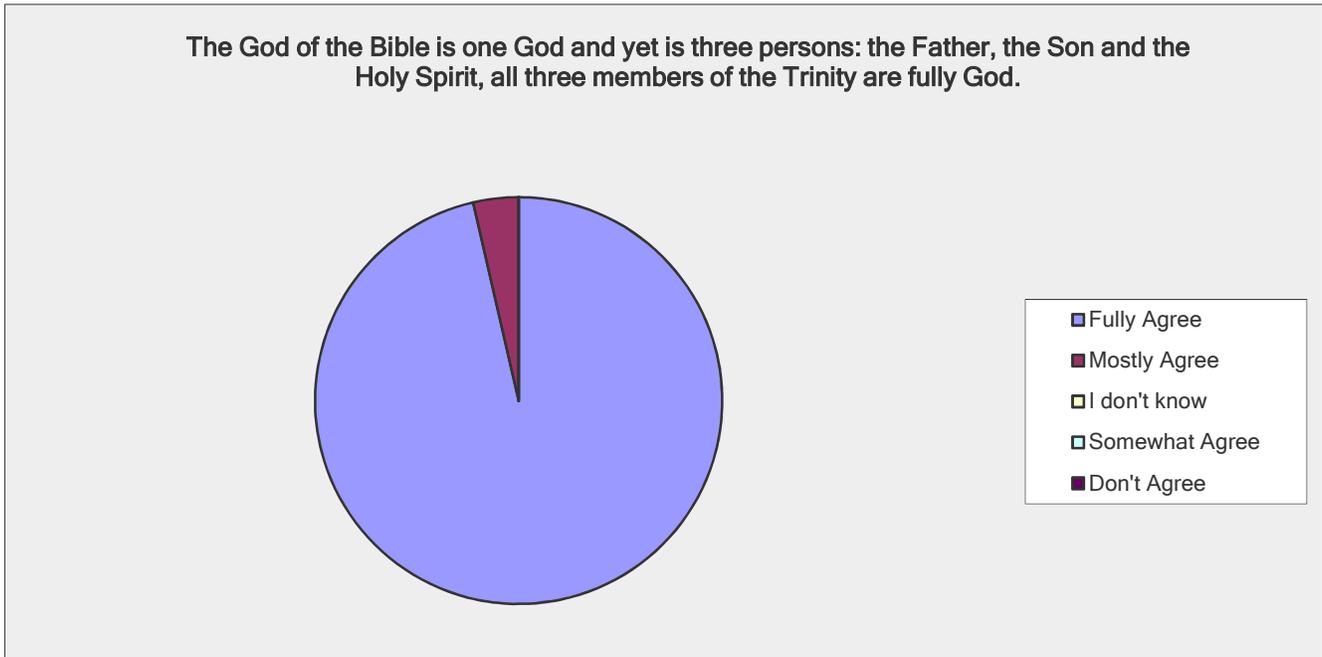


BSLC March Team Biblical Essentials Survey

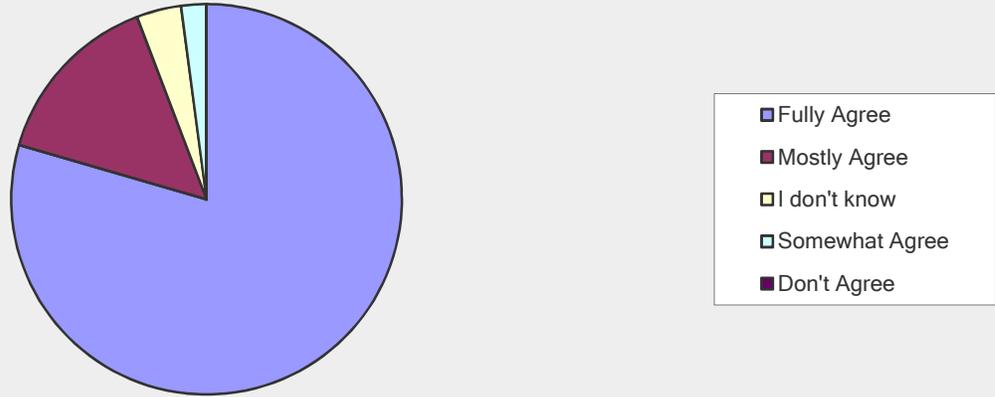
Here are the results of the Biblical Essentials survey. For convenience, member comments have been read, summarized, and tallied by the March Team. The comments, in their entirety, are being reviewed by the elders. You can be assured your voice is being heard.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	96.4%	187
Mostly Agree	3.6%	7
I don't know	0.0%	0
Somewhat Agree	0.0%	0
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		194
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
More Clarity/Understanding Needed.	5
More Teaching Needed.	3

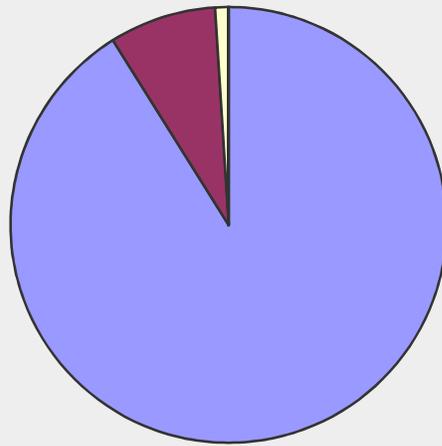
The Bible has human authors, but those authors were inspired to write by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, everything that is written in the Bible, as originally given, from Genesis to Revelation, is God's Word. It is without error.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	79.5%	151
Mostly Agree	14.7%	28
I don't know	3.7%	7
Somewhat Agree	2.1%	4
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
	<i>answered question</i>	190
	<i>skipped question</i>	5

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
There are errors in translating.	12
There are errors in interpretation.	7
Understanding genre, context and culture aid in correct interpretation.	3
The Bible has errors.	3
Interpretation is used as an excuse to undermine the authority of Bible.	1
Concern about errors due to interpretation are insignificant.	1
God's word is forever.	1
Our Pastor preaches truth, not his own interpretation.	1
Can Christians write scripture?	1
The main point is that God is love and that won't change.	1

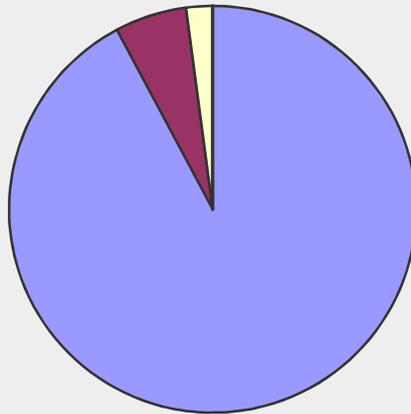
Original sin is moral and spiritual corruption that separates us from God. This began when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	91.1%	174
Mostly Agree	7.9%	15
I don't know	1.0%	2
Somewhat Agree	0.0%	0
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		191
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
It is important to understand this.	1
What about babies who die at birth? What about those who never hear?	1
Does faith in Christ lessen our sinfulness?	1
Fall was not a choice. It happened in giving in to the serpent.	1
Is this the result of free will and the human condition?	1
We are all sinners. In Christ we are forgiven.	1
Do we have Introduction to Christianity classes anymore?	1
Technically, this is missing the mark of perfection.	1

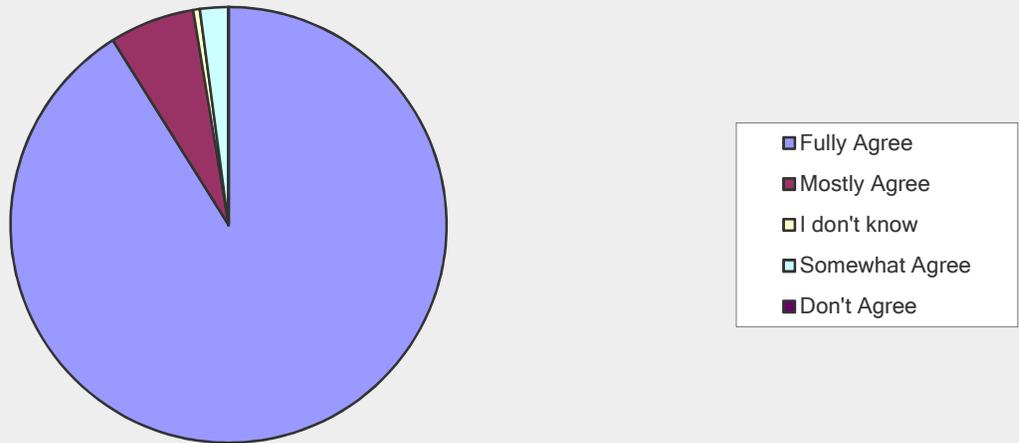
Jesus died in our place to take the punishment for our sins. Salvation is granted by grace through faith in Christ alone. There is no other path to salvation.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	92.2%	178
Mostly Agree	5.7%	11
I don't know	2.1%	4
Somewhat Agree	0.0%	0
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		193
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
What about those who have never heard?	2
This idea is counter-cultural.	1
Only Jesus lived a sinless life.	1
We must be changed from the inside.	1
I am unclear on this.	1
Belief in Jesus allows us to skip judgement.	1
This is the true Christian message.	1
We still must act Christ-like.	1
Do those who die apart from Christ still have the chance to be saved?	1
Yes. See 1 John 2:1-2.	1
Christianity is not the only way to salvation.	1

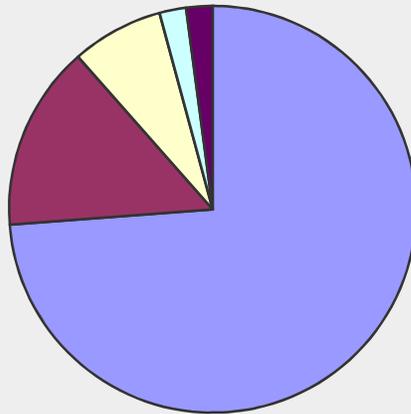
Heaven is the place that has been prepared by Jesus, for all who have been given eternal life.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	91.1%	173
Mostly Agree	6.3%	12
I don't know	0.5%	1
Somewhat Agree	2.1%	4
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		190
<i>skipped question</i>		5

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
Prepared by the triune God/father too, not only Jesus.	5
We must have faith in Jesus/grace by faith in Christ alone.	3
What prevents salvation?	1
Eternal life is for those who believe. Not something earned.	1
Heaven is not a physical place. It is different than we can imagine.	1
I have difficulty with the idea of many people being separated from God, but God said he will show himself to those who seek Him.	1

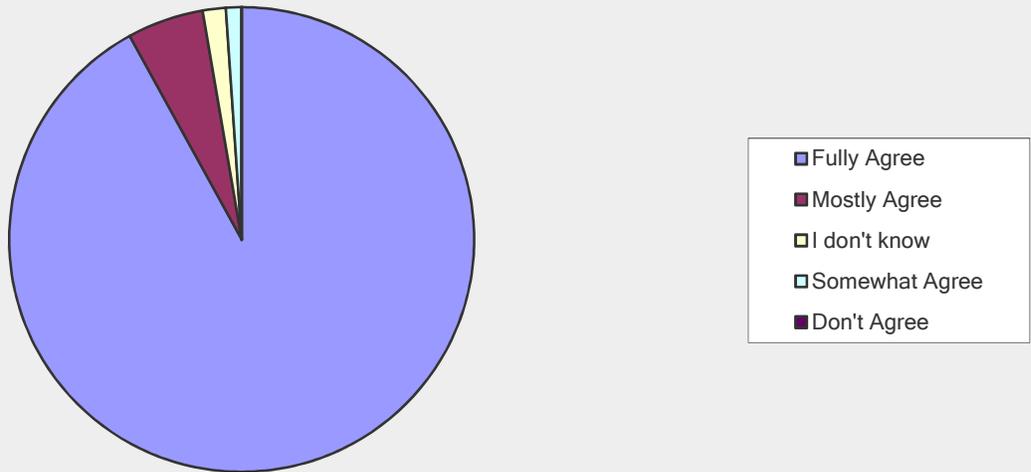
Hell is the place of eternal punishment for those who have not been given eternal life. It is a place of conscious torment. All who reject Christ will spend eternity there.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	73.8%	141
Mostly Agree	14.7%	28
I don't know	7.3%	14
Somewhat Agree	2.1%	4
Don't Agree	2.1%	4
	<i>answered question</i>	191
	<i>skipped question</i>	4

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
Reject is the key word. Rejecting is different from not knowing. Some people don't know. People's comprehension and understanding affect this.	6
Torment is separation from God. Not necessarily physical pain.	3
God decides this, not me.	2
More teaching needed on this.	2
Painful to believe. Discomfort with the idea of someone going to a place of suffering.	2
Hell is a bad place.	1
Place of torment for people not good enough to enter heaven.	1
Is Hell different from second death location?	1
They have been given eternal life in Hell.	1
God will reveal himself to those who seek.	1
Can a loving creator send so many people to Hell?	1
Separation is because of no faith.	1
"Sin" is eternal separation from God.	1

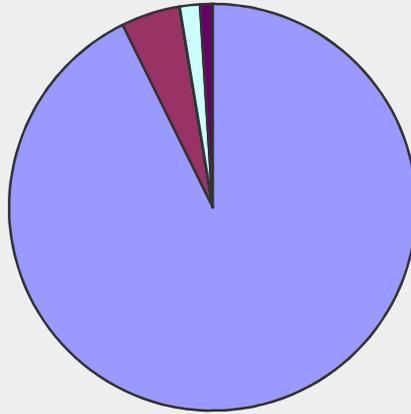
Satan is real, a deceiver, and the enemy of all Christians.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	92.1%	175
Mostly Agree	5.3%	10
I don't know	1.6%	3
Somewhat Agree	1.1%	2
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
	<i>answered question</i>	190
	<i>skipped question</i>	5

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
Satan is enemy of everyone, not just Christians.	3
More focus needed on this in sermons.	1
He wants our souls, so does he consider us enemies?	1
Whispering lies we want to hear or accusing us. He is the father of lies.	1
Important to not give him too much credit.	1
Admitting this can let me get trapped by deception.	1

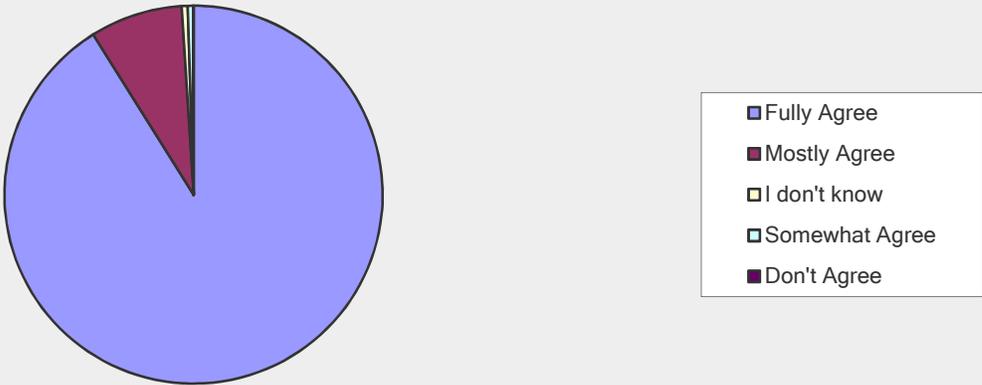
God is sovereign. There is absolutely nothing that happens in the universe that is outside of God's influence and authority. He is immortal, and he is present everywhere.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	92.7%	178
Mostly Agree	4.7%	9
I don't know	0.0%	0
Somewhat Agree	1.6%	3
Don't Agree	1.0%	2
<i>answered question</i>		192
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
Why are people lives so disparate? Does God play favorites? What about innocent people suffering?	3
I am confused by this statement.	2
God can act, but chooses as he wants. Things happen outside his influence.	2
Evil is result of free will not God's desire for us. Lutherans are not Calvinists.	2
How do sovereignty and free will interact?	1
If I were to believe in God, I would believe this.	1
If true, then why do Christians get so upset by problems in the world?	1
Immortal, invisible, God only wise.	1
He is ever-present to everyone, everywhere.	1
More teaching needed on sovereignty over suffering.	1
God's influence is tied to His timing.	1
He permits.	1
Evolution is involved.	1

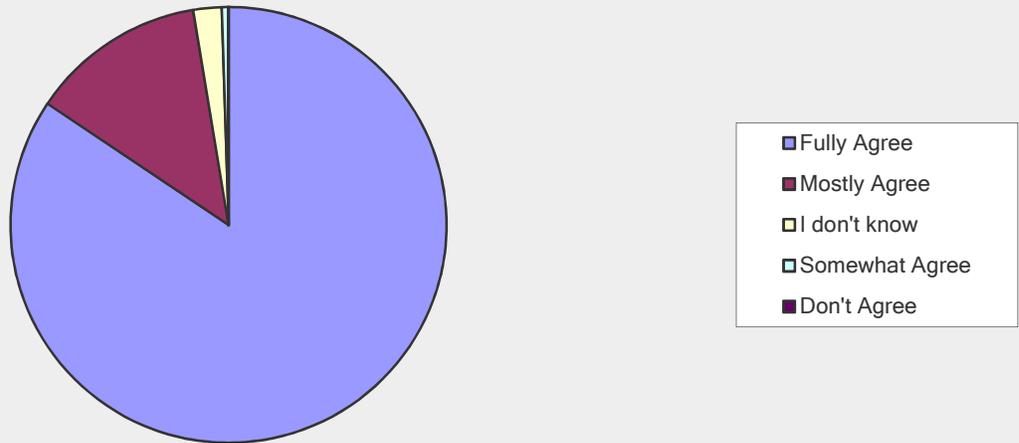
We are called to regular repentance. Sin occurs more often than we admit it. When we are reminded of specific sins, we should confess them specifically. Repentance reminds us of our need for Jesus.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	91.1%	173
Mostly Agree	7.9%	15
I don't know	0.5%	1
Somewhat Agree	0.5%	1
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
	<i>answered question</i>	190
	<i>skipped question</i>	5

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
We need God's help to repent.	2
We need to live differently and change our behavior after repenting.	2
If Jesus' sacrifice showed forgiveness of our sins, do we still need to repent?	1
Are we called to repentance as we are called to reconciliation?	1
It depends on the kind of sin.	1

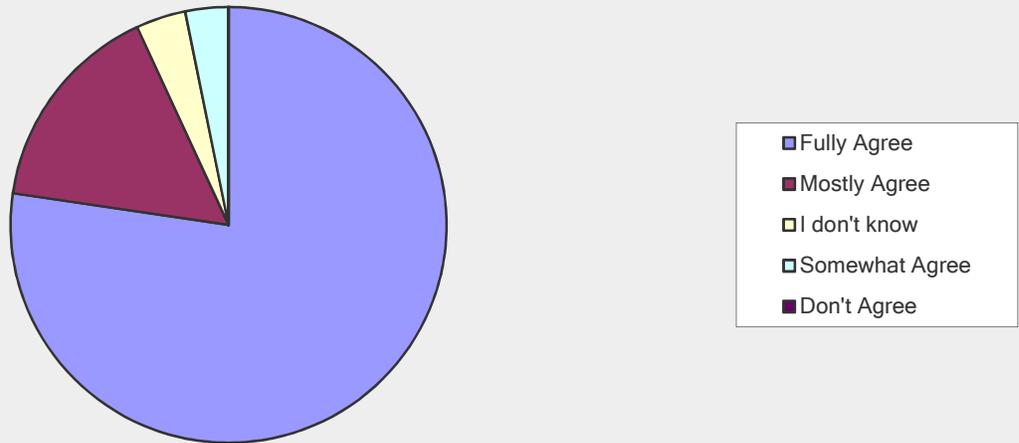
Communion and baptism are essential practices for a Christian church.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	84.4%	162
Mostly Agree	13.0%	25
I don't know	2.1%	4
Somewhat Agree	0.5%	1
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
	<i>answered question</i>	192
	<i>skipped question</i>	3

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
We should offer communion more often.	3
Communion and baptism are practiced differently among Christian denominations.	2
They are important but not essential for salvation.	1
In some cultures, it takes courage to publicly participate in communion and baptism.	1
Lutherans confess that these are means of grace, they are sacraments, not practices.	1
Baptism in a service is important for the church, but we should be mindful of the time.	1
Don't need bread and wine for communion or water for baptism if not available.	1
The difference between water baptism, and baptism of the Holy Spirit needs explaining.	1
I'm more concerned about those refusing baptism\communion than about how it's done.	1

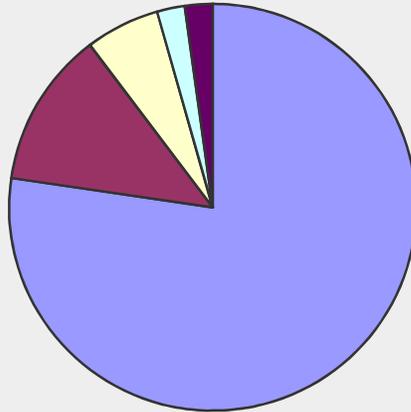
Christians are called to make disciples by baptizing and teaching new believers in all of Jesus' examples and teachings.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	77.4%	147
Mostly Agree	15.8%	30
I don't know	3.7%	7
Somewhat Agree	3.2%	6
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		190
<i>skipped question</i>		5

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
Teaching is not only for new believers. Making disciples is a life-long process.	2
Each should use his gifts. Not all have gift of teaching. 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 12.	2
Only by the power of the Holy Spirit.	1
Not sure how to implement this. Pastor's message on sharing stories was helpful.	1
We should help the lost be transformed by the renewing of their minds.	1
Baptism doesn't make a disciple. We can't live a sinless life. We can only follow Jesus.	1
I'll share my beliefs, but won't teach or baptize.	1
We must back up teaching with correct living.	1
We shouldn't promote imperialism or a "white savior" role.	1
We must grow in this area.	1
Harder to do close to home.	1
Learn to obey "all".	1
The Holy Spirit convicts, the Church helps them grow in faith.	1
This should be our priority.	1
The wording seems to exclude other parts of Scripture.	1
We must show love and care, not only baptize and teach.	1

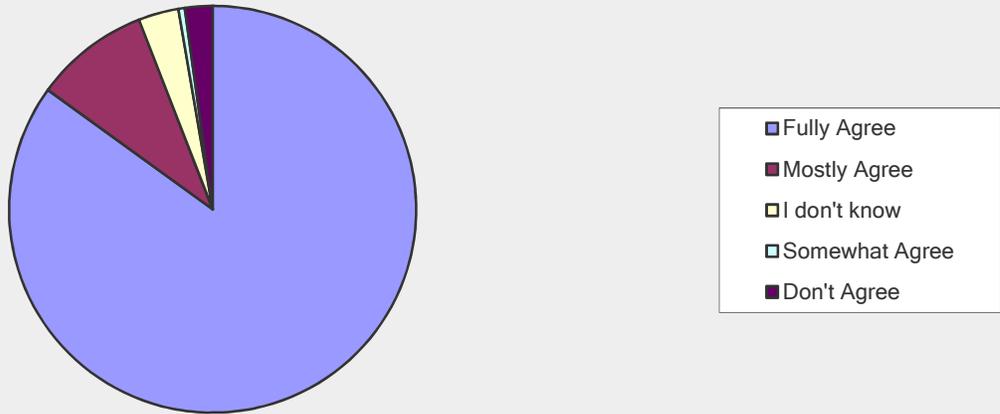
God limits sex to marriage between one man and one woman. God's Word tells us that our thoughts, motives, and actions are to be sexually pure. Lust in all its forms is sin.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	77.3%	143
Mostly Agree	12.4%	23
I don't know	5.9%	11
Somewhat Agree	2.2%	4
Don't Agree	2.2%	4
	<i>answered question</i>	185
	<i>skipped question</i>	10

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
I would like more Bible teaching on this subject.	4
Even though we know God's Word we all still easily fall into sexual temptation.	3
Lust is a sin but we all struggle in this area.	3
God's rules in this area keep us from pain and suffering.	2
Our current culture is making this issue more difficult.	2
The Bible is very clear on this issue, we should not be open to changing our belief.	2
Homosexuality is sinful; but we still need to treat those struggling with this with love.	2
It is possible to be a practicing a sinful lifestyle and still be a Christian.	2
We need to be less consumed with the sins of others.	2
What about plural marriages found in the Bible?	2
No sin should be viewed as greater than another.	1
This is an area where more confession and repentance is needed.	1
Marriage is man's institution.	1
Lust is natural and instinctual.	1

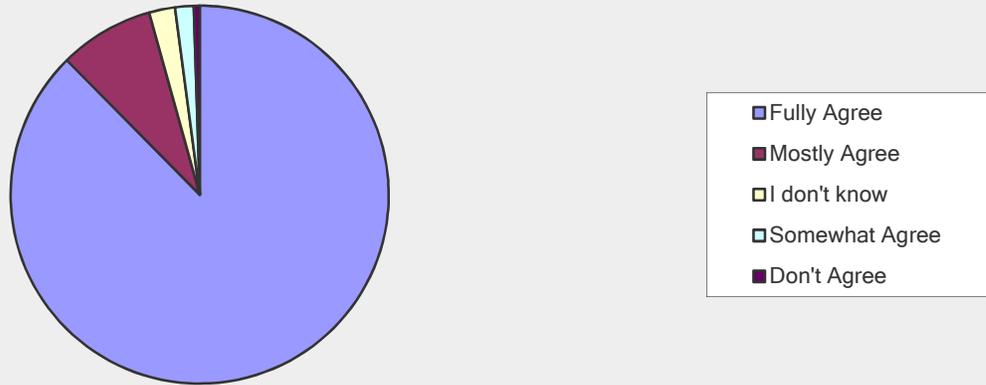
The church should be a place of support, friendship, forgiveness, and safety for all people struggling to honor Christ with their sexuality.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	84.9%	158
Mostly Agree	9.1%	17
I don't know	3.2%	6
Somewhat Agree	0.5%	1
Don't Agree	2.2%	4
	<i>answered question</i>	186
	<i>skipped question</i>	9

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
We should be very careful to not lose this biblical understanding that certain sexual practices are sinful, any attempt to justify would be wrong.	14
We should show understanding, forgiveness and encouragement.	8
This question is causing some confusion as to what is really being asked.	5
Support should be given to everyone.	3
No one sin is worse than another. We all need forgiveness.	2
The word "support" here could be misleading. We support the person, not the lifestyle.	2
We need to emphasize love over judgement.	2
If the person is really "struggling to honor Christ", then yes.	1
There should be more sermons/teaching addressing this issue directly.	1
I am not sure whether our sexuality is a choice we made, or not.	1
We should offer support and help to those who have not yet been convicted of their sin.	1
The church is failing to show the support that it should be showing.	1

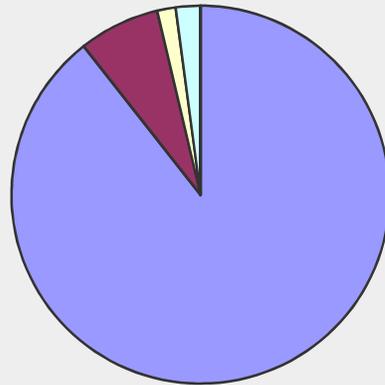
God created everything that exists. The world and all the life on it is not the product of mere random chance. The creation of humanity began when God made Adam and Eve. All the nations of the world are descended from these two people.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	87.6%	162
Mostly Agree	8.1%	15
I don't know	2.2%	4
Somewhat Agree	1.6%	3
Don't Agree	0.5%	1
	<i>answered question</i>	185
	<i>skipped question</i>	10

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
I believe in God as a creator, but this subject causes me some degree of confusion.	10
I would like there to be more teaching in the church on this subject.	2
Christians are on being challenged on this subject by culture.	2
Science and the Bible appear to be having some contradiction here.	1
Adaption is real and God has used it as part of his creative process.	1
Parts of Genesis are a metaphor.	1
I focus on the character of God rather than the evidence for him and his creation.	1
Scripture does support the idea that Adam and Eve were literal human beings.	1
God did create certain species, but these species have undergone some changes.	1
Questions include: The wives of Cain and Seth; other people in Nod, the Myth of Lilith, dinosaurs, archaeological evidence.	1

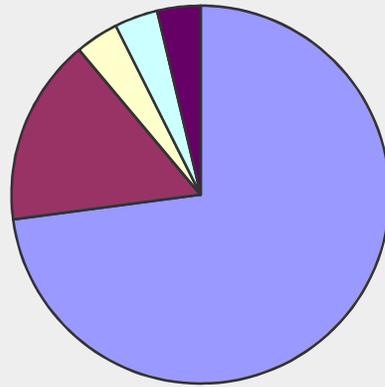
No political party is fully centered on God. The political left and right each have positions that are biblical and unbiblical. When it comes to politics, Jesus is on his side. Our first and primary allegiance is to Christ.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	89.4%	168
Mostly Agree	6.9%	13
I don't know	1.6%	3
Somewhat Agree	2.1%	4
Don't Agree	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		188
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
Christians should try to choose a party that most closely follows biblical teaching.	3
Sharing political views in the church can cause division. We need caution and grace.	3
We should be praying for our political leaders.	3
Obedience to human institutions is biblical.	2
No political candidate will save us.	1
Genuine Christians can be found in both political parties.	1
Our first allegiance is to Christ.	1
We are only people, and we will always have some form of political prejudice/leaning.	1
Prayer for guidance before voting is critical.	1
The left tends to be anti religion, but the right uses it as a political tool.	1

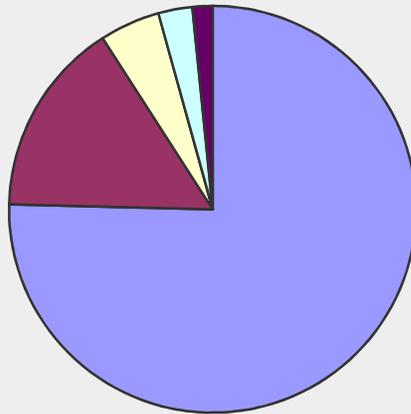
Abortion is wrong because God is the One who gives life, and only He has the right to take it away. Every person, born or unborn, is a precious soul made by God, in His image. Every life is an entrustment from God we need to celebrate and protect.



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	72.9%	137
Mostly Agree	16.0%	30
I don't know	3.7%	7
Somewhat Agree	3.7%	7
Don't Agree	3.7%	7
	<i>answered question</i>	188
	<i>skipped question</i>	7

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
Abortion is justified if the mother's life is at risk or her health would be impaired.	14
We still need to show compassion towards women who have had abortions.	6
Abortion is justified only in cases of rape or incest.	5
Abortion is justified if baby is severely deformed with no quality of life.	4
Abortion is a complex issue. Life is never that simple.	3
Abortion is the main reason that we cannot be Democrats.	2
Abortion is wrong, but I struggle with the lack of families willing to adopt newborns.	2
The Church needs to do more in opposing abortion.	2
The trauma of choosing death for unborn baby is greater than unwanted pregnancy.	2
Hard to reconcile leftist politics of strict gun control and unrestricted access to abortion.	1
Abortion is wrong for Christians, but for non-Christians, is criminalization the answer?	1
Abortion is murder.	1
Abortion shouldn't be used as a birth control.	1
Overturning Roe v. Wade would not solve the problem.	1
Abortions don't surprise God.	1
As Christians we need to support all of God's children.	1
Women have the right to have control of their bodies. Males often take no responsibility for conception and the decision falls on the woman.	1
I believe abortion is wrong, but I don't have the right to tell someone what to do.	1

The role of women within church is an important topic and an area where we should seek greater unity in following the leading of God and His Word



Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fully Agree	75.4%	141
Mostly Agree	15.5%	29
I don't know	4.8%	9
Somewhat Agree	2.7%	5
Don't Agree	1.6%	3
	<i>answered question</i>	187
	<i>skipped question</i>	8

Member Comment Summary	Quantity
We should seek the scriptures for greater unity in our different viewpoints.	12
Only men should be pastors\elders.	7
Women should have greater leadership roles.	6
Our church has defined the role of men and women. It should stay that way.	4
Our culture's projection of the role women is unbiblical and sinful.	3
Where is this question going?	3
Women should be able to be pastors\elders.	2
The role of everyone within the church is important.	2
There are some examples of women leaders in the scriptures.	2
We need more emphasis on servant leadership and not seeking position.	1
Women should be elders\pastors only in the absence of capable men.	1
Minimizing the role of women is a mistake.	1
Are we talking about unity between denominations or within congregations?	1
I am unsure if women should be pastors.	1
Women have unique perspectives and should be included in decisions.	1
Women should be allowed to preach.	1
Women should not be allowed to preach.	1
There are arguments to be made on both sides.	1