

45%-Gen Z

Doubt the Bible



The Best Definition of the Bible

% among U.S. teens and adults 13 and older

- The actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word
- The inspired word of God and has no errors, although some verses are meant to be symbolic rather than literal
- The inspired word of God but has some factual or historical errors
- Not inspired by God but tells how the writers of the Bible understood the ways and principles of God
- Just another book of teaching written by men that contains stories and advice
- Other / don't know



U.S. teens ages 13-17, n=1,056, Feb. 2015. U.S. adults 18 and older, n=12,187, 2011-2016.

Introduction



Item	Denomination	Yes	No	I Don't Know	Total
Q 55: I believe the Bible is absolutely truthful and without error in its message.	Oneness	98.4% (437)	0.0% (0)	1.6% (7)	100.0% (444)
	Classical				
	COG	90.3% (280)	1.6% (5)	8.1% (25)	100.0% (310)
	IPHC	82.7% (396)	3.8% (18)	13.6% (65)	100.0% (479)
	FSQ/COGIC/PCOG	93.3% (84)	1.1% (1)	5.6% (5)	100.0% (90)
	AG	97.3% (108)	0.9% (1)	1.8% (2)	100.0% (111)
	Ind/PC/Non-Denominational	87.7% (185)	7.6% (16)	4.7% (10)	100.0% (211)
Mainline	81.4% (96)	5.9% (7)	12.7% (15)	100.0% (118)	
Total		90.0% (1586)	2.7% (48)	7.3% (129)	100.0% (1763)
Q 56: I believe the Bible is the written and inspired Word of God.	Oneness	99.8% (443)	0.0% (0)	0.2% (1)	100.0% (444)
	Classical				
	COG	95.8% (298)	0.0% (0)	4.2% (13)	100.0% (311)
	IPHC	92.5% (443)	2.3% (11)	5.2% (25)	100.0% (479)
	FSQ/COGIC/PCOG	100.0% (89)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	100.0% (89)
	AG	99.1% (110)	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	100.0% (111)
	Ind/PC/Non-Denominational	96.7% (204)	0.9% (2)	2.4% (5)	100.0% (211)
Mainline	94.1% (112)	0.0% (0)	5.9% (7)	100.0% (119)	
Total		96.3% (1699)	0.7% (13)	2.9% (52)	100.0% (1764)
Q 57: I believe the Bible is historically accurate.	Oneness	98.0% (435)	0.0% (0)	2.0% (9)	100.0% (444)
	Classical				
	COG	93.6% (291)	1.3% (4)	5.1% (16)	100.0% (311)
	IPHC	86.6% (415)	2.1% (10)	11.3% (54)	100.0% (479)
	FSQ/COGIC/PCOG	93.3% (84)	2.2% (2)	4.4% (4)	100.0% (90)
	AG	96.4% (106)	0.9% (1)	2.7% (3)	100.0% (110)
	Ind/PC/Non-Denominational	91.0% (192)	3.8% (8)	5.2% (11)	100.0% (211)
Mainline	84.0% (100)	2.5% (3)	13.4% (16)	100.0% (119)	
Total		92.0% (1623)	1.6% (28)	6.4% (113)	100.0% (1764)

Non-Christians' Barriers to Faith

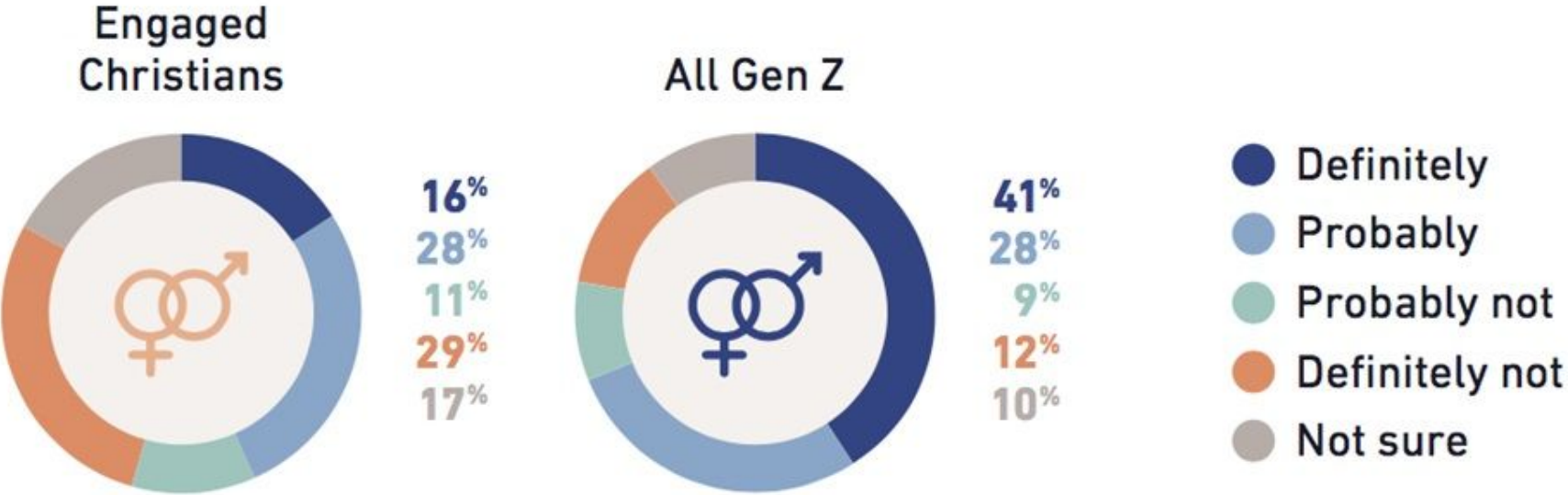
● Gen Z ● Gen X
● Millennials ● Boomers



- ❑ Evil and Suffering
- ❑ Science
- ❑ The Authority of the Bible
- ❑ Injustices



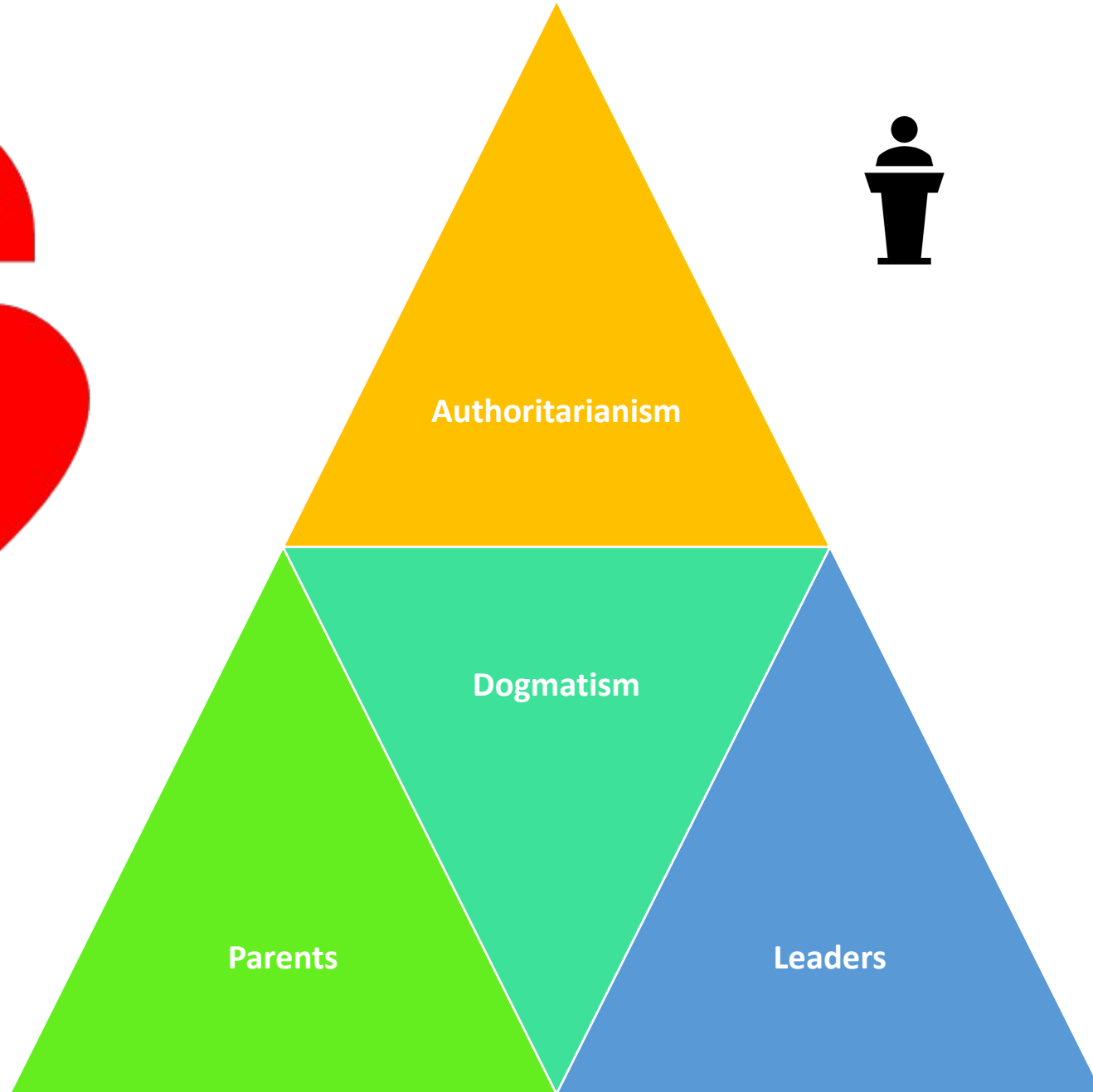
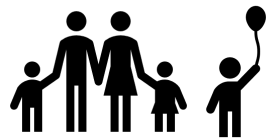
It Is Acceptable for Someone to Be Born One Gender and Feel Like Another

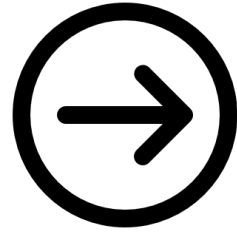
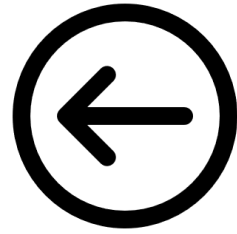


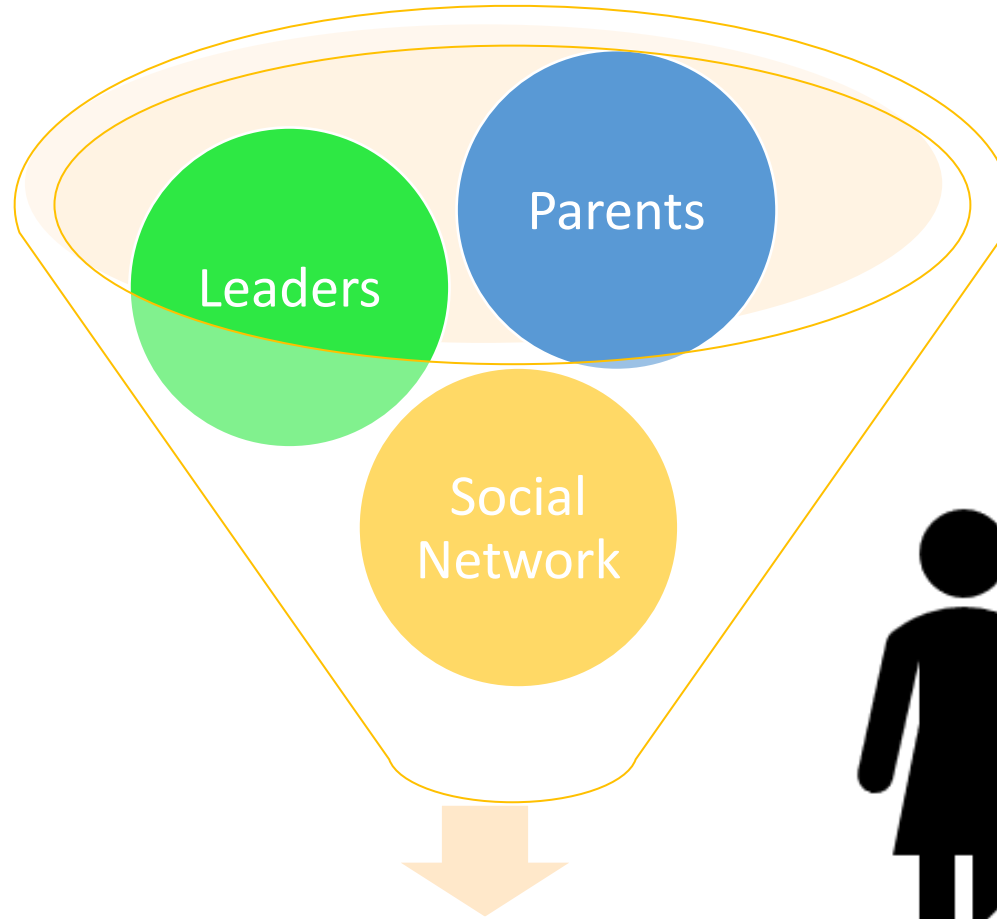
U.S. teens ages 13-18, n=485, July 7-18, 2017.

72% EC
Struggle With Transgenderism

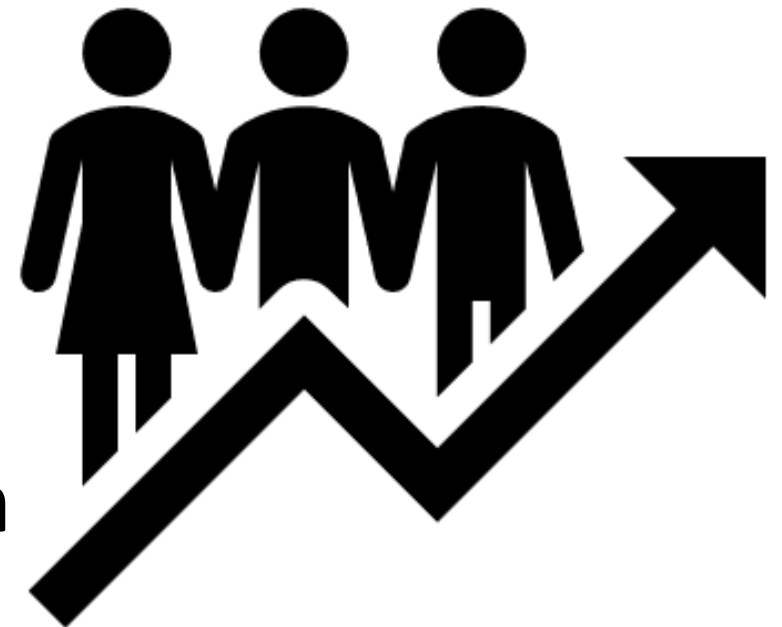
Belief







Hidden Curriculum



BELIEF

Curriculum

Hidden Curriculum

Social Networks

Human Capital

Socialization
Through Symbolism

Nomenclature

Environment of
TRUST

Stories/Testimonies

Experience

A Parents Influence

Positive/ Retention

A positive **attitude** about religion is connected to a parent's frequent church attendance.

A Students **religious behavior** is directed by a parental example.

A parent's attitude about Church directly relates to **developing a child's attitude**.



Parents

Positive/ Retention

Better religious education by parents brings **earlier conversions**.

Conversions among the young were due to anticipation from their churches and the **people's social expectations**.

Parents are the most potent force for **indoctrination**.

Negative/Attrition

The lack of **religious rituals**, such as sporadic church attendance, caused the lack of faith development.

Scriptures

2 Corinthians 4:4


“In their case, the god of this **age** has **blinded** the **minds** of the **unbelievers** so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”





Colossians 2:8

Be careful that no one **takes you captive** through **philosophy** and **empty deceit** based on human **tradition**, based on the **elemental forces** of the world, and not based on Christ.



1 Timothy 6:20

“Guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding **irreverent, empty speech** and contradictions from the “**knowledge**” that **falsely** bears that name. For by professing it, some people have deviated from the faith.”





Ephesians 6:11

Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the **tactics** of the Devil.



The Process of Evil

The Five Philosophical Methods

Representing
Knowledge-"Falsely
So-called."

Biblical Authority

Evolution

Transgenderism

Cosmology

Why Evil and Suffering?

Scripture

What Does This Mean for You?

1. The **History** is true.
2. The **People** are real.
3. The **Land** it describes is authentic.
4. The **Culture** it represents is accurate.
5. The **Geography** is correct
6. The **Science** is correct
7. The **Narratives** are Coherent.

It is then probable that its **Spiritual Message** is true too!



Evolution



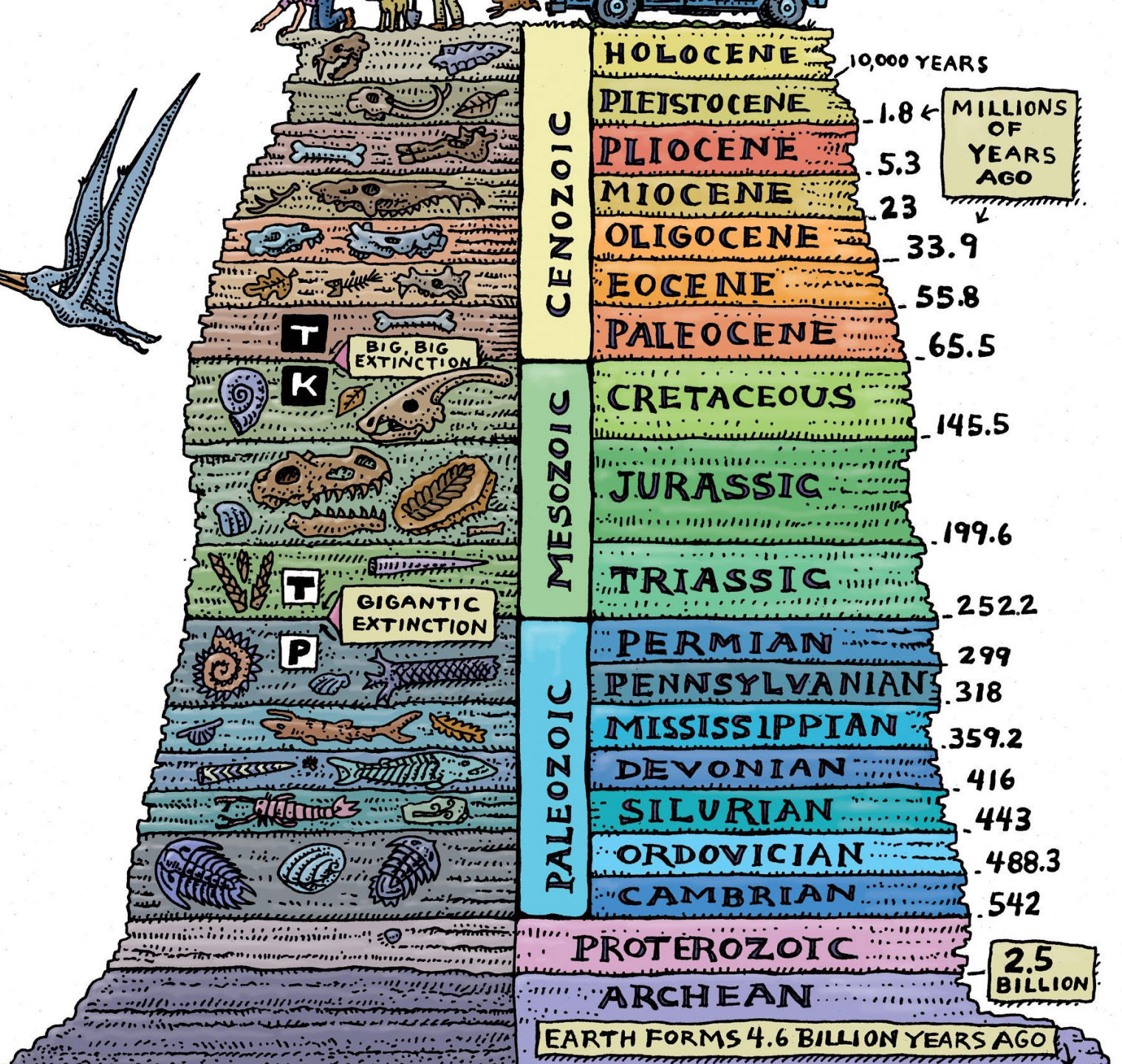
Primates (humans, apes, monkeys, and lemurs)

- Primates comprise less than **0.001%** of all vertebrate fossils (one-thousandth of one percent).
- The clear majority of invertebrates and vertebrates are **aquatic**.
- Only 0.001% of fossils are primates.

Take a Good Look at Lucy



Acad
Early
Jbel
DMN



EARTH FORMS 4.6 BILLION YEARS AGO

Transgendersim

Sexuality and Gender Generation Z

- About One in Eight of all 13-18-year-olds describe their sexuality as something other than heterosexual or straight (12%)

- Bisexual (7%)





THE Determining Factor

Faith identity was the determining factor for “belief” regarding being straight or gay, bisexual,

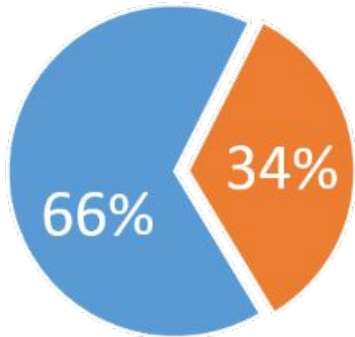
Faith is a guide to perspective on transgender.



Gen-Z to Boomer+: Top Social Media Issues Across Generations

Gen-Z

- Social media makes life better
- Social media makes life worse



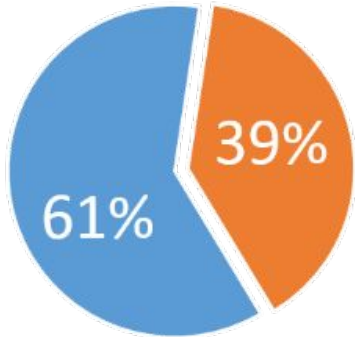
Top qualms

Comparison
Drama
Time
Distracting
Negative content
Bullying
Addictive
Interactions
Self-esteem

Gen-Z are **3x more likely** than boomer+ to mention **comparison**

Boomer+

- Social media makes life better
- Social media makes life worse



Interactions
Negative content
Too much information
Time
Lies
Bullying
Privacy
Drama
Comparison

Boomer+ are **6x more likely** than gen-Z to mention **interactions**



Search Emoji



86%

Happiness



85%

Self-esteem



85%

Self-image



83%

Anxiety



81%

Loneliness



79%

Depression

65% of teens say social media improves their life satisfaction.

Depression rates for heavy internet users (10+ hours daily) are 20% higher than for light internet users (below four hours daily).

Suicidal thoughts are 28% higher for heavy internet users than light internet users.

Two Important Stories about Transgenderism

One was from a man who transitioned into a woman and was honest about their experience.

Two, the story of the first transgender operation at Johns Hopkins University.

Transgender Truths

Andrea Long Chu, New York Times

Sex isn't "Assigned," and Surgery Can't Change It.

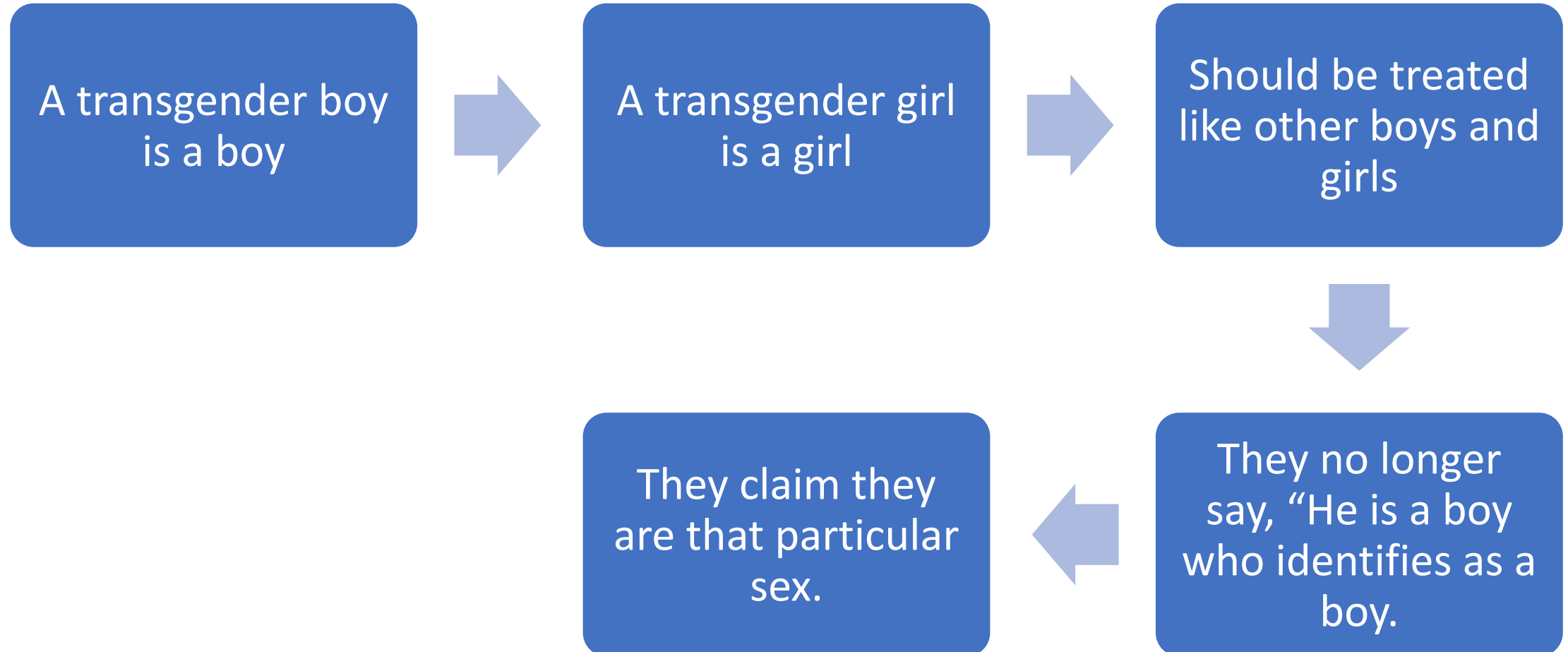
Gender Dysphoria Is Deeply Painful.

"Transitioning" May Not Bring Relief from the Pain.

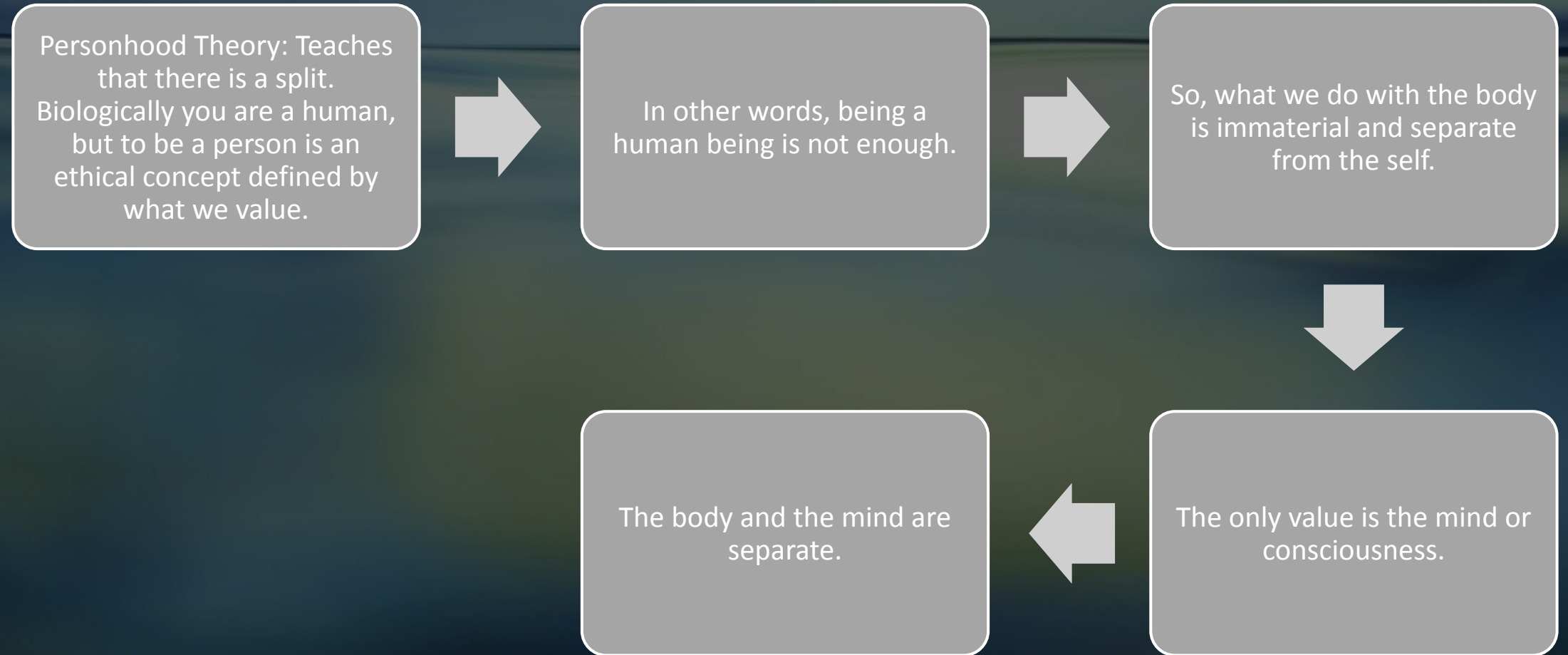
Suicide Is a Serious Risk



What Does The Transgender Community Say?



What the Transgender Community Says...



What the Transgender Community says...

The body is set against the person.

So, abortion, hooking up, euthanasia, homosexuality, and transgenderism are the results. (Evolution)

The body is separate from the person.
(Simple)

Our Argument

Christians have a **favorable view** of the body (Romans 12)

The biological correspondence between males and females is part of the **original creation.**

Sexual differentiation is part of what God pronounced as **“very good.”**

Which provides a **reference point for morality. (Very good)**

There is a **purpose** in the physical structures of our bodies.

Teleology produces harmony between biological and gender identity.

Questions

If gender is a social construct, how can gender identity be innate and immutable?

How can biology determine one's identity concerning social construct in the womb?

How can one's identity be unchanging (immutable) concerning an ever-changing social construct?

If gender identity is innate, how can it be fluid?

Biology

Transgenderism rests on the notion that identity is innate.

You can be born a man and feel like a woman. Vice-versa.

Thus, adjusting hormones, restructuring the anatomy, and aligning with the body's inner sense of self.

When all goes right with the developmental process, it's relatively easy to discern a baby boy from a baby girl.

Embryology: What Normally Happens

Langman's Medical Embryology says, "sex of a new organism is determined at fertilization."



An X-carrying sperm produces a female (XX) embryo, and a Y-carrying sperm has a male (XY) embryo.



YOUR SEX is determined AT fertilization.

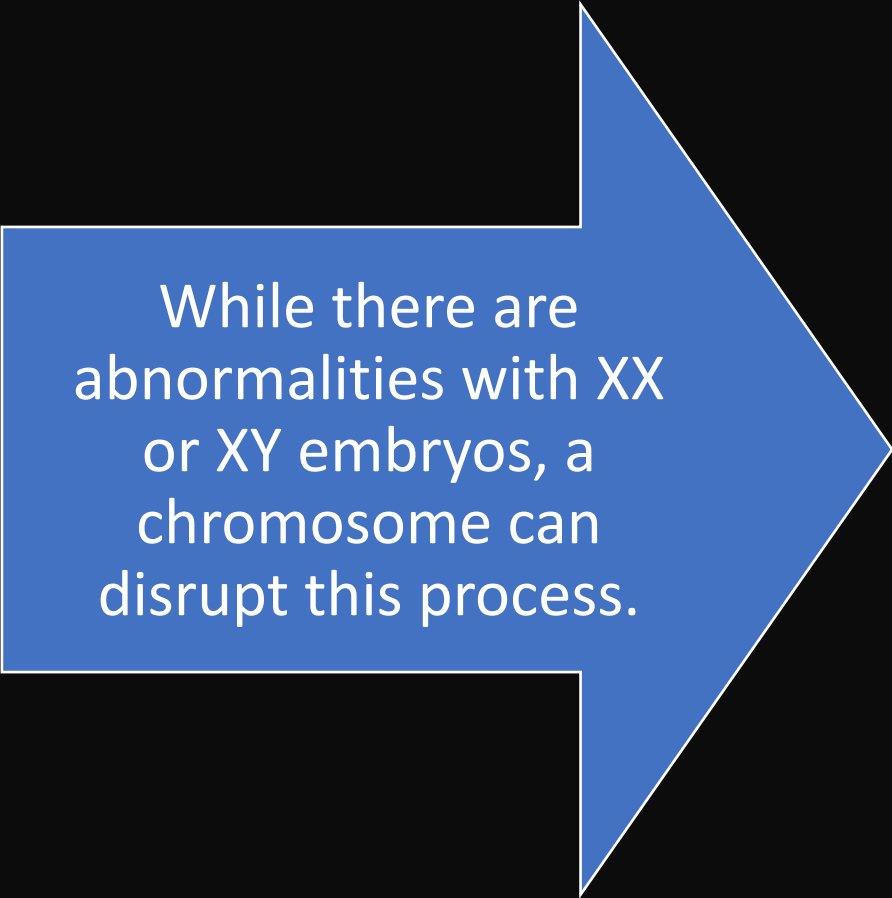


By a specific kind of sperm (X or Y).




It is the FATHER rather than the mother whose gamete determines the sex of the embryo.

Embryology



While there are abnormalities with XX or XY embryos, a chromosome can disrupt this process.



However, these abnormalities have nothing to do with transgender identities.

What is sex in the first place?

The defining feature of an organism is organization.

Sex, in terms of male and female, is identified by their organization.

The fundamental conceptual distinction between male and female is the organism's organization for sexual reproduction.

So, we define males and females based on their sex roles and their reproductive systems.

In biology, an organism is male or female if it is structured to perform one of the respective roles in reproduction.

What is sex in the first place?

Males are organized to engage in sexual acts that donate genetic material, while females are meant to receive genetic material.



Sex is understood this way throughout ALL species.

Brain is Sexed

After reproductive organs,
the brain is the most “sexed”
organ in the human being.

How one experiences
emotions, pain, seeing,
hearing, remembering, and
navigating are all
neurological differences in
men and women.

What about disorders of
sexual development?

(one in 5000) births.

But they don't represent a
third sex.

If a heart doesn't pump, we
don't call it a “difference.”
We call it diseased.

Gender Matters

Boy and Girls Think and act differently.

Brain is wired differently

Risk

Aggression

School/learning

Sex

Drugs

Disciplines

Transgender and Sex “Reassignment”

People who have sexual reassignment surgery do not become the opposite sex.

Because they do not change their organismal organization for reproduction.

They merely acquire the outward appearance of a change in the bodily organization.

They look natural, but they don't function.

There can never be any real integration of the organism for reproduction.

Transgenderism

An artificial heart
functions as a heart

An artificial penis or
vagina can never
function for
reproduction.

Point: every surgical
attempt to change
sex must involve
body mutilation.

The Hard Truth

Your brain is NOT at war
with your body.

Scientific FACTS do not
matter.

Every cell has sex.

You are different across
all your organs.

No matter your gender
philosophy, Doctors must
still know your biological
sex before placing you on
an operating table.

The Hard Truth

While the New York City Human Rights Commission will tell you, there are over 31 gender expressions.

Science, biology, anatomy, and Scripture prove that only two exist.

No matter whether surgery can or will change your sex.

You can't change your biological organization. Plastic surgery can create a vagina to look like a penis, and it CAN NEVER create an actual sexually reproducing organ.



Your body is integrated for reproduction.



It has a purpose because the organ has a definition that is central to this purpose.



The female organ acts as a receptacle.



A Penis deposits sperm capable of procreation towards and penetrating the female organ.

The Truth

Hard Truth

Every surgical attempt to change sex must involve mutilation of the body that identifies one's actual sex.

There is no scientific data that proves otherwise

Science has proven that only some people become better.
(University of Birmingham)


Rate of psychiatric hospitalization is three times the rate of others.

Suicide attempts are nearly five times more frequent.

The suicide that leads to death was 19 times higher—(University of Bern in Switzerland).

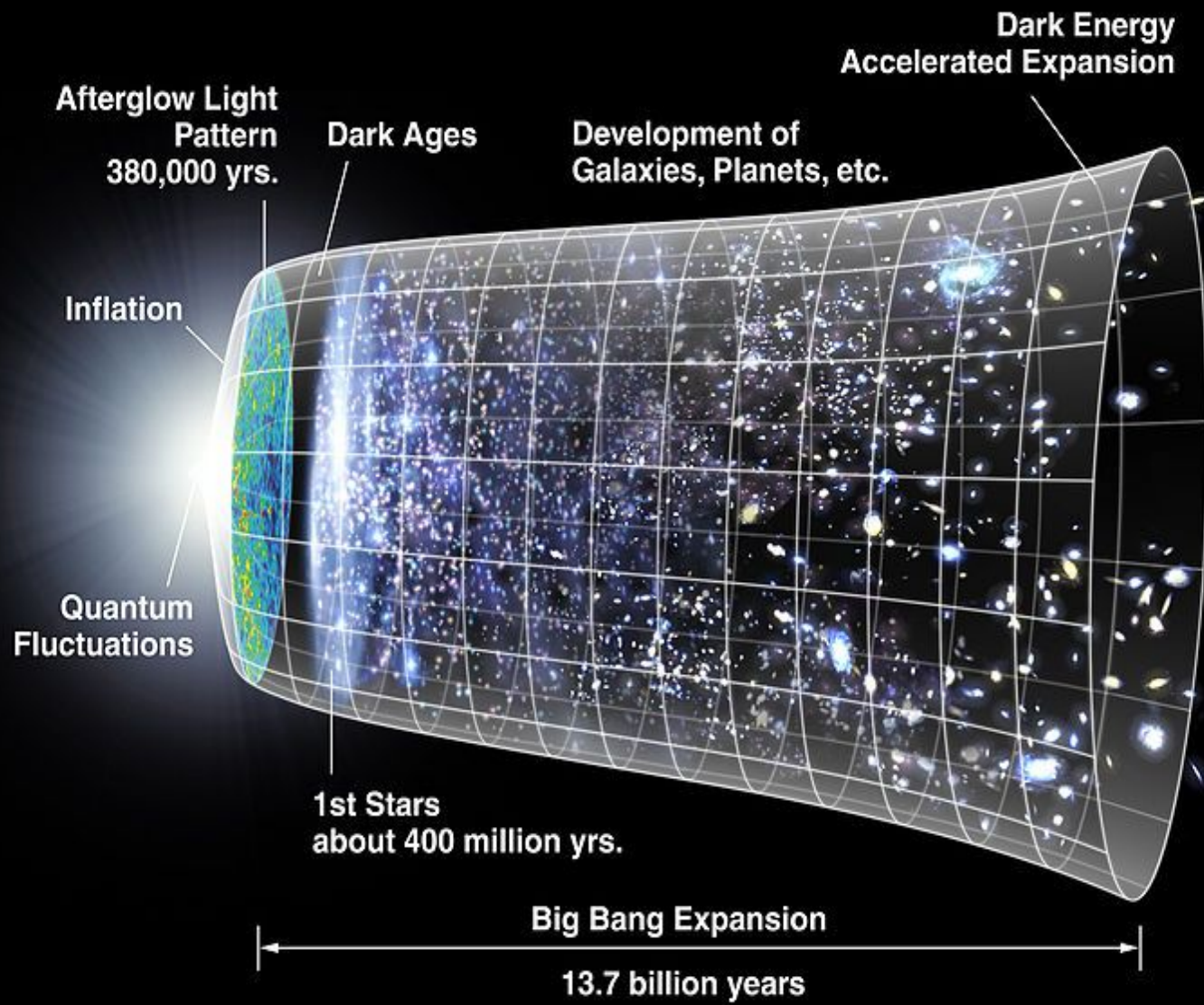
Hard Truth...

There is no scientific evidence that a transgender identity is biologically determined.

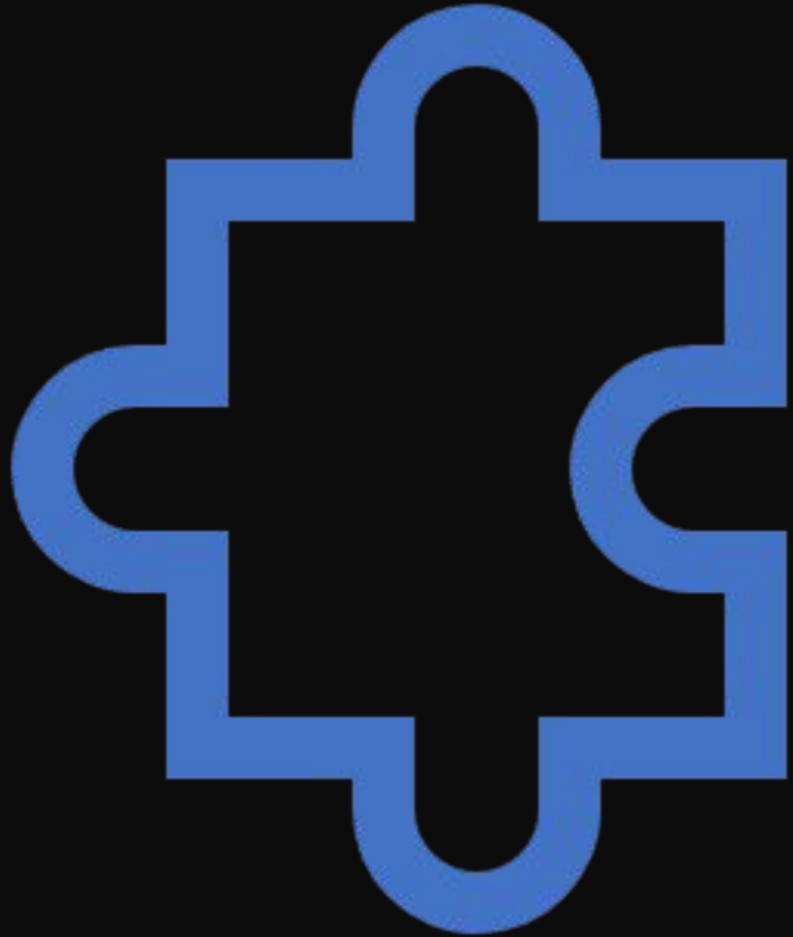


Science enormously supports that you are the biological sex you are born with.

Cosmology



Why Evil and Suffering?



The Inditement...

If God is all good,
He would defeat evil.

If God is all-powerful,
He could defeat evil.

But evil is not defeated.

Hence, there is no such God.

If You Are Right..

If God is Good:

Either God cannot abolish evil, or He will not.

If He cannot, then He is not all-powerful.

If He will not, then He isn't all good.

God's Omnipotence Is In Question..

If God is All-Powerful:

If God is all-good, He would destroy evil

If God is all-powerful, He could destroy evil.
But evil is not destroyed.

Therefore, no such God exists.



Let's Say You Are Right...God is Good.

If God is Good:

Either God cannot abolish evil, or He will not.

If He cannot, then He is not all-powerful.

If He will not, then He isn't all good.

God all powerfulness is
misunderstood.



Our Response to Evil and Suffering..

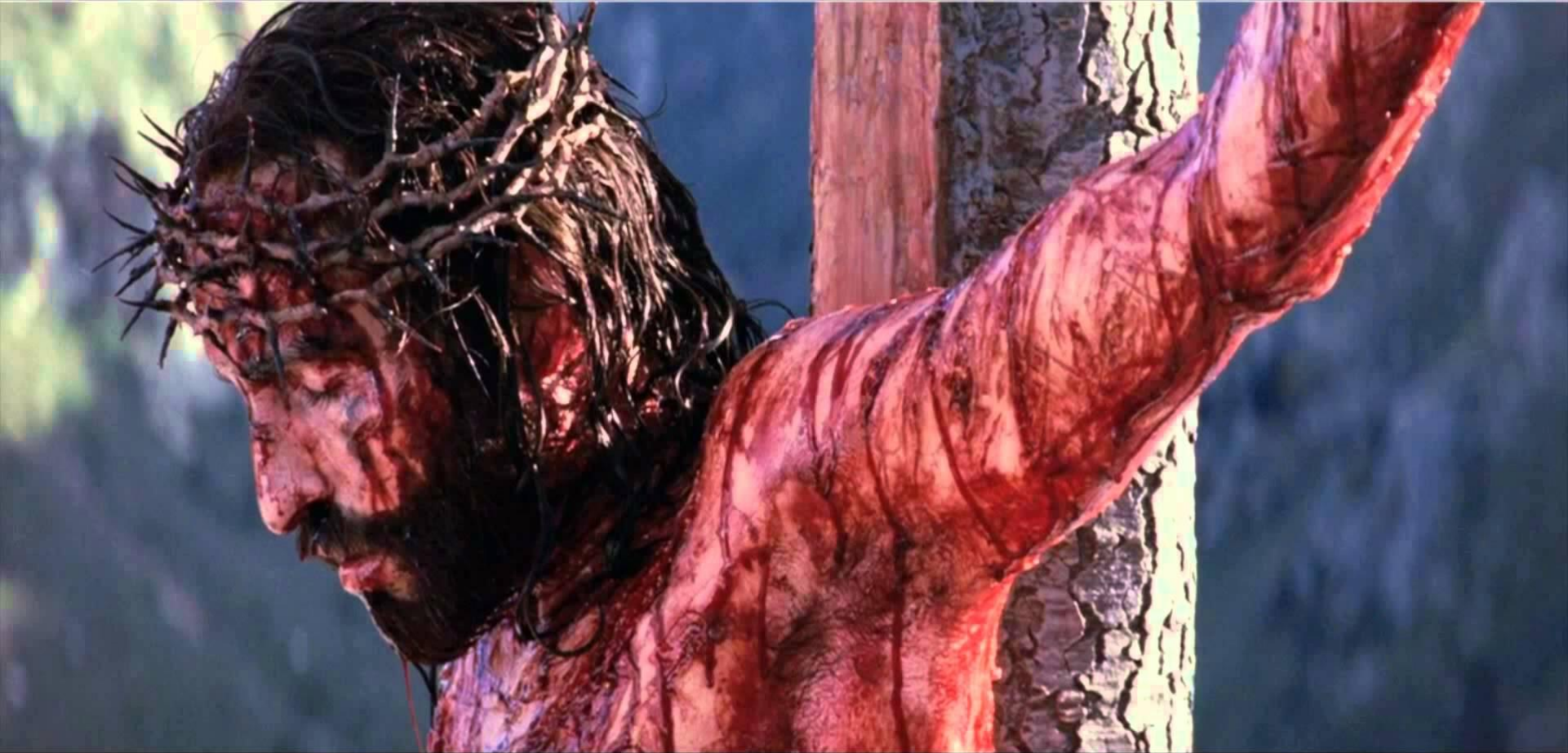
Therefore,

If God is all good,
He would defeat evil.

If God is all-powerful,
He could defeat evil.

Evil is not yet defeated.

Therefore, one-day evil will be defeated.



Christianity is the only religion with a GOD
who suffered with His people.

Faith Development Principles

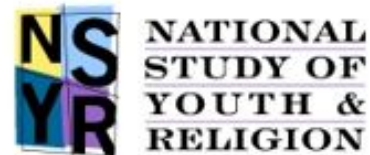
A young man with short, dark, curly hair is sitting on stone steps outdoors. He is wearing a light blue hoodie and blue jeans. He is holding an open, dark brown Bible with both hands and looking down at the pages. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green grass, a stone ledge, and trees with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a bokeh effect.



The Science of Adolescent Retention

(Dr. Christian Smith)

1. Highly Devoted Religious Parents
2. High Numbers of Highly Supportive Christian Adults
3. Regular Bible Studies, Church Attendance, and Prayer.
4. Low Levels of Doubt
5. High Levels of Religious Experiences



The **Less Religious** A Student, the **Less Parental Control**. The **More Religious**, the **More Parent Control**





**God Talk Must
Be
Intentionality**

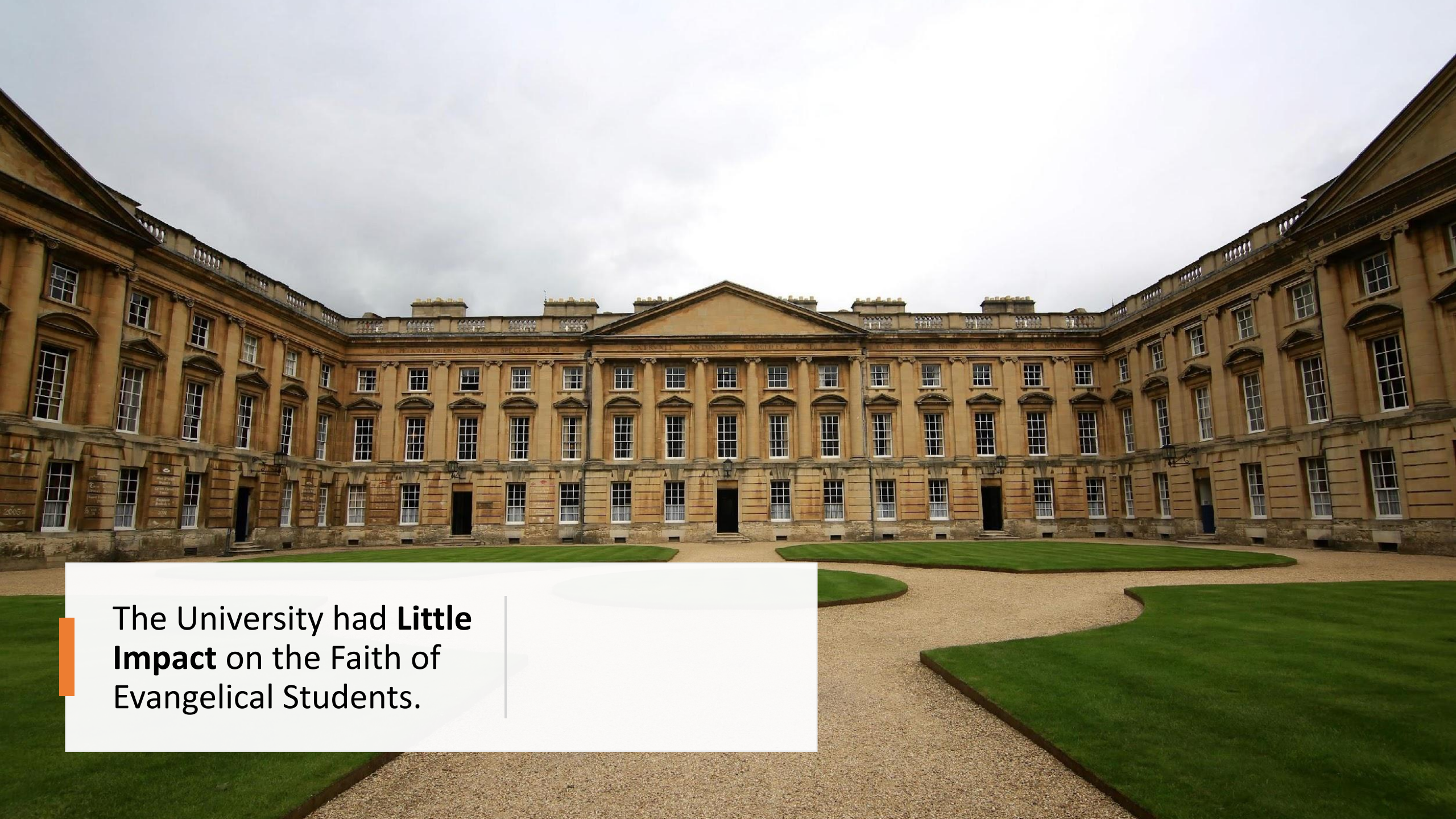


The Two Best Predictors of Retention

1. The degree of **freedom of thought** encouraged
2. Religion emphasized in their **homes**



Divorce Was A Great Predictor for The Lowest Rate of Church Attendance



The University had **Little Impact** on the Faith of Evangelical Students.

Adult Socialization and Your Children

The warmth of relationships influenced church involvement.

A church with a formal youth group **increases** Faith

Fostering church commitment is caused by personal relationships with **parents, peers, and church leaders.**

- **Membership** formed moral values better than their parents' beliefs.
- **College students** are most effected by their peers not their parents.
- **Less education** a student has the more irreligious they become.

Socialization By Adults

Socialization begins at the age of two.

The most religious students were those in groups **most concerned about training** their members to be religious.

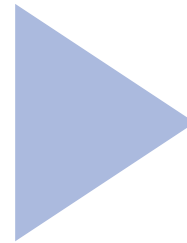
Family traditions of church attendance **accompanied** by a loving church greatly impacted a student's positive desire for religion.

- **Church leaders** who are inapproachable, insincere, or uncertain about their beliefs caused the “dislike” of religion.
- **Youth groups** that snubbed or rejected students caused the rejection of faith.
- **Unpleasant religious training** caused the rejection of faith.

Scripture and Prayer: Intimate Connection with the Deity

Intimacy w/Deity

Ages 10-11 was the age for God as a personal relationship.



The idea of God is loving, sound, and kind most **appealed** to the youngest students.



Belief Erodes Before Church Attendance

Scripture and Prayer: Intimate Connection with the Deity

Intimacy w/Deity

- Momentary **wonder** was found to be the basis of reverence and could lead to communion with God.
- This begins in childhood.
- In 90% of students (in a survey) reported that an awareness of the Presence of God was **related to prayer** among those who did not attend church.
- 2/3rd of Intimacy occurred in **solitude**.




Doubts

Religious education was held in low esteem by pupils.



Negative attitudes about religion begin in **primary schools**.



Grows more hostile in secondary schools.
(Middle)



Alienation is marked by 14-15 years of age.

Doubts

Less Doubts/Retention

Existential faith is more important than academic faith in students.

The intensity of belief was independent of opinions but depended on **solid social support**.

Local church engagement and their positive attitudes to church firmly embed belief.

More Doubts/Attrition

- **Unbelief** was rare and found only in those after **twelve**.
- Ideas about God were not related to **Sunday School** attendance.
- At twelve, **doctrinal concerns** decreased, but emotional concerns increased.
- Cognitive knowledge about God did not guarantee a conviction.

Doubts

Less Doubts/Retention

Church school had no impact on belief. But membership did have an impact

An authoritarianism attitude strongly impacted the belief.

More Doubts/Attrition

- **God as Creator** decreased with age.
- The idea that **God is Good** decreases with age.
- **Disbelief in Jesus** being God arose in those 15-16 years of age.
- Move away from God was **agnostic** rather than atheist.

Doubts

- Typical age of return by young adults is 30.



Doubts



More Doubts/Attrition

The connection between disbelief and science.

Sunday school **did not affect** moral reasoning.

When new identities are formed, and they feel safe reorganizing their lives, they defect.

They **slowly discard** beliefs.

Religious Experiences

Religious Experience/Retention

American adolescents are the **most reluctant to deny** the supernatural.

Fact: Religious experiences **sustains faith.**

Religion **begins** with religious experiences.

Something unique and of quality must attract a student to a religious experience. **It was mysticism.**

Mysticism is **highest during worship.** Sense the Presence of God.



Religious Experiences

Religious Experience/Retention

Social change is connected to **ecstasy**

Uninhibited worship is connected to a **sense of joy and reassurance.**

The **more educated a student** becomes, the **less conformist** they are and the more likely they are to feel close to God through **solitude.**



Religious Experiences

Religious Experience/Retention

- Attendance at a **retreat** caused a change in a student for **two months**.
- Psychologists have found that people who have **RE have stable personalities**.
- Students were attracted to the Power of God, especially **boys**.



Religious Experiences

Religious Experience/ Retention

- Those reporting a RE said it produced a **lasting influence** on their lives.
- The saliency of the RE was based on the **number of times** the experience was reported.
- Evidence was found that the experiential element of religion was **related to the arts**, which stimulated the imagination.
- **Regular church attendance** was connected to religious experience.
- Conversion is **aided** by dogmatism.

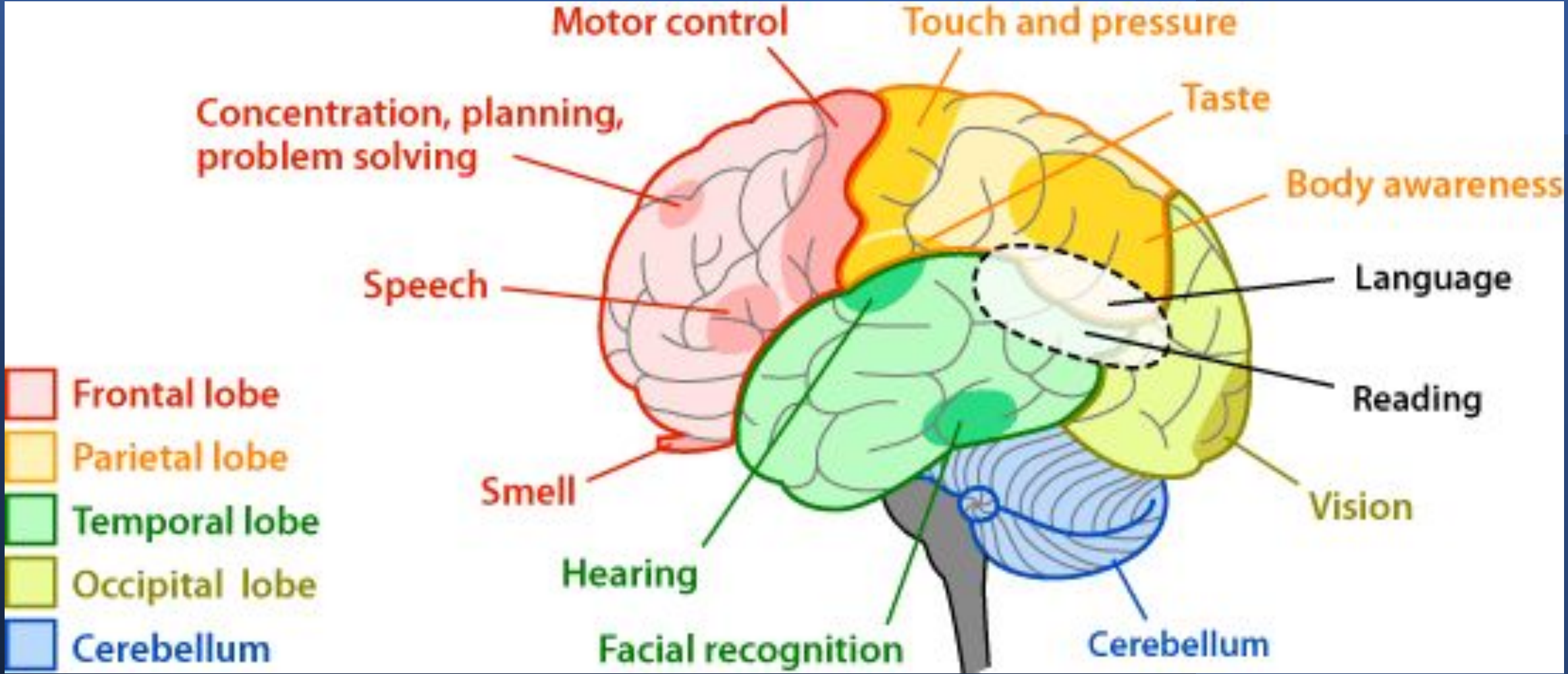




Religious Experience

- **Only 2%** of students reported a religious experience.
- In Another survey, 52% of adolescents and 49% of young adults said they had **never** had a religious experience.
- **Half said they would love to!**

48 hours to Seal A Religious Experience Through Group Reflection



THE STRUCTURES OF NEUROTRANSMITTERS

STRUCTURE KEY: ● Carbon atom ○ Hydrogen atom ⊙ Oxygen atom ⊙ Nitrogen atom ⊙ Rest of molecule

ADRENALINE

Fight or flight neurotransmitter



Produced in stressful or exciting situations. Increases heart rate & blood flow, leading to a physical boost & heightened awareness.

NORADRENALINE

Concentration neurotransmitter



Involved in attention & responding actions in the fight or flight response. Constricts blood vessels, increasing blood flow.

DOPAMINE

Pleasure neurotransmitter



Feelings of pleasure, and also addiction, movement, and motivation. People repeat behaviours that lead to dopamine release.

SEROTONIN

Mood neurotransmitter



Contributes to well-being & happiness; helps sleep cycle & digestive system regulation. Affected by exercise & light exposure.

Oxytocin
Social
Bonding

GABA

Calming neurotransmitter



Calms firing nerves in CNS. High levels improve focus; low levels cause anxiety. Also contributes to motor control & vision.

ACETYLCHOLINE

Learning neurotransmitter



Involved in thought, learning, & memory. Activates muscle action in the body. Also associated with attention and awakening.

GLUTAMATE

Memory neurotransmitter



Most common brain neurotransmitter. Involved in learning & memory, regulates development & creation of nerve contacts.

ENDORPHINS

Euphoria neurotransmitters



Released during exercise, excitement, & sex, producing well-being & euphoria, reducing pain. Biologically active section shown.

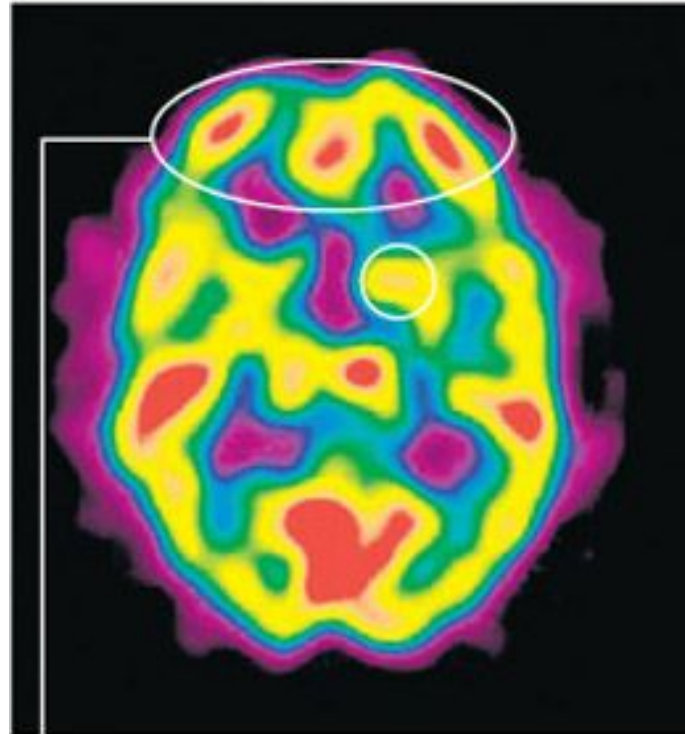


Worship and Speaking in Tongues

Evidence for a Religious State

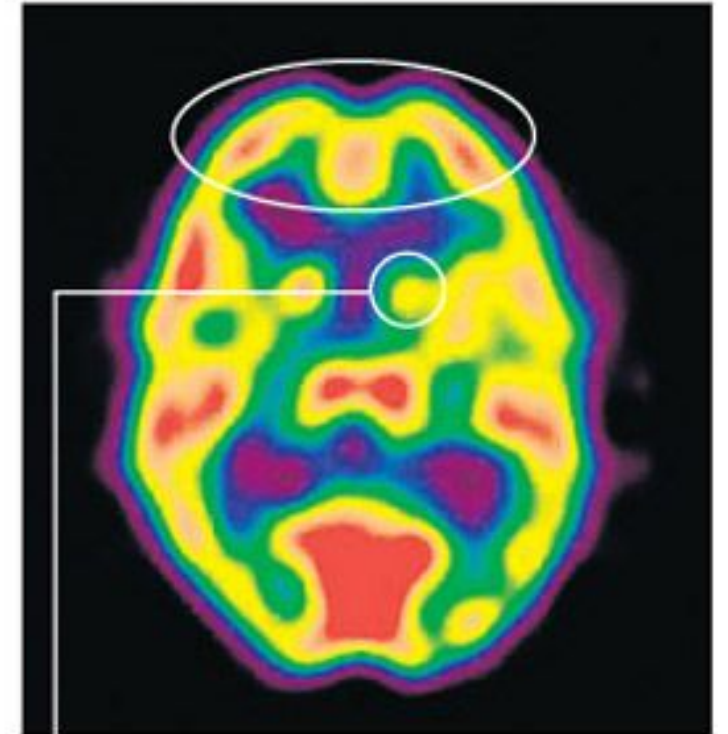
Scientists found notable changes in brain activity when people speak in tongues. The brain scans below show blood flow in the brain (blue lowest, red highest).

SINGING GOSPEL SONG



Frontal lobes Involved in the willful control of behaviors; more activity when singing than when speaking tongues.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES



Left caudate Involved in motor and emotional control; less activity in those speaking in tongues.

Source: Andrew B. Newberg, University of Pennsylvania

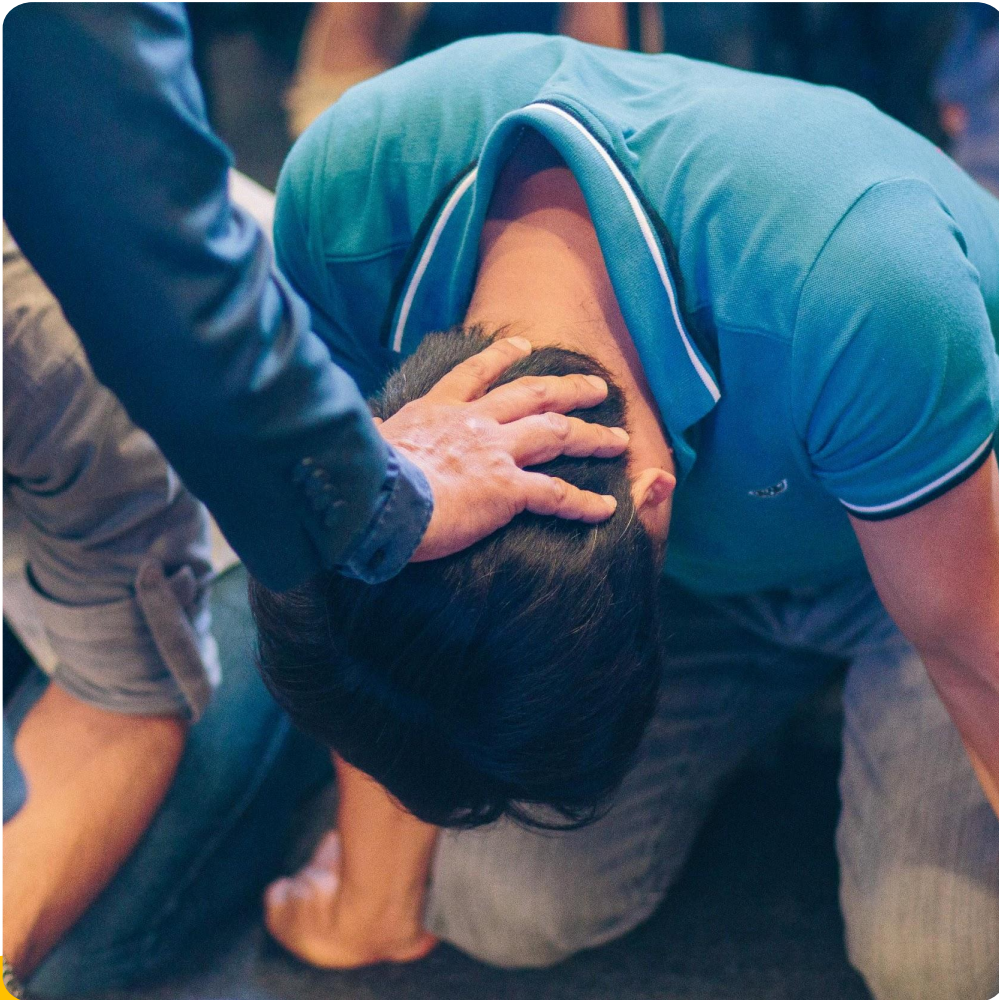
Religious Experiences

Whether positive or negative, our view of God greatly influences our brain's acceptance of God.

If you have a **negative thinking about God**, your brain tells you to stay away from God

If you think positively about God, your **brain tells you to come closer** to God.





- **Repetition writes itself in the neurons of your brain.**
- **“Neurons that fire together wire together.”**
- **Therefore, repeated experiences and practices wire themselves into your brain.**
- **However, if you don’t “Repeat” a practice, the brain can lose the experience.**

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- **The brain of an atheist** is different from the brain of a believer.
 - When atheists and believers were shown pictures, exciting things happened.
 - The believer sees things that are there, and they also see things that are not there.
 - Th **Atheists** seldom saw things that were not in the picture but **struggled to see what was in them.**
 - **But when dopamine was added, the atheist could** see what they were missing.
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A photograph of a woman sitting by a hospital bed, looking at a patient lying in bed. The patient is wearing a blue hospital gown and has a medical device attached to their arm. The woman is looking down at the patient with a concerned expression. The background is a hospital room with medical equipment.

Prayer is scientifically

Religious Experiences

- Bring about peace **and calmness** in those who participate.
- **Increase joy**
- Religious experiences are **needed** for belief to be embedded.
- When we **“think,”** we see a horizontal line, and our neurons fire when we see a vertical line—a cross and the symbol of the cross affects the human brain.
- **Awe is increased.**
- A spatial sense of space is being invaded by the mystical.
- **Reward chemicals are released**
- The sense of something being **indescribable is removed.**
- You are **created** to be a “receiver” to talk to God.



The Take Home List

“You Must Not Forget To Be
Intentional.”

