interests
- Agreement

Did you notice *what* these five holds in common and what makes them work? The common denominator is God (righteousness, light, Christ, spiritual, and temple) *“I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people”* (6:16).

By contrast, *the fastest way to detect that marital companionship is stalled*, or not developing is hearing married people say:

- “I feel so alone”
- “My spouse talks at me, but not to me”
- “I received more love from my spouse when we dated”
- “I feel so trapped in an emotionless and loveless relationship”
- “We never do anything together and I am so unhappy and miserable”



Start by viewing the blue dot-dash line for 0-4 years. What ages do you see married this critical period?

Do the same with the orange multi-line for those married the next critical period—years 5-10. What ages do you see?

		How long have you been married to your current spouse?							
		Not currently married	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40+ years	n=
age	18-19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	20-29	9	12	7	0	0	0	0	19
	30-39	11	8	17	27	2	0	0	54
	40-49	11	10	6	23	22	0	0	61
	50-59	10	3	2	6	13	24	3	51
	60-69	9	0	2	5	7	11	28	53
	70-79	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
	80 plus	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		n=	33	34	61	44	35	38	245



Marriage is never complete. It is never static. Changes or flux are the only constant, whether you are aware of it. If you asked each morning, ***“What will be different in our marriage today?”*** in the early years and then looked, you would discover at least one element, each day.

And with middle age the “normal” defects in any relationship seem to show up in sharper focus. There is now more time to notice and confront. The couple often cannot relocate the buffer of romance and passion that characterized their earlier years, an adhesive that’s very much needed—yet seemingly so difficult to regenerate. They are faced with getting old together—the threat of aging is painful.

Middle life and the emptying nest can bring major changes in numerous areas. Also, major **choices**. One is this: You can preserve the best years of your marriage up to now and discard the worst experiences; or you can continue to cultivate the worst and ignore the positives only to see the marriage deteriorate. Too many live with the residue of early marital disappointments and have allowed those to destructively determine and dictate the future.

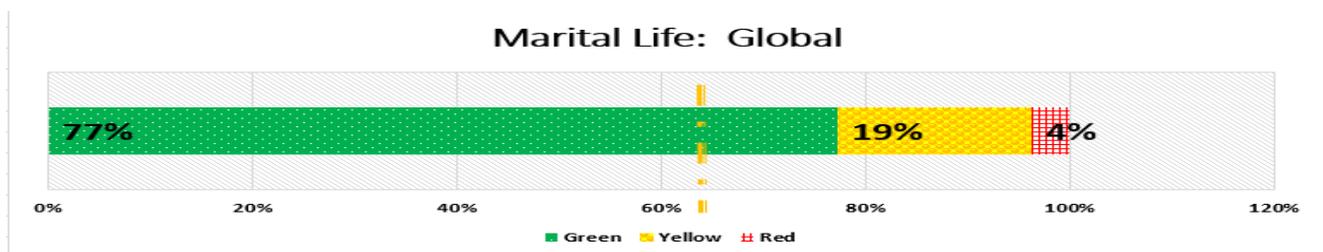
It is often said that while at first married people are concerned with meeting the “right one,” now we’re learning the importance of **being** the “right one” for someone else. If you treat the wrong person like the right person, you may have married the so-called “right person” after all. If you treat the right person like the wrong person, that’s most likely who you married. And it is far more important to be the right person than it is to marry the right one. In short, ***whether you married the right or wrong person is primarily up to you.*** How you’ve been treating her (or him) makes all the difference.

In some sense, too, we all chose a “wrong person” to marry, because there is something wrong with all of us. We’re created in God’s image, but at the same time we are all afflicted with a fatal condition traced back to Adam. Our having been born sinful has become politically incorrect—but the evidence is too strong to ignore. We’re all flawed. We are broken. We are all the “wrong people.”

With our cars, a wise mechanic would plug a diagnostic code reader into the diagnostic trouble code port (OBD) to detect which system or systems require service or catastrophic failure requiring rebuilding to “put things back to right”. These codes quickly point us to **“what”** is out of ideal specifications as well as, hints at where to begin answering the **“how” to put things back to rights questions** needed to some alongside the rebuilding. Cars do not have hearts—making them far simpler to put back to rights.



²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self,^[a] which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:21-24, ESV) bodes the question—“what requires to be renewed?”



There is a lot of **GREEN** to celebrate... but some **YELLOW** and **RED**, too. What is the source of these lights?

As we revisit the Apostle Paul’s thoughts on what would form godly companionship (see II Corinthians 6:14-16), the Faith & Life Survey has sought a manner to combine identifying “what” along with pointing to “how”.

Your church’s **Marital Life: Global** measure is the sum of five series of questions, each series assessing a component of Christian marriage. These five are:

- Marital/Coupling Attitudes;
- Marital/Coupling Priority Activities;
- Marital Satisfaction;
- Marital Communication/Bond; and
- Marital Danger Signs.

As an initial global measure, remember that we celebrate the **GREEN**, look closer at the maintenance required of the **YELLOW**, and recognize that in the normal flow of marriage, 3-4% of those responding will reflect a “state” of life tripping that **RED** light. We look at both “state” (those in the moment expressions of life) and “trait” (those longstanding, and steady characteristics of life). We all have a funny photo where our eyes were closed or our mouths wide open—at the instant that the shutter captured the picture. In the same way, we have to add allow for a daily distress—the presence of life’s stuff—to be a part of what we see in our health measures.

That said, what are your church’s Marital Life: Global scores:

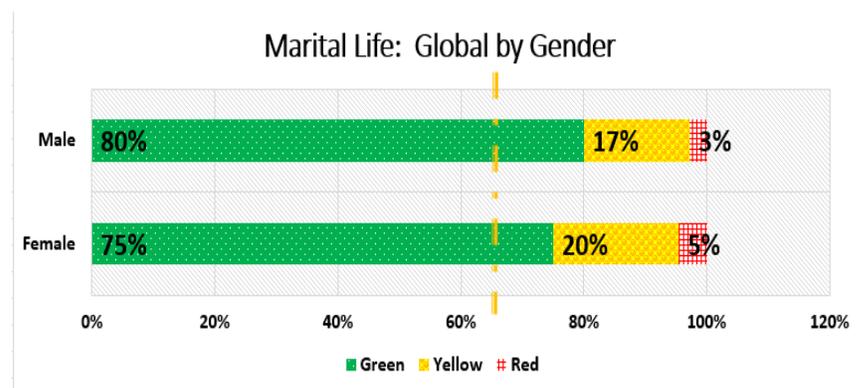
GREEN

YELLOW

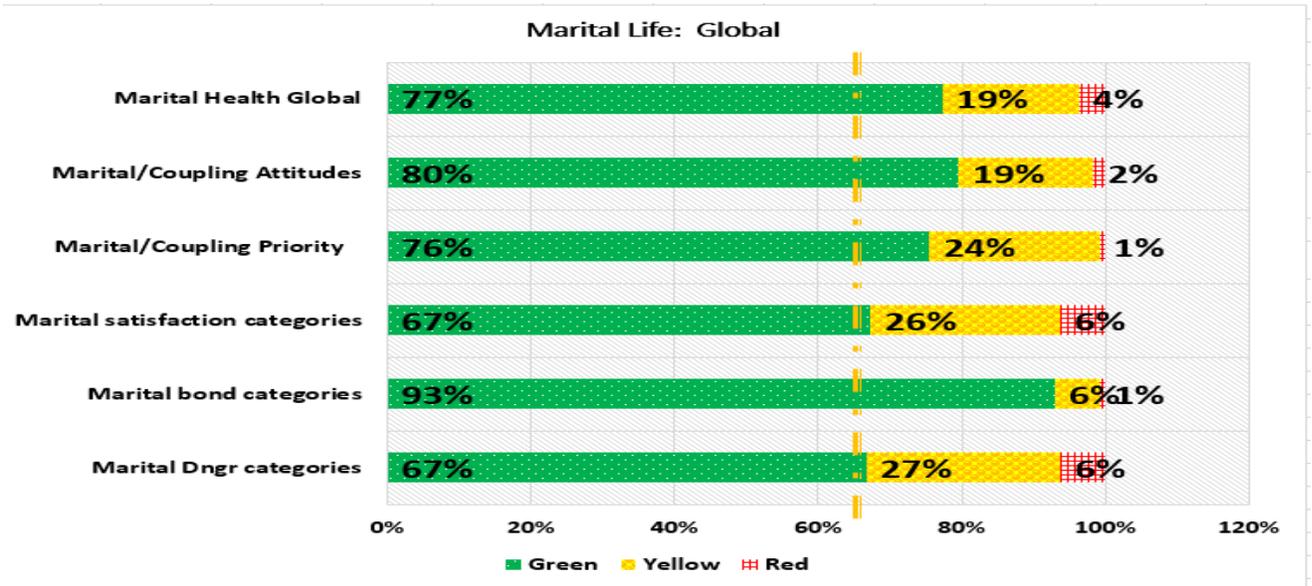
RED

What is your initial reaction to these initial totals?

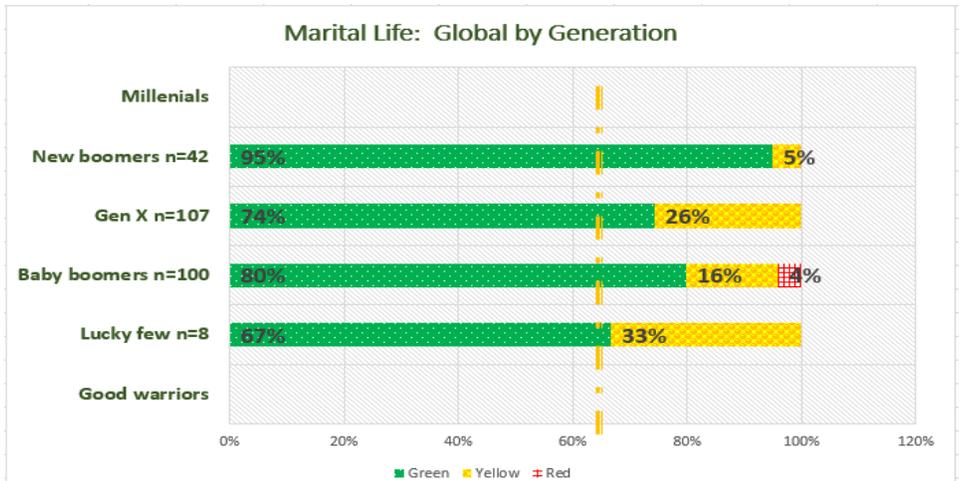
Any additional thoughts when viewed by Gender?



When we pan the lens out a bit to examine Marital Health: Global, in the context of the five components which sum to form the construct, we create the array of graphs for your church, seen below:



Does the view by generations shed a different light on the Global measure? Who seems struggling most?



As you view both the percentages and counts of souls in the HomeLifeProfile view: who is enjoying the GREEN experience? Who is looking at those pesky Yellow and/or RED lights?

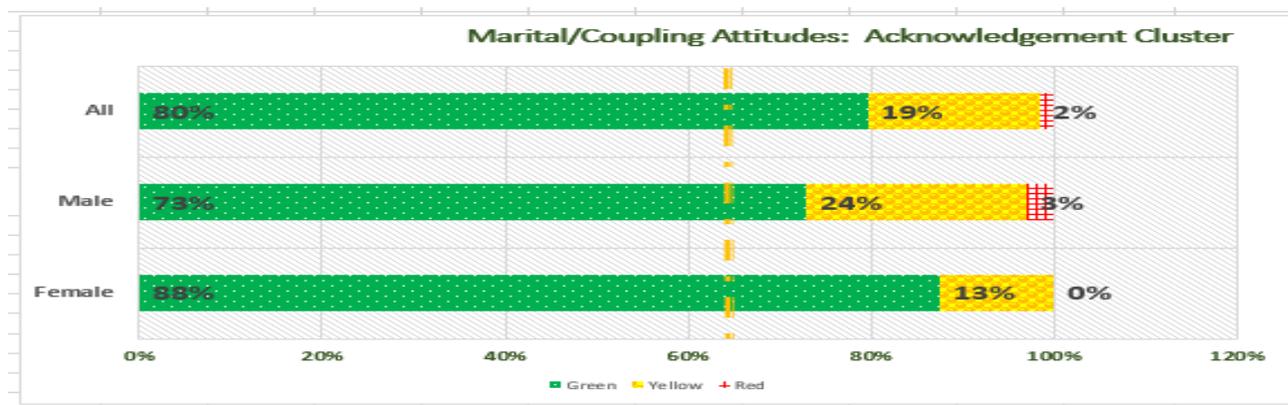
HomeLifeProfile Marital Life: Global categories															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
N= 245		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried
Marital Life: Global categories	Red	0	14	0	59	0	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	0
	Yellow	0	7%	0%	15%	0%	31%	0%	20%	0%	0%	19%	0%	13%	0%
	Green	0	93%	0%	85%	0%	68%	0%	80%	0%	0%	74%	0%	87%	0%
Marital Life: Global categories	Red	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Yellow	0	1	0	10	0	16	0	2	0	0	7	0	10	0
	Green	0	13	0	48	0	37	0	7	0	0	32	0	50	0
		0	14	0	59	0	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	0

Knowing better what to do. A marriage brings together two imperfectly motivated people who strongly desire intimacy but are afraid of being hurt. As believers in Jesus Christ, we have been set free to love and serve one another. It is this love that enables us to overcome our basic selfishness. The apostle Paul contrasts such love against the corrosiveness in relationship where love is not leading the way. *“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other”* (Galatians 5:13-15).

Oneness in marriage requires each doing their own part. Perfection is not possible, of course. We will never restore ourselves to Eden. Heaven will more than take care of that. But it is possible to learn to avoid and recover from many of the pitfalls that snag far too many couples.

Let’s begin zooming-in on each of the five components:

Let’s start to unpack the construct of *Marital/Couple-forming Attitudes: Acknowledgement*



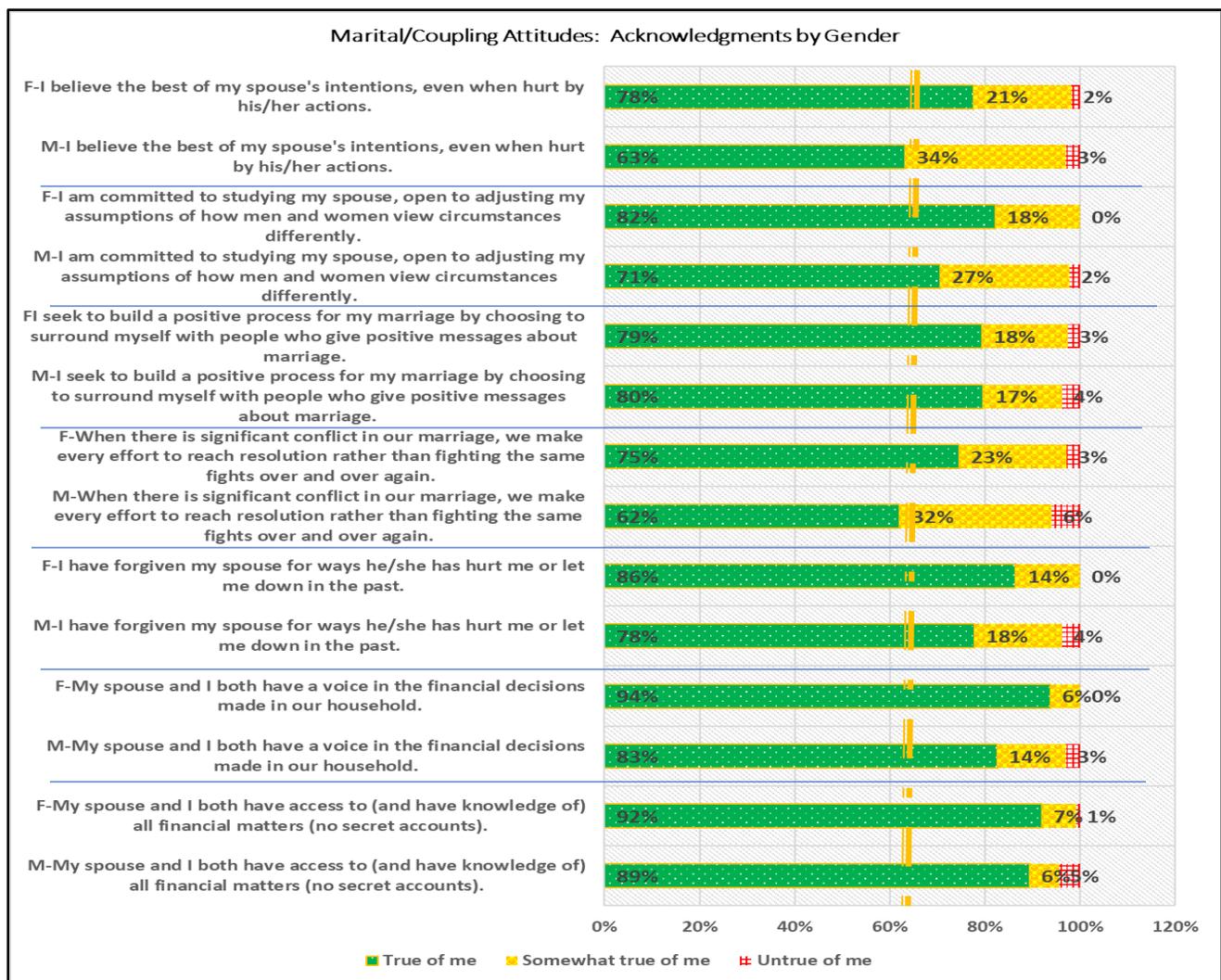
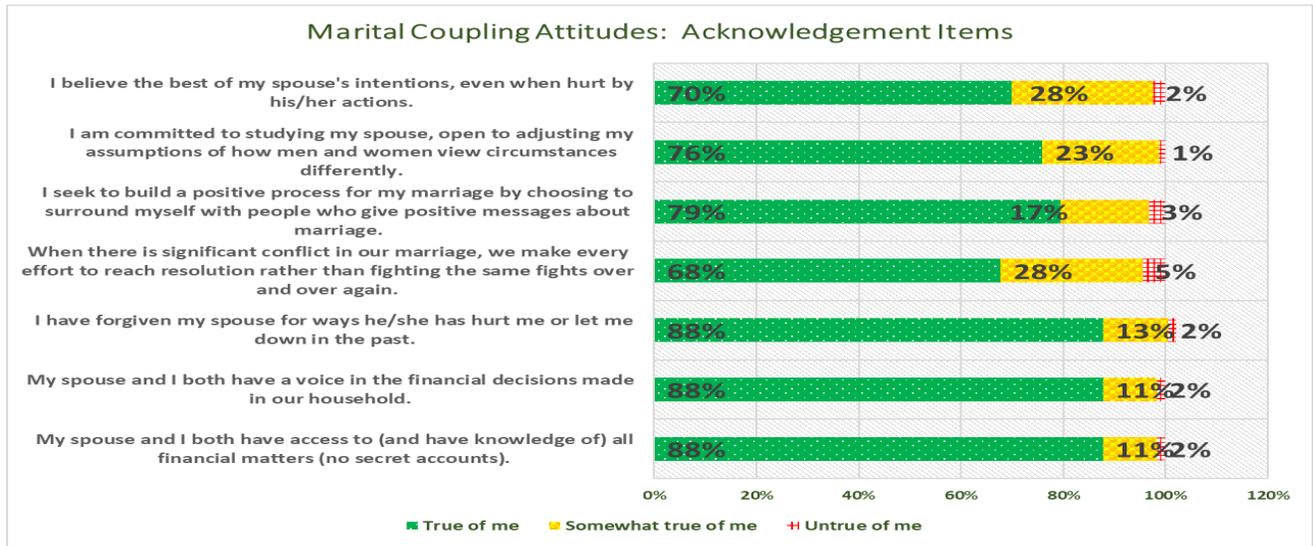
What, if any, is your initial response to the graphs above:

Martin Buber in *I and Thou (Ich und Du, 1923)* opened our eyes to marital communication having a continuum from impersonal to interpersonal. Almost every new interaction begins at the “I-it” level. In an “I-It” relationship we interact with people in their social roles. Our conversations are superficial and impersonal. A homeless person asks, “Can you spare a dollar to help me get something to eat?” If you watch this from a distance on a city street you will see many not even recognize the personhood of the one asking. There are many jobs in which those working may also feel they are treated as “its,” and not as persons. No connection is formed.

“I-You” communication accounts for most of our interactions. In this type of communication, people interact with one another as more than objects. Husband and wife are prime examples of interacting out of scripts attached to the roles. For those who can remember their first date with the one who is now their spouse, they may speak of how they talked so much, yet stayed within their social roles and keep their private selves hidden. We communicate with less depth with most people in our social circles than with those we love most.

Buber considers “I-Thou” communication the highest level of human interaction. When communicating at this level, we move beyond social roles and into the uniqueness of the individual. In I-Thou dialogues, we assume trust and are likely to disclose deep, more private, aspects of ourselves. You are likely to find “I-Thou” communication patterns between lovers, between parent and child, among siblings and in very close friendships. There are some people who never achieve this deeper level of communication. This is unfortunate because building relationships that enable “I-Thou” communication brings a deep richness to life.

In the *Faith & Life Survey*, we use the following questions to generate the acknowledging your beloved’s personhood — or, acknowledgment.



When viewed by Gender or HLP, did you notice any segments struggling more in terms of acknowledgment?

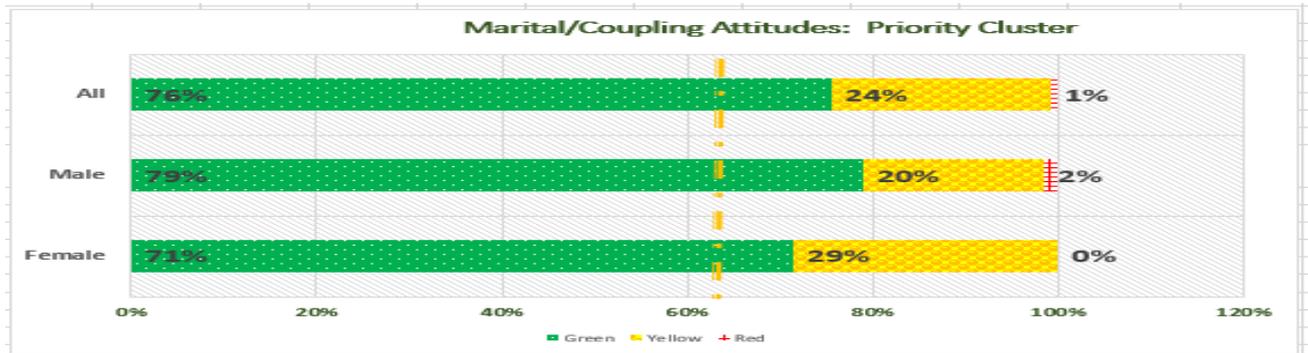
HomeLifeProfile Marital/Coupling Attitudes: Acknowledgement categories																
N= 245		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		0	14	0	59	0	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	0	245
Marital/Couple forming Attitudes: Acknowledgment	Red	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	
	Yellow	0%	7%	0%	15%	0%	31%	0%	20%	0%	0%	19%	0%	13%	0%	
	Green	0%	93%	0%	85%	0%	68%	0%	80%	0%	0%	74%	0%	87%	0%	
		young single	young married no kids	young single again no kids	young married w kids	young single or single-again w kids	mid age married w kids	middle age single-adult no kids	mid age married no kids	mid age single again no kids	mid age single again w kids	mid aged launched	mid age single again launched	older married	older unmarried	
Marital/Couple forming Attitudes: Acknowledgment	Red	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	
	Yellow	0	1	0	9	0	18	0	2	0	0	8	0	8	0	
	Green	0	13	0	50	0	40	0	8	0	0	32	0	52	0	
		0	14	0	59	0	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	0	245

As you view the graphs for each question, give special attention to the 66% “tipping-point” vertical line. With which, if any questions, does the GREEN, “True of me” portion of the graph recede back, beneath the tipping-point? What would that look like in a marriage?

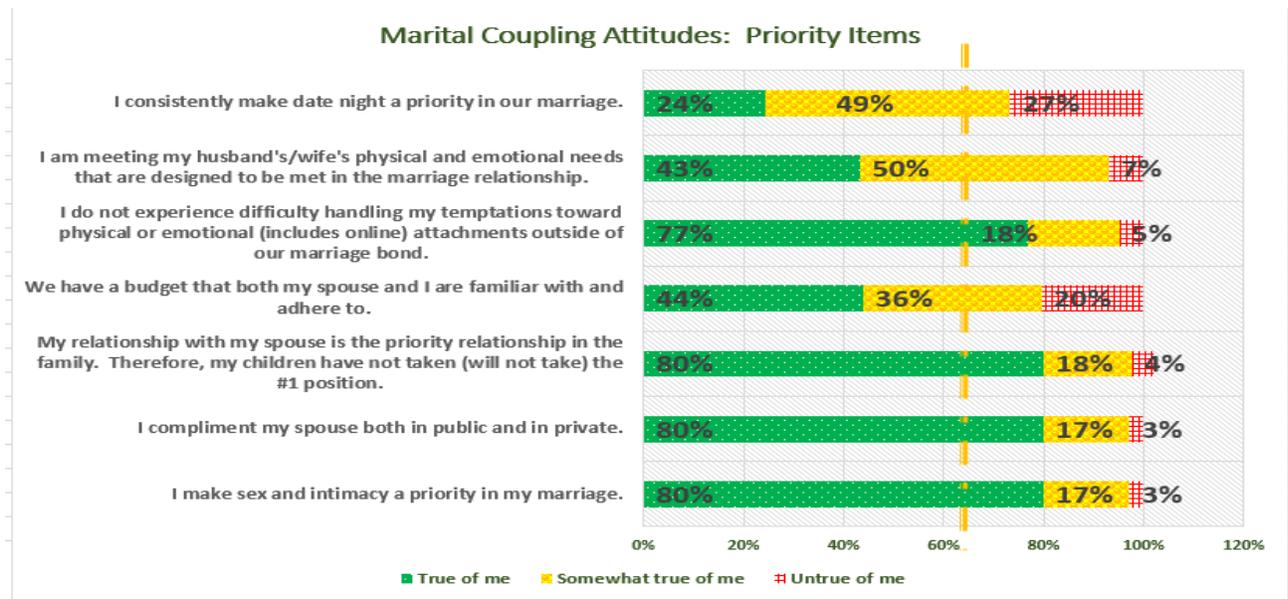
What about the presence of RED?

In the same vein, the construct of *Marital/Couple-forming Attitudes: Priority* needs unpacking.

One of the most powerful conveyances of the “I-thou” relationship is the *expression of priority of the beloved, above oneself*. Gratitude and generosity are hallmark to creating a climate of kindness.

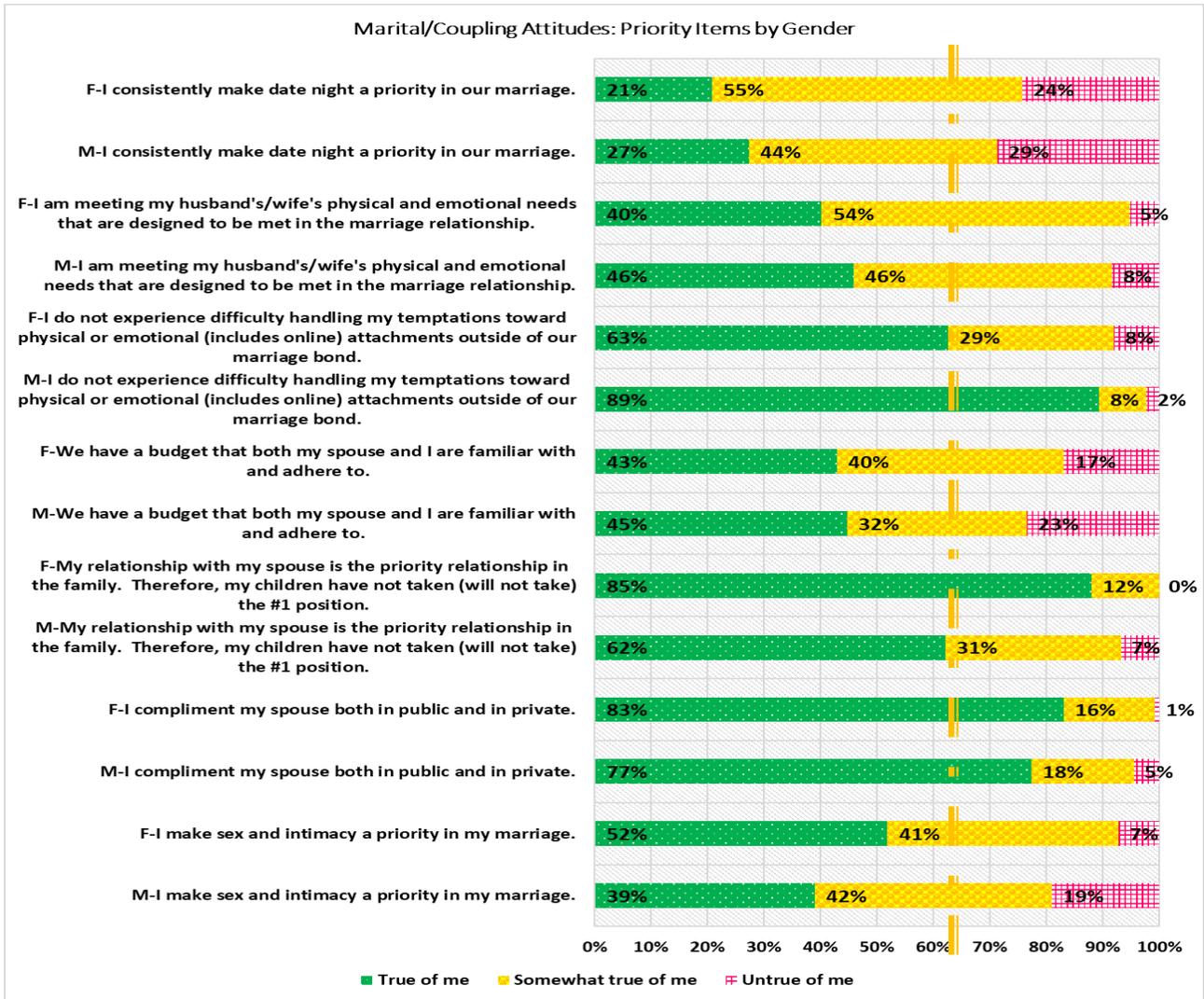


What, if any, is your initial response to the graphs above:



Which, if anywhere among the questions, has the GREEN receded below the “tipping-point” vertical line? What would that look like in a marriage?

What about the presence of RED?



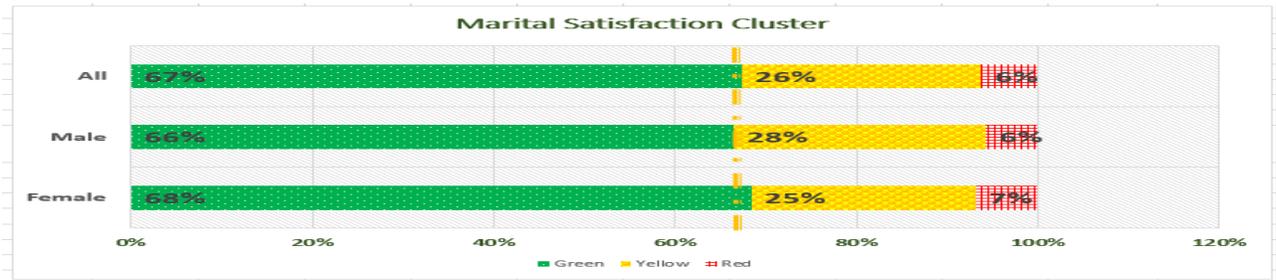
As you view the graphs for each question, give special attention to the 66% “tipping-point” vertical line. With which, if any questions, does the GREEN, “True of me” portion of the graph recede back, beneath the tipping-point?

HomeLifeProfile Marital/Coupling Attitudes: Priority categories

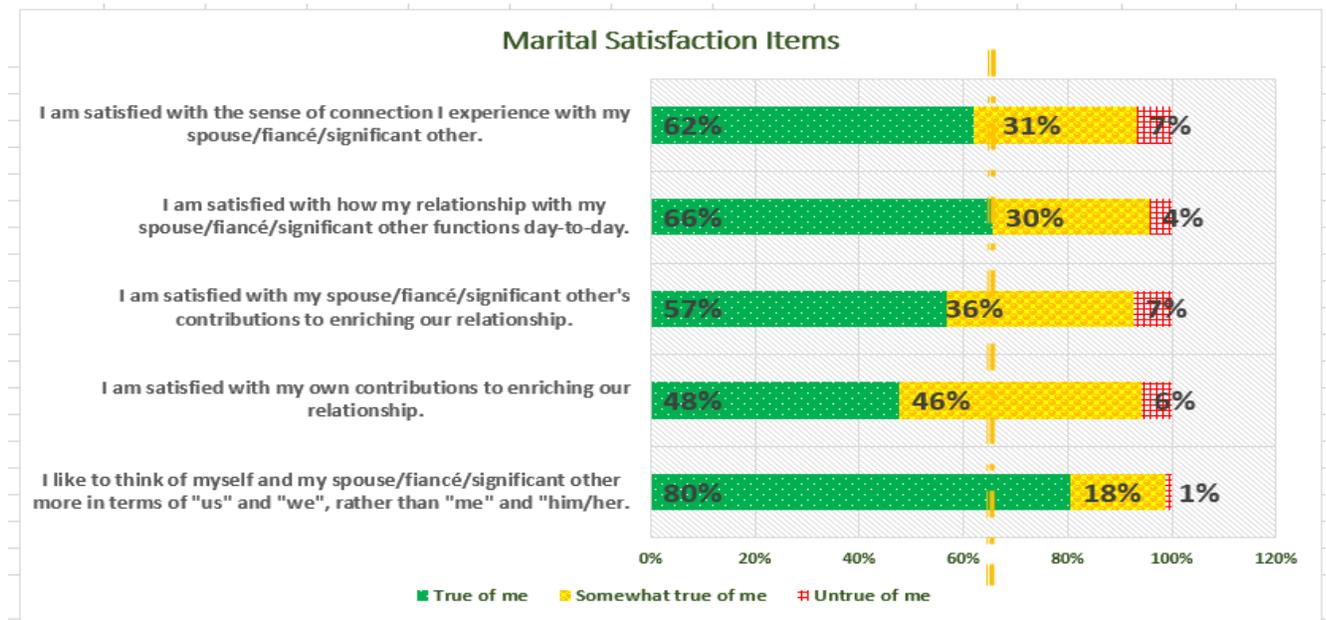
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 245		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		0	14	0	59	0	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	0	245
Marital/Couple forming Attitudes: Priority	Red	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	
	Yellow	0%	29%	0%	25%	0%	36%	0%	10%	0%	0%	19%	0%	15%	0%	
	Green	0%	71%	0%	75%	0%	64%	0%	90%	0%	0%	79%	0%	83%	0%	
		young single	young married no kids	young single again no kids	young married w kids	young single or single- again w kids	mid age married w kids	middle age single- adult no kids	mid age married no kids	mid age single again no kids	mid age single again w kids	mid aged launched	mid age single again launched	older married	older unmarried	
Marital/Couple forming Attitudes: Priority	Red	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
	Yellow	0	4	0	15	0	21	0	1	0	0	8	0	9	0	
	Green	0	10	0	44	0	38	0	9	0	0	34	0	50	0	
		0	14	0	59	0	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	0	245

Marital Satisfaction is one of the key elements of marital health.

When you marry, you in fact marry “three people” —who you desire them to be; who they really are; and who they become because they are married to you! One of the least romantic questions a spouse can ask their beloved is, “are you satisfied with me—as your spouse?” Why? The mere question implies that a key element of oneness is that we satisfy the desires of the other—and that we have established a matrix of elements to which we answer the question “yes” or “no”.

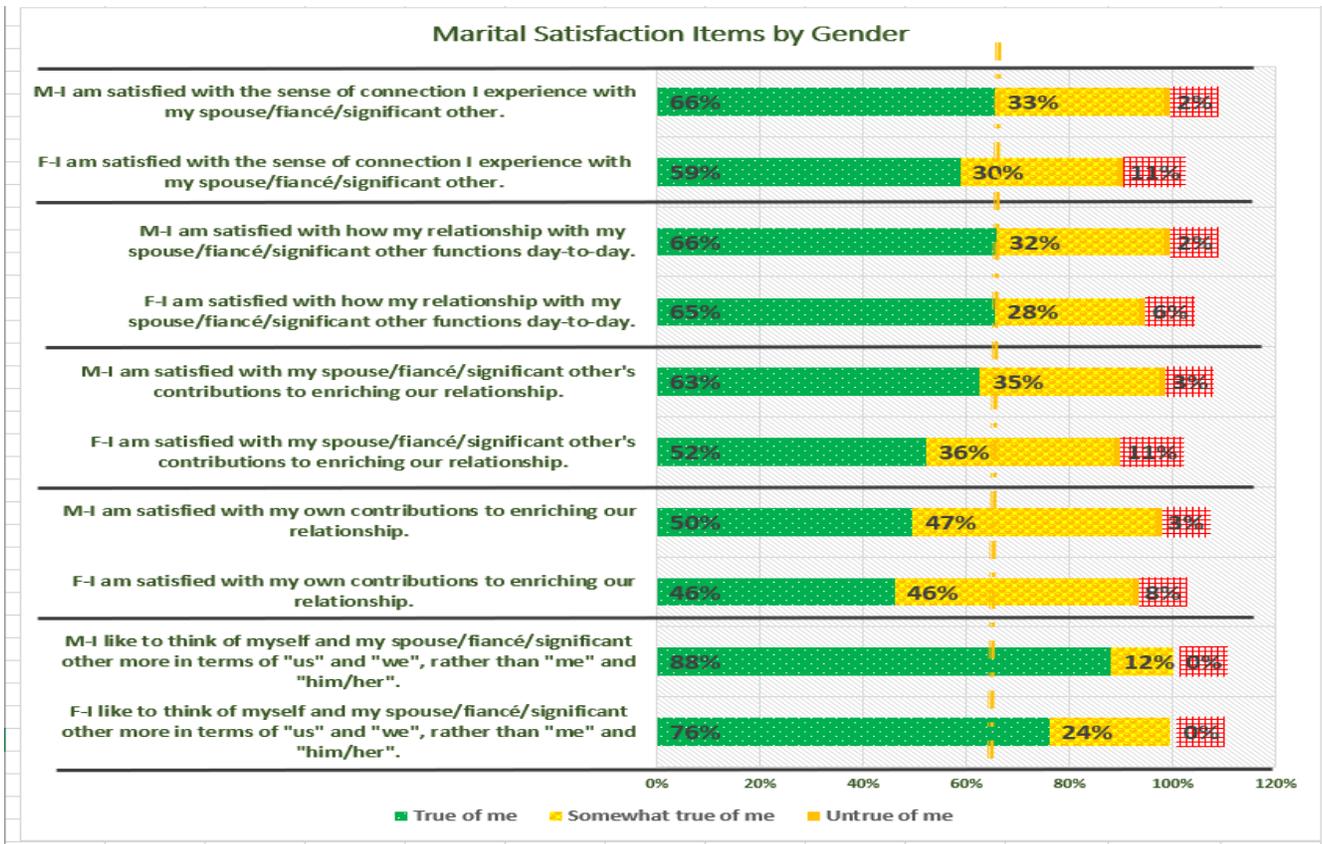


What, if any, is your initial response to the graphs above:



Which, if anywhere among the questions, has the GREEN receded below the “tipping-point” vertical line? What would that look like in a marriage?

What about the presence of RED?



HomeLifeProfile Marital satisfaction categories

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 257		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		4	14	1	59	3	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	4	257
Marital satisfaction categories	Red	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	3%	25%	
	Yellow	25%	21%	0%	22%	33%	29%	0%	50%	0%	0%	30%	0%	22%	50%	
	Green	75%	79%	100%	73%	67%	58%	0%	50%	0%	0%	65%	0%	75%	0%	
		young single	young married no kids	young single again no kids	young married w kids	young single or single-again w kids	mid age married w kids	middle age single-adult no kids	mid age married no kids	mid age single again no kids	mid age single again w kids	mid aged launched	mid age single again launched	older married	older unmarried	
Marital satisfaction categories	Red	0	0	0	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	
	Yellow	1	3	0	13	1	17	0	5	0	0	13	0	13	2	
	Green	3	11	1	43	2	34	0	5	0	0	28	0	45	1	
		4	14	1	59	3	59	0	10	0	0	43	0	60	4	257

The power of **Marital Bond: Commitment.**

A simple question says it all: Are you sticking together, or do you just feel stuck? These seem to be the two paths many American couples find themselves.

What is commitment, and how does positive bond reflect this? There are two broad themes that make up what researchers tend to consider. 1-The commitment of *personal dedication* refers to the desire to maintain or improve the quality of the relationship for the mutual benefit of both partners. It is characterized by the desire (and actions) not only to continue in the relationship but to improve it, sacrifice for it, invest in it, link it to personal goals, and seek the spouse's welfare, not just one's own.

In contrast, *constraint commitment* refers to the forces that keep individuals in relationship whether, or not they're dedicated. Constraint commitment may arise from either external or internal pressures. Constraints help keep couples together by making ending the relationship costlier—economically, socially, personally, or psychologically. If dedication is low, constraints can keep people in relationships they might otherwise want to leave.

How does commitment develop?

As you view the graphs for each question, give special attention to the 66% “tipping-point” vertical line. With which, if any questions, does the GREEN, “True of me” portion of the graph recede back, beneath the tipping-point?

What about the presence of RED?

Dedication usually starts to build early in a relationship, as the two spend more time together and find joy and satisfaction in the relationship.

Without regard to the path—as dedication increases you notice you are more relaxed about the relationship.

But just before that, in most relationships, there is an awkward period during which the desire to be together—and your attachment—is great, but the commitment is unclear. That produces anxiety about whether you'll stay together. This increase in wanting to be together is important for all couples, but especially important for couples in which one or both have a tendency (for reasons in their past) to be insecure about their relational attachments.

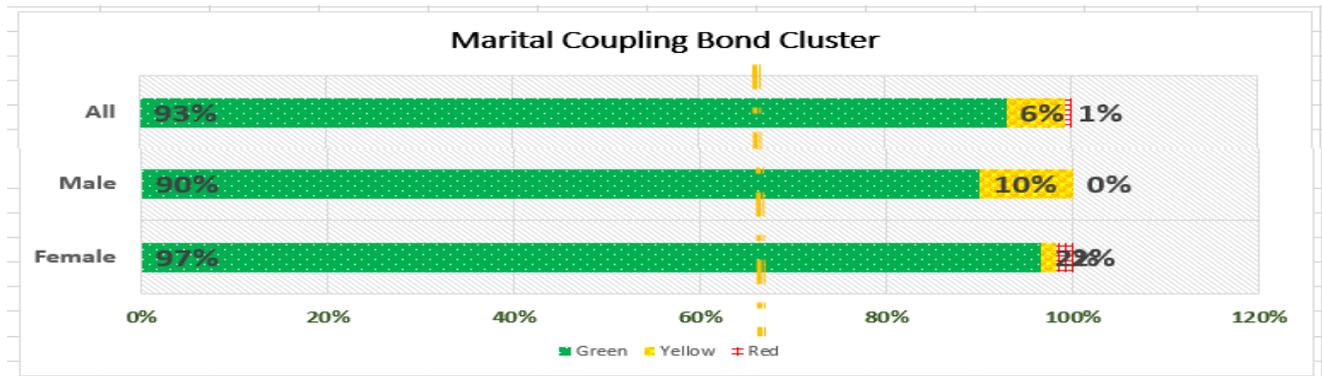
Almost all forms of commitment can be understood *as symbols of security*. It is only with a deep sense of security about the future of a relationship that two people can fully experience the wonder, mystery and potential of their connection.

What happens to kill dedication for some couples over time? One learning has been that if a couple isn't handling conflict well, satisfaction (see above) with the marriage will steadily decline. Because satisfaction fuels dedication, dedication begins to erode along with satisfaction. Both try less, both see their spouse is trying less, and soon their relationship feels as though it is in danger of dying.

Which, if anywhere among the questions, has the GREEN receded below the “tipping-point” vertical line? What would that look like in a marriage?

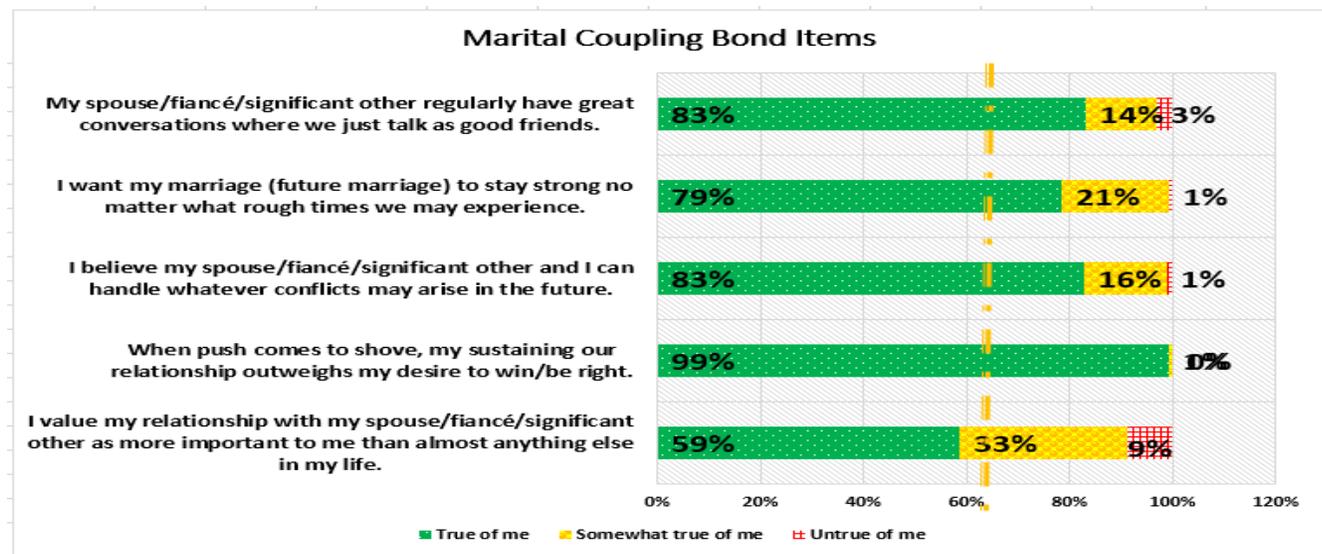
What about the presence of RED?

Maintaining the kind of deeper dedication that allows a marriage to thrive require ongoing decision and action—marriage discipleship. Sliding through won't cut it. Although constraint commitment can add a valuable stabilizing dimension—it cannot give you a great relationship. It can, however, keep you from doing immensely impulsive, foolish things when you are unhappy in the short term.



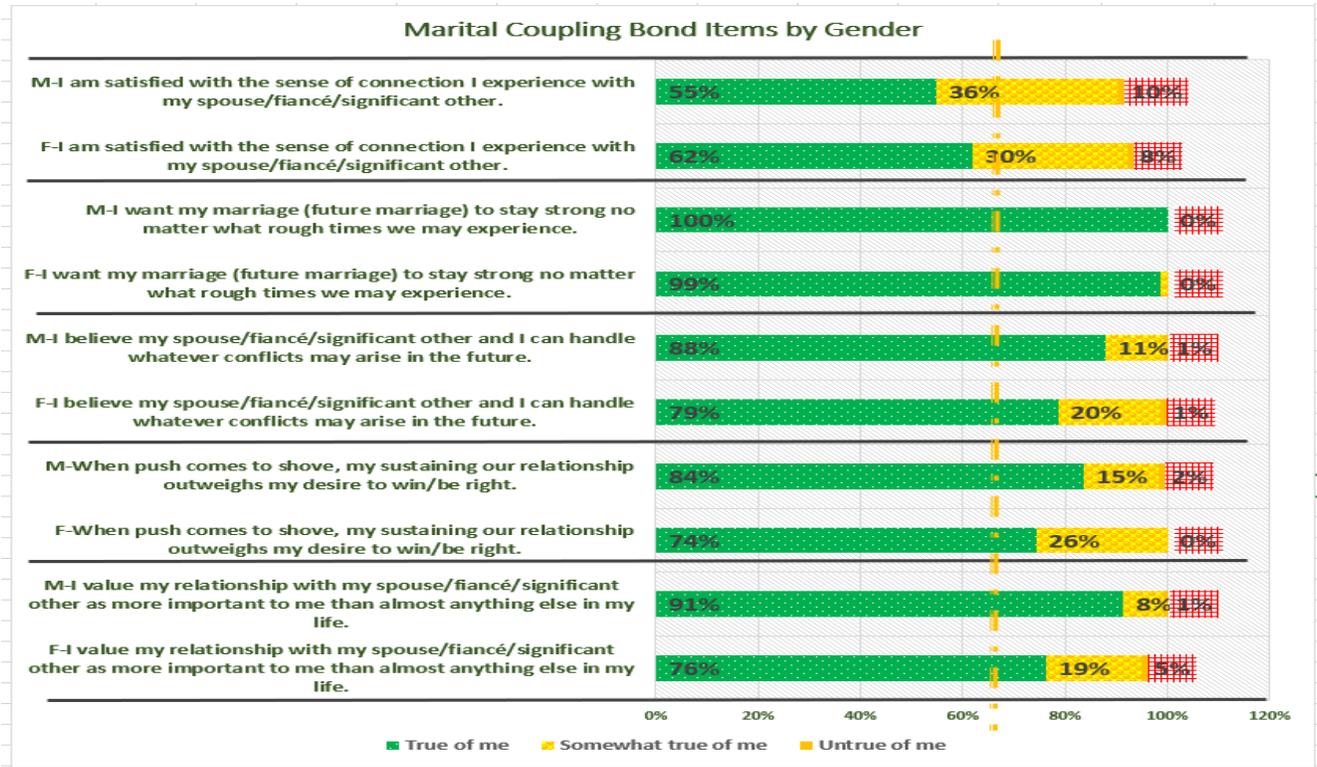
What, if any, is your initial response to the graphs above:

Whom, if anyone appears to pose a greater risk of taking big steps to no longer feel stuck? Explain.



Which, if anywhere among the questions, has the GREEN receded below the “tipping-point” vertical line? What would that look like in a marriage?

What about the presence of RED?



HomeLifeProfile Marital Bond: Commitment categories

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 253		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
Marital Bond/Commitment categories	Red	4	14	1	59	1	58	0	9	0	1	42	0	60	4	253
	Yellow	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	Green	100%	100%	100%	95%	100%	93%	0%	100%	0%	0%	88%	0%	95%	0%	
Marital Bond/Commitment categories	Red	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Yellow	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	1	
	Green	4	14	1	56	1	54	0	9	0	0	37	0	57	3	
		4	14	1	59	1	58	0	9	0	1	42	0	60	4	253

As you view the graphs for each question, give special attention to the 66% “tipping-point” vertical line. With which, if any questions, does the GREEN, “True of me” portion of the graph recede back, beneath the tipping-point?

What about the presence of RED?

Okay—we knew things were looking kind of rosy up until now! Mention “**Danger Signs**” and we often do not even know what could bring our relationship harm.

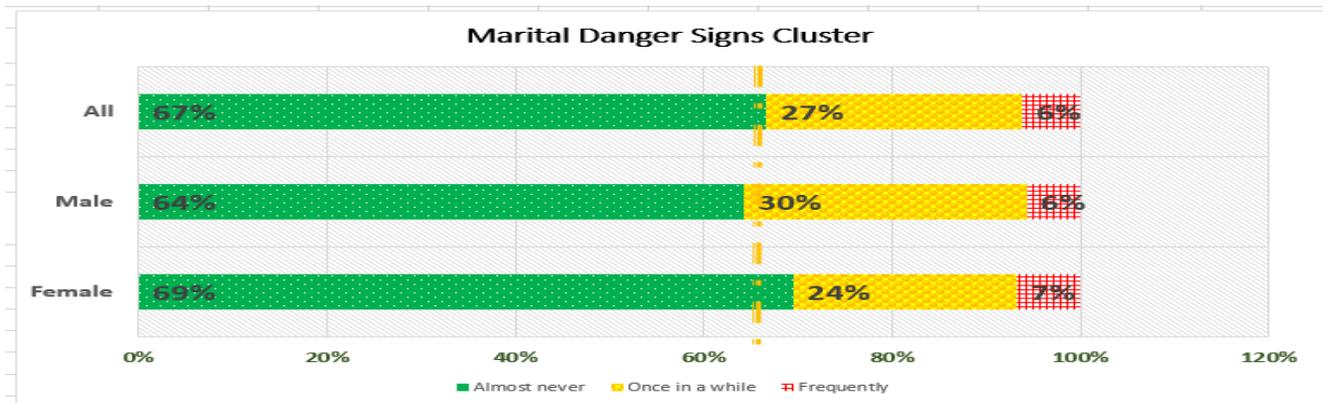
Marital Communication **Dangers Signs** assess the tendency toward damaging conflict. And as with our previous components making up Marital Health’s three-legged-stool—we see significant dispersion in how ministering to marriages in the church is best guided. With so many struggling a little or a lot in this area of communication danger signs—we must first examine what we’ve come to call “the power of the negative.”

“*Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing*” (Proverbs 12:18). Learning constructive ways to handle your differences is one of the most powerful things a couple can do to protect the promise that their marriage holds. A task of both marriage education and marriage counseling is to help a couple learn how to preserve and protect positive connections and control negative patterns that can wreck all the good stuff in marriage.

The power of the negative.

Our American research has taught us some couples start out with a lot of the negatives we’re about to explain—others develop them over time, once married. If you don’t control these five negatives—they can erase the good effects of just about everything else, you have going for you. You cannot be positive enough to erase a lot of negatives—so reining in these patterns is critical.

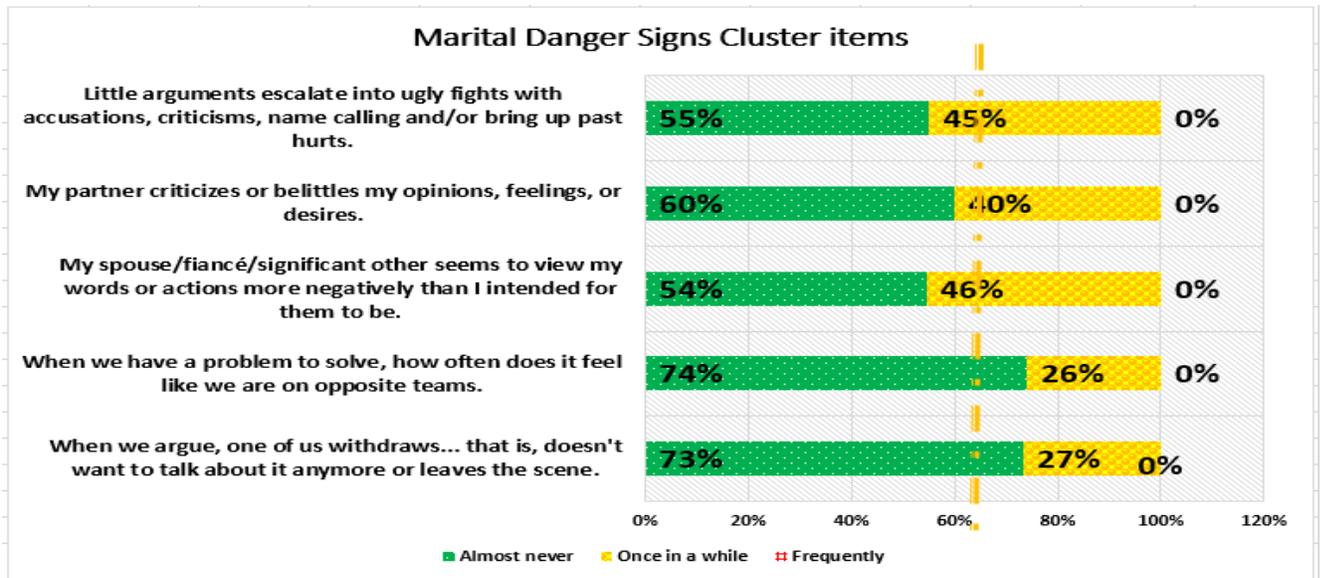
We sometimes call this “trying the ‘not’”. We have found in our American context, that when it comes to how we treat one another (in all relationships, including marriage), the Bible says far more about what not to do than exactly what to do. Yes, there are global passages such as I Corinthians 13 on the wonderful positive aspects of love but think of the other scores of passages that warn us how not to relate to one-another (such as, Proverbs 12:18; 20:3; 29:11; Matthew 5:22; 7:1-5; Galatians 5:13-15; James 4:1). The reason there are so many passages warning us about these kinds of destructive behaviors is that these patterns are extremely corrosive in all relationship.



Notice that the response option has changed to represent the urgency of this component. For this series of questions, the options are: “Almost never”, “Once in a while”, and “Frequently”. This series of questions gauges the continuum of “trying the knot”.

Which, if anywhere among the questions, has the GREEN receded below the “tipping-point” vertical line? What would that look like in a marriage?

What about the presence of RED?



The significance of the items forming this category is so important—we ask, “would you do us a favor and allow us to unpack this more carefully?”

1- **Escalation** is the biblical construct that flows from the question: *Little arguments escalate into ugly fights with accusations, criticisms, name calling and/or bringing up past hurts*. Escalation is best thought of as a “crazy ladder” when a husband and wife respond back and forth negatively to each other, continually upping the ante so that the conversation gets more and more nasty. In escalation, negative comments spiral into increasing anger and frustration. Escalation is best thought of as a ladder—with each rung you go up providing less stability. The more rungs you climb—the more likely you are to topple the entire relationship.

One of the most damaging things about escalating arguments is that one or both tend to say things that threaten the very lifeblood of their marriage. As frustration (and anxiousness) mounts, one or both will try to hurt the other by hurling verbal (and sometimes physical) weapons. And a ton of damage is done to oneness and intimacy—and to their sense of safety, as well.

For those with children in the home—kids become more sad, angry, and fearful when regularly exposed to destructively handled conflict. Also, children are more aware of what is going on between their parents than adults think. A byproduct is that parents also teach their children **to negatively interpret the motives of others**. The initial antidote is often one **backing off** and seeking to de-escalate the argument. “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15:1). Important is to re-engage again, in a calm way later.

2- **Invalidation** is the biblical construct that flows from the question: *My partner criticizes or belittles my opinions, feelings, or desires*. Invalidation is best thought of as painful putdowns characterized by a pattern in which one subtly or directly puts down the thoughts, feelings, or character of the other. It can take many forms.

Jesus taught strongly against such attacks on the character of another: “But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’⁴ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell (Matthew 5:22). “**Raca**” in Aramaic means, **contempt**. It is something like telling a person he or she is worthless or empty-headed (an airhead). Invalidation is very damaging—especially to marriage.

Showing respect and **acknowledging** the other’s viewpoint goes a long way to overcome invalidation. In a word, **validation is the antidote**. For believers in Jesus Christ, acceptance of feelings, respect for each other’s character, and validation instead of invalidation does not require agreement with our partner. Rather, continuing to see the other as a person—okay, a flawed one, but as having personhood.

3- **Negative interpretation** is the biblical construct that flows from the question: *My spouse/fiancé(e)/significant other seems to view my words or actions more negatively than I intended for them to be.* Negative interpretation is best understood as “when believing is seeing”. NI occurs when one consistently believes that the motives of the other are more negative than is really the case. This alternative view makes the conflict or disagreement harder to deal with constructively.

Counselors call this “confirmation bias” where it is hard to see when we are seeing things unfairly. Mind reading, is best thought of as, assuming you know what your spouse is thinking or why he or she did something—when you really don’t. The apostle Paul directly warned against attempting to judge the thoughts and motives of others (1 Corinthians 4:5). Jesus also issued a stern warning about this tendency to look more for flaws in other than ourselves: *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye”* (Luke 6:41-42).

A marriage, regardless the culture would truly be in terrible shape if either routinely and intentionally did things just to frustrate the other. **But** this is seldom the case. Much more frequently, the actions of our partners that annoy us are either well intended or done with no conscious intent, at all.

The antidote here is a **heart check**—to reconsider what you think about your spouse’s motives. These negative interpretations are something you must confront within yourself. Only you can overcome how you have chosen to interpret your spouse’s behaviors.

4- **Win/Lose** is the biblical construct that flows from the question: *When we have a problem to solve, how often does it feel like we are on opposite teams?* Win/lose is best understood as “giving in to selfish and self-destructive desires other than love.” James pinpoints these selfish desires as the root of destructive conflict: *“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures”* (James 4:1-3).

As believers in Jesus Christ, we have been set free to love and serve one another. It is this love that enables us to overcome our basic selfishness—**an essential distinctive of Christian marriage.** Look how Paul instructs us in how love is the essential message of the law, and immediately contrasts such love with the corrosive spirit where love is not leading the way. *“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other”* (Galatians 5:13-15).

The contrast of servant-hearted love **is** self-indulgence and hurtfulness that destroys relationship is consistent with the Bible’s warnings and admonition, because such patterns are so very common. It is our God-enabled ability to love in other-centered ways that will improve all relationships: marriage, family, church, co-works—and **most importantly, with God.**

5- **Withdrawal (and avoidance)**, is the biblical construct also known as “hide and seek” flowing from the question: *When we argue, one of us withdraws... that is, doesn’t want to talk about it anymore or leaves the scene.* Simply put, one shows an unwillingness to get into or stay engaged in important discussions. Withdrawal can be as overt as getting up and leaving the room (with or without door slam), or as subtle as “tuning out” or “shutting down” during an argument. Observable behaviors include getting quiet, looking away, or quickly agree with their spouse just to end the anxious tension (but with no intention to follow through).

Avoidance is more about attempting to not let the conversation happen in the first place. Even some topics are placed into a “demilitarized zone” where all the unexploded bombs of the past are safely avoided by the tall, barb-wired fence and warning signs.

This “**difficult-issues dance**” includes one spouse pursuing the issue—with the other avoiding or withdrawing from dealing with the issue. Even an occasional slip into this dance is associated with the risk of American marriages (even of Christians) not surviving. Here is the most telling of all, from this list.

In our research of this “**difficult-issues dance**” we often see the pursuing x withdrawing dynamics (sometimes) as a gender dance. The *pursuer* is the one in the relationship who most often brings up issues for discussion or calls attention to the necessity to decide about something. The *withdrawer* is the one who tends to avoid these discussions or pulls away as soon as they see such conversations beginning. In our American research, we tend to see the men as the *withdrawer* and the women being the *pursuer*. Each marriage brings its own pairings, and often the roles are reversed. And yet in other marriages—the partners switch roles—depending on the topic.

Why do (American) men tend to withdraw? Most of our research suggests men are less interested in change, and that they pull away to avoid dealing with issues that might add this change dynamic to their already pressured lives. For others, it is a power move that may be the case for some men (and women, too). But we believe something else is happening much of the time—the one who withdraws does so because they do not feel safe in the argument—meaning that it is not emotionally safe. And in a small segment, not physically safe, either.

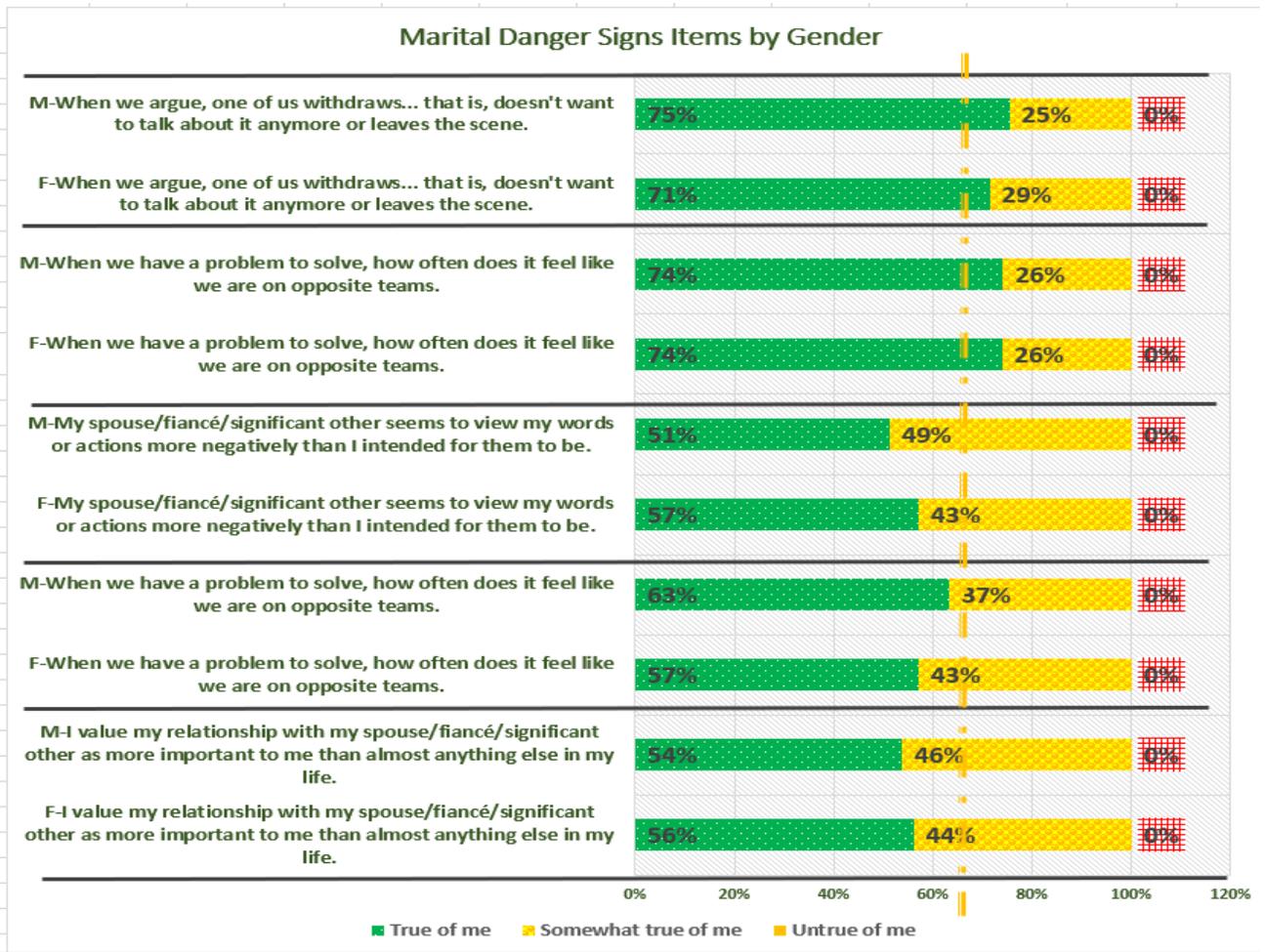
Both the pursuer and the withdrawer are frustrated. When the one withdraws—pursuers feel shut out and begin to feel that the withdrawer doesn’t care about the relationship due to the belief that lack of talking = a lack of caring. But this is usually negative interpretation of what the withdrawer is doing—which has more to do with trying to stop the conflict than with not caring about the relationship. Withdrawers tend to complain that the pursuer gets upset too much of the time, griping about this or that picking fights, as if they want to fight. This is also negative interpretation, because what pursuers really want is to stay connected and resolve issues.

The antidote starts with **choosing to refrain from taking the most negative interpretation** of what your spouse does when he or she is either withdrawing or pursuing. Key to choosing to do so begins with recognizing the two of you are not independent of each other. It takes two to do this dance. Withdrawers are not likely to resist their avoidance unless pursuers pursue less or pursue more constructively and gently. Pursuers are not likely to cut back on their pursuing unless withdrawers deal more directly with the issues the couple face. Do a better dance—and here, the church can teach the steps.

Which, if anywhere among the questions, has the GREEN receded below the “tipping-point” vertical line? What would that look like in a marriage?

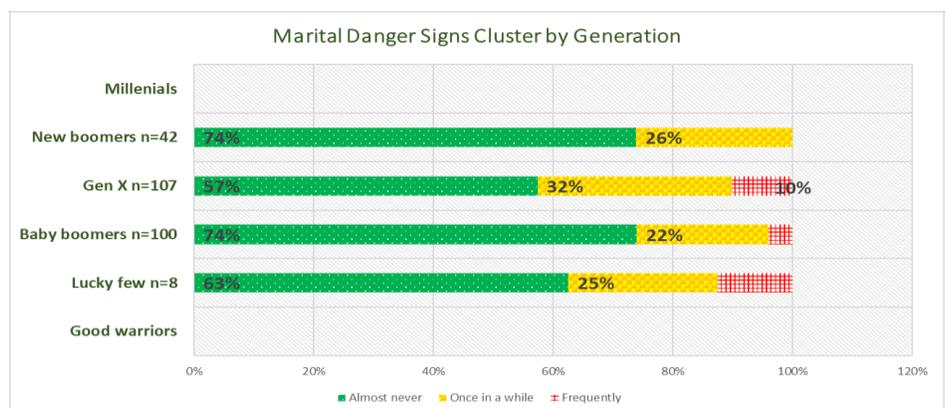
What about the presence of YELLOW?

What about the presence of RED?



We have found helpful in the past, to ask that you go back to the “To be Single” section, and revisit the perceived advantages of being single, with this question in mind, “does the godly portrait of marriage draw people to—or repel people from pursuing marriage?”

This component must be viewed by Generation:



HomeLifeProfile Marital Danger Signs categories																
N= 255		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried		
		4	14	1	59	1	59	0	10	0	1	42	0	60	4	255
Marital Danger Signs categories	Red	0%	0%	0%	3%	100%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	5%	25%	
	Yellow	50%	29%	0%	24%	0%	31%	0%	30%	0%	0%	31%	0%	20%	50%	
	Green	50%	71%	100%	73%	0%	58%	0%	70%	0%	0%	67%	0%	75%	0%	
						young single or single-again w kids	mid age married w kids	middle age single adult no kids	mid age married no kids	mid age single again no kids	mid age single again w kids	mid aged launched	mid age single again launched	older married	older unmarried	
Marital Danger Signs categories	Red	0	0	0	2	1	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	
	Yellow	2	4	0	14	0	18	0	3	0	0	13	0	12	2	
	Green	2	10	1	43	0	34	0	7	0	0	28	0	45	1	
		4	14	1	59	1	59	0	10	0	1	42	0	60	4	255

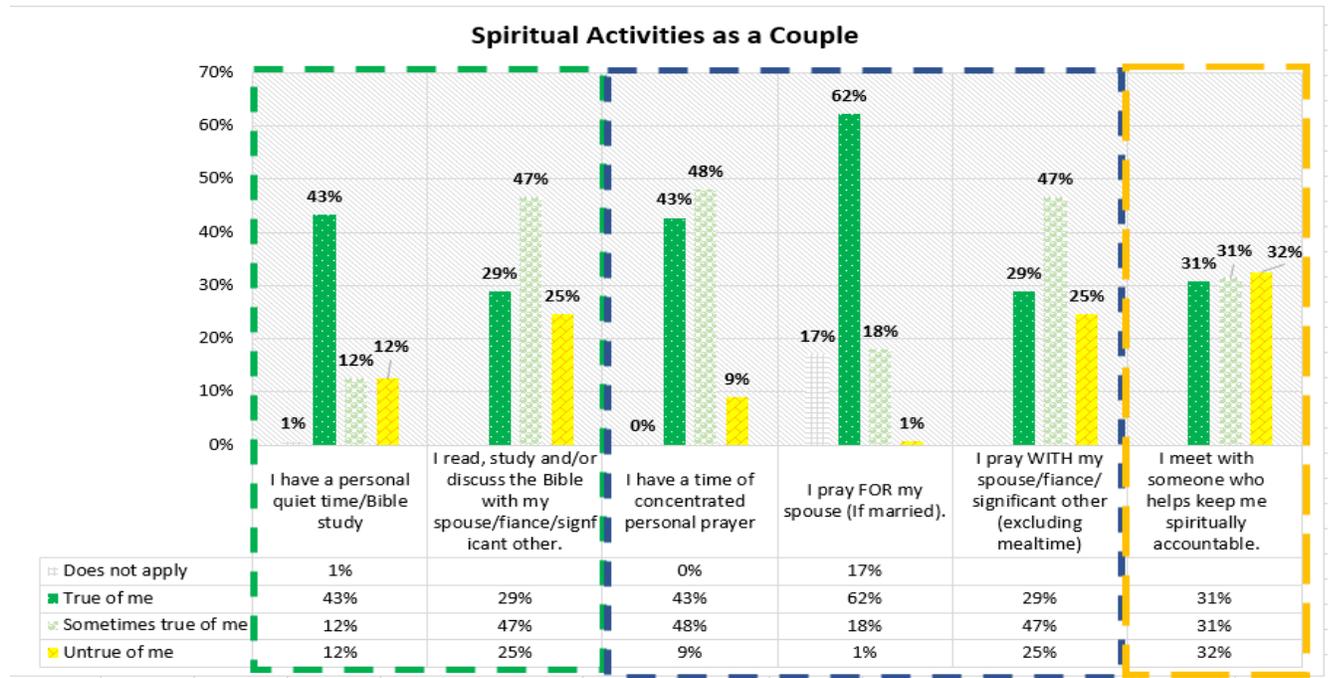
The table below is a heart-wrenching one to read. While we would all hope the response of “None” would be 100%--but the “we don’t live in Eden anymore” reality, is that for some, domestic violence (or the implied threat) sucks all the hopefulness out of one’s strength to keep trying.

Marital/Relational Health: Domestic Violence							average n=	1					
							None	Once	Twice	Three to five times	Six to twelve times	More than twelve times	
1	As you think back over the past 12 months, have there been any instances of pushing, grabbing, shoving, hitting and/or striking.						96.5%	1.6%	2%	0%	0%	0%	
							Marital/Relational Health: Domestic Violence by gender					average number of Male responses	117
							average number of Female responses					140	
1	As you think back over the past 12 months, have there been any instances of pushing, grabbing, shoving, hitting and/or striking.						None	Once	Twice	Three to five times	Six to twelve times	More than twelve times	
	Male						97.4%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	
	Female						96.4%	1.4%	1%	1%	0%	0%	
	difference from Male response, by female response:						1%	0%	-1%	-1%	0%	0%	

We must remember to be thankful—and celebrate those living in the absence of Danger Signs. But we must also humble ourselves to see each person—each soul living such “less than blessed” moments, in the very relationship hoped to bring great joy.

What does the Spiritual Life as a Couple look like?

As you view the graph below, do you find any differences between spiritual activities as an individual and as a couple?



What do your findings indicate?

The #1 predictor of a couple working through the storms of life is praying together, reminding them that God already has seen and knows all about their struggles—and desires both to come into agreement with God’s design and path for “putting things back to rights”.

In a sentence or two, how would you say the couples of your church is doing at seeking out God’s solutions, first?

Spiritual Activities: Faith between Sundays by gender							
		Does not apply	True of me	Sometimes true of me	Untrue of me	Male n=	Female n=
1	I have a personal quiet time/Bible study	Male 1%	36%	45%	15%	133	
		Female 1%	49%	42%	10%		173
	difference from Male response, by female response:	0%	-12%	3%	5%		
13	I read, study and/or discuss the Bible with my spouse/fiance/significant other.	Male	36%	47%	17%	118	
		Female	34%	39%	26%		140
	difference from Male response, by female response:		1%	8%	-9%		
2	I have a time of concentrated personal prayer	Male 1%	38%	49%	12%	129	
		Female 0%	45%	47%	7%		176
	difference from Male response, by female response:		1%	-7%	2%		
6	I pray FOR my spouse (If married).	Male 10%	70%	19%	0%	129	
		Female 23%	58%	18%	1%		171
	difference from Male response, by female response:	-13%	11%	2%	-1%		
12	I pray WITH my spouse/fiance/ significant other (excluding mealtime)	Male	34%	47%	19%	117	
		Female	24%	46%	29%		140
	difference from Male response, by female response:		10%	1%	-10%		
3	I meet with someone who helps keep me spiritually accountable.	Male 29%	36%	35%	123		
		Female 35%	31%	34%	166		
	difference from Male response, by female response:		-6%	4%	1%		

Blessed--as a couple?

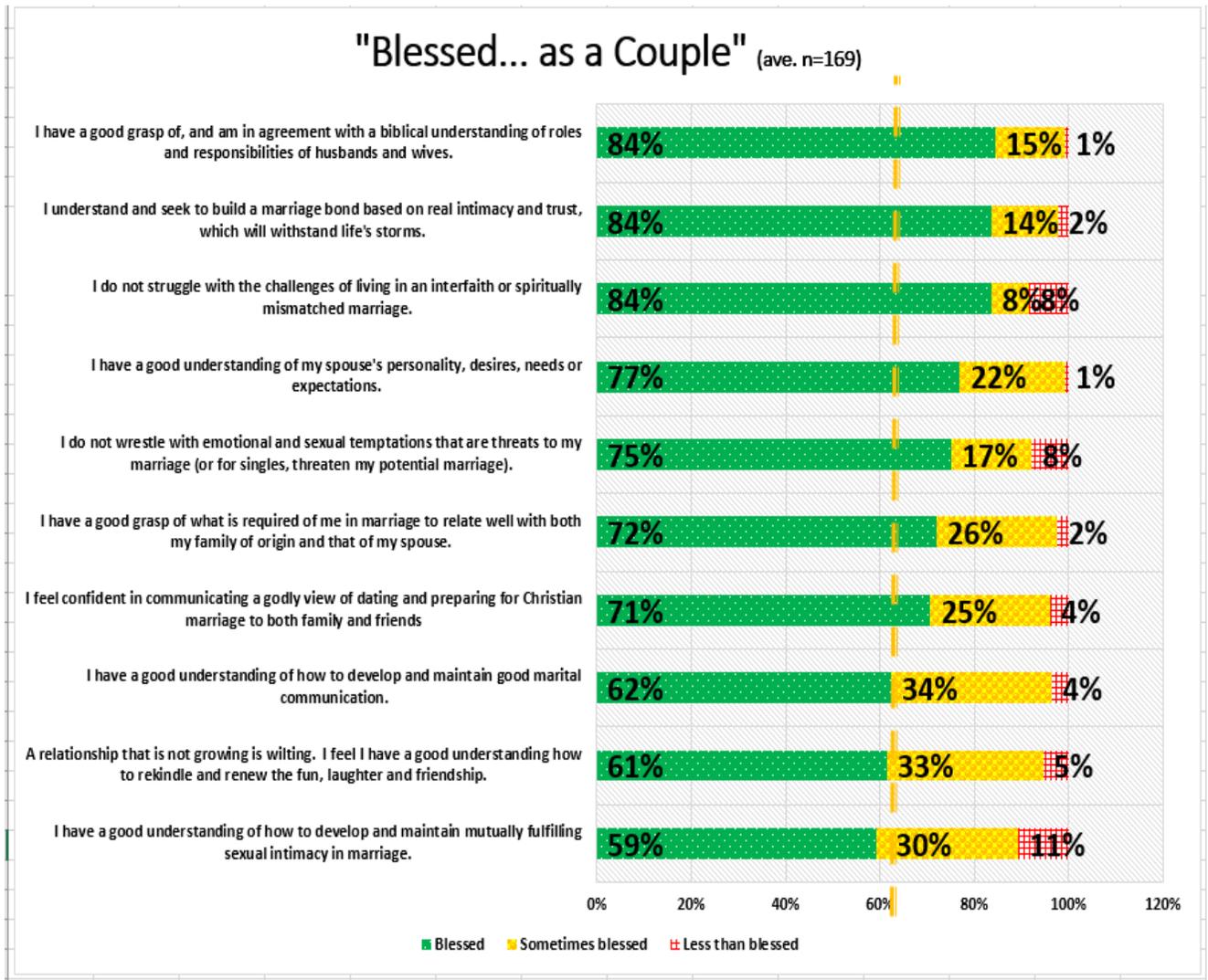
Feeling blessed is in vogue. A quick glance into the social-media world finds that saying you're blessed might really be a way of boasting while trying to sound humble. As Christians, we use the term "blessed" too. We pray God will bless our life's, those we love deeply and our family. We attribute our undeserved gifts to "God's blessings." And as churches, we talk about our ministries being blessed.

Yet, my desire for God is greatly fueled by my need. And it is often in the areas of loss where I feel my need most intensely. Unmet desires keep me on my knees, deepen my prayer life, and make me ransack the Bible for God's promises. Trials often ground us in ways abundance never can.

Each of the following statements is written as fulfillment of a desire. As you think of your life as a couple today, select the response that reflects your current experience of this desire.

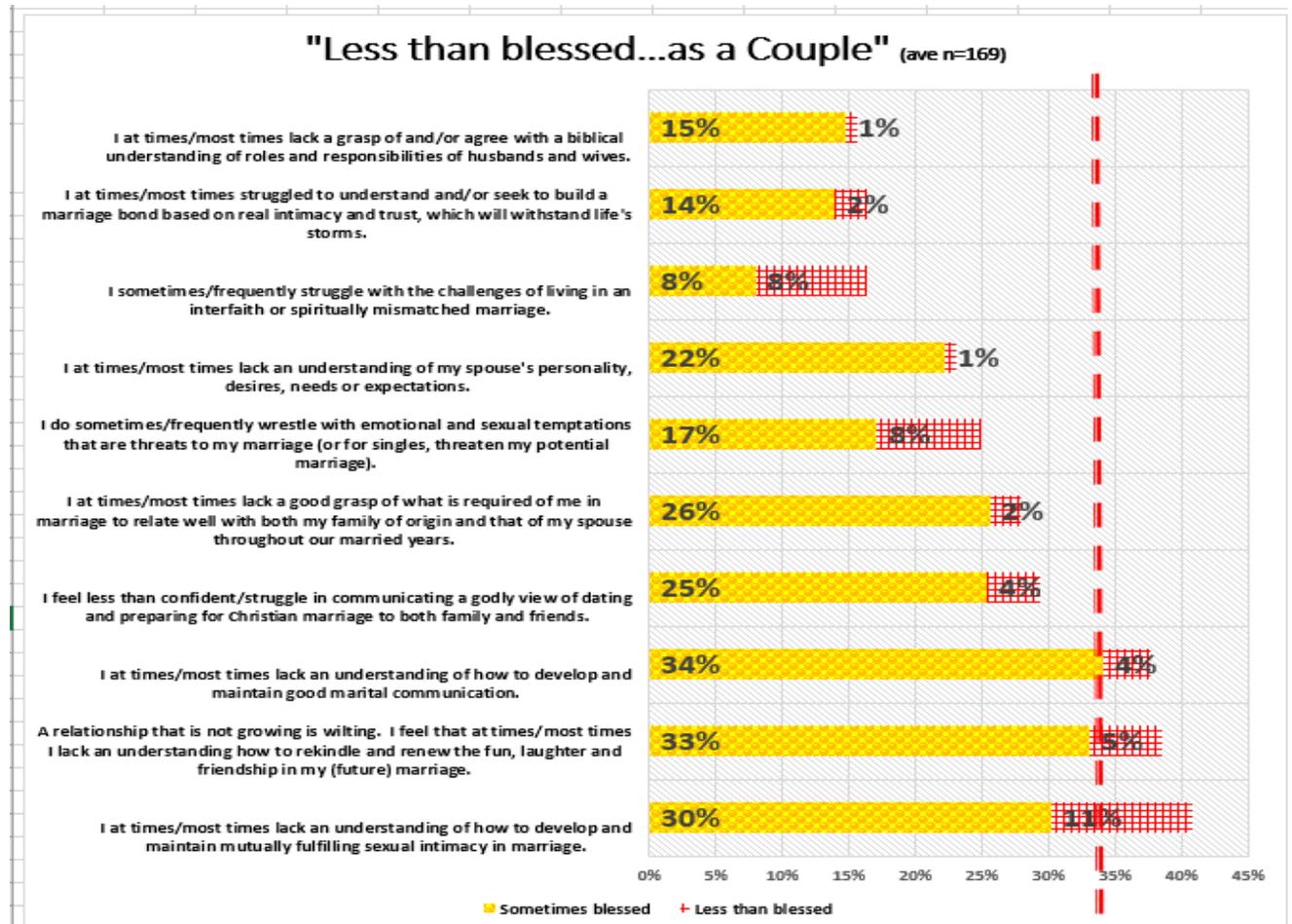
	True of me	Sometimes true of me	Untrue of me
--	------------	----------------------	--------------

The **GREEN** segment of the graph for each issue signifies the percentage of those expressing a sense of "being blessed". Notice the dot-dash **YELLOW** bar indicating the "tipping-point" of 66%, in this case, feeling "blessed".



While we celebrate and give great praise and glory to God for all the **GREEN** in the “blessed” graph, as leaders, we also must zoom-in on those feeling “less than blessed”. Take note of the new vertical **RED** dot-dash line, at 34%, on the “less than blessed...as an individual” graph below.

As a leader, these are the **felt needs** revealed by default. This is the graph that stirs us to prayer, because each of these negatively phrased statements points us to the type(s) of problems with one self, with others, with the world around, and yes, ultimately, with God. While we all rejoice to see lots of **GREEN**, shouldn't we all agree, there is a lot of anxiousness in the “stuff of life” where faith in God through Jesus Christ gets tough?



Take a moment and flip between the “blessed” and the “less than blessed” views, and then back to the Leadership Perception table. At first pass—what, if any previously unidentified need stirs your heart?

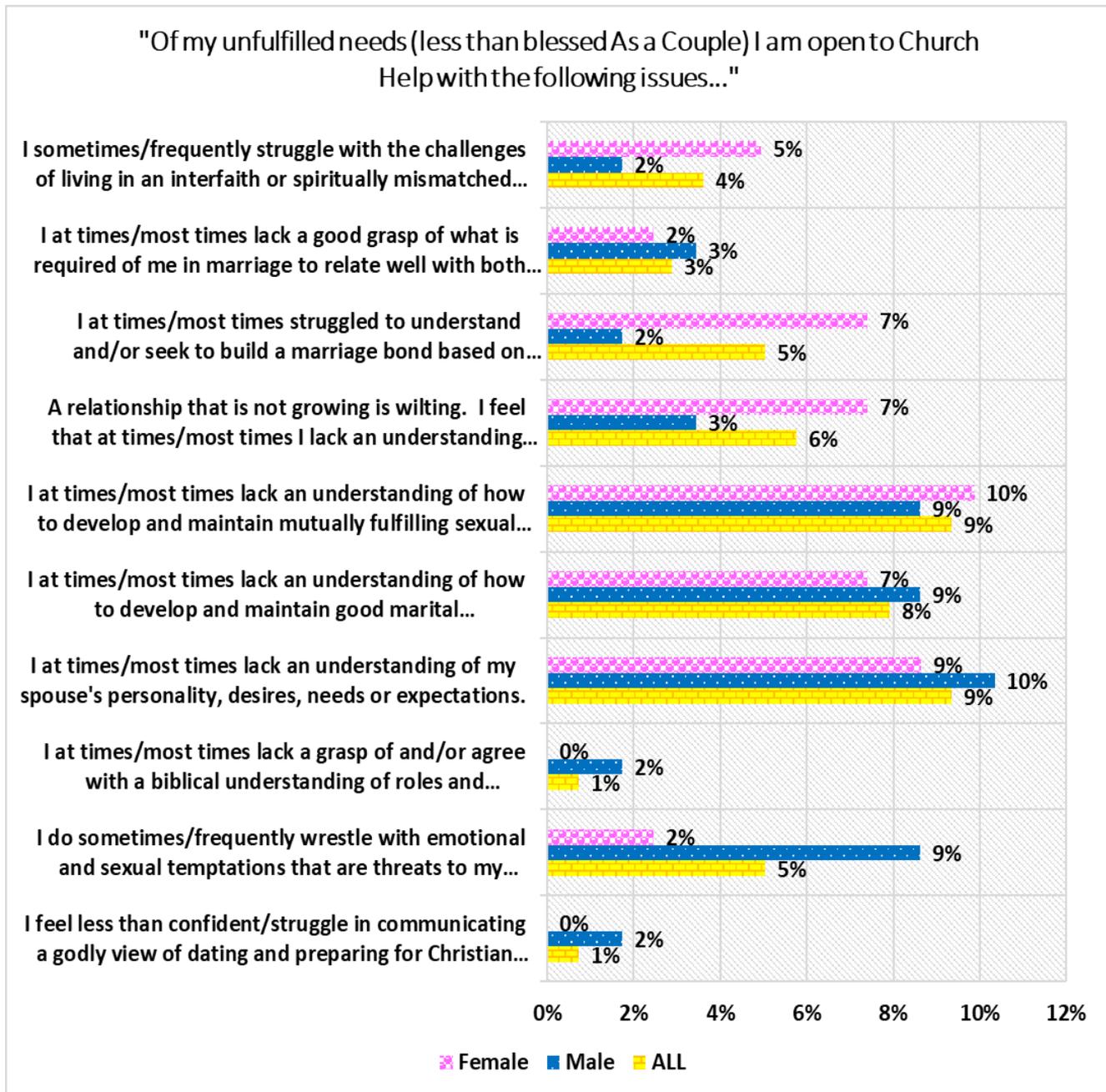
Open to help from the church with unfulfilled needs--as a couple

What is blessing, then? Scripture shows that blessing is anything God gives that makes us fully satisfied in him. Anything that draws us closer to Jesus. Anything that helps us relinquish the temporal and hold on more tightly to the eternal. And often it is the struggles and trials, the aching disappointments and the unfulfilled longings that best enable us to do that.

Click the "GO BACK" tab at the bottom of this page--and review which of the statements you marked "Sometimes true of me" or "Untrue of me". Then, click "CONTINUE" to return to this section, and indicate which you are open to help with this issue from your church.

As you worked through the "Open to help from the church..." section, please mark any you see as a current, unmet need/challenge in your life you are open to your church coming alongside you and others like you, to offer help. (Mark all that apply).

When the statements were inverted to reflect a "less than blessed" statement... and then named "current, unmet needs, WHOM indicated their receptiveness from the church with the need?



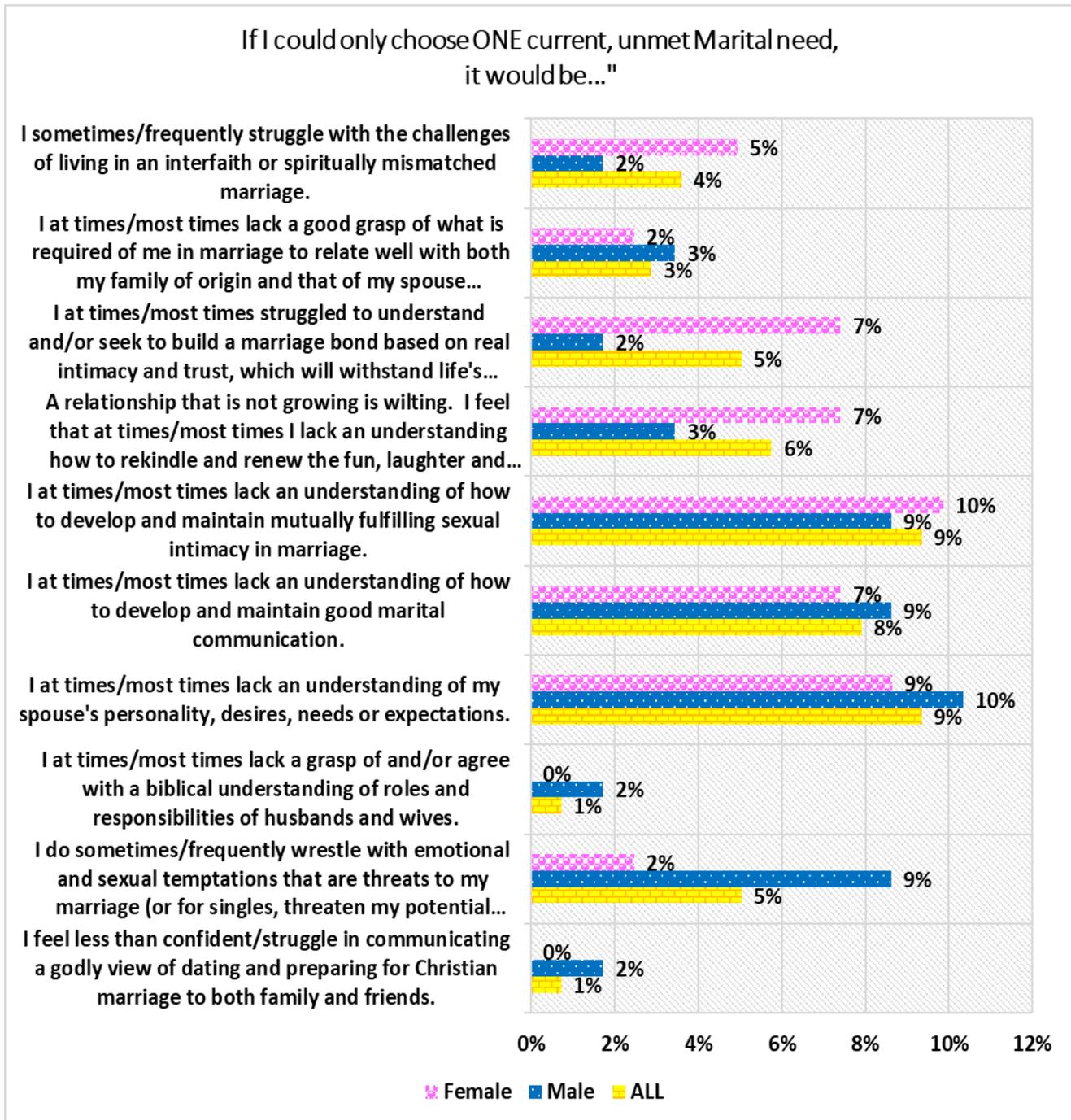
Most pressing unfulfilled need--as a couple

What if your blessings come through rain drops? What if trials of this life — the rain, the storms, the hardest nights — are your mercies in disguise?

Click the "GO BACK" tab at the bottom of the page and review the unfulfilled needs you checked in the previous section. From those items which ONE is most pressing in your life today? Once decided, click the "CONTINUE" tab--and mark it in the drop down box.

From the "most pressing unfulfilled needs" you marked, which ONE which is the greatest concern in your life today?

Priority, and urgency are often best reflected when just ONE current, unmet need is identified.



HomeLifeProfile Marital/Relational

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 255		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		4	14	1	59	1	59	0	10	0	1	42	0	60	4	255

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
I am "blessed" 15-24 as a Couple																
bless15	I feel confident in communicating a godly view of dating and preparing for Christian marriage to both family and friends.	13%	79%	0%	76%	14%	71%	0%	60%	0%	11%	75%	0%	63%	12%	
bless16	I do not wrestle with emotional and sexual temptations that are threats to my marriage (or for singles, threaten my potential marriage).	13%	50%	0%	69%	0%	78%	0%	60%	0%	0%	70%	0%	92%	12%	
bless17	I have a good grasp of, and am in agreement with a biblical understanding of roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives.	27%	27%	50%	80%	14%	14%	0%	90%	0%	11%	86%	0%	88%	12%	
bless18	I have a good understanding of my spouse's personality, desires, needs or expectations.	7%	79%	0%	80%	0%	81%	0%	90%	0%	0%	68%	0%	80%	6%	
bless19	I have a good understanding of how to develop and maintain good marital communication.	7%	86%	0%	69%	14%	58%	0%	90%	0%	11%	59%	0%	55%	6%	
bless20	I have a good understanding of how to develop and maintain mutually fulfilling sexual intimacy in marriage.	0%	43%	0%	59%	0%	56%	0%	60%	0%	0%	70%	0%	60%	12%	
bless21	A relationship that is not growing is wilting. I feel I have a good understanding how to rekindle and renew the fun, laughter and friendship.	7%	64%	0%	63%	0%	56%	0%	100%	0%	0%	57%	0%	67%	12%	
bless22	I understand and seek to build a marriage bond based on real intimacy and trust, which will withstand life's storms.	27%	93%	50%	86%	14%	76%	0%	100%	0%	11%	77%	0%	87%	12%	
bless23	I have a good grasp of what is required of me in marriage to relate well with both my family of origin and that of my spouse.	7%	50%	0%	69%	14%	69%	0%	90%	0%	0%	73%	0%	80%	12%	
bless24	I do not struggle with the challenges of living in an interfaith or spiritually mismatched marriage.	20%	93%	50%	93%	0%	81%	0%	100%	0%	0%	66%	0%	82%	12%	

HomeLifeProfile Marital/Relational

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 255		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		4	14	1	59	1	59	0	10	0	1	42	0	60	4	255

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Needs: Living in a "less than blessed" 15-24 manner																
blees15	I feel less than confident/struggle in communicating a godly view of dating and preparing for Christian marriage to both family and friends.	13%	21%	50%	22%	0%	27%	0%	40%	0%	0%	23%	0%	35%	12%	
blees16	I do sometimes/frequently wrestle with emotional and sexual temptations that are threats to my marriage (or for singles, threaten my potential marriage).	13%	50%	50%	29%	14%	22%	0%	40%	0%	11%	25%	0%	8%	12%	
blees17	I at times/most times lack a grasp of and/or agree with a biblical understanding of roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives.	0%	36%	0%	63%	0%	14%	0%	10%	0%	0%	11%	0%	12%	12%	
blees18	I at times/most times lack an understanding of my spouse's personality, desires, needs or expectations.	20%	21%	50%	20%	14%	19%	0%	10%	0%	0%	27%	0%	18%	18%	
blees19	I at times/most times lack an understanding of how to develop and maintain good marital communication.	20%	0%	50%	31%	0%	41%	0%	10%	0%	0%	34%	0%	43%	18%	
blees20	I at times/most times lack an understanding of how to develop and maintain mutually fulfilling sexual intimacy in marriage.	27%	0%	50%	41%	14%	44%	0%	30%	0%	0%	25%	0%	38%	12%	
blees21	A relationship that is not growing is wilting. I feel that at times/most times I lack an understanding how to rekindle and renew the fun, laughter and friendship in my (future) marriage.	20%	36%	50%	37%	0%	44%	0%	0%	0%	0%	39%	0%	33%	12%	
blees22	I at times/most times struggled to understand and/or seek to build a marriage bond based on real intimacy and trust, which will withstand life's storms.	0%	7%	0%	14%	0%	24%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%	13%	12%	
blees23	I at times/most times lack a good grasp of what is required of me in marriage to relate well with both my family of origin and that of my spouse throughout our married years.	20%	50%	50%	31%	0%	31%	0%	10%	0%	0%	20%	0%	17%	12%	
blees24	I sometimes/frequently struggle with the challenges of living in an interfaith or spiritually mismatched marriage.	7%	0%	0%	7%	14%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	0%	13%	6%	

HomeLifeProfile Marital/Relational

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
N= 255	4	14	1	59	1	59	0	10	0	1	42	0	60	4	255

"Less than blessed" 15-24 and open to Church Help

chhelp15	I feel less than confident/struggle in communicating a godly view of dating and preparing for Christian marriage to both family and friends.	7%	0%	0%	5%	0%	10%	0%	10%	0%	0%	14%	0%	3%	0%
	n=	1	0	0	3	0	6	0	1	0	0	6	0	2	0
chhelp16	I do sometimes/frequently wrestle with emotional and sexual temptations that are threats to my marriage (or for singles, threaten my potential	7%	21%	50%	17%	0%	10%	0%	10%	0%	0%	11%	0%	5%	6%
	n=	1	3	1	10	0	6	0	1	0	0	5	0	3	1
chhelp17	I at times/most times lack a grasp of and/or agree with a biblical understanding of roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives.	0%	7%	0%	12%	0%	7%	0%	10%	0%	0%	5%	0%	2%	6%
	n=	0	1	0	7	0	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1
chhelp18	I at times/most times lack an understanding of my spouse's personality, desires, needs or expectations.	13%	21%	0%	24%	0%	20%	0%	20%	0%	0%	25%	0%	17%	0%
	n=	2	3	0	14	0	12	0	2	0	0	11	0	10	0
chhelp19	I at times/most times lack an understanding of how to develop and maintain good marital communication.	7%	21%	50%	31%	0%	24%	0%	0%	0%	0%	36%	0%	18%	6%
	n=	1	3	1	18	0	14	0	0	0	0	16	0	11	1
chhelp20	I at times/most times lack an understanding of how to develop and maintain mutually fulfilling sexual intimacy in marriage.	0%	36%	50%	19%	0%	25%	0%	20%	0%	0%	27%	0%	18%	0%
	n=	0	5	1	11	0	15	0	2	0	0	12	0	11	0
chhelp21	A relationship that is not growing is wilting. I feel that at times/most times I lack an understanding how to rekindle and renew the fun, laughter and friendship in my (future) marriage.	0%	21%	50%	25%	0%	27%	0%	0%	0%	0%	32%	0%	18%	6%
	n=	0	3	1	15	0	16	0	0	0	0	14	0	9	1
chhelp22	I at times/most times struggled to understand and/or seek to build a marriage bond based on real intimacy and trust, which will withstand life's storms.	0%	14%	50%	17%	0%	24%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%	12%	0
	n=	0	2	1	10	0	14	0	0	0	0	5	0	7	1
chhelp23	I at times/most times lack a good grasp of what is required of me in marriage to relate well with both my family of origin and that of my spouse throughout our married years.	13%	29%	0%	15%	0%	7%	0%	10%	0%	0%	5%	0%	2%	0
	n=	2	4	0	9	0	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
chhelp24	I sometimes/frequently struggle with the challenges of living in an interfaith or spiritually mismatched marriage.	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%	5%	6%
	n=	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	1

HomeLifeProfile Marital/Relational

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 255		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		4	14	1	59	1	59	0	10	0	1	42	0	60	4	255

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
If only one... 15-24 as an Couple																
Urgent15	I feel less than confident/struggle in communicating a godly view of dating and preparing for Christian marriage to both family and friends.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
Urgent16	I do sometimes/frequently wrestle with emotional and sexual temptations that are threats to my marriage (or for singles, threaten my potential marriage).	7%	7%	0%	14%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	3%	0%	
	n=	1	1	0	8	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
Urgent17	I at times/most times lack a grasp of and/or agree with a biblical understanding of roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives.	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	10%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	
Urgent18	I at times/most times lack an understanding of my spouse's personality, desires, needs or expectations.	13%	7%	0%	8%	0%	17%	0%	10%	0%	0%	14%	0%	7%	0%	
	n=	2	1	0	5	0	10	0	1	0	0	6	0	4	0	
Urgent19	I at times/most times lack an understanding of how to develop and maintain good marital communication.	0%	14%	0%	12%	0%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%	10%	6%	
	n=	0	2	0	7	0	9	0	0	0	0	8	0	6	1	
Urgent20	I at times/most times lack an understanding of how to develop and maintain mutually fulfilling sexual intimacy in marriage.	0%	21%	0%	8%	0%	12%	0%	10%	0%	0%	7%	0%	7%	0%	
	n=	0	3	0	5	0	7	0	1	0	0	3	0	4	0	
Urgent21	A relationship that is not growing is wilting. I feel that at times/most times I lack an understanding how to rekindle and renew the fun, laughter and friendship in my (future) marriage.	0%	7%	0%	8%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	3%	0%	
	n=	0	1	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	
Urgent22	I at times/most times struggled to understand and/or seek to build a marriage bond based on real intimacy and trust, which will withstand life's storms.	0%	7%	50%	8%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	3%	6%	
	n=	0	1	1	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	
Urgent23	I at times/most times lack a good grasp of what is required of me in marriage to relate well with both my family of origin and that of my spouse throughout our married years.	7%	7%	0%	5%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	
	n=	1	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Urgent24	I sometimes/frequently struggle with the challenges of living in an interfaith or spiritually mismatched marriage.	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	7%	6%	
	n=	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	1	

3b--“To be Married” worksheet

Let’s pause for a moment and reflect on what you’ve discovered with all the views, in mind.

“I feel blessed...”

Which of the issues of **Married life** do people feel most blessed?

Are there any differences by Gender? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

Does this differ by **HomeLifeProfile**? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

“I feel less than blessed...”

Which of the issues of **Married life** do people feel less than blessed?

Are there any differences by Gender? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

Does this differ by **HomeLifeProfile**? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

“Openness to Church Help with current, unmet needs in my life”

With which issues do you see a significant (and sometimes a greater) percentage of those with a need receptive to the church coming alongside them to overcome their need?

By contrast, with which issues do you see a reluctance, that is a small (and sometimes lesser) percentage of those with a need receptive to the church coming alongside—almost a resistance to engage their needs?

Urgency: “If I can only choose one...”

With whom—about what, do you see the greatest sense of urgency of living “less than blessed?”

4- “To live in the presence (or absence) of children...”

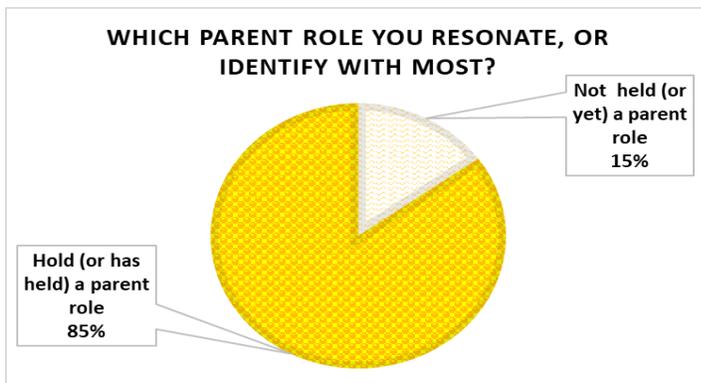
Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” (Genesis 17:17, ESV).

From a cry of desperation to not miss out on the role God had ordained for Abraham and Sarah—to the 21st century desperation to avoid a place in His call to: *28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Genesis 1:28, ESV).*

As we think of family ministry, those in children and youth ministry immediately think of those who “live in the presence” of children—and intersect with these households through the ministries and programs of the church. But there is a group that often gets overlooked. This group has offered a glimpse at their life between Sundays, too.

“To live in the absence of children...”

As this new section of questions began, we first asked about the lifetime parental roles held, and then followed it with a request to identify which ONE of them you resonate, or identify with? Examine the two tables below:



Lifespan Parental Roles		
I am not a parent but desire to become one someday	I am not a parent and desire to remain childless	My spouse and I are unable to have children
43	11	13
14%	4%	4%
Lifetime n=	67	22%

ONE that Resonates (Identify with) Today		
I am not a parent but desire to become one someday	I am not a parent and desire to remain childless	My spouse and I are unable to have children
35	7	4
11%	2%	1%
Current ID n=	46	15%

What, if any current ministry is focused on these three unique segments?

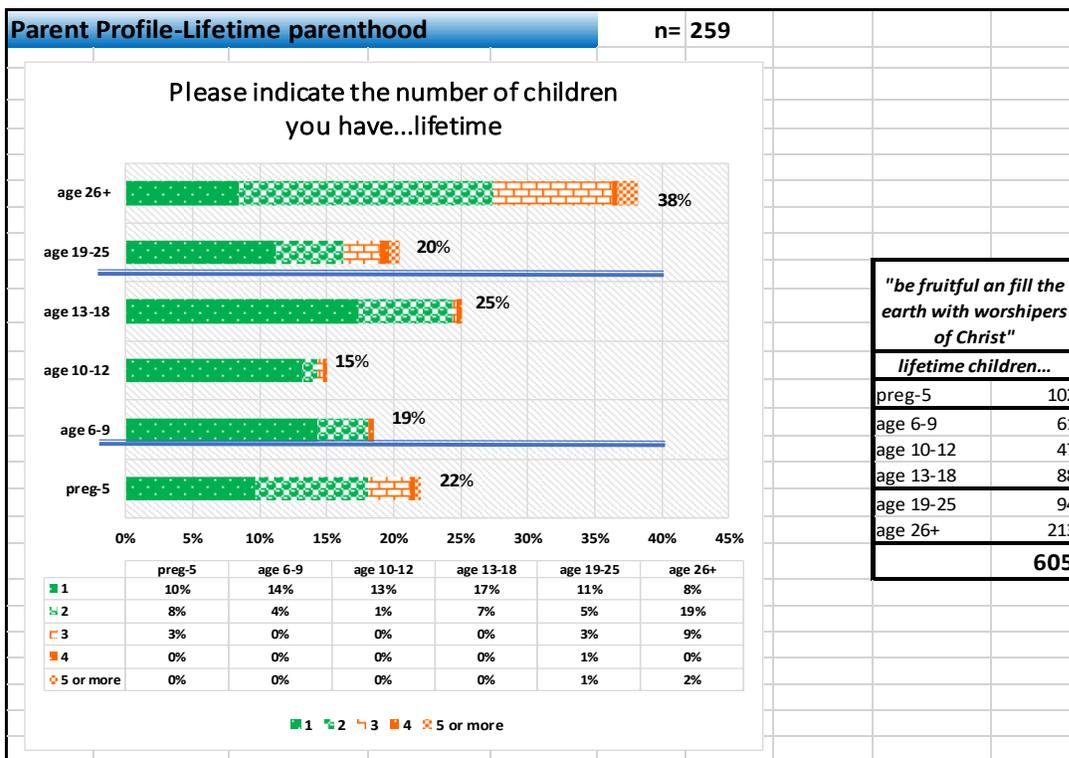
ONE that Resonates (Identify with) Today			
	I am not a parent but desire to become one someday	I am not a parent and desire to remain childless	My spouse and I are unable to have children
Male	18	2	3
Female	17	5	1
Male	14%	2%	2%
Female	10%	3%	1%

When viewed by Gender, any surprises in how family vision is viewed?

“To live in the presence of children...”

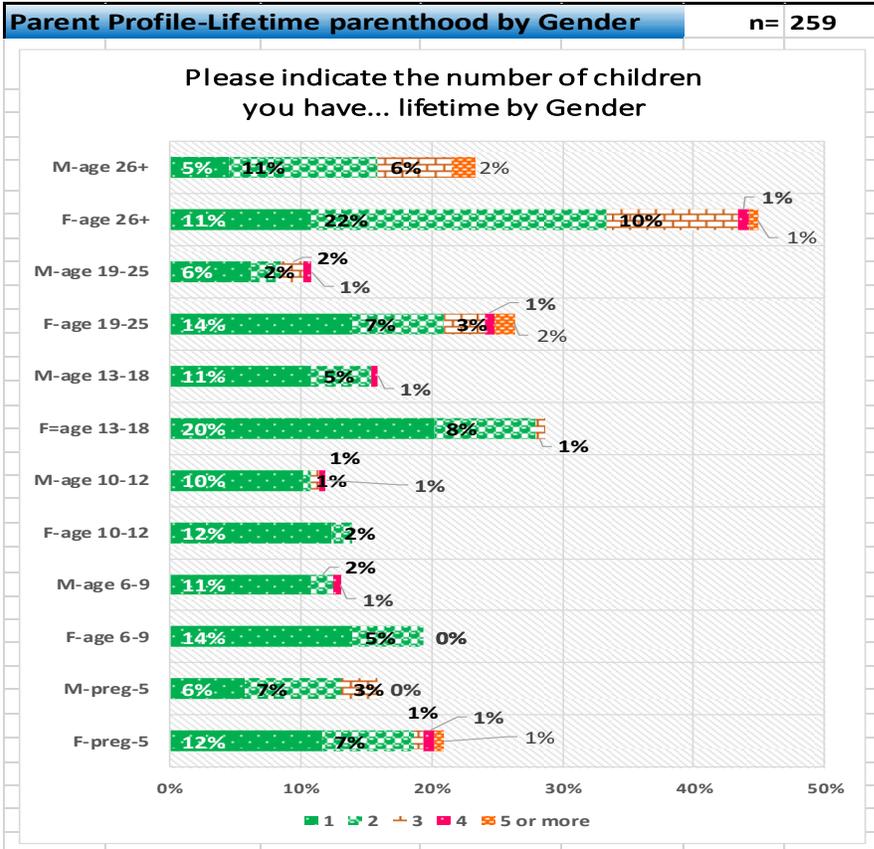
The obvious question then is, “how many children you have, and how old is each?”

Household complexity now follows logarithmic increase as the lifetime roles unfold. Notice in the chart above how the n= in the upper right of the graph is compared to the total number of “I am the parent of...” roles unfold.



As you view the two graphs on this page, parents of which age(s) of children appear to have their hands most full?

Do we see parenting roles reported a bit differently by Gender? What does this say about children seeing the meta-roles of father and mother?



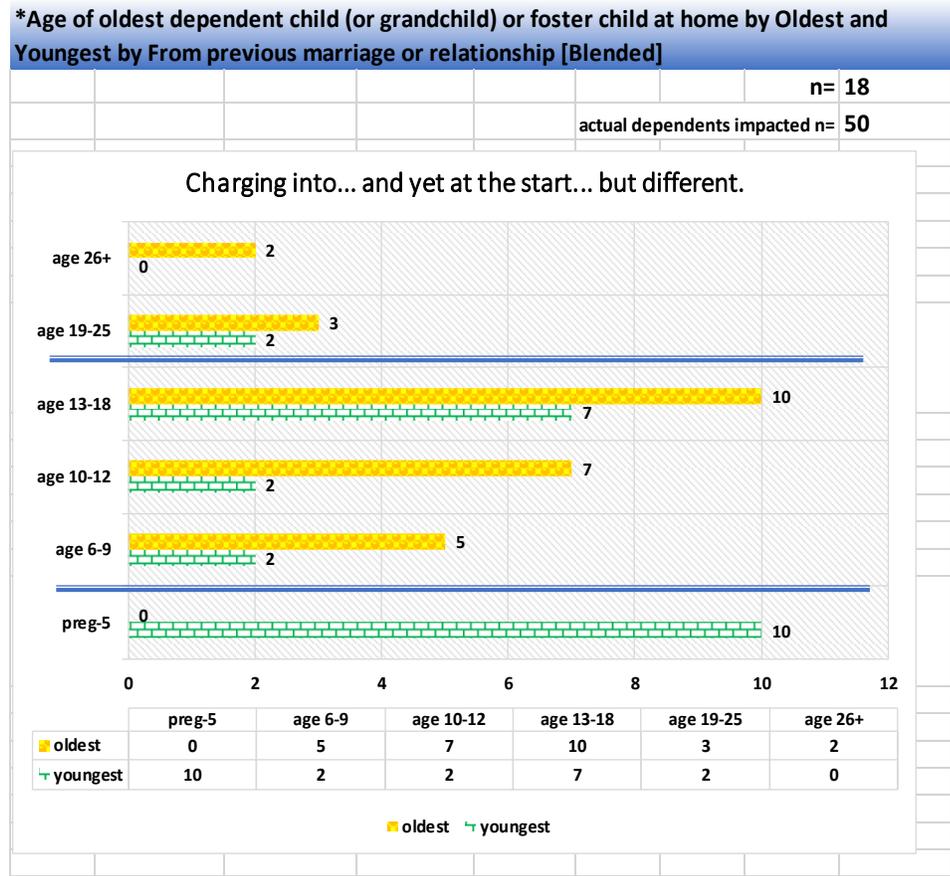
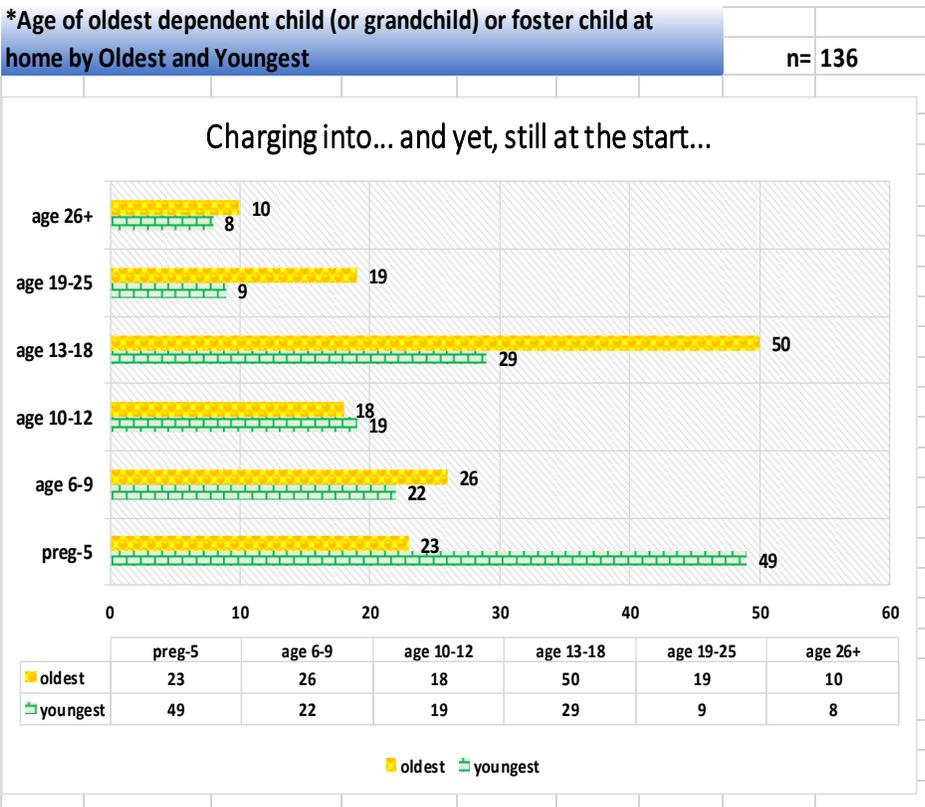
Age of the oldest child represents entering the mystery of one's child forcing you, the parent, into a new transition. You've never parented a child entering this developmental stage before. The degree of role complexity depends heavily on one's family of origin, and one's own remembrance of what was experienced as the child at that age.

Age of the youngest child represents the lag or drag of charging into new parenting territory while still stuck in the more familiar of the former.

Notice that we have given you counts, or in other words, "souls" of both the children, and the parents in this table. There is a whole lot of parental tension going on, and celebration, too.

As a blended, or oldest and youngest child in a household where a child(ren) include those from a previous marriage or relationship, the complexity increases, too.

Do blended households make up a small, or substantial number of the households?



As a church, these graphs provide both a look back (that is, a celebration of ministering to mothers and fathers who have parented their way to the empty-nest) and squarely at those still in the trenches of “active-parenting”.

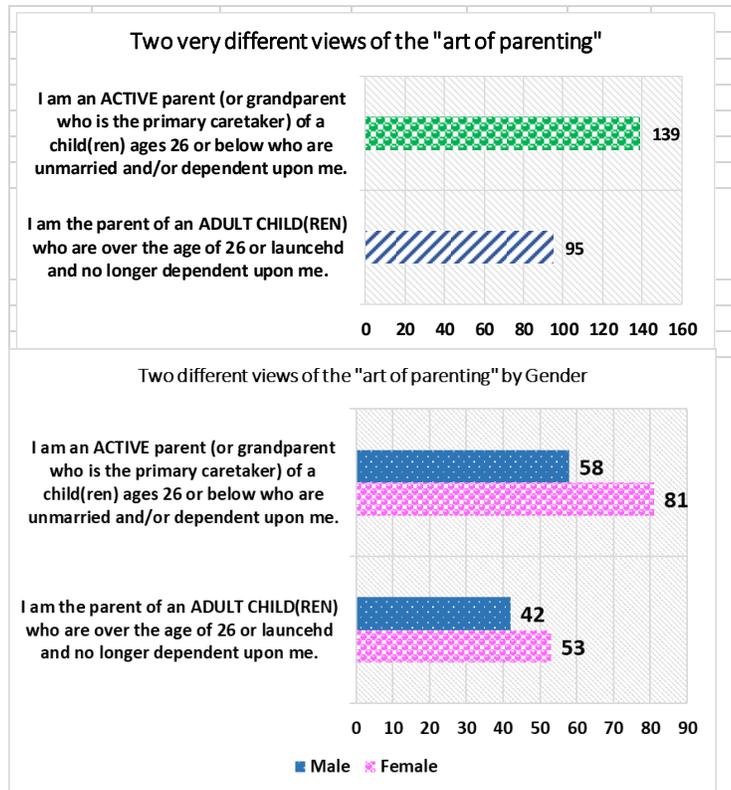
Note in the graph to the right the language we used to designate the two segments.

Fill in the blanks below, using the two graphs to the right:

Count of ACTIVE parents currently is ____.

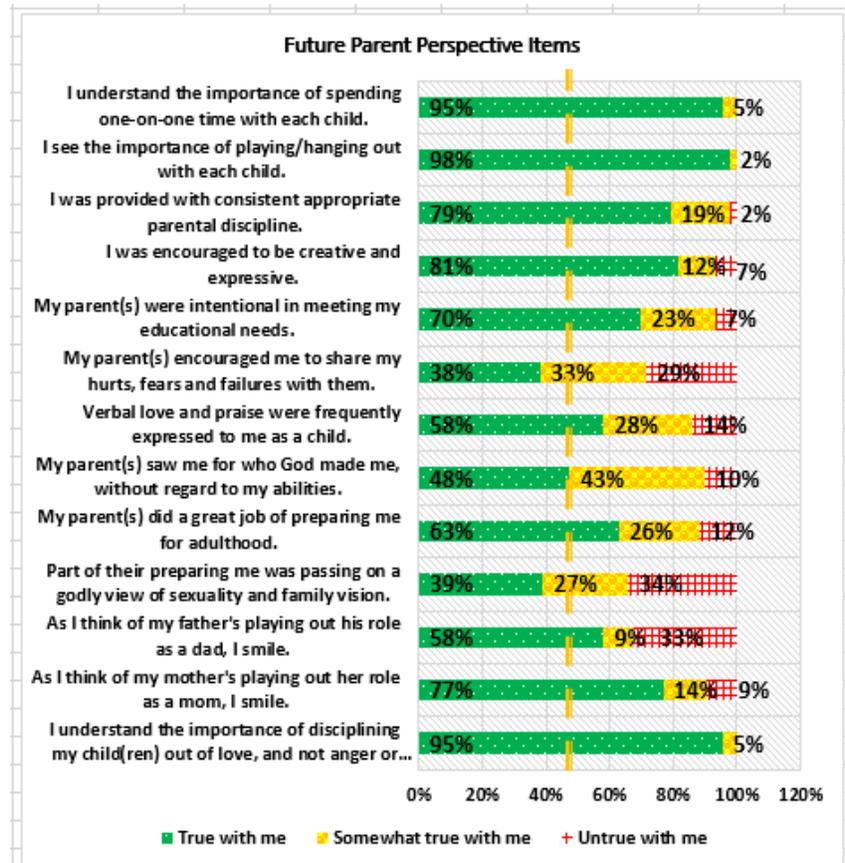
By Gender, we have ____ males;
and ____ females.

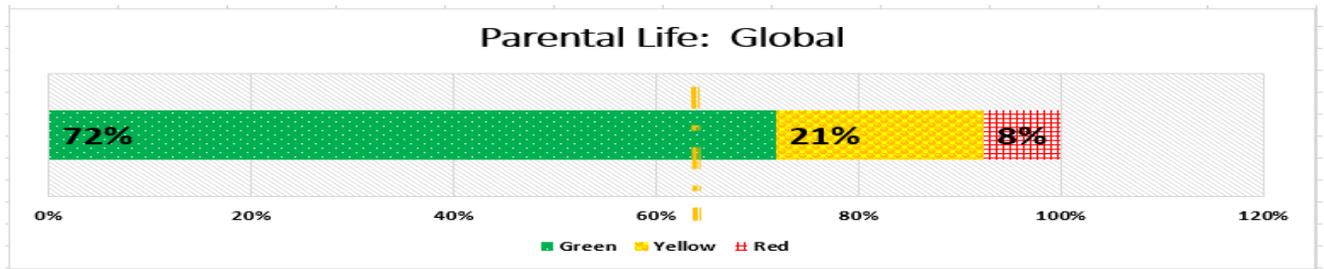
Note: Some are grandparents “actively” raising grandchildren, as dependents.



In the same way we asked questions of those holding the option of a relationship moving to marriage their future relational attitudes; we did the same with those holding open the option of future parenthood.

These are prospectively tomorrow’s parents. As you read their “never been in the battle” responses—what areas of future parenthood stand out as possible anticipatory parent education themes?





Your church's **Parental Life: Global** measure is the sum of three series of questions, each series assessing a component of Christian marriage. These five are:

- Parental Attitudes demonstrated in Activities;
Parental Agreement [Note: parental agreement includes co-parent agreement] ; and
- Parental Confidence

As an initial global measure, remember that we celebrate the **GREEN**, look closer at the maintenance required of the **YELLOW**, and recognize that in the normal flow of marriage, 3-4% of those responding will be reflect a "state" of life tripping that **RED** light. We look at both "state" (those in the moment expressions of life) and "trait" (those longstanding, and steady characteristics of life). We all have a funny photo where our eyes were closed or our mouths wide open—at the instant that the shutter captured the picture. In the same way, we have to allow for a daily distress—the presence of static, or life's stuff—to be a part of what we see in our health measures.

That said, what are your church's Parental Life: Global scores:

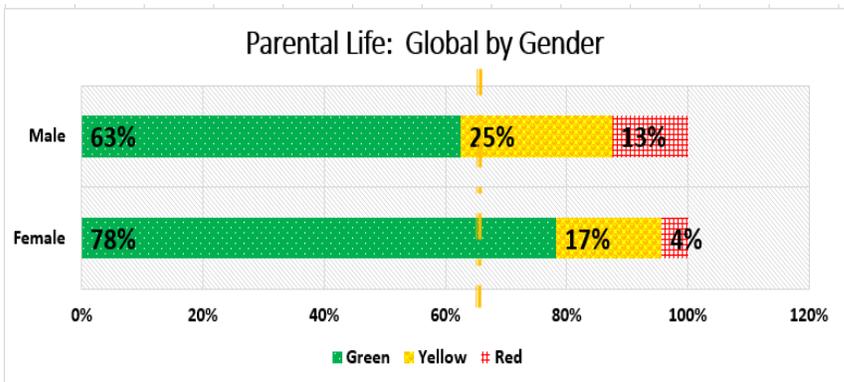
GREEN

YELLOW

RED

What is your initial reaction to these this Global view?

Any additional thoughts when viewed by Gender?



Knowing better what to do. Parenting brings together imperfectly motivated parent(s) and an imperfectly motivated child(ren) who strongly desire intimacy but are afraid of being controlled or taken advantage of. Parenting is not for cowards!

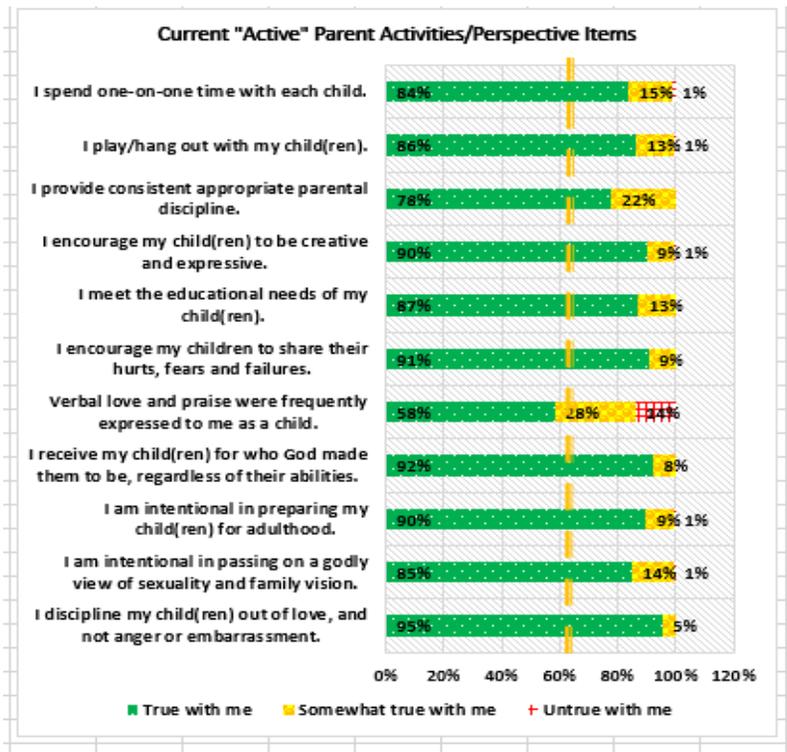
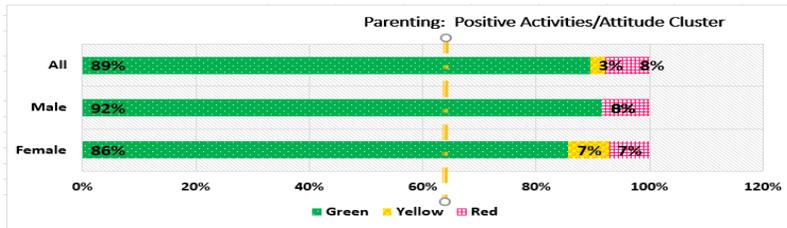
In God's original design for family, the strength of a tag-team-model of a father and a mother playing their roles, and tagging out just before defeat, developed a godly home. And in God's original plan came in-laws and eventually, two sets of grandparents who desired a role in the child's life. Extended family too, played a role in the growth and development of the child's character, and faith.

As you can see, even a healthy marriage is suddenly pressed when the discussions and decisions surrounding parenting are confined to the father and mother. Should loss of a spouse to death befall a household, the whole weight of faith and life suddenly finds its way into one's backpack. The anxiousness is no longer just for oneself—but for one's children, too.

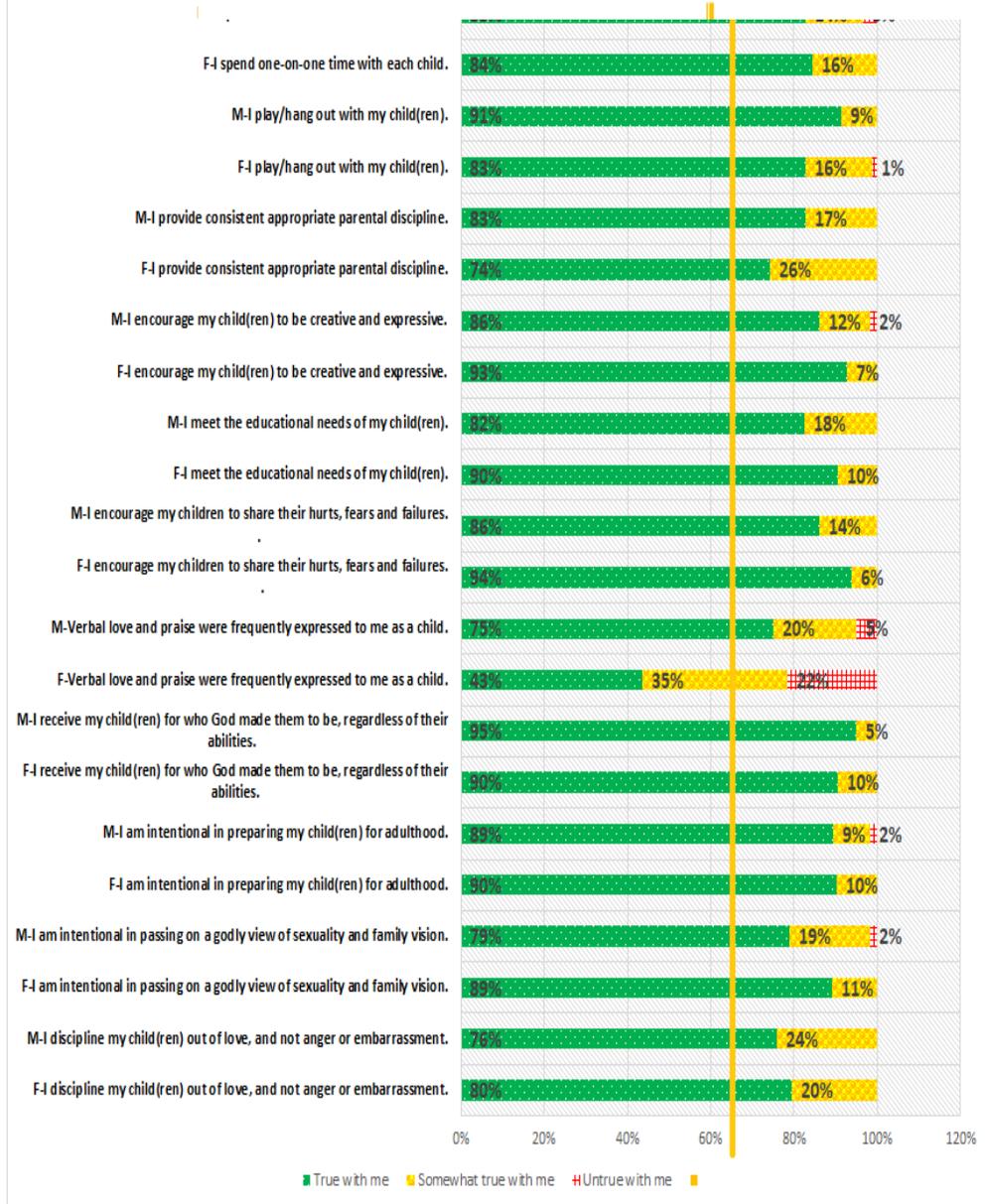
Loss of a spouse to divorce now creates a new world called **co-parenting**. Apart from the oneness of marriage—the two adults can begin to act as if they were “adopted children seeking the approval of their father”, but instead, seeking their children's approval. And should one, or both remarry—the complexity of “adopted children” attitudes be seen in their new spouses, and extended family. With complexity comes anxiousness—and with anxiousness anger or depression.

As you consider the complexity of helping parents be faith-formers in their home, in what ways do you currently adjust your efforts to engage all segments of parents?

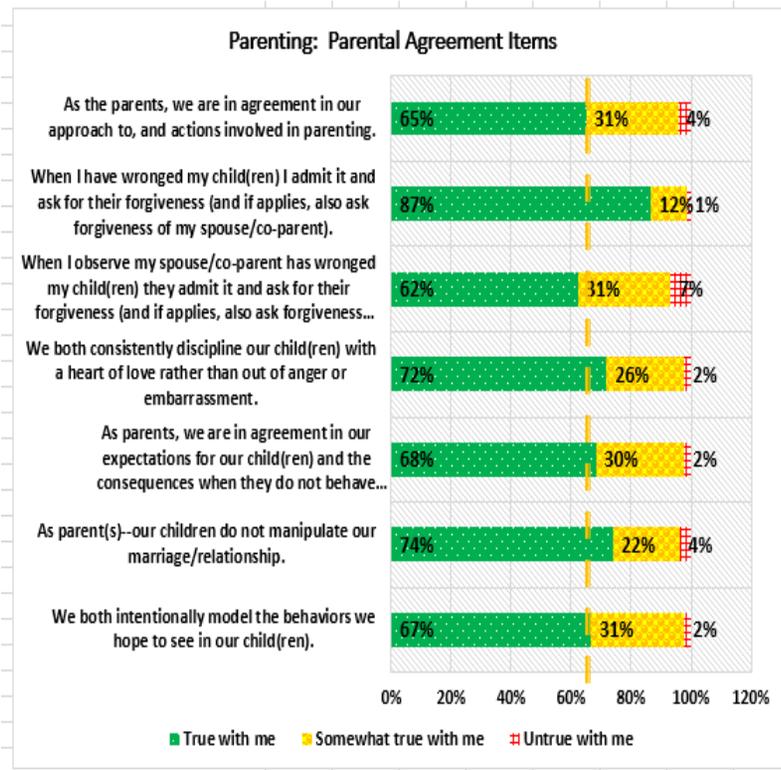
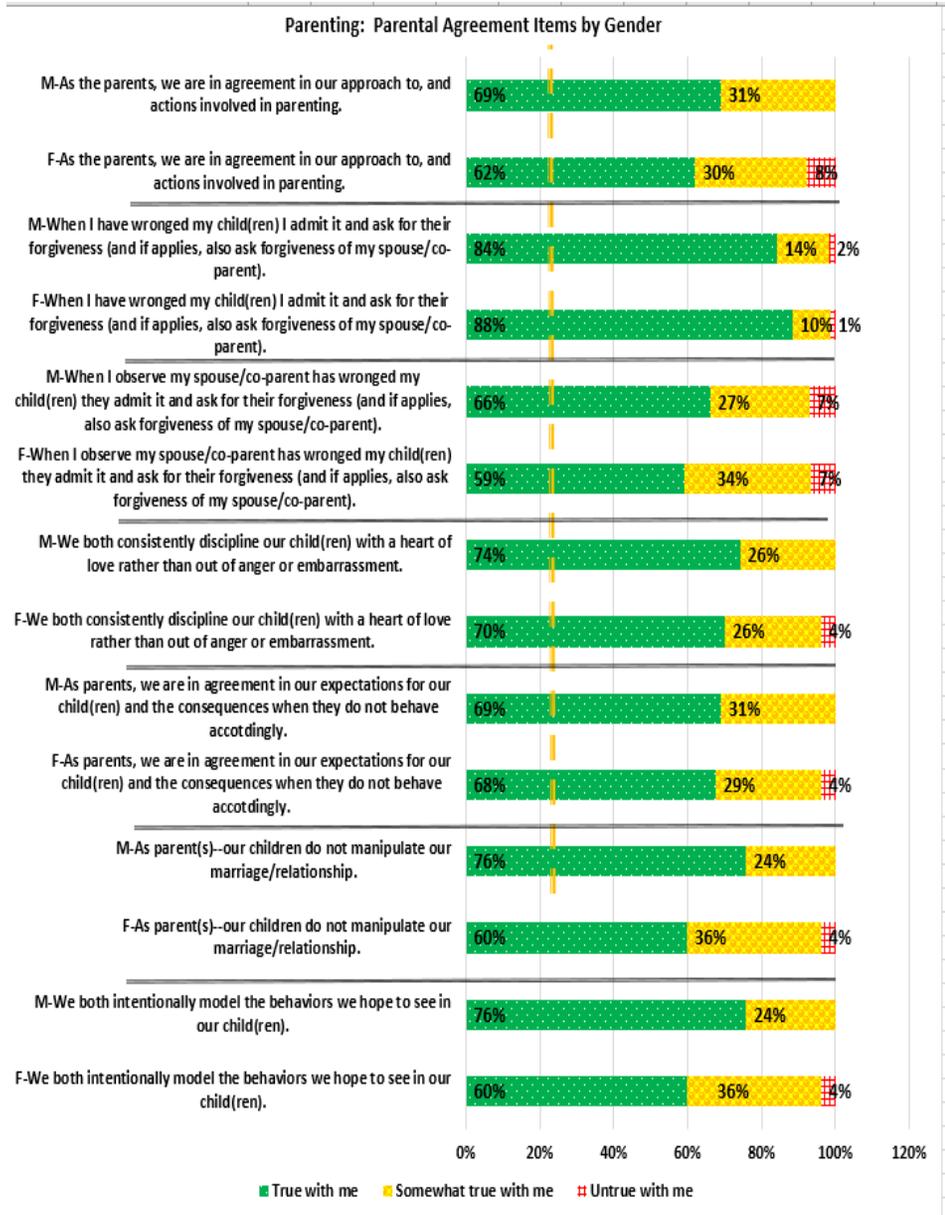
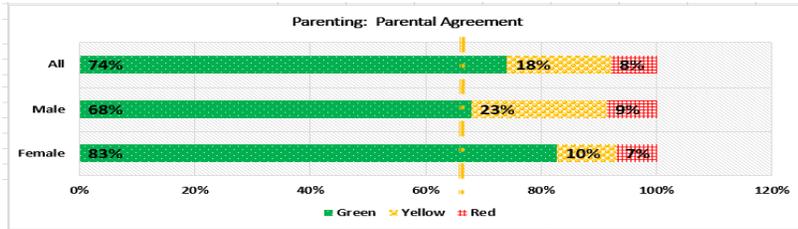
The **Positive Activities/Attitude Cluster**



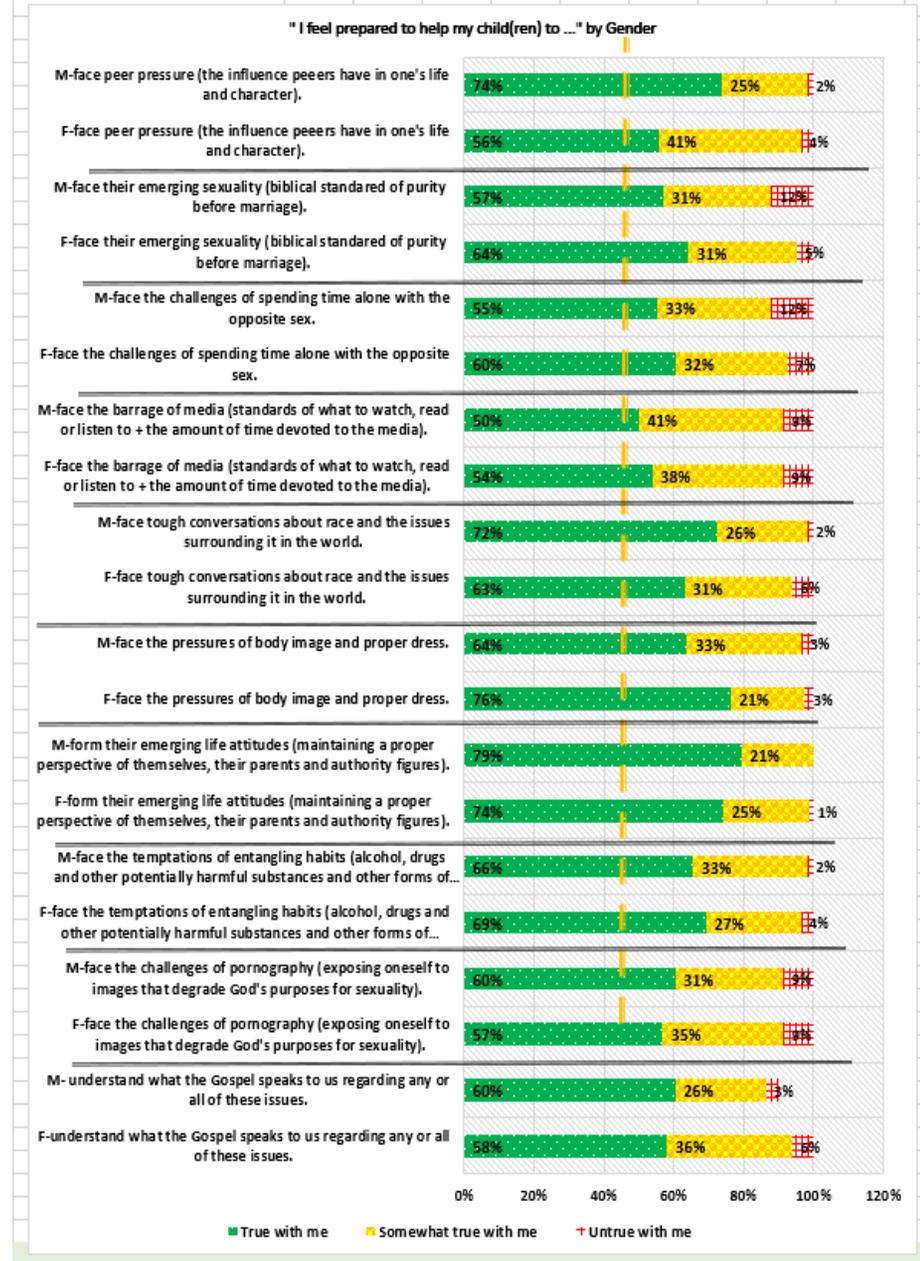
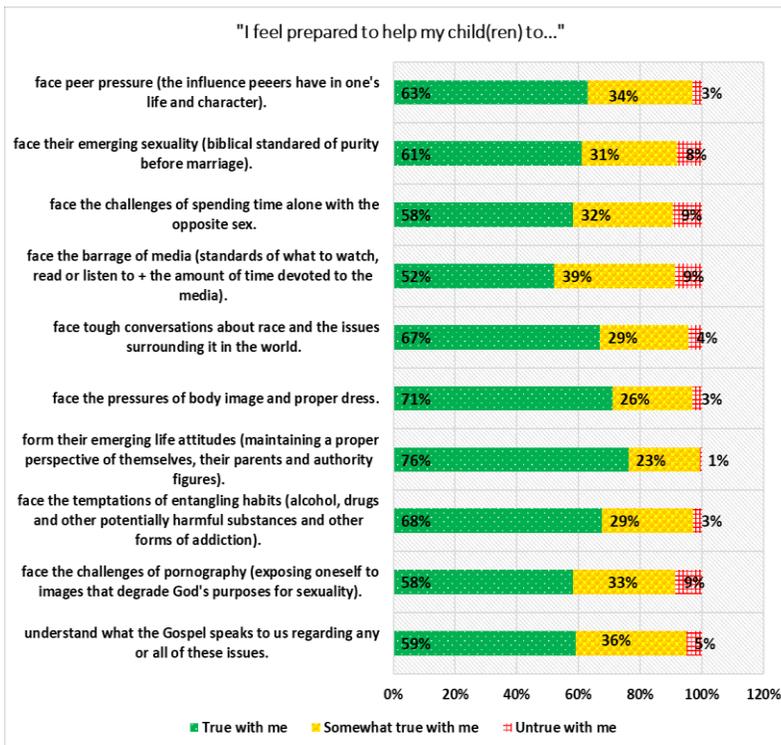
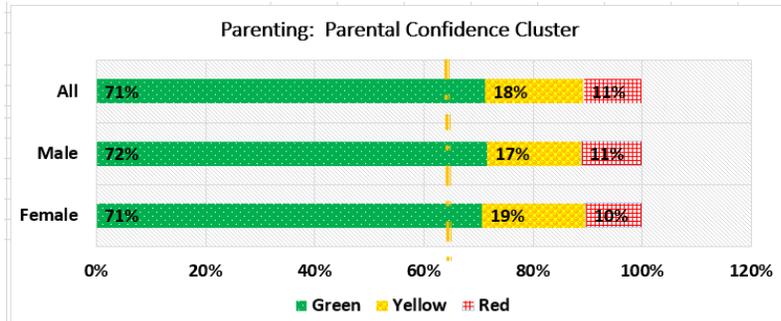
Current "Active" Parent Agreement/Perspective Items by Gender
 Current "Active" Parent Activities Perspective Items by Gender



Parental Agreement, above all others, points us to the intersection of marital health and parental health.



"I feel prepared to help my child(ren) to..." Confidence



HomeLifeProfile Parenting: Positive Activities categories

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 36		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		0	0	0	12	1	16	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	36
Red		0%	0%	0%	17%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Yellow		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Green		0%	0%	0%	83%	0%	88%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	
		young single	young married no kids	young single again no kids	young married w kids	young single or single-again w kids	mid age married w kids	middle age single-adult no kids	mid age married no kids	mid age single again no kids	mid age single again w kids	mid aged launched	mid age single again launched	older married	older unmarried	
Parental positive activities	Red	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Yellow	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Green	0	0	0	10	1	14	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	32
		0	0	0	12	1	16	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	36

HomeLifeProfile Parenting: Parental Agreement categories

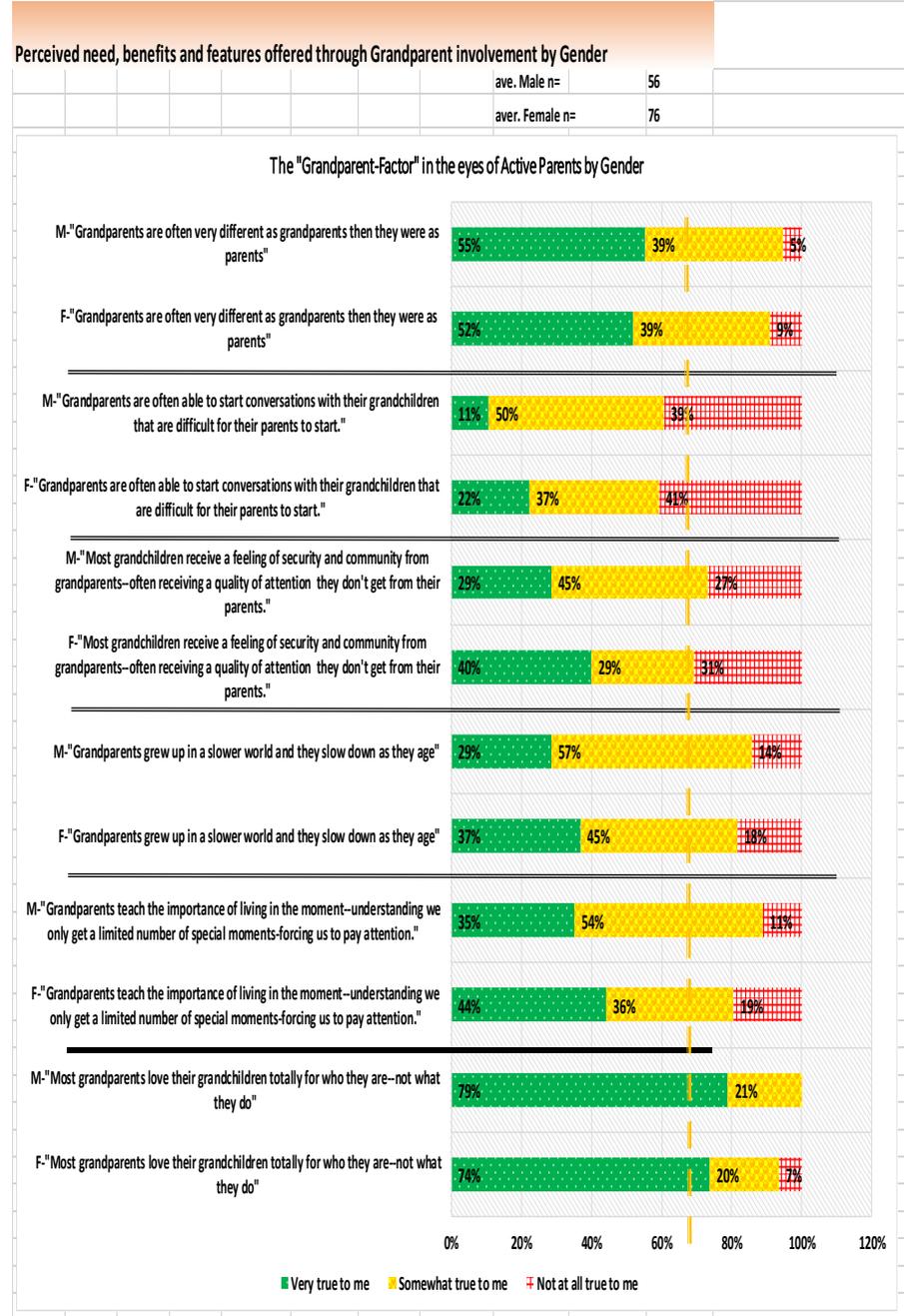
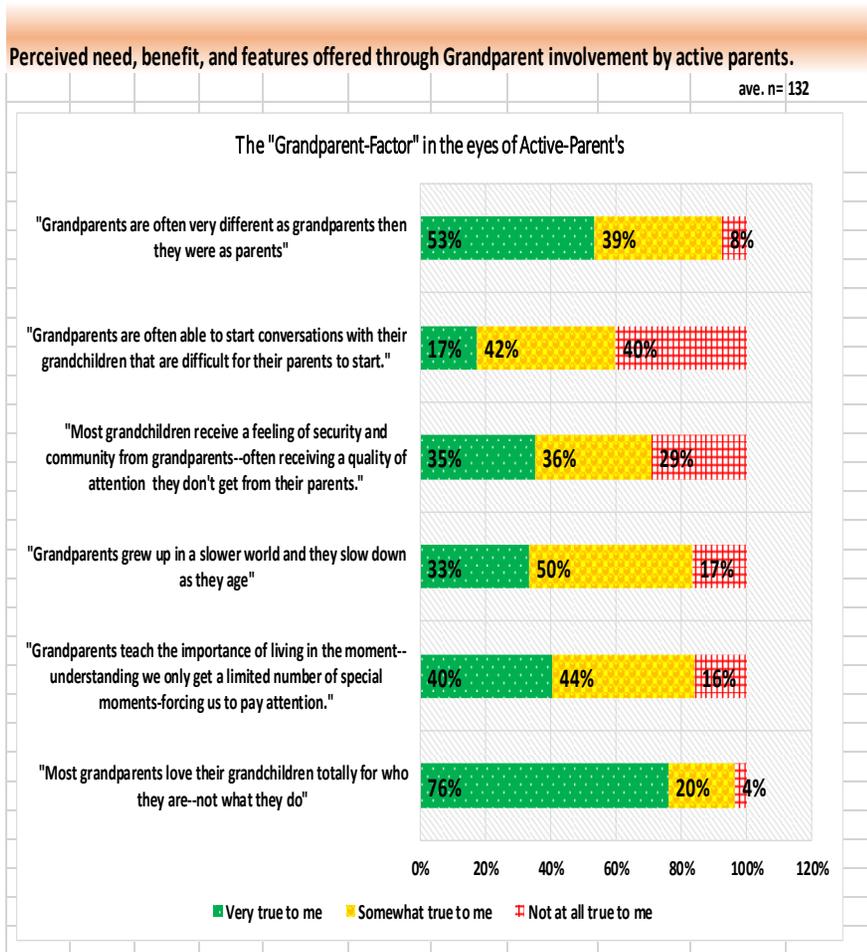
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 135		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		0	0	0	56	3	47	1	1	0	3	22	2	0	0	135
Parental agreement cat		0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	
Yellow		0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	19%	0%	0%	0%	0%	23%	0%	0%	0%	
Green		0%	0%	0%	77%	0%	74%	0%	0%	0%	0%	73%	0%	0%	0%	
		young single	young married no kids	young single again no kids	young married w kids	young single or single-again w kids	mid age married w kids	middle age single-adult no kids	mid age married no kids	mid age single again no kids	mid age single again w kids	mid aged launched	mid age single again launched	older married	older unmarried	
Parental agreement cat	Red	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
	Yellow	0	0	0	8	2	9	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	25
	Green	0	0	0	43	1	35	1	1	0	3	16	1	0	0	101
		0	0	0	56	3	47	1	1	0	3	22	2	0	0	135

HomeLifeProfile Parenting: Parental "I feel prepared to help my child(ren)... " Confidence categories

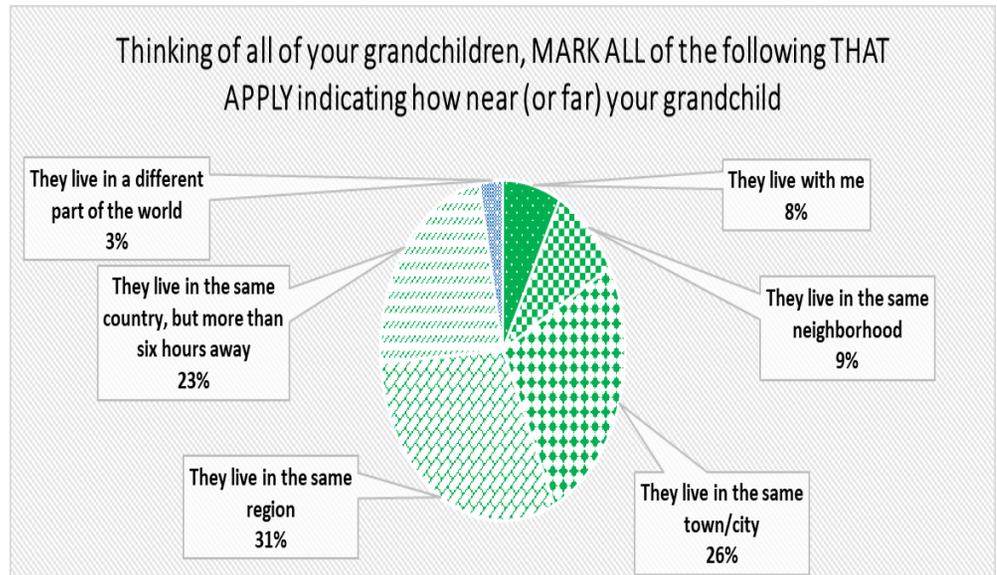
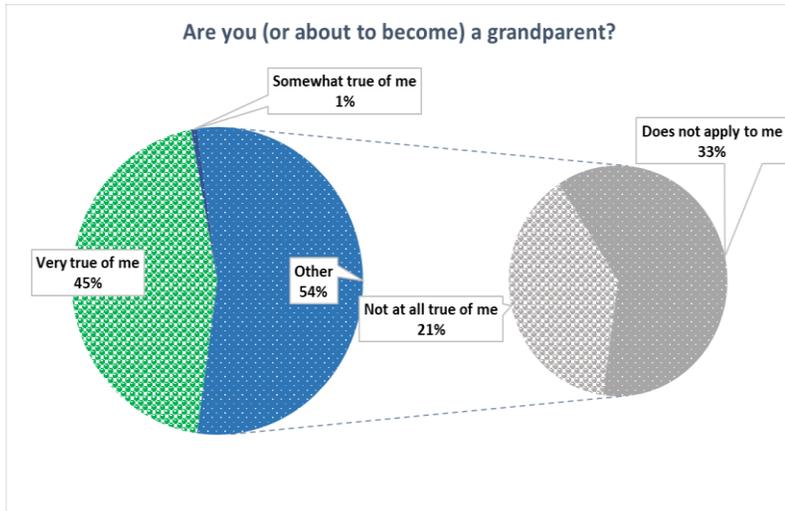
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 133		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
		0	0	0	55	3	47	1	1	0	3	21	2	0	0	133
Parental prepared/confidence cat		0%	0%	0%	15%	0%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Yellow		0%	0%	0%	18%	0%	19%	0%	0%	0%	0%	19%	0%	0%	0%	
Green		0%	0%	0%	67%	0%	70%	0%	0%	0%	0%	81%	0%	0%	0%	
		young single	young married no kids	young single again no kids	young married w kids	young single or single-again w kids	mid age married w kids	middle age single-adult no kids	mid age married no kids	mid age single again no kids	mid age single again w kids	mid aged launched	mid age single again launched	older married	older unmarried	
Parental prepared/confidence cat	Red	0	0	0	8	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	14
	Yellow	0	0	0	10	0	9	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	25
	Green	0	0	0	37	3	33	1	1	0	1	17	1	0	0	94
		0	0	0	55	3	47	1	1	0	3	21	2	0	0	133

Grandparents: perceived need, benefit and features offered through grandparent involvement by active parents.

How is grandparent involvement viewed by parents?

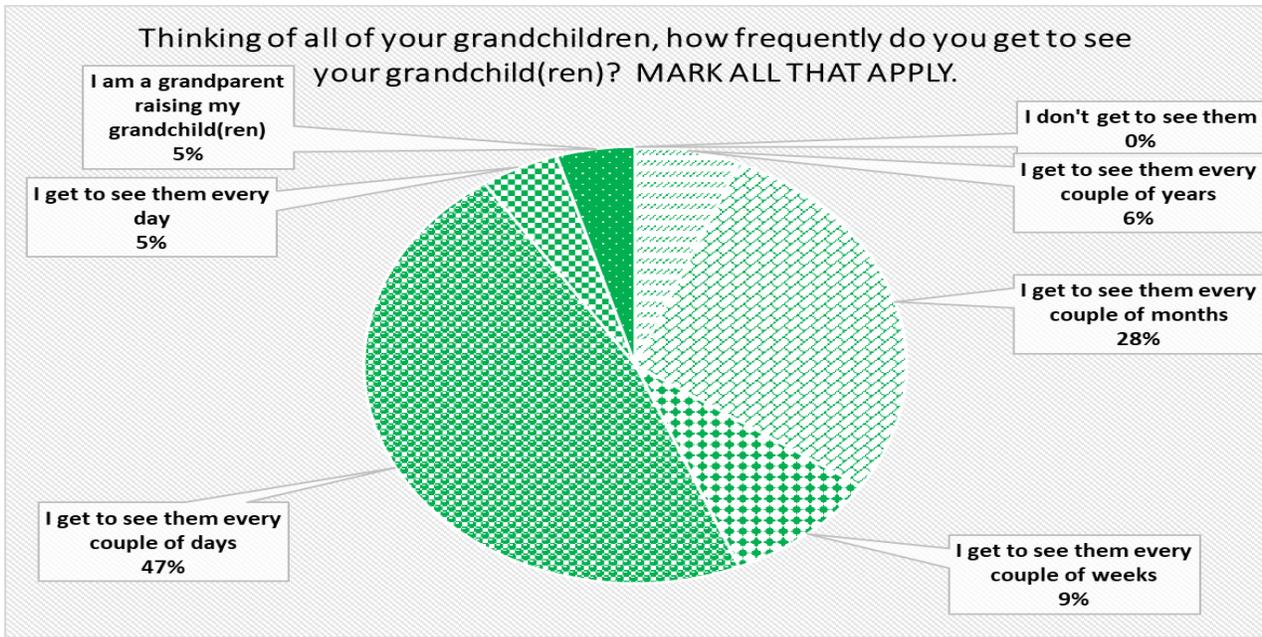


Grandparenthood: viewed by Grandparents



		Are you (or about to become) a grandparent?					
		.00 Count	Very true of me Count	Somewhat true of me Count	Not at all true of me Count	Does not apply to me Count	
Gender	Male	70	26	1	15	17	59
	Female	88	40	0	16	32	88
		66	1				
		67					
		.00	Very true of me	Somewhat true of me	Not at all true of me	Does not apply to me	
Gender	Male		44%	2%	25%	29%	100%
	Female		45%	0%	18%	36%	100%

		Thinking of all of your grandchildren, MARK ALL of the following THAT APPLY indicating how near (or far) your grandchild							
		.00 Count	They live with me Count	They live in the same neighborhood Count	They live in the same town/city Count	They live in the same region Count	They live in the same country, but more than six hours away Count	They live in a different part of the world Count	
Gender	Male	103	1	4	8	8	5	0	26
	Female	137	4	2	9	12	10	2	39
			5	6	17	20	15	2	65
Gender	Male	103	4%	15%	31%	31%	19%	0%	100%
	Female	137	10%	5%	23%	31%	26%	5%	100%

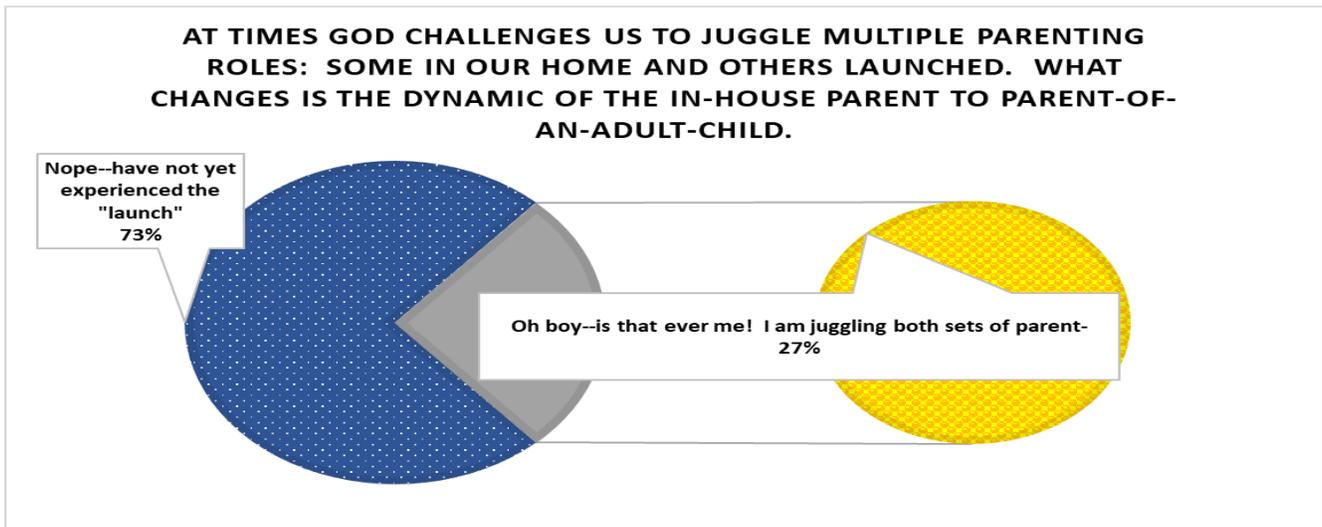


Thinking of all of your grandchildren, how frequently do you get to see your grandchild(ren)? MARK ALL THAT APPLY.

		Count	I don't get to see them	I get to see them every couple of years	I get to see them every couple of months	I get to see them every couple of weeks	I get to see them every couple of days	I get to see them every day	I am a grandparent raising my grandchild(ren)	
		Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	
Gender	Male	104	0	1	10	1	12	1	0	25
	Female	137	0	3	8	5	18	2	3	39
			0	4	18	6	30	3	3	64
Gender	Male		0%	4%	40%	4%	48%	4%	0%	100%
	Female		0%	8%	21%	13%	46%	5%	8%	100%

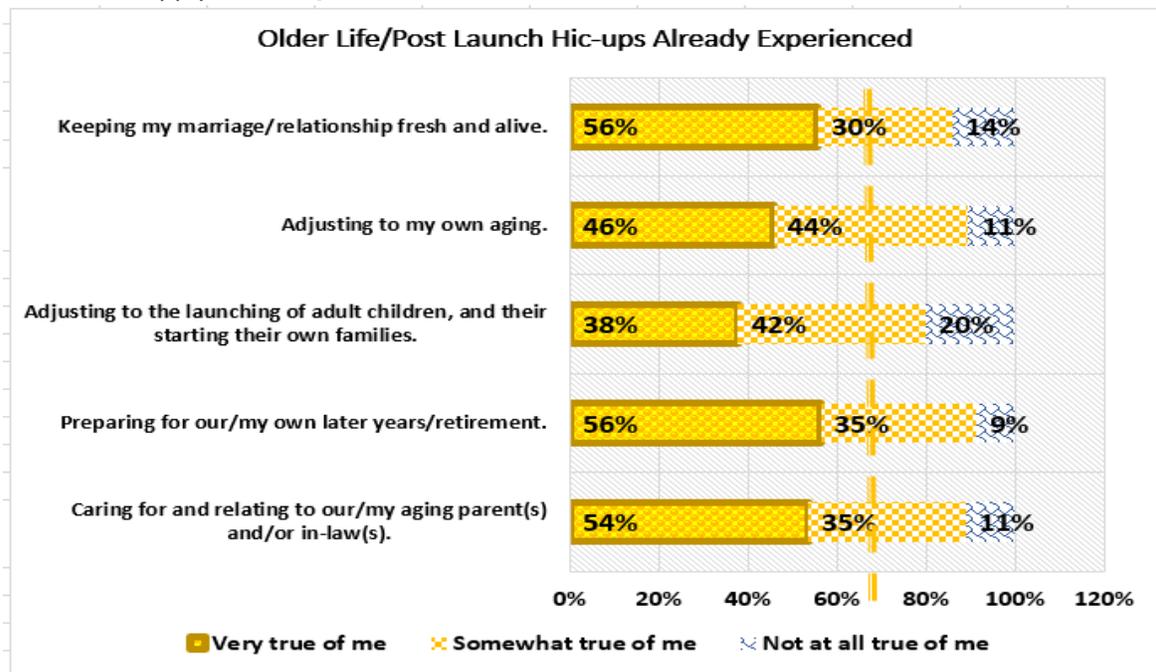
What types of roles do you see for grandparents to play in faith formation of their grandchild(ren)?

Older Life: Post-Launch Hic-ups



Somehow, we almost felt compelled to increase the font and image size for this section, just saying! Launch and older life tend to come together—without regard to current marital/relational status. Conversations with peers tend to sound like that of “tweeners”.

The graph below reveals the hic-ups already experienced—from among those indicating they did apply [see table below for “does not apply” counts.]

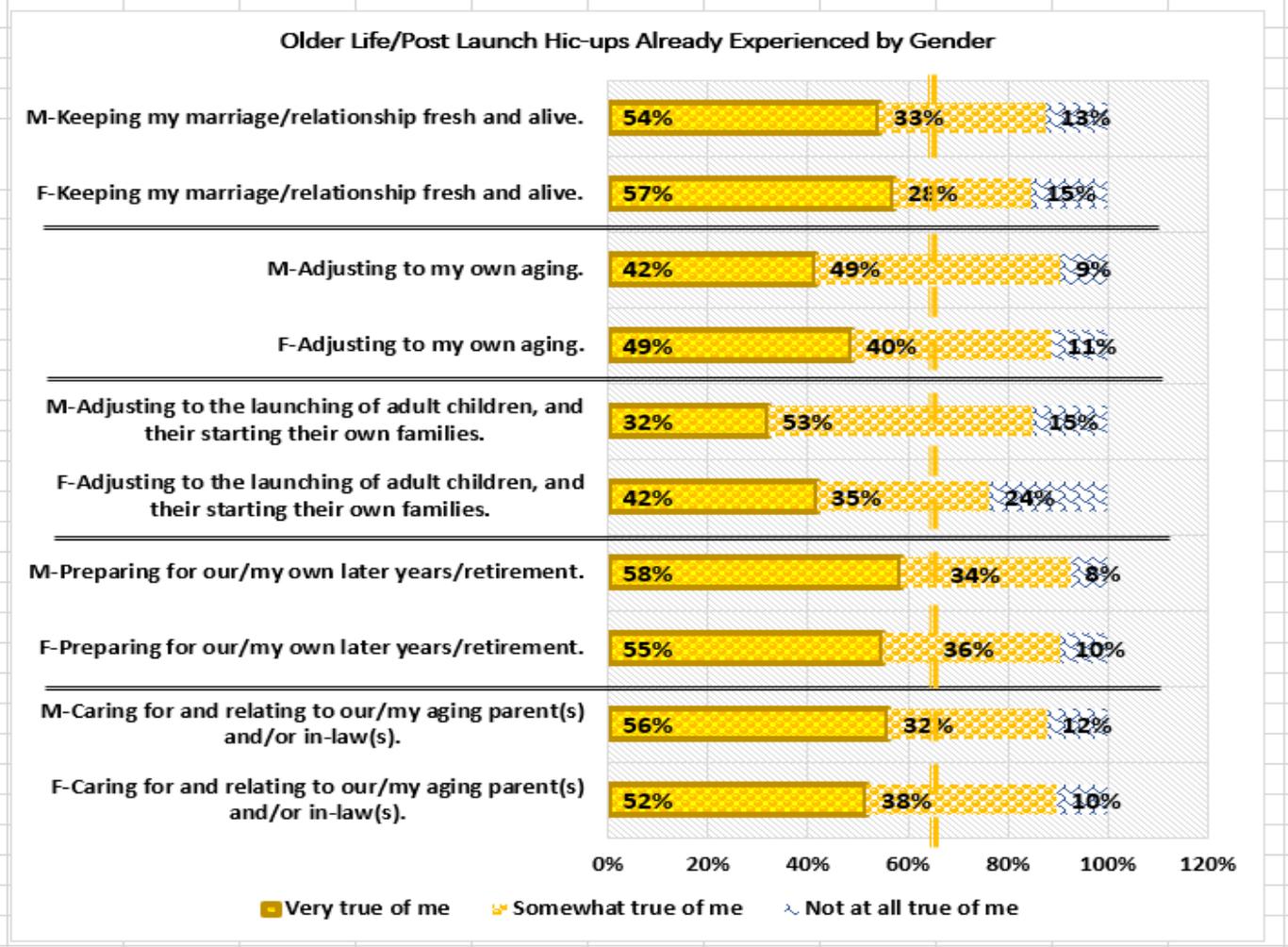


At first glance, what, if any intersections of faith & life immediately come to mind?

	.00	Very true of me	Somewhat true of me	Not at all true of me	Does not apply to me	
Keeping my marriage/relationship fresh and alive.	159	63	34	16	33	113
Adjusting to my own aging.	160	61	58	14	12	133
Adjusting to the launching of adult children, and their starting their own families.	162	45	50	24	24	119
Preparing for our/my own later years/retirement.	161	71	44	11	18	126
Caring for and relating to our/my aging parent(s) and/or in-law(s).	161	53	35	11	45	99

The .00 column indicates those not yet age 50—those responding >50. The “Does not apply to me”—*usually means, not yet*. Preparing people for the after 50 transitions is a vital part of family ministry.

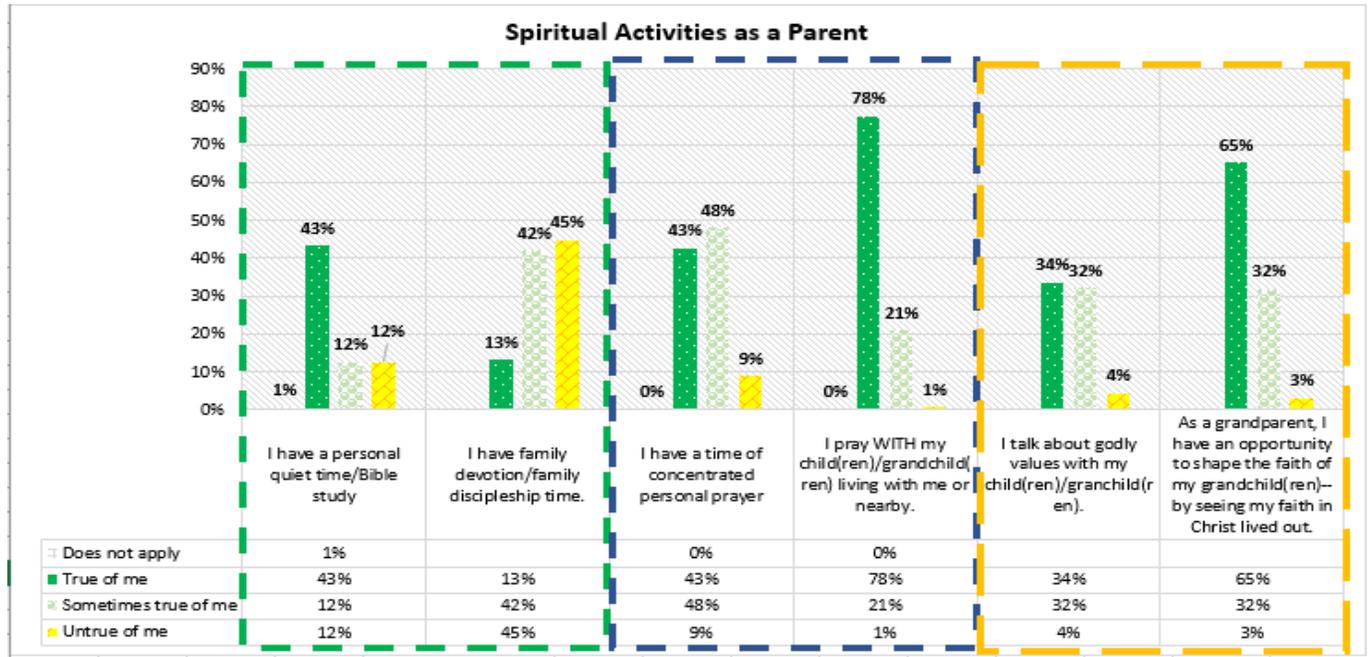
How do you currently engage these older life issues, now?



Are there differences, by Gender?

What does Spiritual Life look like as a Parent (Grandparent)?

As you view the graph below, do you find any differences between spiritual activities alone, as an individual and with a child (or grandchild) as the parent (grandparent)?



What do you notice about the difference between faith as an individual time in God’s Word (Bible study/family devotions)?

How about the difference between personal time of prayer and praying with the child(ren)?

Spiritual Activities: Faith between Sundays as a Parent

		Does not apply	True of me	Sometimes true of me	Untrue of me	n=
1	I have a personal quiet time/Bible study	1%	43%	12%	12%	305
13	I have family devotion/family discipleship time.		13%	42%	45%	136
2	I have a time of concentrated personal prayer	0%	43%	48%	9%	302
6	I pray WITH my child(ren)/grandchild(ren) living with me or nearby.	0%	78%	21%	1%	138
12	I talk about godly values with my child(ren)/grandchild(ren).		34%	32%	4%	137
	As a grandparent, I have an opportunity to shape the faith of my grandchild(ren)--by seeing my faith in Christ lived out.		65%	32%	3%	66

Blessed--as a parent?

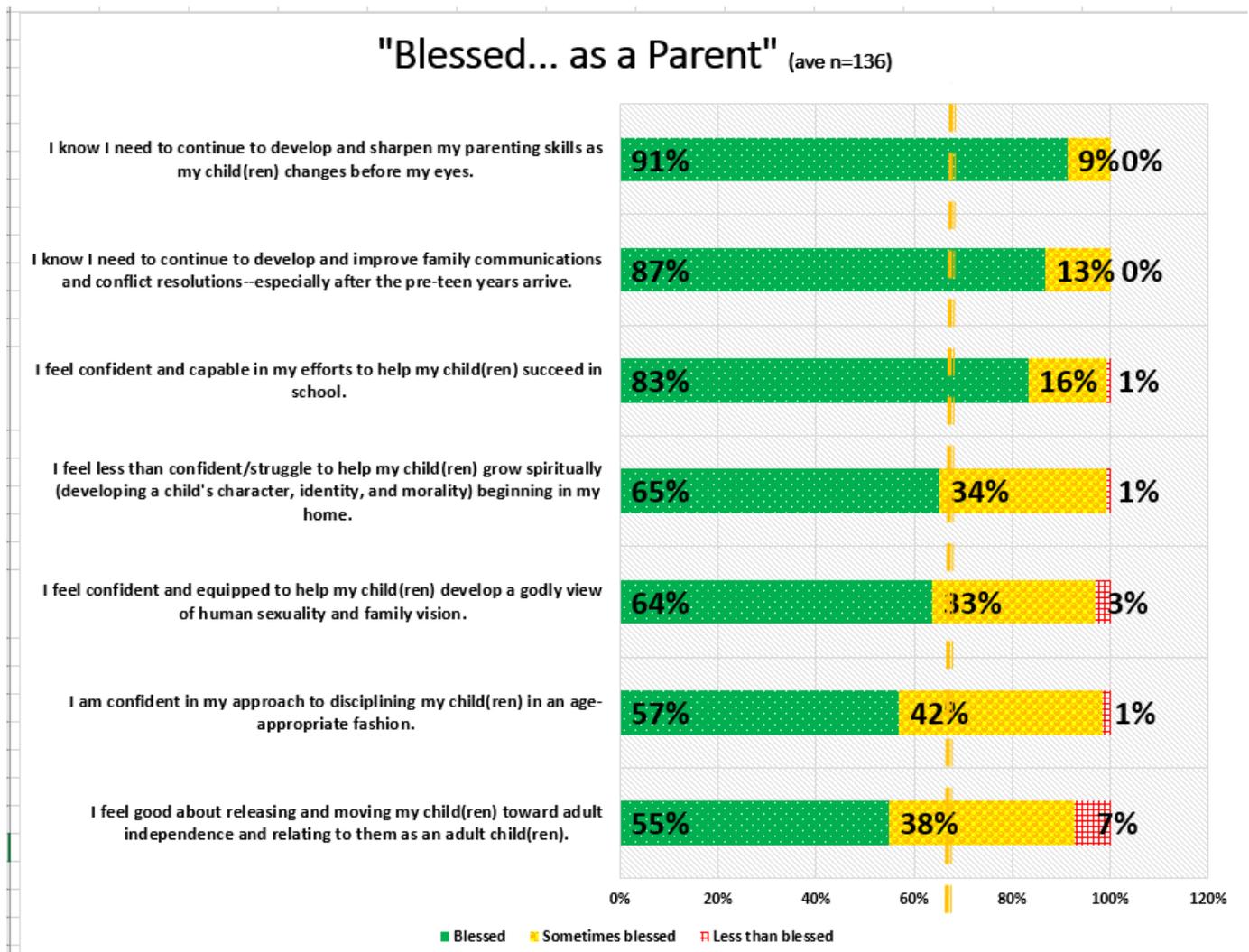
Feeling blessed is in vogue. A quick glance into the social-media world finds that saying you're blessed might really be a way of boasting while trying to sound humble. As Christians, we use the term "blessed" too. We pray God will bless our life's, those we love deeply and our family. We attribute our undeserved gifts to "God's blessings." And as churches, we talk about our ministries being blessed.

Yet, my desire for God is greatly fueled by my need. And it is often in the areas of loss where I feel my need most intensely. Unmet desires keep me on my knees, deepen my prayer life, and make me ransack the Bible for God's promises. Trials often ground us in ways abundance never can.

Each of the following statements is written as fulfillment of a desire. As you think of your life as a parent today, select the response that reflects your current experience of this desire.

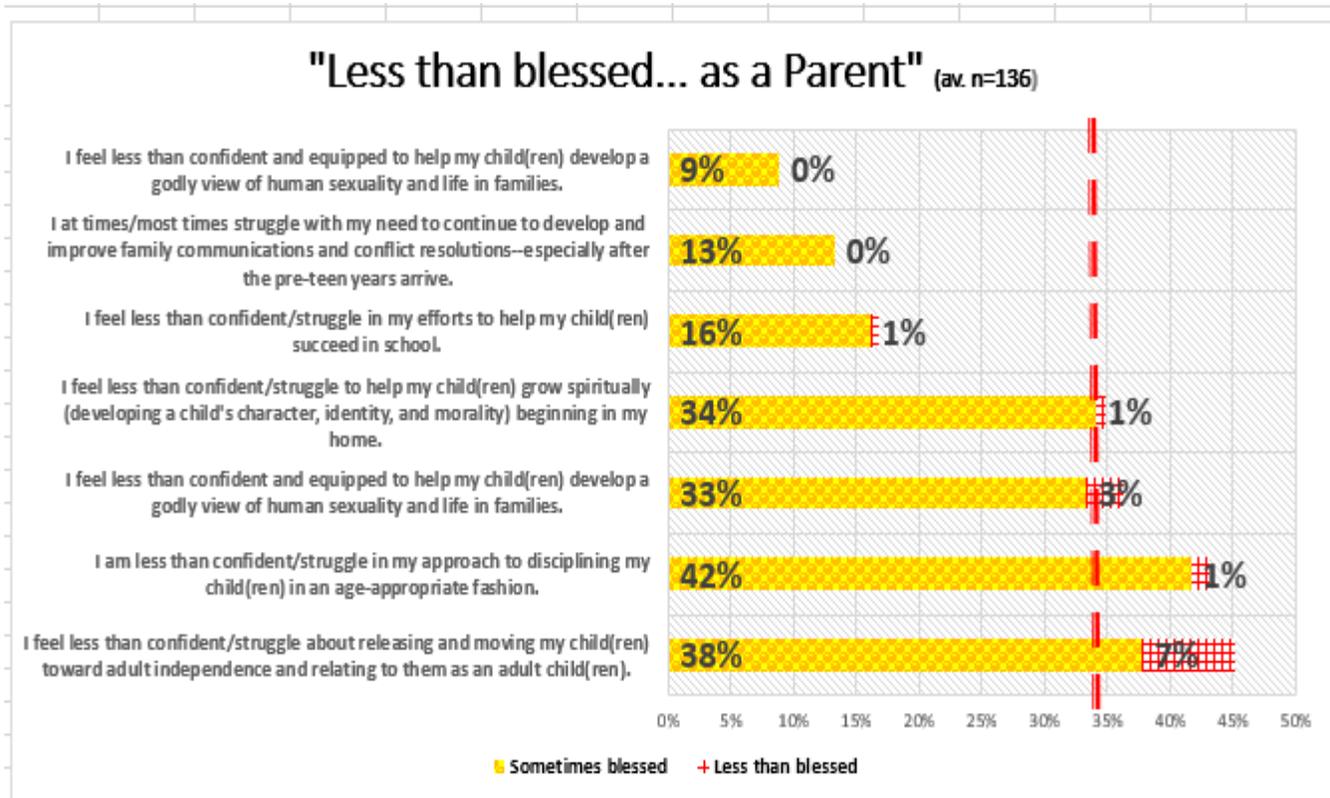
	True of me	Sometimes true of me	Untrue of me
--	------------	----------------------	--------------

The **GREEN** segment of the graph for each issue signifies the percentage of those expressing a sense of "being blessed". Notice the dot-dash **YELLOW** bar indicating the "tipping-point" of 66%, in this case, feeling "blessed".



While we celebrate and give great praise and glory to God for all the **GREEN** in the “blessed” graph, as leaders, we also must zoom-in on those feeling “less than blessed”. Take note of the new vertical RED dot-dash line, at 34%, on the “less than blessed...as an individual” graph below.

As a leader, these are the **felt needs** revealed by default. This is the graph that stirs us to prayer, because each of these negatively phrased statements points us to the type(s) of problems with one self, with others, with the world around, and yes, ultimately, with God. While we all rejoice to see lots of **GREEN**, shouldn't we all agree, there is a lot of anxiousness in the “stuff of life” where faith in God through Jesus Christ gets tough?



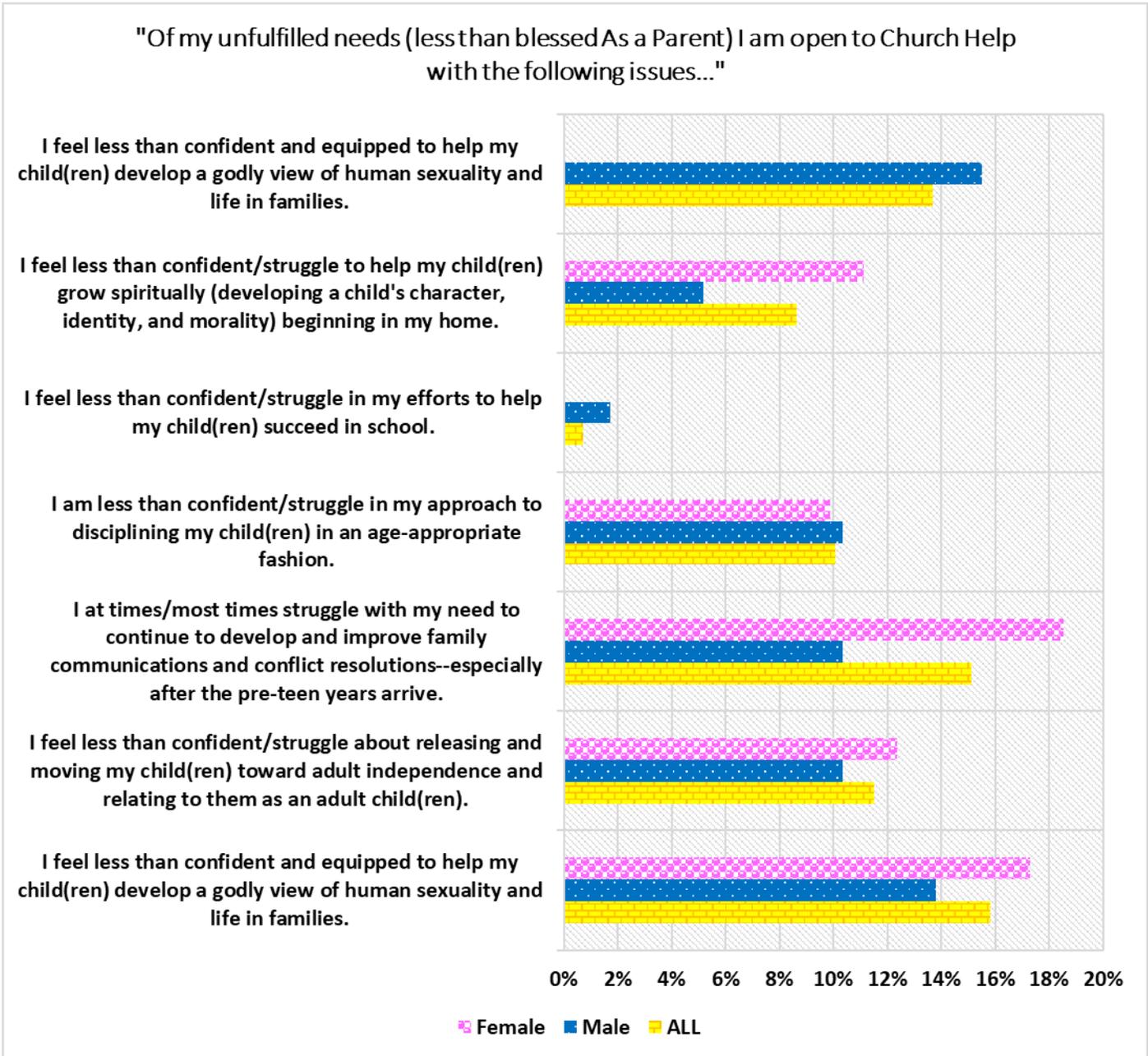
Open to help from the church with unfulfilled need--as a parent

What is blessing, then? Scripture shows that blessing is anything God gives that makes us fully satisfied in him. Anything that draws us closer to Jesus. Anything that helps us relinquish the temporal and hold on more tightly to the eternal. And often it is the struggles and trials, the aching disappointments and the unfulfilled longings that best enable us to do that.

Click the "GO BACK" tab at the bottom of this page--and review which of the statements you marked "Sometimes true of me" or "Untrue of me". Then, click "CONTINUE" to return to this section, and indicate which you are open to help with this issue from your church.

As you worked through the "Open to help from the church..." section, please mark any you see as a current, unmet need/challenge in your life you are open to your church coming alongside you and others like you, to offer help. (Mark all that apply).

When the statements were inverted to reflect a "less than blessed" statement... and then named "current, unmet needs, WHOM indicated their receptiveness from the church with the need?



Most pressing need--as a parent

What if your blessings come through rain drops? What if trials of this life — the rain, the storms, the hardest nights — are your mercies in disguise?

Click the "GO BACK" tab at the bottom of the page and review the unfulfilled needs you checked in the previous section. From those items which ONE is most pressing in your life today? Once decided, click the "CONTINUE" tab--and mark it in the drop down box.

From the "most pressing unfulfilled needs" you marked, which ONE which is the greatest concern in your life today?

Priority, and urgency are often best reflected when just ONE current, unmet need is identified.

If I could only choose ONE current, unmet Parental need, it would be..."

I feel less than confident and equipped to help my child(ren) develop a godly view of human sexuality and life in families.

I feel less than confident/struggle to help my child(ren) grow spiritually (developing a child's character, identity, and morality) beginning in my home.

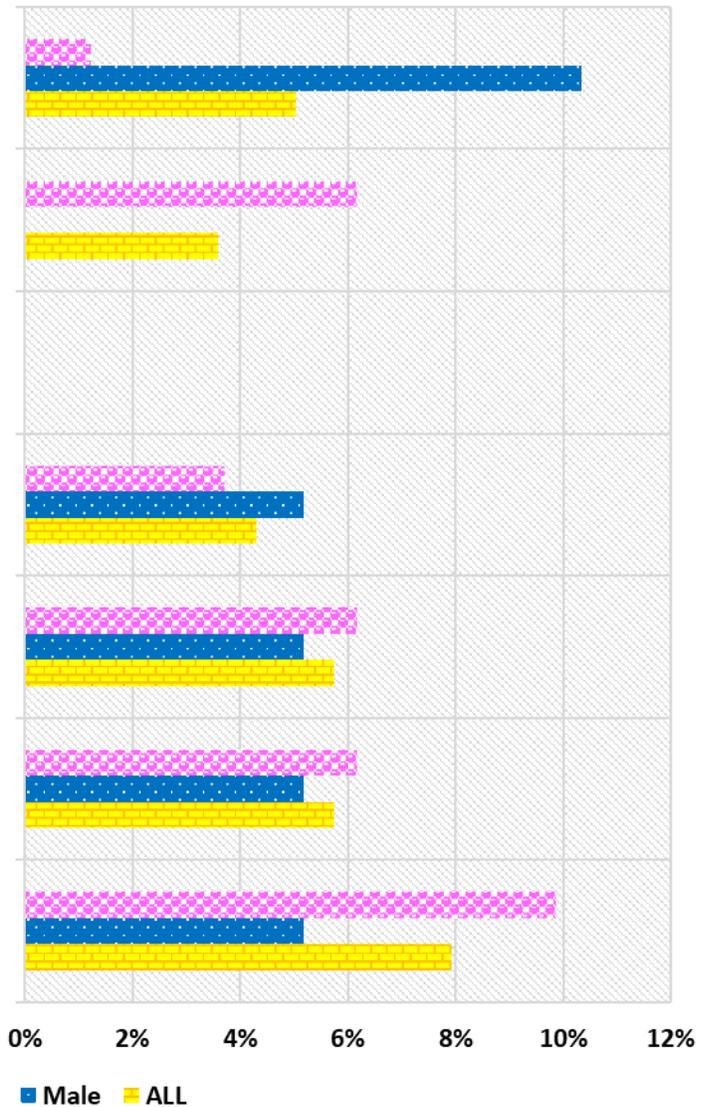
I feel less than confident/struggle in my efforts to help my child(ren) succeed in school.

I am less than confident/struggle in my approach to disciplining my child(ren) in an age-appropriate fashion.

I at times/most times struggle with my need to continue to develop and improve family communications and conflict resolutions--especially after the pre-teen years arrive.

I feel less than confident/struggle about releasing and moving my child(ren) toward adult independence and relating to them as an adult child(ren).

I feel less than confident and equipped to help my child(ren) develop a godly view of human sexuality and life in families.



HomeLifeProfile																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	Total
Segment Assignment		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305
	Percentage	5%	5%	1%	19%	2%	19%	1%	3%	0%	3%	14%	2%	20%	6%	100%
I am "blessed" 25-31 as a parent																
ble25	I know I need to continue to develop and sharpen my parenting skills as my child(ren) changes before my eyes.	0%	0%	0%	85%	43%	75%	25%	10%	0%	11%	36%	40%	0%	0%	
ble26	I feel good about releasing and moving my child(ren) toward adult independence and relating to them as an adult child(ren).	0%	0%	0%	46%	14%	42%	0%	0%	0%	22%	34%	40%	0%	0%	
ble27	I know I need to continue to develop and improve family communications and conflict resolutions--especially after the pre-teen years arrive.	0%	0%	0%	88%	43%	43%	25%	10%	0%	22%	30%	20%	0%	0%	
ble28	I am confident in my approach to disciplining my child(ren) in an age-appropriate fashion.	0%	0%	0%	47%	29%	44%	25%	10%	0%	11%	36%	20%	0%	0%	
ble29	I feel confident and capable in my efforts to help my child(ren) succeed in school.	0%	0%	0%	80%	14%	61%	25%	10%	0%	33%	41%	40%	0%	0%	
ble30	I feel capable and equipped to help my child(ren) grow spiritually (developing a child's character, identity, and morality) beginning in my home.	0%	0%	0%	64%	0%	44%	0%	10%	0%	22%	34%	40%	0%	0%	
ble31	I feel confident and equipped to help my child(ren) develop a godly view of human sexuality and family vision.	0%	0%	0%	56%	0%	46%	0%	10%	0%	11%	36%	40%	0%	0%	
Needs: Living in a "less than blessed"25-31 manner																
nee25	I at times/most times struggle with my need to continue to develop and sharpen my parenting skills as my child(ren) changes before my eyes.	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	22%	7%	0%	0%	0%	
nee26	I feel less than confident/struggle about releasing and moving my child(ren) toward adult independence and relating to them as an adult child(ren).	0%	0%	0%	42%	29%	37%	25%	10%	0%	11%	11%	0%	0%	0%	
nee7	I at times/most times struggle with my need to continue to develop and improve family communications and conflict resolutions--especially after the pre-teen years arrive.	0%	0%	0%	63%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	11%	16%	20%	0%	0%	
nee28	I am less than confident/struggle in my approach to disciplining my child(ren) in an age-appropriate fashion.	0%	0%	0%	44%	14%	36%	0%	0%	0%	22%	9%	20%	0%	0%	
nee29	I feel less than confident/struggle in my efforts to help my child(ren) succeed in school.	0%	0%	0%	12%	29%	19%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	
nee30	I feel less than confident/struggle to help my child(ren) grow spiritually (developing a child's character, identity, and morality) beginning in my home.	0%	11%	0%	27%	29%	34%	25%	0%	0%	11%	11%	0%	0%	0%	
nee31	I feel less than confident and equipped to help my child(ren) develop a godly view of human sexuality and life in families.	0%	0%	0%	34%	14%	32%	25%	0%	0%	22%	9%	0%	0%	0%	

HomeLifeProfile

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
N= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
Segment Assignment		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305

"Less than blessed" 25-31 and open to Church Help																
chhelp25	I at times/most times struggle with my need to continue to develop and sharpen my parenting skills as my child(ren) changes before my eyes.	0%	0%	0%	42%	29%	29%	25%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	n=	0	0	0	25	2	17	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
chhelp6	I feel less than confident/struggle about releasing and moving my child(ren) toward adult independence and relating to them as an adult child(ren).	0%	0%	0%	34%	29%	24%	25%	0%	0%	0%	5%	20%	0%	0%	0%
	n=	0	0	0	20	2	14	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
chhelp27	I at times/most times struggle with my need to continue to develop and improve family communications and conflict resolutions--especially after the pre-teen years arrive.	0%	0%	0%	31%	14%	37%	25%	0%	0%	0%	11%	20%	0%	0%	0%
	n=	0	0	0	18	1	22	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0
chhelp28	I am less than confident/struggle in my approach to disciplining my child(ren) in an age-appropriate fashion.	0%	0%	0%	19%	29%	24%	25%	0%	0%	11%	2%	20%	0%	0%	0%
	n=	0	0	0	11	2	14	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
chhelp29	I feel less than confident/struggle in my efforts to help my child(ren) succeed in school.	0%	0%	0%	3%	14%	5%	25%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	n=	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
chhelp30	I feel less than confident/struggle to help my child(ren) grow spiritually (developing a child's character, identity, and morality) beginning in my home.	0%	0%	0%	25%	14%	20%	25%	0%	0%	11%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	n=	0	0	0	15	1	12	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
chhelp31	I feel less than confident and equipped to help my child(ren) develop a godly view of human sexuality and life in families.	0%	0%	0%	24%	14%	25%	25%	0%	0%	11%	14%	20%	0%	0%	0%
	n=	0	0	0	14	1	15	1	0	0	1	6	1	0	0	0

HomeLifeProfile

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
n= 305		Young Single	Yng Mrd no kids	Yng Sgl Agn no kids	Yng Mrd w/kids	Yng Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid, Mrd w/ kids	Mid Age Single no kids	Mid Mrd no /kids	Mid Sgl/ Agn no kids	Mid Age Sgl/S Agn w/kids	Mid Married child(ren) Launched	Mid Sgl/S Agn w/ child(ren) launched	Older Married	Older Unmarried	
Segment Assignment		15	14	2	59	7	59	4	10	0	9	44	5	60	17	305
If only one... 25-31 "As a parent"																
Urgent25	I at times/most times struggle with my need to continue to develop and sharpen my parenting skills as my child(ren) changes before my eyes.	0%	0%	0%	20%	29%	10%	25%	0%	0%	0%	2%	20%	0%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	12	2	6	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	
Urgent26	I feel less than confident/struggle about releasing and moving my child(ren) toward adult independence and relating to them as an adult child(ren).	0%	0%	0%	15%	0%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	9	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Urgent27	I at times/most times struggle with my need to continue to develop and improve family communications and conflict resolutions--especially after the pre-teen years arrive.	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	22%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	6	0	13	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	
Urgent28	I am less than confident/struggle in my approach to disciplining my child(ren) in an age-appropriate fashion.	0%	0%	0%	5%	14%	10%	0%	0%	0%	11%	5%	0%	0%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	
Urgent29	I feel less than confident/struggle in my efforts to help my child(ren) succeed in school.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Urgent30	I feel less than confident/struggle to help my child(ren) grow spiritually (developing a child's character, identity, and morality) beginning in my home.	0%	0%	0%	17%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	10	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	
Urgent31	I feel less than confident and equipped to help my child(ren) develop a godly view of human sexuality and life in families.	0%	0%	0%	8%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	
	n=	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	

4--“To live in the Presence (or absence) of Children...” worksheet

Let’s pause for a moment and reflect on what you’ve discovered with all the views, in mind.

“I feel blessed...”

Which of the issues of **Parent life** do people feel most blessed?

Are there any differences by Gender? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

Does this differ by **HomeLifeProfile**? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

“I feel less than blessed...”

Which of the issues of **Parent life** do people feel less than blessed?

Are there any differences by Gender? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

Does this differ by **HomeLifeProfile**? If so, surrounding which areas of life?

“Openness to Church Help with current, unmet needs in my life”

With which issues do you see a significant (and sometimes a greater) percentage of those with a need receptive to the church coming alongside them to overcome their need?

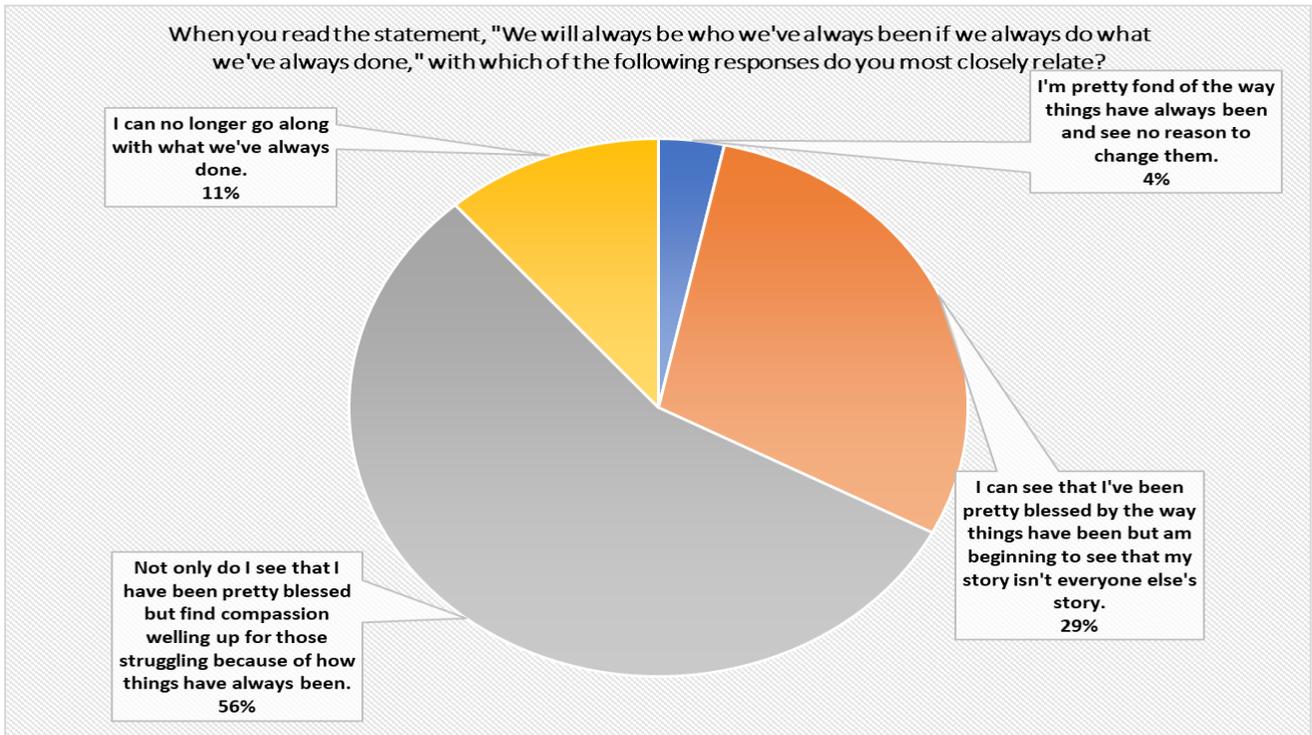
By contrast, with which issues do you see a reluctance, that is a small (and sometimes lesser) percentage of those with a need receptive to the church coming alongside—almost a resistance to engage their needs?

Urgency: “If I can only choose one...”

With whom—about what, do you see the greatest sense of urgency of living “less than blessed?”

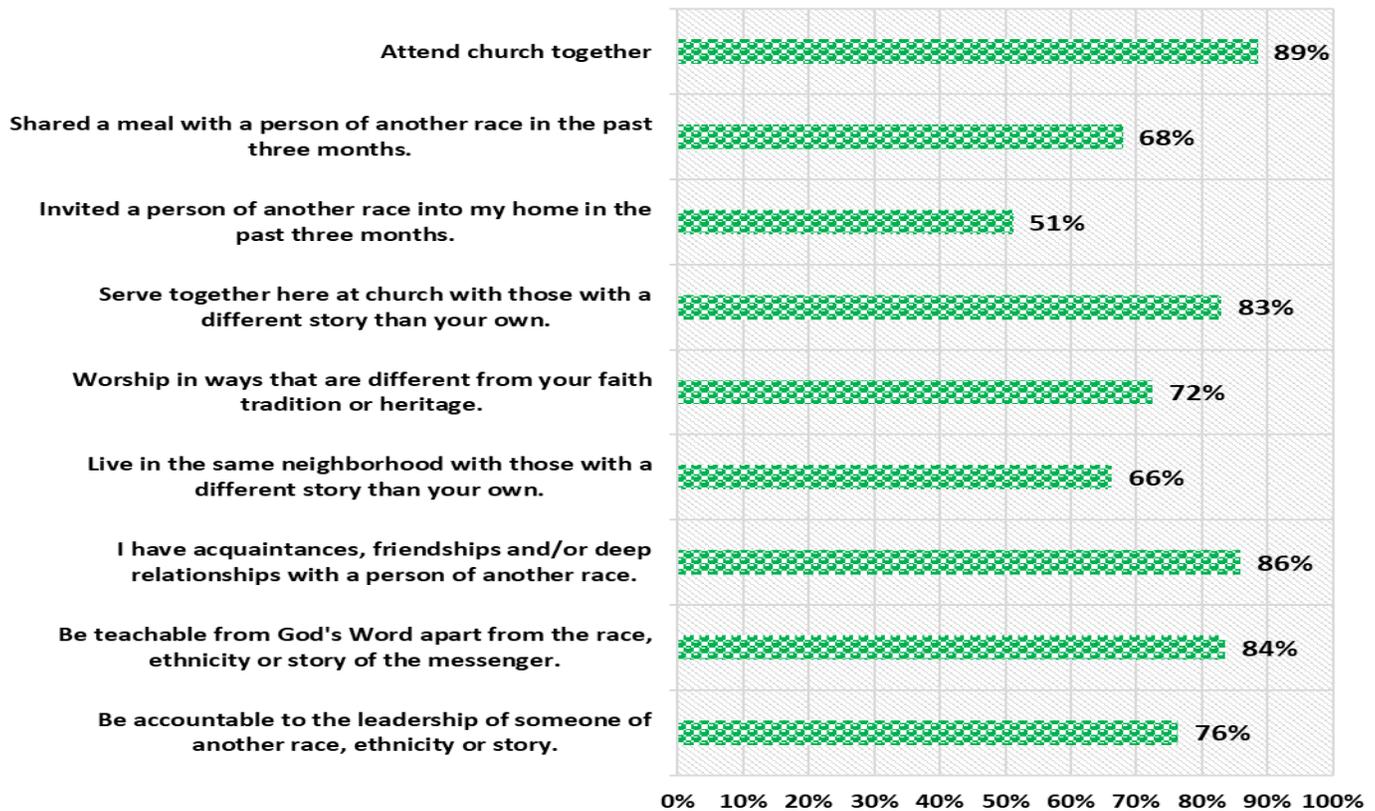
5-As a Church...

The Faith & Life Survey opens the door for the church to ask up to four questions related to past or current ministry interests and are completed as the final section of the survey process.



When you read the statement, "We will always be who we've always been if we always do what we've always done," with which						
		I'm pretty fond of the way things have always been and see no reason to change them.	I can see that I've been pretty blessed by the way things have been but am beginning to see that my story isn't everyone else's story.	Not only do I see that I have been pretty blessed but find compassion welling up for those struggling because of how things have always been.	I can no longer go along with what we've always done.	
Male	1	5	39	56	10	110
Female	3	4	38	91	20	153
		9	77	147	30	263
Male		5%	35%	51%	9%	100%
Female		3%	25%	59%	13%	100%

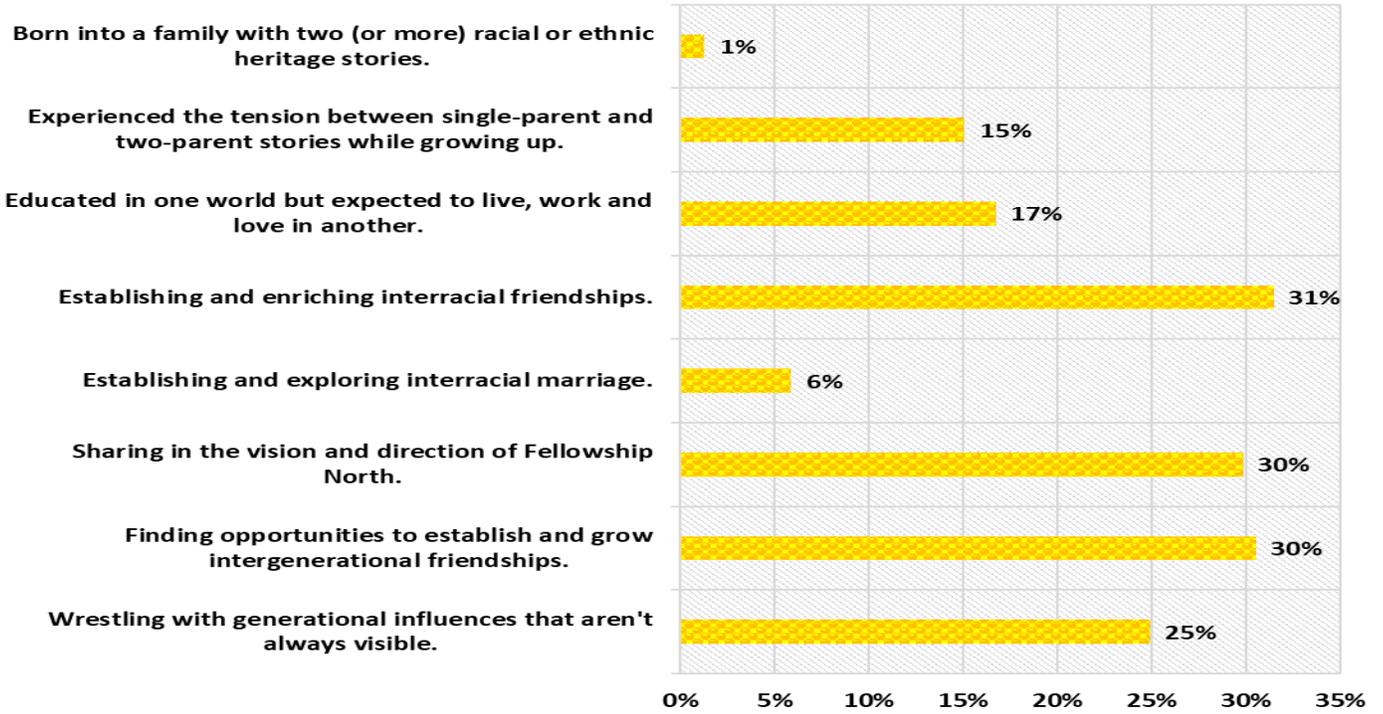
Several years ago Fellowship North began a process to change how things had always been done in order to notice and relate to each other as the Gospel instructs us. "Racial unity as you understand it means: (Mark all that apply)



Several years ago Fellowship North began a process to change how things had always been done in order to notice and relate to each other as the Gospel instructs us. "Racial unity as you understand it means: (Mark all that apply)

Be accountable to the leadership of someone of another race, ethnicity or story.	Be teachable from God's Word apart from the race, ethnicity or story of the messenger.	I have acquaintances, friendships and/or deep relationships with a person of another race.	Live in the same neighborhood with those with a different story than your own.	Worship in ways that are different from your faith tradition or heritage.	Serve together here at church with those with a different story than your own.	Invited a person of another race into my home in the past three months.	Shared a meal with a person of another race in the past three months.	Attend church together		
76%	84%	86%	66%	72%	83%	51%	68%	89%		
233	255	262	202	221	253	156	207	270	305	
72	50	43	103	84	52	149	98	35		

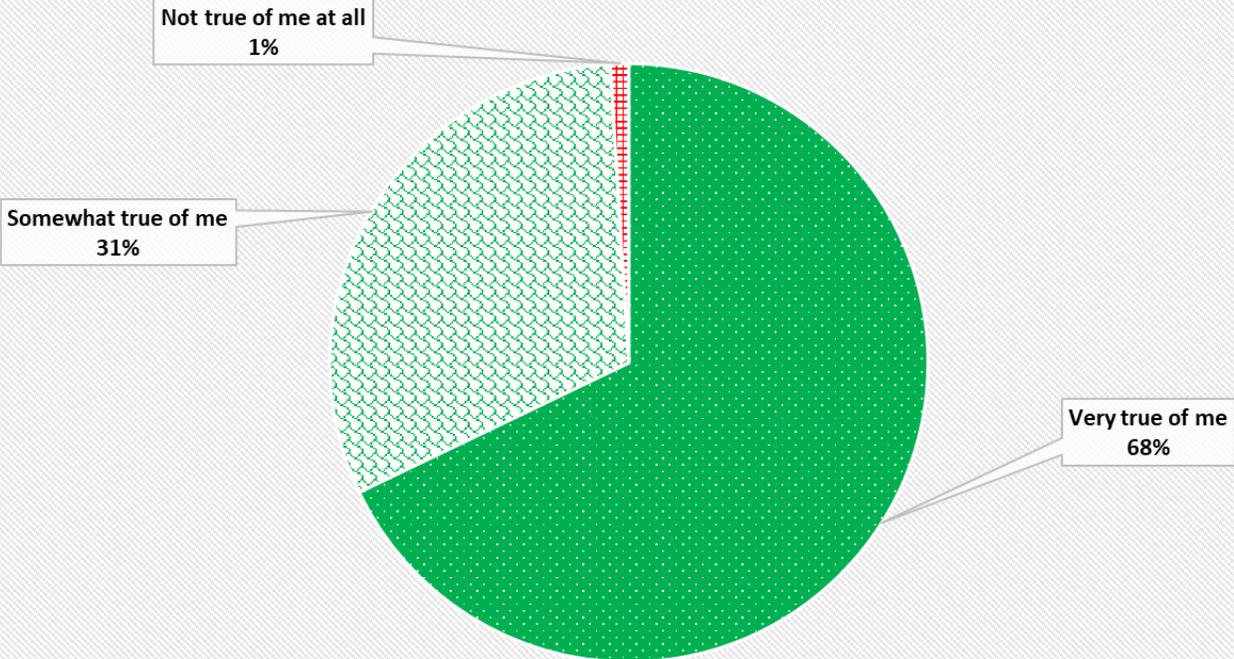
One form of being blessed is to put together a jig saw puzzle with a picture on the cover that matches all of your pieces. In which of the following (if any) of the following areas in your life story do you (or did in the recent past) feel as though you were working with two or more puzzle box covers and feeling some distress?



One form of being blessed is to put together a jig saw puzzle with a picture on the cover that matches all of your pieces. In which of the following (if any) of the following areas in your life story do you (or did in the recent past) feel as though you were working with two or more puzzle box covers and feeling some distress?

Wrestling with generational influences that aren't always visible.	Finding opportunities to establish and grow intergenerational friendships.	Sharing in the vision and direction of Fellowship North.	Establishing and exploring interracial marriage.	Establishing and enriching interracial friendships.	Educated in one world but expected to live, work and love in another.	Experienced the tension between single-parent and two-parent stories while growing up.	Born into a family with two (or more) racial or ethnic heritage stories.		
25%	30%	30%	6%	31%	17%	15%	1%		
76	93	91	18	96	51	46	4		305

If asked and honest with myself, my response to the statement, "I have a biblical understanding of racial unity and reconciliation", would be:



If asked and honest with myself, my response to the statement, "I have a biblical understanding of racial unity and reconciliation", would be:				
	Very true of me	Somewhat true of me	Not true of me at all	
	68%	31%	1%	
	205	94	3	302

Appendix A

Please share your (up to three) "single advantages" (limited to 400 characters) of being single (in any order) in the text box provided.	Experienced death of spouse	Experienced divorce from spouse
	7	42
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - i can be more free to pursue Christ, without also pursuing my spouse - i can make decisions without compromising with someone else in regards to my home, money, - i can help others more often 	0	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I don't have to reach agreement when I decide what I'm doing. Obviously, this pertains to all areas of my life (finances, children, volunteering, vacation locations, where to eat out...). 	0	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -financial independence -no filtering your plans through another person's schedule, thoughts and emotions - you can travel anywhere anytime 	0	1
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I get to make my own choices without fear of stepping on someone else emotions 2. Not having to worry about being hurt or ridiculed in an unhealthy relationship 	0	1
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowing at the end of the day there aren't any "surprises," for example: no unexpected money spent no messes in the house. Everything is the same way it was left. 2. Being able to choose my own path in life, completely change my circumstances if I want 	0	1
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My willingness to encourage other singles and share the ways God has shown me His love in my singleness - particularly how I went from a place of great discontent to a place of truly trusting Him, with hope, come what may. 2. My perspective on ways that impact my life 	0	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ability to do what you want when you want. Ability to Move to a new city or new job when you want All your finances go towards what you want 	0	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a long time caregiver for my spouse, children, and parent, I am experiencing the freedom to care for myself. I have the freedom to say NO I am experiencing independence. 	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being single is life with a lot less pressure and negative arguments, hurt feelings. My health has improved since being single. There are advantages to being single, less money issues. Decisions are made easier, I have slower peaceful lifestyle. 	0	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can do whatever you want whenever you want to. Sometimes you can be more financially secure without having to help support another person. 	0	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't have to do something because someone else requires me to do it. I can decide how to spend my outside time as led. Don't have to worry about money disappearing because of gambling. 	0	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earlier in my life I would have said there is "single advantage". However, at age 58 1/2, I'm not too sure that I feel that way any longer. I find myself regretful in moving towards the end of this life alone, without a partner. I find it disappointing 	0	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat what you want. When you want 	1	0

Free to serve and not feel like I am neglecting a spouse Don't have to cook if I don't want to	0	1
freedom from arguments free to travel free from dis-respect	0	1
Freedom from having to cave-in to my spouse's wants/needs. No in-laws. Privacy.	0	1
Freedom of mobility Financial freedom Open future	0	1
I AM ABLE TO VOLUNTEER MORE.	0	1
I am only 18. I am focused on school and if I were in a relationship I feel that I would be focused on many things at once which is very difficult at the time being. I want a relationship, but I am focused on school and graduating. Then finding a job so that I can provide for myself should things not work out.	0	1
I am planning on getting married within the next year. One advantage to being single is that I feel like I have more freedom to do what I want. Secondly, I have less responsibility and third is that I have more time to myself.	0	1
I am safe. I have a peaceful home life.	0	1
I can come and go when I please without factoring in someone else. No other commitments to tie me down other than my own.	0	1
I can do things for myself without worrying about my spouse needing me Use of my time as I choose TV rarely on	1	0
I don't feel it's an advantage	1	0
I don't have to ask permission or compromise in a lot of areas.	0	1
I don't like being single, and I don't see an advantage.	0	1
I don't have to answer to anyone but God;	0	1
i don't know	0	1
I have more time to focus on God and the things He has purposed in my life. I have more peace. There is more time to help others	0	1
I miss my husband terribly and not thinking about being single or anything else but getting past the pain.	1	0
I'm on my own time schedule. I don't have to worry about doing or keeping things around the house a certain way. I don't have to meet my former spouses expectations of me.	0	1
It's a relief not to see my husband losing so much to Alzheimer's. I had felt so helpless to deal with this illness. I missed him so terribly at first, till I realized he had been losing so much of his personality to dementia.	1	0
Less Drama in your life ... Less stress in your life Less responsibilities	0	1
Making decisions without having to consult another Alone time	0	1
More financial opportunities Ability to have multiple partners and date casually Explore the world and live wherever without feeling bound to a partner	0	1

More time for God Making choices for me	0	1
my time is my own don't have to worry about making spouse happy	0	1
My time is my own. I have no one to answer to. I get to choose how I spend my time, Hunting, Fishing	0	1
N/A	0	1
Na	0	1
no thoughts regarding this question	0	1
NONE	1	0
Not having to worry about what your partner thinks when you follow God's will in your life.	0	1
Out of a bad marriage.	0	1
The advantage in being single is having the ability to devote more time to causes or events to which access would otherwise be limited because of devotion to family life.	0	1
There are some advantages: focus on the Lord, devotion to ministry, and devotion to self.	0	1
time is my own decisions are my own	0	1
Totally able to focus on God	0	1
you have the freedom to do what you want to do without feeling guilty you can spend your money on what you want	0	1