

News and Current Events :: Brokenhearted, i read this: "The fastest growing "religious" group in America is

Brokenhearted, i read this: "The fastest growing "religious" group in America is...", on: 2012/10/9 8:31

(note, the word, "religion" is not THE Word, THE LOGOS, but yet, reading this article, and if you go the original article link, you will see a picture, that just makes one grieve in broken hearted anguish, over a people so lost, just awaiting the terrible judgement to come)

Survey: One in five Americans has no religion
By Dan Merica, CNN

Washington (CNN) — The fastest growing "religious" group in America is made up of people with no religion at all, according to a Pew survey showing that one in five Americans is not affiliated with any religion.

The number of these Americans has grown by 25% just in the past five years, according to a survey released Thursday by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

The survey found that the ranks of the unaffiliated are growing even faster among younger Americans.

Thirty-three million Americans now have no religious affiliation, with 13 million in that group identifying as either atheist or agnostic, according to the new survey.

Pew found that those who are religiously unaffiliated are strikingly less religious than the public at large. They attend church infrequently, if at all, are largely not seeking out religion and say that the lack of it in their lives is of little importance.

And yet Pew found that 68% of the religiously unaffiliated say they believe in God, while 37% describe themselves as "spiritual" but not "religious." One in five said that they even pray every day.

John Green, a senior research adviser at Pew, breaks the religiously unaffiliated into three groups. First, he says, are those who were raised totally outside organized religion.

Second are groups of people who were unhappy with their religions and left.

The third group, Green says, comprises Americans who were never really engaged with religion in the first place, even though they were raised in religious households.

"In the past, we would describe those people as nominally affiliated. They might say, 'I am Catholic; I am a Baptist,' but they never went" to services, Green says of this last group. "Now, they feel a lot more comfortable just saying, 'You know, I am really nothing.'"

According to the poll, 88% of religiously unaffiliated people are not looking for religion.

"There is much less of a stigma attached" to not being religious, Green said. "Part of what is fueling this growth is that a lot of people who were never very religious now feel comfortable saying that they don't have an affiliation."

Demographically, the growth among the religiously unaffiliated has been most notable among people who are 18 to 29 years old.

According to the poll, 34% of "younger millennials" - those born between 1990 and 1994 - are religiously unaffiliated. Among "older millennials," born between 1981 and 1989, 30% are religiously unaffiliated: 4 percentage points higher than in 2007.

Poll respondents 18-29 were also more likely to identify as atheist or agnostic. Nearly 42% religious unaffiliated people from that age group identified as atheist or agnostic, a number far greater than the number who identified as Christian (18% of Catholic (18%).

Green says that these numbers are “part of a broader change in American society.”

“The unaffiliated have become a more distinct group,” he said.

Pew's numbers were met with elation among atheist and secular leaders. Jesse Galef, communications director for the Secular Student Alliance, said that the growth of the unaffiliated should translate into greater political representation for secular interests.

“We would love to see the political leaders lead on this issue, but we are perfectly content with them following these demographic trends, following the voters,” Galef said.

“As more of the voters are unaffiliated and identifying as atheist and agnostics, I think the politicians will follow that for votes.

“We won’t be dismissed or ignored anymore,” Galef said.

The Pew survey suggested that the Democratic Party would do well to recognize the growth of the unaffiliated, since 63 % of them identify with or lean toward that political group. Only 26% of the unaffiliated do the same with the Republican Party.

“In the near future, if not this year, the unaffiliated voters will be as important as the traditionally religious are to the Republican Party coalition,” Green predicted.

Green points to the 2008 exit polls as evidence for that prediction. That year, Republican presidential nominee John McCain beat President Barack Obama by 47 points among white evangelical voters, while Obama had a 52-point margin of victory over McCain among the religiously unaffiliated.

According to exit polls, the proportion of religiously unaffiliated Americans who supported the Democratic presidential candidate grew 14 points from 2000 to 2008.

In announcing the survey’s findings at the Religion Newswriters Association conference in Bethesda, Maryland, Green said the growing political power of the unaffiliated within the Democratic Party could become similar to the power the Religious Right acquired in the GOP in the 1980s.

“Given the growing numbers of the unaffiliated, there is the potential that that could be harnessed,” he said.

http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2012/10/09/survey-one-in-five-americans-is-religiously-unaffiliated/?hpt=hp_c1

Re: Brokenhearted, i read this: "The fastest growing "religious" group - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/10/9 16:57

I will submit to you that the reasoning for this is because Science is ever increasing our knowledge of our environment. As a result it is teaching us that we are a product of evolution as far as why we are here.

Christians find it harder and harder to evangelize and win souls to Jesus because of the hardness of people's hearts and because they believe the bible is just a history book and that is it.

Christians are lacking in any power of the Holy Spirit but even if there were people who flowed in the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of intellectualism is moving through our land with such force that the heart becomes blinded through mental temptation and away from faith.

More and more people are being extremely hurt by religion and as time goes by their generations are staying away from it and the new atheists are arising to say that religions are the causes for more war than anything Atheism as ever done.

These are some of my observations and I move through my radio, podcasts and the internet. Some of this is a reason I struggle within myself as well.

John

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/10/9 18:02

hi, my whole point has been demonstrating love and joy in our witness to the lost, plus wisdom. if confronted with law, the lost has a choice between being able to smoke what they want, drink what they want, live like they want, sleep with who they want etc. or the law that we present. we must preach Jesus and Him crucified because He loves sinners. we must preach grace and mercy. we must allow the Holy Spirit move in the lives of those we minister to. we then must make sure that they are helped and encouraged and disciplined in kindness and mercy along the way. let us be about the fathers business avoiding smugness and phariseism. jimp

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2012/10/9 19:32

deadn: i think you are right. i see the investing secularization of our society and think all your reasons play into it. i don't know the solution. i hate to be sounding as if there is no hope, but i think we will see, in the coming years, a greater separation between light and dark. i pray the church awake and begin to walk in the power of the spirit. i think that the gray falling away is at hand and the distinction will grow. i also pray for a great harvest to come. win as many as possible.

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/10/9 19:39

May I also say that I notice a number of people who say they believe in God and will even share a favorite 'unconfrontational' verse to put a smile on your face and go skipping through the tulips but their lives never match anything close to something pointing to God. Thus they are seen as either hypocrites or just merely people who believe in God but that is the extent of it. Essentially there is no power for believing in God and there is more proof for the things found in Science for it uses the mind vs. God which used 'mindless' faith. This is part of the battle.

May I say that I see my first example on FB many times over.

John

Re: , on: 2012/10/9 20:33

There have been times past where God has looked down and no one except maybe two or three in a town believed. Sodom and Gomorah.

Also Israel has had its roller coaster ride as a nation where only one generation believed in general and the next generation did not. The God raised up prophets to call the people back and they came back etc.

This poll/article is of no consequence to us who believe God's Holy Word!.

God's Holy word, the Bible has already told us these things would happen and the solution to heal a generation for God!

Repent, and truly love God with ALL you have ALL the time.

Stop loving your life and caring about what people will think or say about you. Stop being ashamed of the Gospel and of Jesus. In your work place, in your town, Everywhere!!

I know that we can get discouraged just like Elijah. However....

I say this to encourage anyone to be bold as a lion in the face of seeming impossibilities.

Be revived and you will revive others!

Re: - posted by richrock, on: 2012/10/9 20:54

Hey deadn,

You obviously haven't seen my FB profile. My timeline has a quote by Paul Washer - "with one hand God is beckoning man, with the other he is holding back His wrath. Soon He will drop both hands."

I wonder my many (Christian) friends don't ever like my posts... Now I know! I'd rather post a provocation, something that makes you think, rather than those aforementioned 'happy' verses - not that there's anything wrong with those, but everyone posts them.

I break the mould there. Why do I post these things? Because I am a broken sinner before the presence of God, only able to stand because of the blood of Jesus Christ, that's why.

In the UK we are plagued by spiritual apathy. We suffer not only the offence of speaking truth, but also that evolution teaching and new age paganism has run rampant. Does this deter me? No, rather the opposite. Like Spurgeon said:

“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.”

Re: Brokenhearted, i read this: "The fastest growing "religious" group, on: 2012/10/9 21:53

You know brethren, I see this as a good thing.

The more people that are not religious means that God can easily move through them without being anything like us who are biased, prejudiced, separated from other believers by denominations etc.. God has to peel away the crap in our lives to cast down every false teaching that highly exalts itself against the knowledge of God. With minds that don't have that, it's a goldmine.

We hinder the move of God because of our petty ways. We fight with brethren who don't believe in the Trinity or we fight with people that don't believe in the last days. Can you imagine lighting upon a people that have no knowledge of any of this?

I wished that I never knew anything save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/10/10 16:12

Rickrock

Don't be too quick to judge whether or not people like your post or not. I rarely do likes on posts and just because someone does a like on it really doesn't mean anything in the end.

You also need to keep your brokenness in the prayer closet. Christians do not go around quoting scripture, posting it everywhere and 'brag' about being broken inside. That is mindless religiosity.

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2012/10/10 17:16

You also need to keep your brokenness in the prayer closet. Christians do not go around quoting scripture, posting it everywhere and 'brag' about being broken inside. That is mindless religiosity. (byDEADn)

mind clarifying what you mean? what exactly are you saying is mindless religiosity?

I have absolutely been blessed with another brother/sister sharing their brokenness before God. Reading and listening to another struggle with a sinful area in their life and God helping them overcome is not bragging, it's giving glory and praise to God for what He can and does do in a believer's life. Knowing another struggles with some things that I do gives me hope to hear how they have overcome through Christ.

rdg

Re: - posted by DEADn (), on: 2012/10/10 17:56

Rainydaygirl
I refer to this

Quote:

I break the mould there. Why do I post these things? Because I am a broken sinner before the presence of God, only able to stand because of the blood of Jesus Christ, that's why.

These words seem to say to me 'look at me I am broken and therefore I do these deeds' such as postings on FB. It comes off as patting oneself on the shoulder and wanting everyone to know of it.

Re: - posted by richrock, on: 2012/10/10 18:27

Maybe I should clarify.

I am a broken man - and glory to God for that. I will share amongst brothers and sisters my struggles, my overcoming if it helps another - are we not called to encourage one another?

I don't go quoting about my brokenness all over FB - I merely post things that would point people towards the gospel, to stir up awareness of their own personal sinful states, to show that Christ paid for that sin, and to repent and believe. Things that make people think, inspire other Christians, present Jesus as He truly is according to scripture.

Essentially, I don't care if I get lots of likes. What is important to me is that I have unsaved friends on Facebook I may never have a chance meet in person again, and I see it as one opportunity to give people the gospel. I'd rather post about the gospel than myself, rather post about salvation than inspiration because those people I will never see again - I may be the only time they have to read/see/hear the gospel based on what I choose to post. My unsaved family also read what I post, so I make sure that it is pertinent to their salvation, and I know from conversations that it is read and understood by them, giving me a chance to speak truth to family members who were once openly hostile to me, their son, for becoming a Christian.

Can I ask deadn, is the OP wrong to say that they were broken over the content of the story they posted? Or are they too exhibiting this mindless religiosity? I ask for clarity, because at the core of this thread is the issue of how broken we are over the ignorance of God by so many people, and in doing so they are destined for hell.

I hope I have cleared up exactly what I meant, and apologise for any misunderstanding that I would be like the Pharisees (boohoo look at me) but I point it all back to Christ who did the breaking, continues to do so day by day.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/10/11 0:45

hi, in the 90s we were in a church in Metairie La., suburb of New Orleans and a man answered to the call to the altar for healing after holding on tight for the salvation altar call. Two weeks later; he testified that he had terminal cancer and was sent home to die and he heard we prayed for the sick. He said his doctor could not find any cancer in him, he also stated that he was the head science professor at Tulane Univ. He wrote a few books later on creationism being the whole truth because he found a God who said He could heal and deliver and He did. When you meet Truth all your lies vanish into thin air. jimp he started a group of scientists who serve Jesus and defend the Bible.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/10/11 0:50

hi, in the 90s we were in a church in metairie la., suburb of new orleans and a man answered to the call to the altar for healing after holding on tight for the salvation altar call. two weeks later ; he testified that he had terminal cancer and was sent home to die and he heard we prayed for the sick. he said his doctor could not find any cancer in him, he also stated that he was the head science professor at tulane univ. he wrote a few books later on creationism being the whole truth because he found a god who said He could heal and deliver and He did. when you meet Truth all your lies vanish into thin air. jimp he started a group of scientists who serve Jesus and defend the bible.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/10/17 12:47

Two comments:

One:

jimp, mind sharing the name of this professor? does he have a website?

Two:

I wonder at the lack of religion among young Americans. I suggest that while stats indicate there is no belief, there really is in the core of their being - they just may not want to admit it. For example, do people not have a sense of right and wrong? Where does this sense come from? Do they get upset when this sense is violated? Of course, they may not if it does not affect them, but let them become victims and what do they say? When the going gets tough is there no sense of calling upon a god for assistance?

In all my years of counseling fornicators, adulterers I have never met anyone that did not have a sense of right and wrong except for one person and I think she was mentally deficient. Religion or no religion made no difference. The interesting thing about those who scoff at religion is that they are very opinionated! They think they are right! No doubt! Now, where does this sense come from? and why?

See, what I mean?