

USA
ISSP 2008 – Religion III
Questionnaire

GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY 2008 (GSS) QUESTIONNAIRE
Section G – ISSP Religion

IF PANEL, SKIP TO NEXT SECTION. IF CROSS-SECTION AND BALLOT 1, SKIP TO NEXT SECTION. CROSS-SECTION AND BALLOT 2 AND 3 ONLY:

1. If you were to consider your life in general these days, how happy or unhappy would you say you are, on the whole? Would you say..

HAPUNUP

1. Very happy
2. Fairly happy
3. Not very happy, or
4. Not at all happy?

2. Do you think it is wrong or not wrong if a man and a woman have sexual relations before marriage? (Would you say...)

PREMARS1

HANDCARD G1

1. Always wrong
2. Almost always wrong
3. Wrong only sometimes, or
4. Not wrong at all?

3. What about a married person having sexual relations with someone other than his or her husband or wife? (Is it...)

XMARSEX1

HANDCARD G1

1. Always wrong
2. Almost always wrong
3. Wrong only sometimes, or
4. Not wrong at all?

4. And what about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex? (Is it...)

HOMOSEX1

HANDCARD G1

1. Always wrong
2. Almost always wrong
3. Wrong only sometimes, or
4. Not wrong at all?

5a. Do you personally think it is wrong or not wrong for a woman to have an abortion if there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby? (Would you say...)

ABDEFCTW

HANDCARD G1

1. Always wrong
2. Almost always wrong
3. Wrong only sometimes, or
4. Not wrong at all?

5b. Do you personally think it is wrong or not wrong for a woman to have an abortion if the family has a very low income and cannot afford any more children? (Would you say...)

ABPOORW

HANDCARD G1

1. Always wrong
2. Almost always wrong
3. Wrong only sometimes, or
4. Not wrong at all?

6. Do you agree or disagree that a husband's job is to earn money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family? Would you say..

HUBBYWRK

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

7. Generally speaking, would you say that people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Would you say..

CANTRUST

1. People can almost always be trusted
2. People can usually be trusted
3. You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people, or
4. You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people?

8a. How much confidence do you have in the U.S. Congress? Would you say you have...

CONCONG

HANDCARD G2

1. Complete confidence
2. A great deal of confidence
3. Some confidence
4. Very little confidence, or
5. No confidence at all?

8b. (How much confidence do you have in ...)

Business and industry?

CONBIZ

HANDCARD G2

(Would you say you have...)

1. Complete confidence
2. A great deal of confidence
3. Some confidence
4. Very little confidence, or
5. No confidence at all?

8c. (How much confidence do you have in ...)

Churches and religious organizations?

CONCHURH

HANDCARD G2

(Would you say you have...)

1. Complete confidence
2. A great deal of confidence
3. Some confidence
4. Very little confidence, or
5. No confidence at all?

8d. (How much confidence do you have in ...)

Courts and the legal system?

CONCOURT

HANDCARD G2

(Would you say you have...)

1. Complete confidence
2. A great deal of confidence
3. Some confidence
4. Very little confidence, or
5. No confidence at all?

8e. (How much confidence do you have in ...)

Schools and the educational system?

CONSCHLS

HANDCARD G2

(Would you say you have...)

1. Complete confidence
2. A great deal of confidence
3. Some confidence
4. Very little confidence, or
5. No confidence at all?

9. We are interested in the extent to which you have moved from one kind of place to another. Which do you think is most like your experience of life? Which of the following best applies to you?

GEOMOBIL

1. I have lived in different countries
2. I have lived in different places in the same country
3. I have lived in different neighborhoods in the same place,
or
4. I have always lived in the same neighborhood?

10a. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following...
Religious leaders should not try to influence how people vote in elections. Would you say...

CLERGVTE

HANDCARD G3

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

10b. (How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following...)

Religious leaders should not try to influence government decisions.

CLERGGOV

HANDCARD G3

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

11a. Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree or disagree. Overall, modern science does more harm than good. Would you say...

HARMGOOD

HANDCARD G3

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

11b. (Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree or disagree...)

We trust too much in science and not enough in religious faith.

TRUSTSCI

HANDCARD G3

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

11c. (Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree or disagree...)

Looking around the world, religions bring more conflict than peace.

RELIGCON

HANDCARD G3

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

11d. (Please consider the following statements and tell me whether you agree or disagree...)

People with very strong religious beliefs are often too intolerant of others.

RELIGINT

HANDCARD G3

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

12. Do you think that churches and religious organizations in this country have too much power or too little power? Would you say...

CHURCHPOW

1. Far too much power
2. Too much power
3. About the right amount of power
4. Too little power, or
5. Far too little power?

13a. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? All religious groups in America should have equal rights. Would you say...

RELGRPEQ

HANDCARD G3

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

13b. (How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?)

We must respect all religions.

RSPCTREL

HANDCARD G3

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

14a. People belong to different religions and have different religious views. Would you accept a person from a different religion or with a very different religious view from yours marrying a relative of yours? Would you say...

RELMARRY

HANDCARD G4

1. Definitely accept
2. Probably accept
3. Probably not accept, or
4. Definitely not accept?

14b. (People belong to different religions and have different religious views.)

Would you accept a person from a different religion or with a very different religious view from yours being a candidate of the political party you prefer?

RELCAND

HANDCARD G4

(Would you say...)

1. Definitely accept
2. Probably accept
3. Probably not accept, or
4. Definitely not accept?

15a. There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority. Consider religious extremists, that is people who believe that their religion is the only true faith and all other religions should be considered as enemies. Do you think such people should be allowed to hold a public meeting to express their views? Would you say...

RELEXT1

HANDCARD G4

1. Definitely
2. Probably
3. Probably not, or
4. Definitely not?

15b. (There are some people whose views are considered extreme by the majority. Consider religious extremists, that is people who believe that their religion is the only true faith and all other religions should be considered as enemies.)

Do you think such people should be allowed to publish books expressing their views?

RELEXT2

HANDCARD G4

(Would you say...)

1. Definitely
2. Probably
3. Probably not, or
4. Definitely not?

16. Please indicate which statement below comes closest to expressing what you believe about God. Would you say..

GOD

1. I don't believe in God
2. I don't know whether there is a God and I don't believe there is any way to find out
3. I don't believe in a personal God, but I do believe in a Higher Power of some kind
4. I find myself believing in God some of the time, but not at others
5. While I have doubts, I feel that I do believe in God, or
6. I know God really exists and I have no doubts about it?

17. Which best describes your beliefs about God?

GODCHNGE

1. I don't believe in God now and I never have
2. I don't believe in God now, but I used to
3. I believe in God now, but I didn't used to, or
4. I believe in God now and I always have?

18a. Do you believe in Life after death? Would you say...

AFTERLIF

HANDCARD G5

1. Yes, definitely
2. Yes, probably
3. No, probably not, or
4. No, definitely not?

18b. Do you believe in Heaven?

HEAVEN

HANDCARD G5

(Would you say...)

1. Yes, definitely
2. Yes, probably
3. No, probably not, or
4. No, definitely not?

18c. Do you believe in Hell?

HELL

HANDCARD G5

(Would you say...)

1. Yes, definitely
2. Yes, probably
3. No, probably not, or
4. No, definitely not?

18d. Do you believe in religious miracles?

MIRACLES

HANDCARD G5

(Would you say...)

1. Yes, definitely
2. Yes, probably
3. No, probably not, or
4. No, definitely not?

18e. Do you believe in Reincarnation - being reborn in this world again and again?

REINCAR

HANDCARD G5

(Would you say...)

1. Yes, definitely
2. Yes, probably
3. No, probably not, or
4. No, definitely not?

18f. Do you believe in Nirvana?

NIRVANA

HANDCARD G5

(Would you say...)

1. Yes, definitely
2. Yes, probably
3. No, probably not, or
4. No, definitely not?

18g. Do you believe in the supernatural powers of deceased ancestors?

ANCESTRS

HANDCARD G5

(Would you say...)

1. Yes, definitely
2. Yes, probably
3. No, probably not, or
4. No, definitely not?

19a. Do you agree or disagree with the following... There is a God who concerns Himself with every human being personally. Would you say...

THEISM

HANDCARD G6

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

19b. (Do you agree or disagree with the following...)

There is little that people can do to change the course of their lives.

FATALISM

HANDCARD G6

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

19c. (Do you agree or disagree with the following...)

To me, life is meaningful only because God exists.

GODMEANS

HANDCARD G6

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

19d. (Do you agree or disagree with the following...)

In my opinion, life does not serve any purpose.

NIHILISM

HANDCARD G6

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

19e. (Do you agree or disagree with the following...)

Life is only meaningful if you provide the meaning yourself.

EGOMEANS

HANDCARD G6

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

19f. (Do you agree or disagree with the following...)

I have my own way of connecting with God without churches or religious services.

MYWAYGOD

HANDCARD G6

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

20. What was your mother's religious preference when you were a child? Was it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

MARRELKD

1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)
5. Muslim
6. Other (Please Specify) _____ **MARLKDSP**
7. No religion

If Protestant:

20a. What specific denomination was that?

TPMADNKD

MADENKID

(INTERVIEWER: PROBE FOR COMPLETE NAME OF DENOMINATION)

BAPTIST	
American Baptist Association	10
American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.	11
National Baptist Convention of America.....	12
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.....	13
Southern Baptist Convention	14
Other Baptist Churches (SPECIFY)_____	15
MAOTHSPC	
Baptist, Don't know which	18
METHODIST	
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	20
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. . .	21
United Methodist Church.	22
Other Methodist Churches (SPECIFY)_____	23
MAOTHSPC	
Methodist, Don't know which	28
LUTHERAN	
American Lutheran Church	30
Lutheran Church in American	31
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod	32
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.	33
Other Lutheran Churches (SPECIFY)_____	34
MAOTHSPC	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of American ..	35
IF R SAYS 35, PROBE: Do you know the name of your mom's denomination prior to the merger? _____	
Lutheran, Don't know which	38
PRESBYTERIAN	
Presbyterian Church in the United States	40
United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America....	41
Other Presbyterian Churches (SPECIFY)_____	42
MAOTHSPC	
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)	43

IF R SAYS 43, PROBE: Do you know the name of your mom's denomination prior to the merger? _____

Presbyterian, Don't know which.....	48
EPISCOPAL CHURCH.....	50
OTHER SPECIFY)_____	60
MAOTHSPC	
NO DENOMINATION GIVEN OR NON-DENOMINATIOAL CHURCH.....	70

21. What was your father's religious preference when you were a child? Was it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

PARELKID

1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)
5. Muslim
6. Other (Please Specify) _____ **PARLKDSP**
7. No religion

If Protestant:

21a. What specific denomination was that?

TPPADNKD

PADENKID

(INTERVIEWER: PROBE FOR COMPLETE NAME OF DENOMINATION)

BAPTIST	
American Baptist Association	10
American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.	11
National Baptist Convention of America.....	12
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.....	13
Southern Baptist Convention	14
Other Baptist Churches (SPECIFY)_____	15
PAOTHSPC	
Baptist, Don't know which	18
METHODIST	
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	20
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. ..	21
United Methodist Church.. ..	22
Other Methodist Churches (SPECIFY)_____	23
PAOTHSPC	
Methodist, Don't know which	28
LUTHERAN	
American Lutheran Church	30
Lutheran Church in American	31
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod	32
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.	33
Other Lutheran Churches (SPECIFY)_____	34
PAOTHSPC	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of American ..	35

IF R SAYS 35, PROBE: Do you know the name of your father's denomination prior to the merger? _____

Lutheran, Don't know which	38
PRESBYTERIAN	
Presbyterian Church in the United States	40
United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.....	41
Other Presbyterian Churches	
SPECIFY)_____	42
PAOTHSPC	
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).....	43
IF R SAYS 43, PROBE: Do you know the name of	
your father's denomination prior to the merger? _____	
Presbyterian, Don't know which.....	48
EPISCOPAL CHURCH	50
OTHER SPECIFY) _____	60
MAOTHSPC	
NO DENOMINATION GIVEN OR NON-DENOMINATIOAL CHURCH	70

22. What religion, if any, were you raised in? Was it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

RELIGKID

1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)
5. Muslim
6. Other (Please Specify) _____ **RELIKDSP**
7. No religion

If Protestant:

22a. What specific denomination was that?

TPDENKID

DENKID

(INTERVIEWER: PROBE FOR COMPLETE NAME OF DENOMINATION)

BAPTIST	
American Baptist Association	10
American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.	11
National Baptist Convention of America.....	12
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.....	13
Southern Baptist Convention	14
Other Baptist Churches	
(SPECIFY)_____	15
KDOTHSPC	
Baptist, Don't know which	18
METHODIST	
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	20
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. ..	21
United Methodist Church.. ..	22
Other Methodist Churches	
(SPECIFY)_____	23
KDOTHSPC	
Methodist, Don't know which	28
LUTHERAN	
American Lutheran Church	30
Lutheran Church in American	31
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod	32

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.....	33
Other Lutheran Churches (SPECIFY)_____	34
KDOTHSPC	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of American ..	35
IF R SAYS 35, PROBE: Do you know the name of your denomination prior to the merger? _____	
Lutheran, Don't know which.....	38
PRESBYTERIAN	
Presbyterian Church in the United States	40
United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America....	41
Other Presbyterian Churches (SPECIFY)_____	42
KDOTHSPC	
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).....	43
IF R SAYS 43, PROBE: Do you know the name of your denomination prior to the merger? _____	
Presbyterian, Don't know which.....	48
EPISCOPAL CHURCH	50
OTHER SPECIFY)_____	60
KDOTHSPC	
NO DENOMINATION GIVEN OR NON-DENOMINATIOAL CHURCH	70

***If you are currently married or living as married, answer Q. 23:
If you are not currently married or living as married,
go to Q. 24:***

23. What is your husband's/wife's religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

RELIGSP

1. Protestant
2. Catholic
3. Jewish
4. Orthodox (such as Greek or Russian Orthodox)
5. Muslim
6. Other (Please Specify) _____ **RELISPS**
7. No religion

If Protestant:

What specific denomination is that?

TPDENSP

DENSP

(INTERVIEWER: PROBE FOR COMPLETE NAME OF DENOMINATION)

BAPTIST	
American Baptist Association	10
American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.	11
National Baptist Convention of America.....	12
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.....	13
Southern Baptist Convention.....	14
Other Baptist Churches (SPECIFY)_____	15
SPOTHSPC	
Baptist, Don't know which.....	18
METHODIST	

African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	20
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. . .	21
United Methodist Church..	22
Other Methodist Churches (SPECIFY)_____	23
SPOTHSPC	
Methodist, Don't know which	28
LUTHERAN	
American Lutheran Church	30
Lutheran Church in American	31
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod	32
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.	33
Other Lutheran Churches (SPECIFY)_____	34
SPOTHSPC	
Evangelical Lutheran Church of American ..	35
IF R SAYS 35, PROBE: Do you know the name of your spouse's denomination prior to the merger? _____	
Lutheran, Don't know which	38
PRESBYTERIAN	
Presbyterian Church in the United States	40
United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America....	41
Other Presbyterian Churches (SPECIFY)_____	42
SPOTHSPC	
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).....	43
IF R SAYS 43, PROBE: Do you know the name of your spouse's denomination prior to the merger? _____	
Presbyterian, Don't know which.....	48
EPISCOPAL CHURCH.....	50
OTHER SPECIFY)_____	60
SPOTHSPC	
NO DENOMINATION GIVEN OR NON-DENOMINATIOAL CHURCH.....	70

24. When you were a child, how often did your mother attend religious services?

ATTENDMA

HANDCARD G7

1. Never
2. Less than once a year
3. About once or twice a year
4. Several times a year
5. About once a month
6. 2-3 times a month
7. Nearly every week
8. Every week
9. Several times a week
10. NO MOTHER/MOTHER NOT PRESENT

25. When you were a child, how often did your father attend religious services?

ATTENDPA

HANDCARD G7

1. Never
2. Less than once a year
3. About once or twice a year
4. Several times a year
5. About once a month
6. 2-3 times a month
7. Nearly every week
8. Every week
9. Several times a week
10. NO FATHER/FATHER NOT PRESENT

26. And what about when you were around 11 or 12, how often did you attend religious services then?

ATTEND12

HANDCARD G7

1. Never
2. Less than once a year
3. About once or twice a year
4. Several times a year
5. About once a month
6. 2-3 times a month
7. Nearly every week
8. Every week
9. Several times a week

27. Now thinking about the present, about how often do you pray?

PRAYFREQ

HANDCARD G7

1. Never
2. Less than once a year
3. About once or twice a year
4. Several times a year
5. About once a month
6. 2-3 times a month
7. Nearly every week
8. Every week
9. Several times a week
10. Once a day
11. Several times a day

28. How often do you take part in the activities or organizations of a church or place of worship other than attending services?

RELACTIV

HANDCARD G7

1. Never
2. Less than once a year
3. About once or twice a year
4. Several times a year
5. About once a month
6. 2-3 times a month
7. Nearly every week
8. Every week
9. Several times a week

29. For religious reasons do you have in your home a shrine, altar, or a religious object on display such as an icon, menorah, or crucifix?

RELOBJCT

1. Yes
2. No

30. How often do you visit a holy place for religious reasons such as going to a shrine, temple, church, or mosque? Please do not count attending regular religious services at your usual place of worship, if you have one. Would you say...

VISTHOLY

1. Never
2. Less than once a year
3. About once or twice a year
4. Several times a year, or
5. About once a month or more?

31. Would you describe yourself as ...

FEELREL

1. Extremely religious
2. Very religious
3. Somewhat religious
4. Neither religious nor non-religious
5. Somewhat non-religious
6. Very non-religious, or
7. Extremely non-religious?

32. What best describes you:

RELSPRT

1. I follow a religion and consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred and the supernatural.
2. I follow a religion, but don't consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred and the supernatural.
3. I don't follow a religion, but consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred and the supernatural, or
4. I don't follow a religion and don't consider myself to be a spiritual person interested in the sacred and the supernatural?

33. Which of the following statements come closest to your own views:

RELTRUTH

1. There is very little truth in any religion
2. There are basic truths in many religions, or
3. There is truth only in one religion?

34a. Do you agree or disagree that practicing a religion helps people to find inner peace and happiness? Would you say...

PAXHAPPY

HANDCARD G8

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

34b. Do you agree or disagree that practicing a religion helps people to make friends?

MAKEFRND

HANDCARD G8

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

34c. Do you agree or disagree that practicing a religion helps people to gain comfort in times of trouble and sorrow?

COMFORT

HANDCARD G8

(Would you say?)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

34d. Do you agree or disagree that practicing a religion helps people to meet the right kind of people?

RIGHTPEO

HANDCARD G8

(Would you say...)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree, or
5. Strongly disagree?

35. Would you say that you have been "born again" or have had a "born again" experience -- that is, a turning point in your life when you committed yourself to Christ?

REBORN

1. Yes
2. No

36. During the last year, did you make some personal sacrifice as an expression of your faith such as by fasting, following a special diet, or giving up some activity during a holy season such as Lent or Ramadan?

PERSCRFC

1. Yes
2. No

37. There are many different ways of picturing God. We'd like to know the kinds of images you are most likely to associate with God.

Here are sets of contrasting images. On a scale of 1-7 where would you place your images of God between the two contrasting images?

The first set of contrasting images shows Mother at 1 on the scale and Father at 7. If you imagine God as a Mother, you would place yourself at 1. If you imagine God as a Father, you would place yourself at 7. If you imagine God as somewhere between Mother and Father, you would place yourself at 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

Where would you place your image of God on the scale for each set of images?

HANDCARD G9

A. Mother							Father
MAPA							
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
B. Master							Spouse
MASTERSP							
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
C. Judge							Lover
JUDGELOV							
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	
D. Friend							King
FRNDKING							
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	

INSERT TIMESTAMP

TIMEG