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Faith Leadership in a Divided Culture

The Religious Freedom Debates–and Why They Matter to All of Us

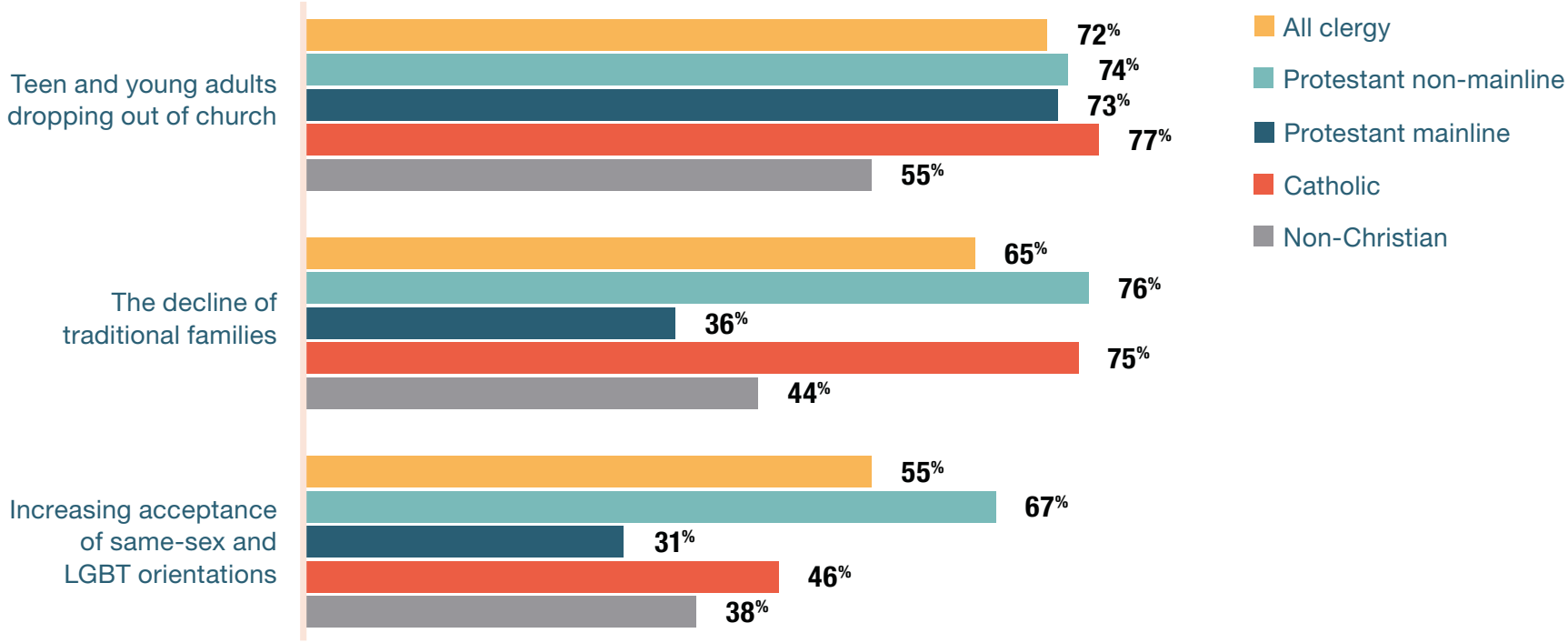
For more information about this study and to see the complete findings, check out our 2019 report:

Faith Leadership in a Divided Culture

The full report is available at **shop.barna.com** or through Barna Access membership.

Issues that Will Affect My Ability to Minister in the Next Decade Part 1

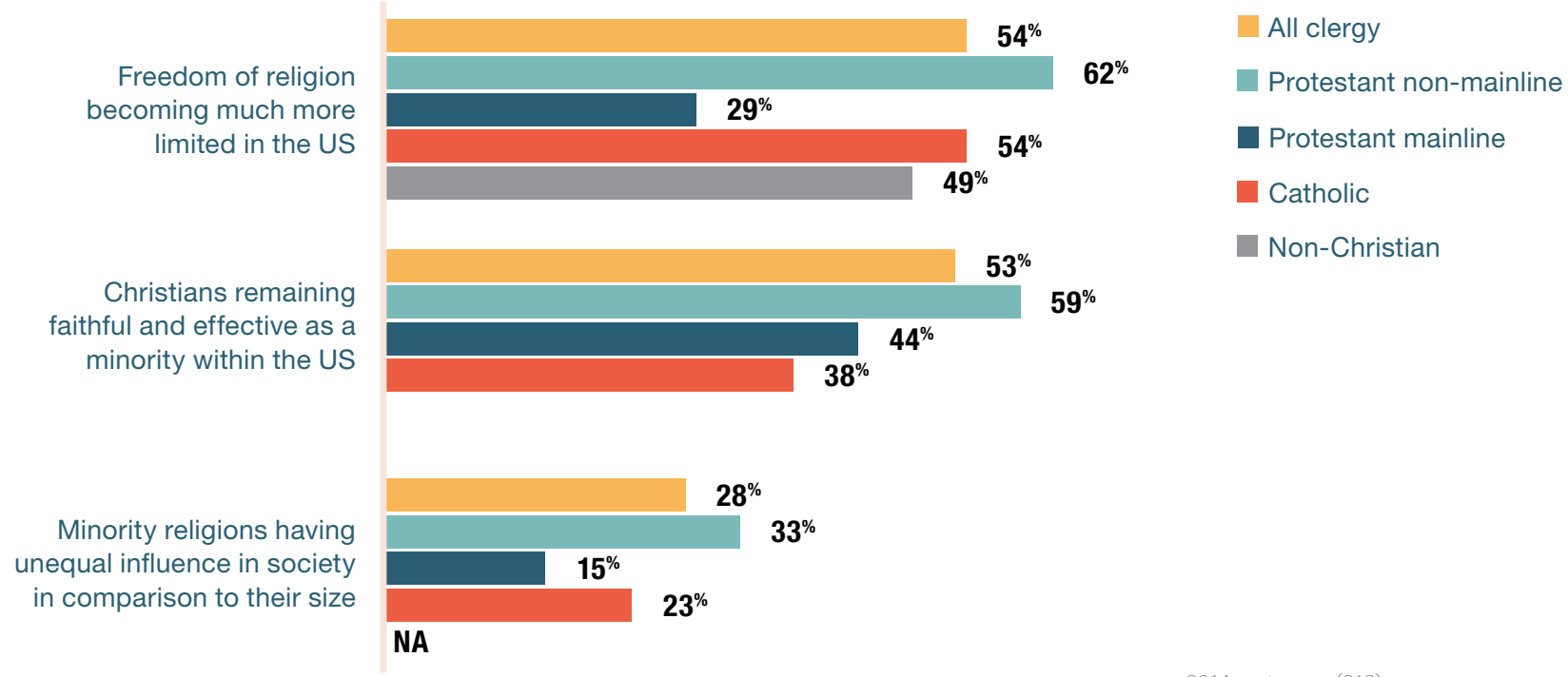
% "very concerned" among US faith leaders



2014 pastors, *n*=(812)

Issues that Will Affect My Ability to Minister in the Next Decade Part 2

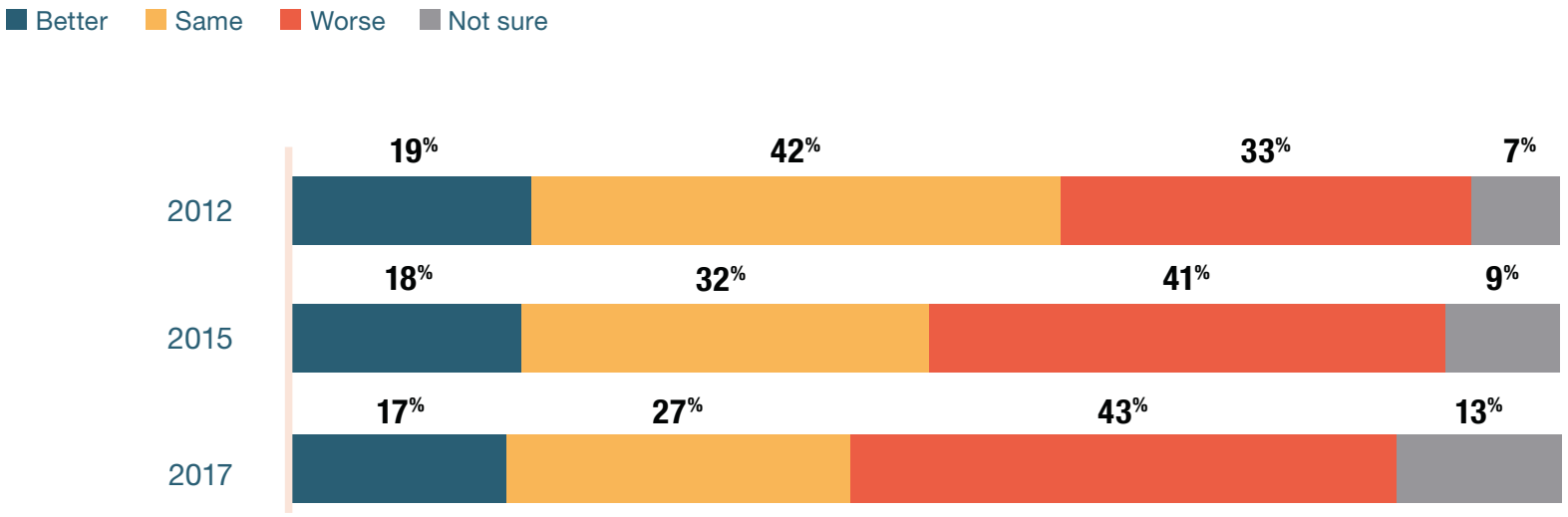
% "very concerned" among US faith leaders



2014 pastors, *n*=(812)

US Adults on the Trajectory of Religious Freedom

"Compared to 10 years ago, religious freedom is..."



Gen pop: 2012 (*n*=1,008), 2015 (*n*=1,200), 2017 (*n*=1,019)

To speak or not to speak?

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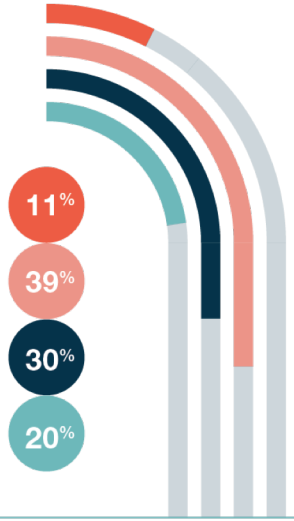
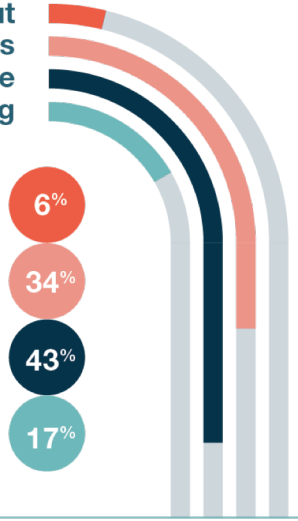
Frequently Occasionally Rarely Never

I feel limited in my ability to speak out on moral and social issues because people will take offense



I feel pressure to speak out on moral and social issues I'm not comfortable discussing



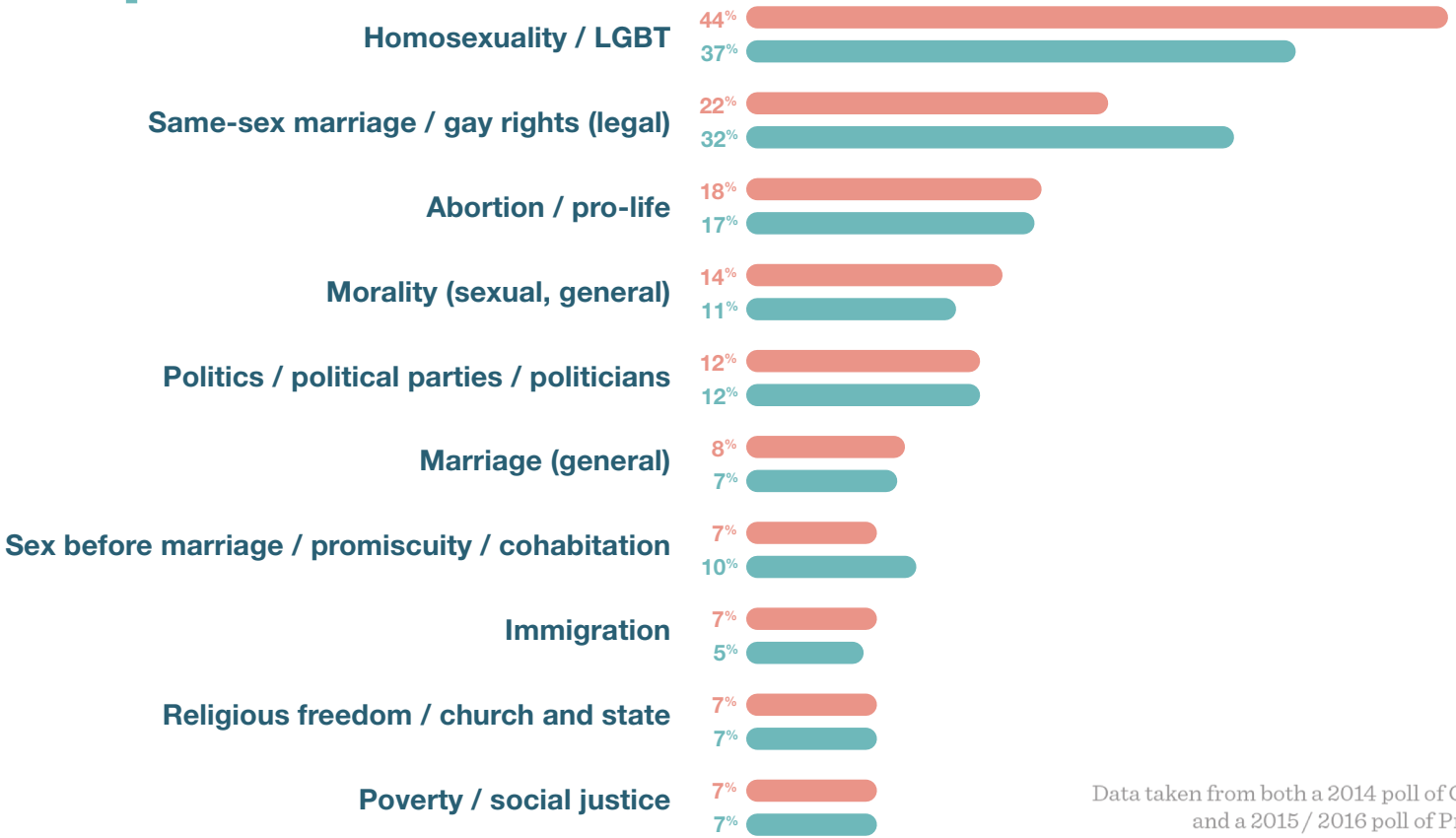
Clergy who say these limitations and pressures come from people inside (not outside) their church

LIMITATIONS
64%

PRESSURES
69%

Data taken from both a 2014 poll of Christian clergy (n=1,608) and a 2015 / 2016 poll of Protestant pastors (n=513).

On which issues do you feel limited or pressured?



Data taken from both a 2014 poll of Christian clergy (n=1,608) and a 2015 / 2016 poll of Protestant pastors (n=513).

How to Understand Religion in the US Today

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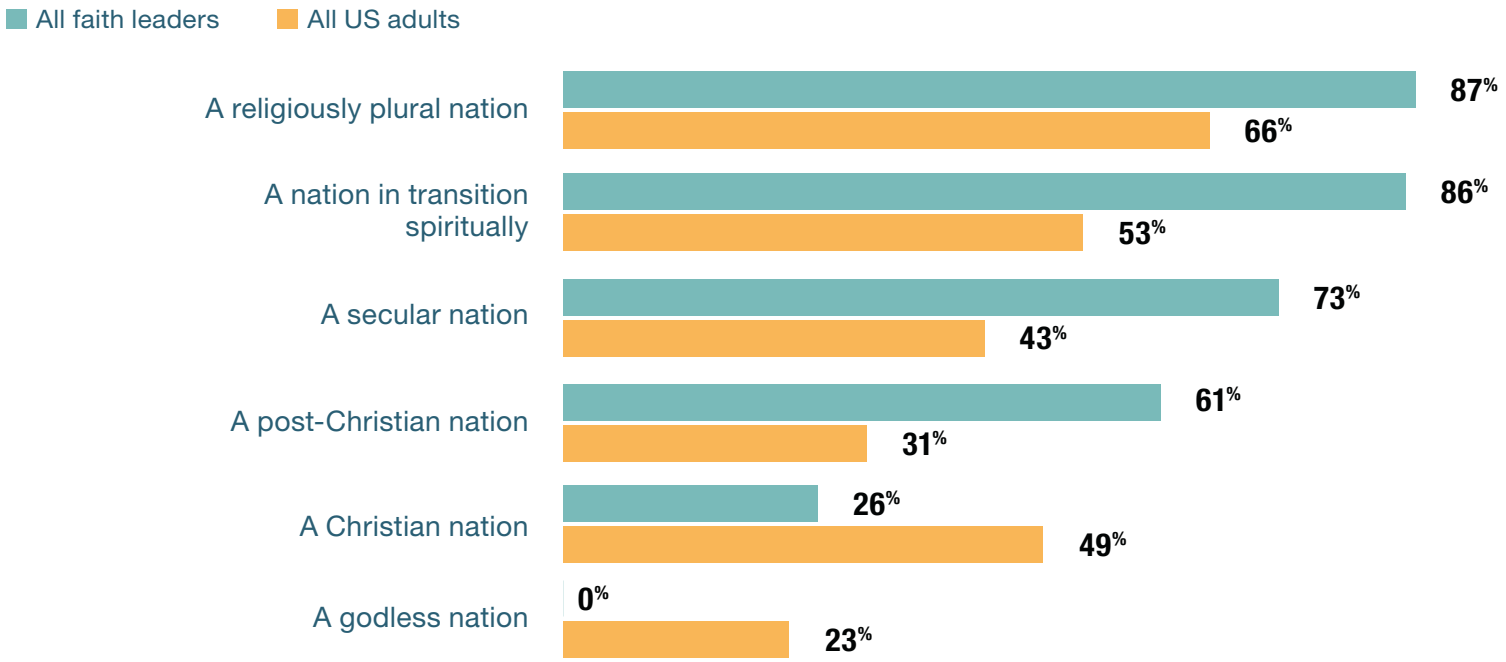
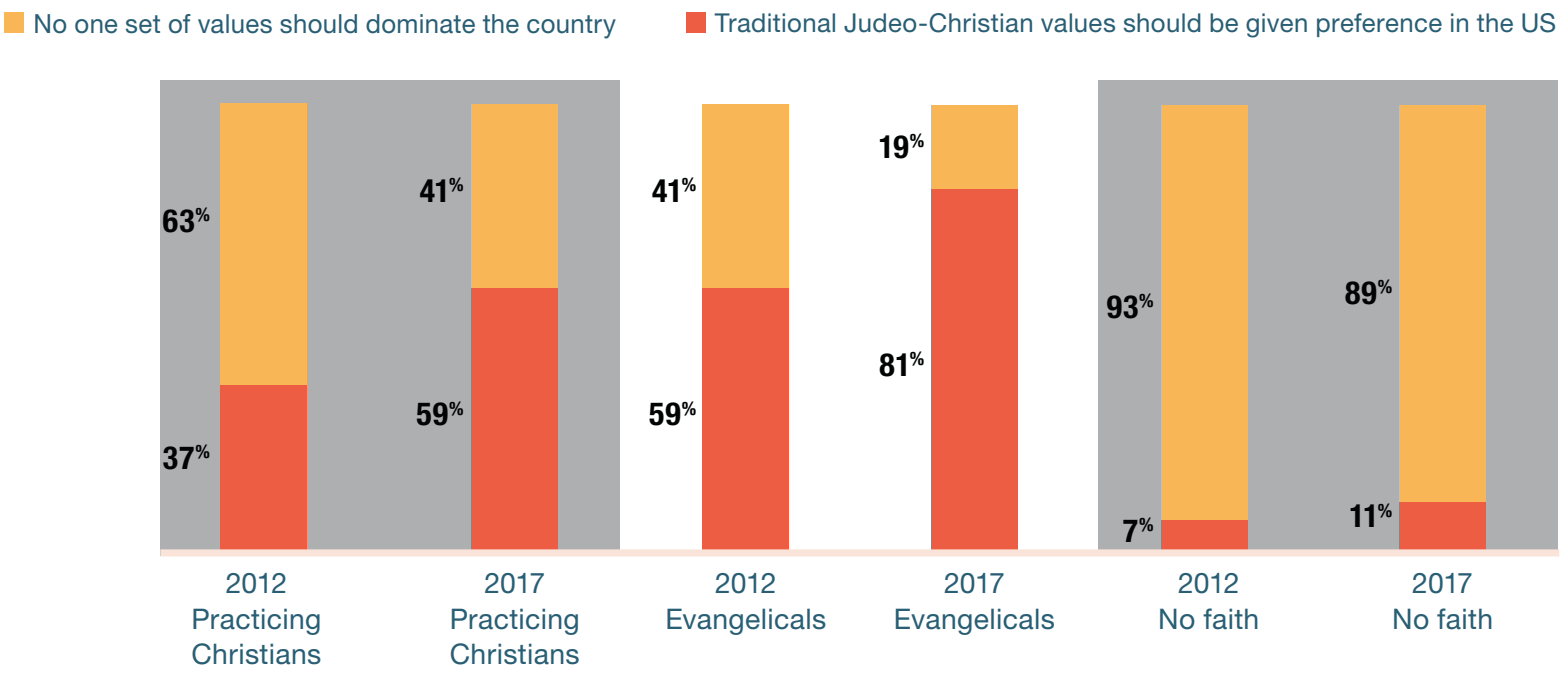
% among US faith leaders and US adults 18 and older



Good Faith: 2015 US Adults (*n*=1,000) + 2014 Clergy (*n*=1,608)

US Adults' Preferred Standard of Moral Values, 2012 to 2017

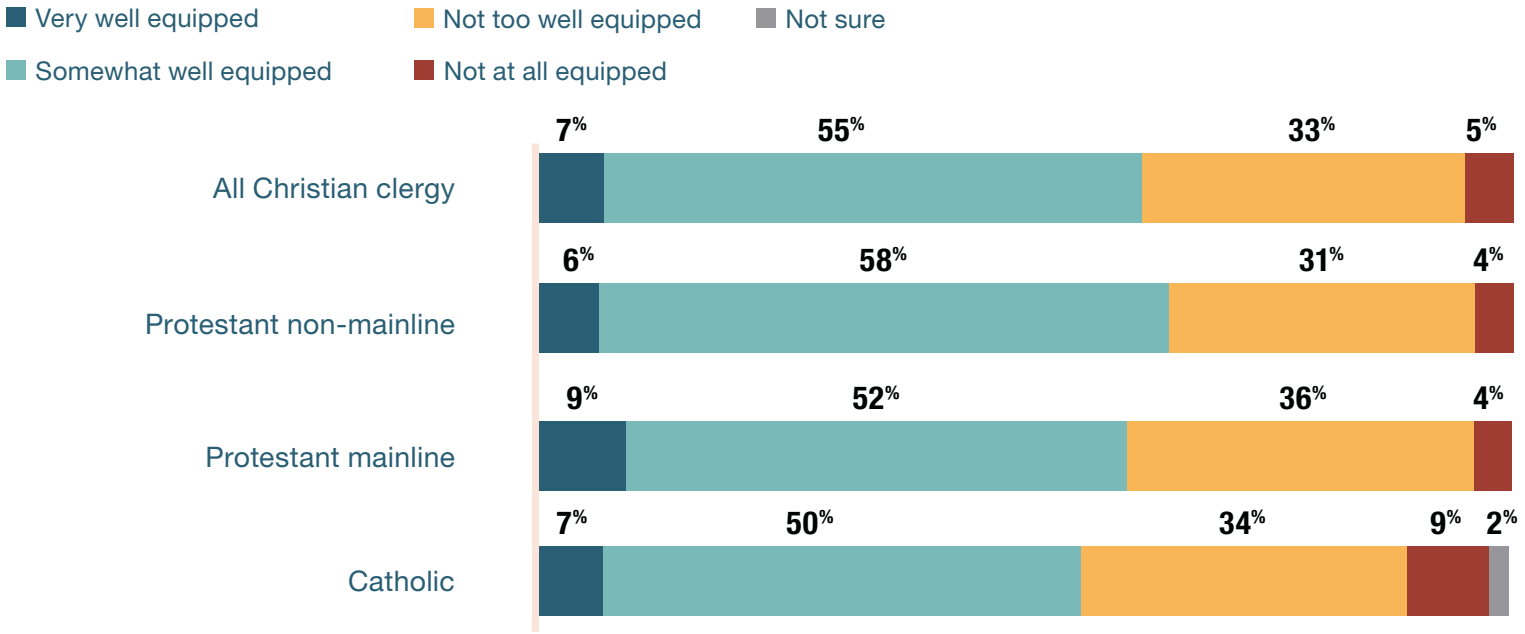
% among US adults



US Adults: 2012 (*n*=1,008), 2015 (*n*=1,000), 2017 (*n*=1,019)

How Equipped Congregants Are Now to Engage Constructively

% among Christian clergy



2015 / 16 pastors, (n=603)

How Prepared Faith Leaders Feel to Address Questions of Same-sex Marriage and LGBT Issues

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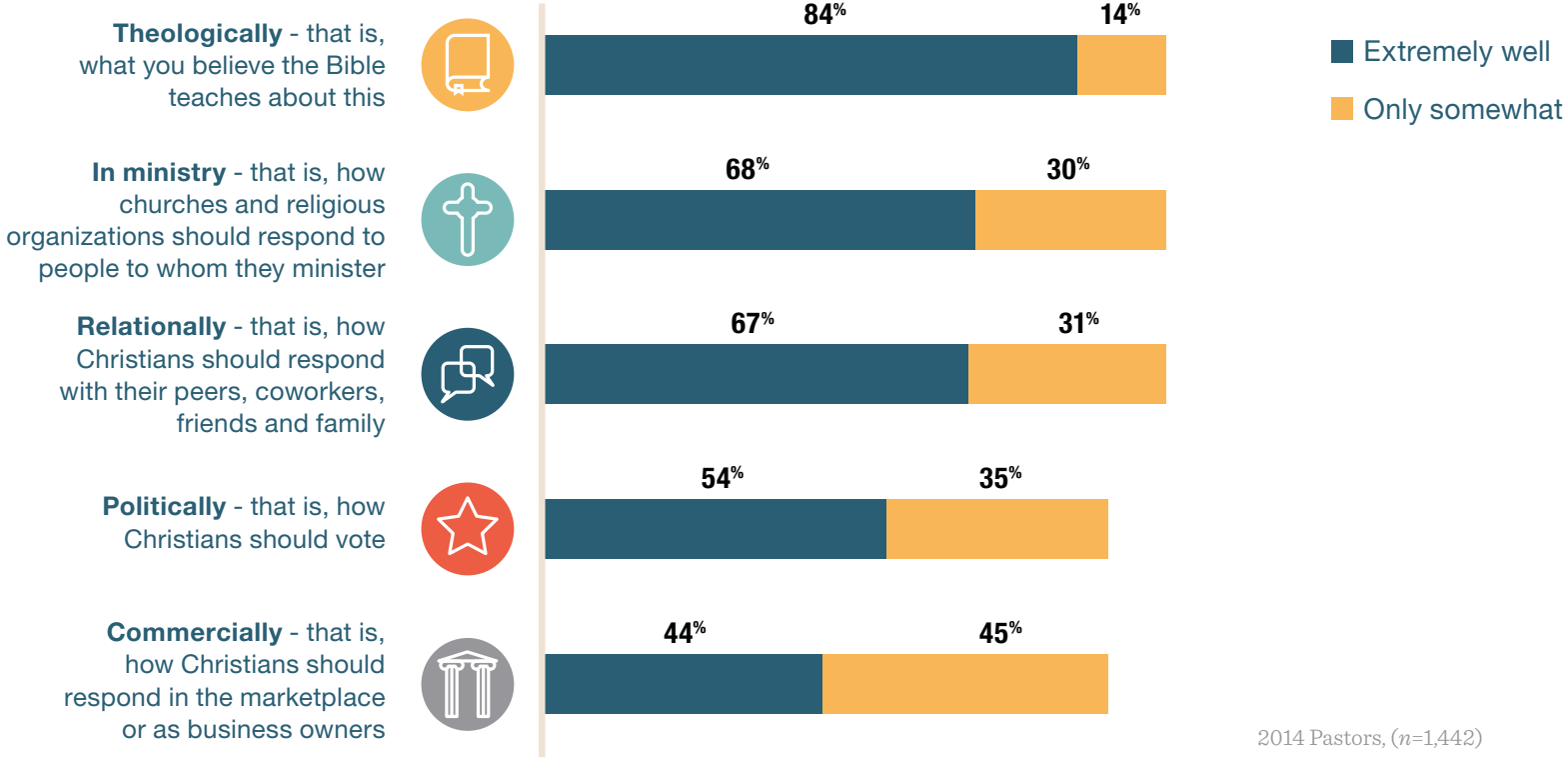
% among Christian clergy



2014 Pastors, (n=1,442)

Five Lenses

- **Theology:** What do God's word and the church's wisdom reveal about this?

- **Ministry:** What is the proper pastoral response to people living in a fallen world?

- **Relationships:** How should I engage friends and neighbors with whom I disagree?

- **Politics:** What government policies, however imperfect, best empower human flourishing?

- **Public Square:** What is the appropriate relationship between personal conviction and day-to-day interactions with those who hold different beliefs?

About The Project Partners

Barna Group is a research firm dedicated to providing actionable insights on faith and culture, with a particular focus on the Christian church.

www.Barna.com

For 75 years, **The Maclellan Foundation** has been making financial investments to help Christians thrive, both in the US and around the world.

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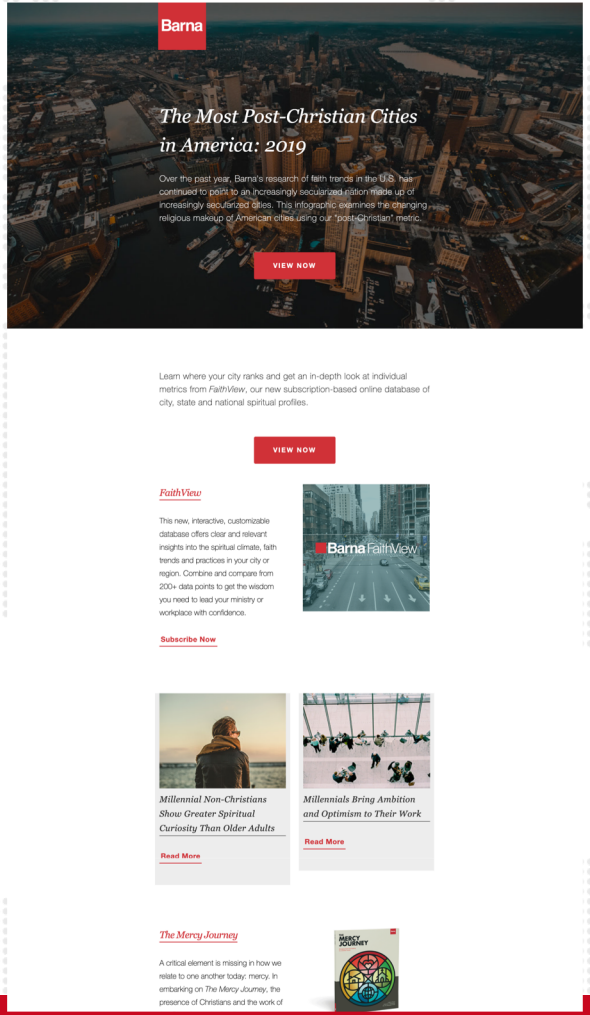

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