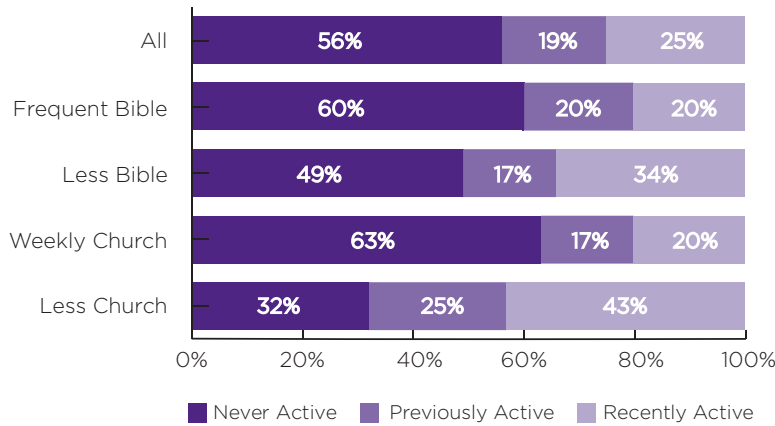


RELIGIOUS ENGAGEMENT & SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Sexual activity among unmarried evangelical Millennials



The poll, “Sex & Unexpected Pregnancies: What Evangelical Millennials Think & Practice” showed strong correlations between the likelihood of sexual activity and the level of religious involvement. Among unmarried evangelicals ages 18-29 who are frequent Bible readers (thrice weekly or more), 20 percent had been sexually active in the past three months, while 60 percent had never been sexually active. Among less frequent Bible readers, 34 percent had been sexually active recently, while 49 percent had never been sexually active.

Similarly, among unmarried evangelical Millennials who attend church every week or more, 20 percent had been sexually active recently, while 63 percent had never been. Among less frequent churchgoers, 43 percent had been sexually active recently, and just 32 percent had never been.

Regret of sexual activity was more common among frequent Bible readers and weekly churchgoers.

“I regret my sexual activity.”				
	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Unmarried	42%	28%	15%	15%
>> Frequent Bible reader	50%	23%	14%	13%
>> Less frequent Bible reader	34%	34%	16%	17%
>> Weekly church	46%	26%	14%	14%
>> Less church	36%	32%	18%	15%

Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Among all evangelical Millennials, those who read the Bible less frequently and/or attend church less than once a week were more likely to believe that abstinence is unrealistic for unmarried adults in today’s world.

“Abstinence is just not realistic for most unmarried adults in today’s world.”				
	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
All respondents	11%	22%	22%	45%
>> Frequent Bible reader	10%	18%	19%	53%
>> Less frequent Bible reader	12%	28%	27%	34%
>> Weekly church	9%	20%	22%	50%
>> Less church	16%	30%	24%	31%

Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Eleven percent of all unmarried evangelical Millennials agreed strongly that, “I would like to remain abstinent, but I just can’t see to do it.” Those who read the Bible and/or attend worship services less frequently were more likely than others to agree with this statement.

“I would like to remain abstinent, but I just can’t seem to do it.”				
	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Unmarried	11%	17%	18%	54%
>> Frequent Bible reader	10%	14%	14%	62%
>> Less frequent Bible reader	13%	21%	25%	41%
>> Weekly church	11%	14%	17%	58%
>> Less church	13%	25%	23%	39%

Frequent Bible readers and churchgoers were more likely to say that they were committed to remaining abstinent until marriage.

“I am committed to not having sex until I am married.”				
	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Unmarried	59%	16%	14%	12%
>> Frequent Bible reader	67%	13%	12%	8%
>> Less frequent Bible reader	46%	20%	17%	17%
>> Weekly church	65%	14%	12%	10%
>> Less church	40%	23%	18%	18%

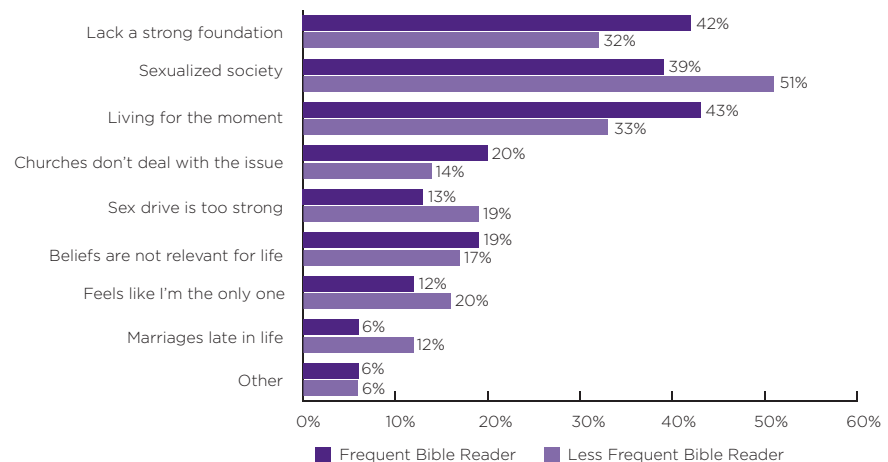
Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Some young, unmarried Christian adults say they believe sexual activity outside marriage is morally wrong, yet they are still sexually active. Respondents were given eight possible reasons for this and were asked which were the top two that explained why some Christians have sex even though they feel it is wrong. Out of the eight options, not one was considered a top two reason by even half of all evangelical Millennials.

However, more frequent Bible readers were more likely to blame sexual activity outside marriage on the lack of a strong biblical foundation, a preference for “living for the moment,” and churches not dealing with sexual issues enough. Less frequent Bible readers were more likely to blame this on marriages happening later in life, on the human sex drive simply being too strong to resist, and especially on the highly sexualized society.

Top reasons unmarried Christians have sex

Among evangelical Millennials



Grey Matter Research conducted this national demographically representative online survey of 1,007 evangelical adults ages 18-29 in May 2012. Evangelicals were identified by Protestant church attendance of at least once a month, believing that they will go to heaven when they die because they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, and strongly agreeing that the Bible is the written word of God and is accurate in all that it teaches, that their personal commitment to Jesus Christ is still important to their lives today, that eternal salvation is possible only through Jesus Christ, and that they personally have a responsibility to tell others about their religious beliefs. The poll has an overall margin of error of ±2.9%. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.