

THE
SEVEN
FAITH
TRIBES



*Who they are
What they believe
Why they matter*

By George Barna

Religion in America, 2010

FIRST BLOOD DRIVE OF 2010
Sunday February 7th -- **TODAY**
8:30a.m. ~ 12:30 p.m.
North Parking Lot
You can sign-up on the church
website or just walk -up.

FACT** We only average 30 units of blood per
drive... yes that is for our WHOLE CHURCH.

ENCOUNTER WEDNESDAY 6:45PM

Song of Solomon



The Truth About Love, Marriage, & Sex
Beginning January 13

ENCOUNTER WEDNESDAY 6:45PM

THE COSMIC CRUCIFIED

CHRIST

A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 24

"I Believe..."

**PROCLAIMING
THE APOSTLES' CREED**



A Lenten Series Beginning February 21

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The Skeptics

Spiritual Skeptics

- The “no faith” tribe
- 11% of Americans, and made up of “atheists” and “agnostics”
 - 25 million or so adults
 - growing
- 57% men; 2x more likely to be Asian
- Only 8% are African-American
- The least likely of the tribes to marry
- The most likely to be gay

Spiritual Skeptics

- See themselves as typical Americans and they are
 - Avg stress levels
 - as busy, reliable, loyal, self-sufficient, skeptical, and misunderstood as the norm
- Pride themselves in being different in some respects
 - more likely to place careers above all else
 - more likely to embrace change
 - more likely to take risks

Spiritual Skeptics

- See themselves as insensitive to social pressure; want to be true to self
- Not “Type A” people
- Only a third seek to understand meaning and purpose of life
 - for 60%, the meaning of life is to “work hard, do well, and enjoy life however you can.”
- only 1/3 seek to make the world a better place
 - These are not idealists

Spiritual Skeptics

- They wouldn't change much in their lives
 - Just let the chips fall where they may
 - *Almost fatalistic?*
- Only 20% believe in moral absolutes
 - *Why do any?*
- View Christianity as judgment, old-fashioned, out of touch, and insensitive
- Like the pantheists – these are independent, nearly isolated, people
 - *bowling alone?*

Spiritual Skeptics

- 3x more likely to be liberal than conservative
 - went for Gore over Bush by 2 to 1
 - went for Kerry over Bush by 5 to 2

Spiritual Skeptics

- nearly half describe themselves as faith seekers who are unattached
 - 20% claim to think about faith matters on a daily basis
 - 35% are voluntarily exposed to religious media content in a typical month
- 1/3 have an orthodox view of God!
- nor urgency to attach themselves to a more traditional faith experience

Spiritual Skeptics

- They believe that searching for something that adds value and direction to their lives is a futile quest.
 - Most lessons of life are simply about how to live a good and pleasing life.
- A large majority believe that absolute nothingness waits on the other side of death
- Sin is an “inappropriate social behavior.”

The New Atheists

- Not indifferent toward religion, but view it as a evil cancer.
 - *god is not Great: How religion poisons everything*, by Christopher Hitchens
 - *The God Delusion*, by Richard Dawkins
 - *The End of Faith: Religion, terror, and the future of reason*, by Sam Harris

The Faith of the New Atheists

- The cure for faith is science: The existence of God is a scientific question: either he exists or he doesn't.
 - "Science is the only way of knowing – everything else is just superstition" [Robert L. Park]

The Faith of the New Atheists

- Science is the opposite of religion, and will lead people into the clear sunlit uplands of reason.
 - "The real war is between rationalism and superstition. Science is but one form of rationalism, while religion is the most common form of superstition" [Jerry Coyne]
 - "I am not attacking any particular version of God or gods. I am attacking God, all gods, anything and everything supernatural, wherever and whenever they have been or will be invented." [Dawkins]

The Faith of the New Atheists

- In this great struggle, religion is doomed. Enlightened common sense is gradually triumphing and at the end of the process, humanity will assume a new and better character, free from the shackles of religion. Without faith, we would be better as well as wiser. Conflict is primarily a result of misunderstanding, of which Faith is the paradigm.

The Faith of the New Atheists

- Religion exists. It is essentially something like American fundamentalist Protestantism, or Islam. More moderate forms are false and treacherous: if anything even more dangerous, because they conceal the raging, homicidal lunacy that is religion's true nature. [Sam Harris]

The Faith of the New Atheists

- Faith, as defined above, is the most dangerous and wicked force on earth today and the struggle against it and especially against Islam will define the future of humanity. [Everyone!]

Prayer

