

SPOTLIGHT: The End of Nominal Protestantism

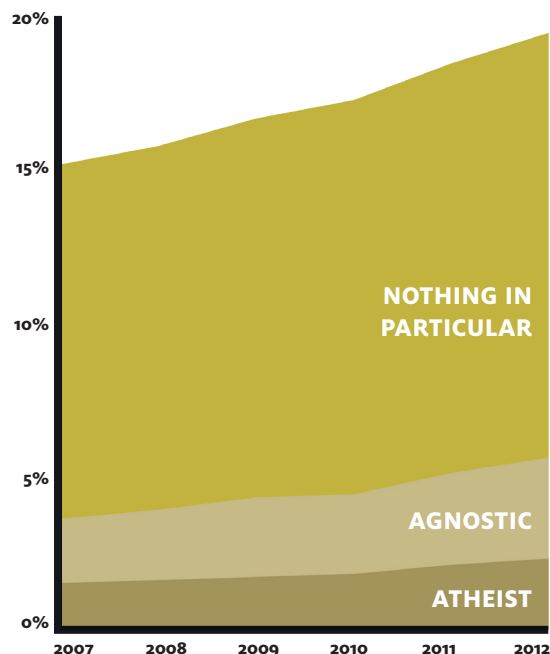
➔ An October poll from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life drew attention to the rise of the religiously unaffiliated—now 1 out of 5 adults and 1 out of 3 adults under 30. Because the survey also found a precipitous fall in Protestant affiliation—the first time it's ever dropped below 50 percent—it looks like bad news. But the decline is almost entirely among people who had identified as Christians culturally. Even among 18- to 29-year-olds, evangelical identity and church attendance are up, according to the General Social Survey.

“The nominals are becoming the ‘nones.’ As the cultural value of identifying as Christian decreases, Christianity is no longer the first choice of many seeking spiritual meaning. But it also means more vibrant congregations.”

~ Ed Stetzer, missiologist and president of LifeWay Research

RISE OF THE ‘NONES’

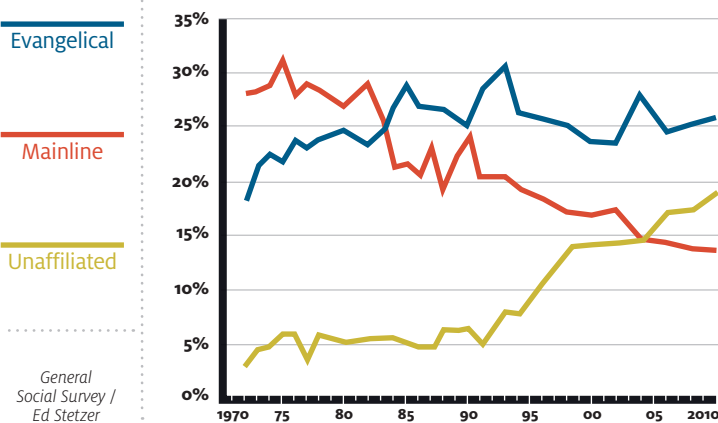
Not all the unaffiliated are unbelievers. Two-thirds believe in God, and 21 percent say they pray daily.



Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

WHERE THE UNAFFILIATED CAME FROM

While not all “nones” were mainline Protestants, mainline decline strongly correlates with unaffiliated growth.



General Social Survey / Ed Stetzer

MILLENNIAL HOPE

Among adults under 30, the unaffiliated are growing faster than evangelicals. But evangelicalism is still growing.

