Protestant pastor views of Islam

Methodology

- LifeWay Research commissioned Zogby International to conduct a telephone survey of Protestant pastors. It was conducted March1-9, 2010.

- The calling list was randomly drawn from a list of all Protestant churches.

- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called.

- Responses were weighted to reflect the geographic distribution of Protestant churches.

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Methodology continued

Zogby International surveys employ sampling strategies in which selection probabilities are proportional to population size within area codes and exchanges. Up to six calls are made to reach a sampled phone number. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR's approved methodologies[1] and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies.[2]

[1]See COOP4 (p.38) in *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates of Surveys.* The American Association for Public Opinion Research, (2000).
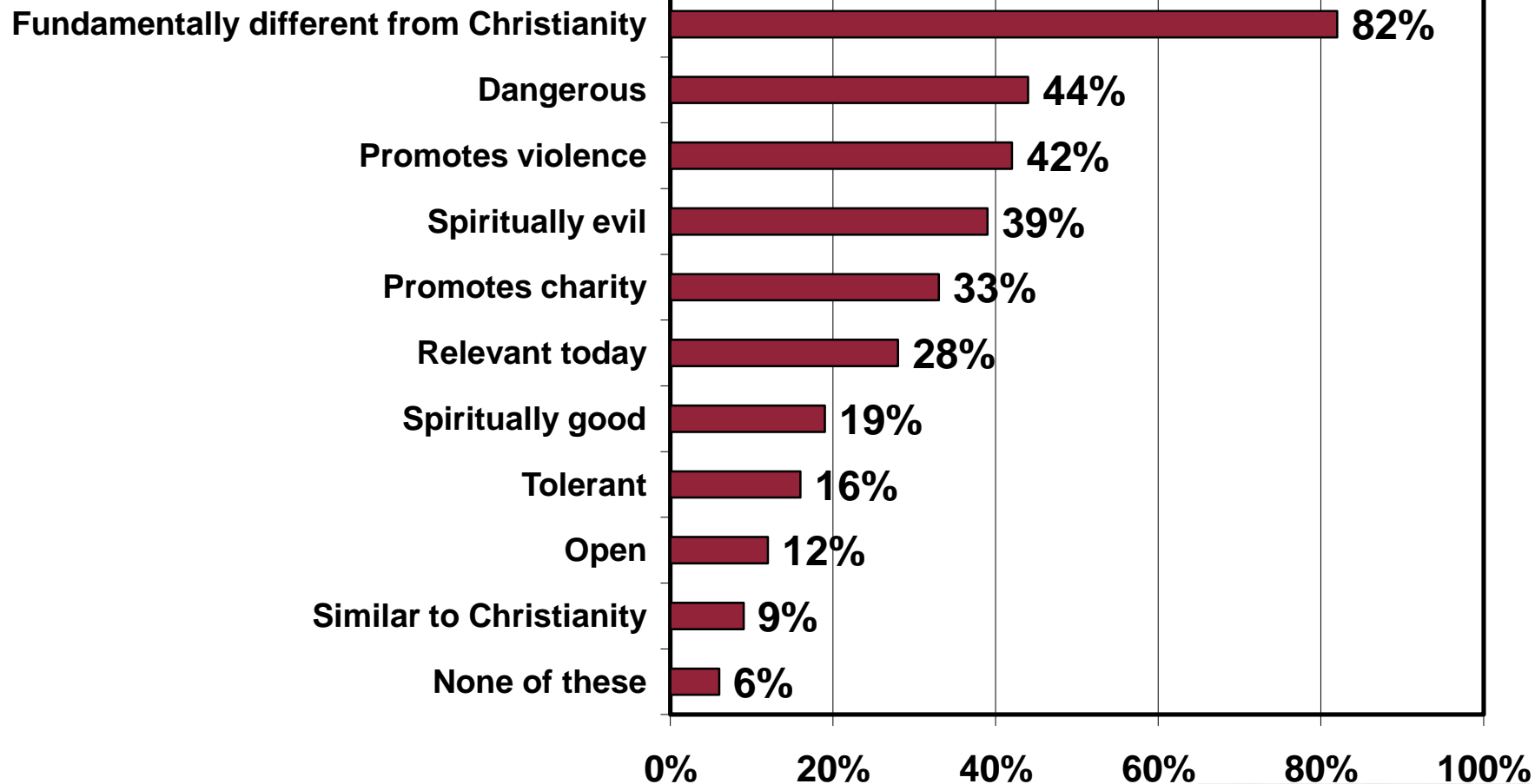[2]*Cooperation Tracking Study: April 2003 Update*, Jane M. Sheppard and Shelly Haas. The Council for Marketing & Opinion Research (CMOR). Cincinnati, Ohio (2003).

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Methodology continued

- ☐ The completed sample of 1,000 phone interviews provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed +3.2%.

- ☐ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

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"Which of the following characteristics would you use to describe Islam?"

Among Protestant Pastors

Characteristic	Percentage
Fundamentally different from Christianity	82%
Dangerous	44%
Promotes violence	42%
Spiritually evil	39%
Promotes charity	33%
Relevant today	28%
Spiritually good	19%
Tolerant	16%
Open	12%
Similar to Christianity	9%
None of these	6%

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Who describes Islam as "Fundamentally different from Christianity?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	**87%**
Consider self "Mainline"	**76%**
Church started after 1920	**86%**
Church started before 1921	**76%**
Located in city of 100,000+	**72%**
Located in suburbs	**89%**

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Who describes Islam as "Dangerous?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	**50%**
Consider self "Mainline"	**37%**
Master's degree or higher	**37%**
Bachelor's degree or less	**57%**
Church started after 1920	**49%**
Church started before 1921	**36%**
Located in city of 100,000+	**37%**
Located in rural area	**49%**

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Who describes Islam as "Promotes violence?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	**49%**
Consider self "Mainline"	**35%**
Master's degree or higher	**37%**
Bachelor's degree or less	**52%**
Church started after 1920	**46%**
Church started before 1921	**35%**
Located in city of 100,000+	**36%**
Located in city of <100,000	**47%**

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Who describes Islam as "Spiritually evil?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	44%
Consider self "Mainline"	32%
Master's degree or higher	34%
Bachelor's degree or less	48%
Church started after 1920	44%
Church started before 1921	29%
Located in city of 100,000+	30%
Located in rural area	42%

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Who describes Islam as "Promotes charity?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	32%
Consider self "Mainline"	52%
Master's degree or higher	44%
Bachelor's degree or less	16%
Church started after 1920	29%
Church started before 1921	42%
Located in city of <100,000	29%
Located in suburbs	43%
Strongly agree know Muslim personally	42%

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Who describes Islam as "Relevant today?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	**28%**
Consider self "Mainline"	**41%**
Master's degree or higher	**33%**
Bachelor's degree or less	**21%**
Located in city of <100,000	**23%**
Located in suburbs	**34%**

Who describes Islam as "Spiritually good?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	**16%**
Consider self "Mainline"	**35%**
Master's degree or higher	**26%**
Bachelor's degree or less	**8%**
Church started after 1920	**15%**
Church started before 1921	**28%**
Located in suburbs	**29%**
Located in rural area	**15%**
Strongly agree know Muslim personally	**24%**

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Who describes Islam as "Tolerant?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	**14%**
Consider self "Mainline"	**25%**
Master's degree or higher	**20%**
Bachelor's degree or less	**9%**

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Who describes Islam as "Open?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	**10%**
Consider self "Mainline"	**18%**
Master's degree or higher	**15%**
Bachelor's degree or less	**8%**
Located in suburbs	**20%**
Located in rural area	**9%**

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Who describes Islam as "Similar to Christianity?"

Significant Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

Consider self "Evangelical"	**7%**
Consider self "Mainline"	**17%**
Master's degree or higher	**12%**
Bachelor's degree or less	**4%**

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"Which is closer to your beliefs?"

Among Protestant Pastors

A: George Bush said "The Muslim faith is based upon peace and love and compassion." 24%

B: Franklin Graham described Islam as "a very evil and a very wicked religion." 47%

Both A and B 12%

Neither/ can't decide 17%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
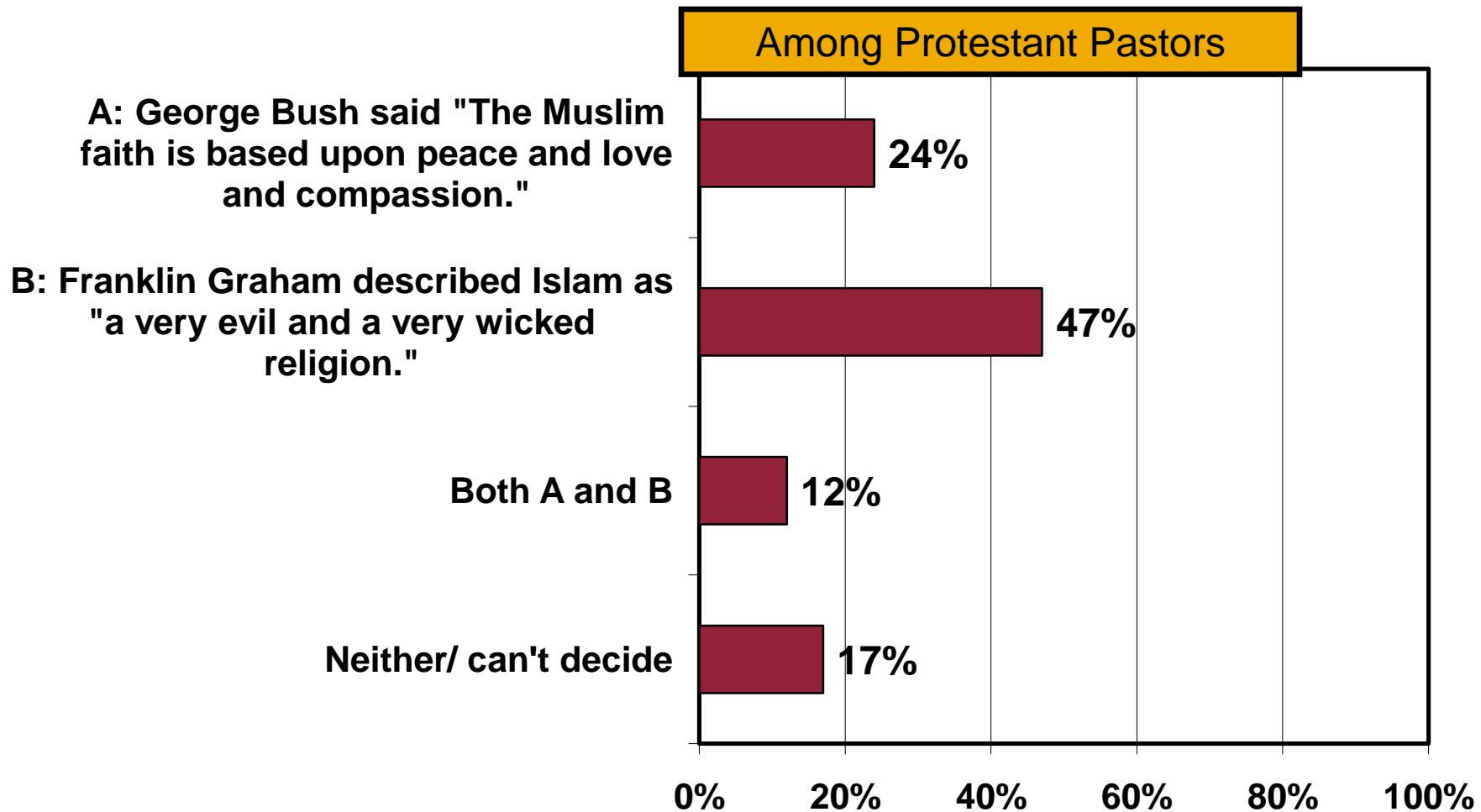
I am going to read two statements to you. Please tell me which one comes closest to your beliefs.

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"Which is closer to your beliefs?"

Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

A: George Bush said "The Muslim faith is based upon peace and love and compassion"

B: Franklin Graham described Islam as "a very evil and a very wicked religion."

	A	B
Consider self "Evangelical"	19%	53%
Consider self "Mainline"	43%	31%
Master's degree or higher	32%	40%
Bachelor's degree or less	9%	62%
Located in city of 100,000+	31%	40%
Located in rural area	19%	55%
Strongly agree know Muslim personally	28%	43%
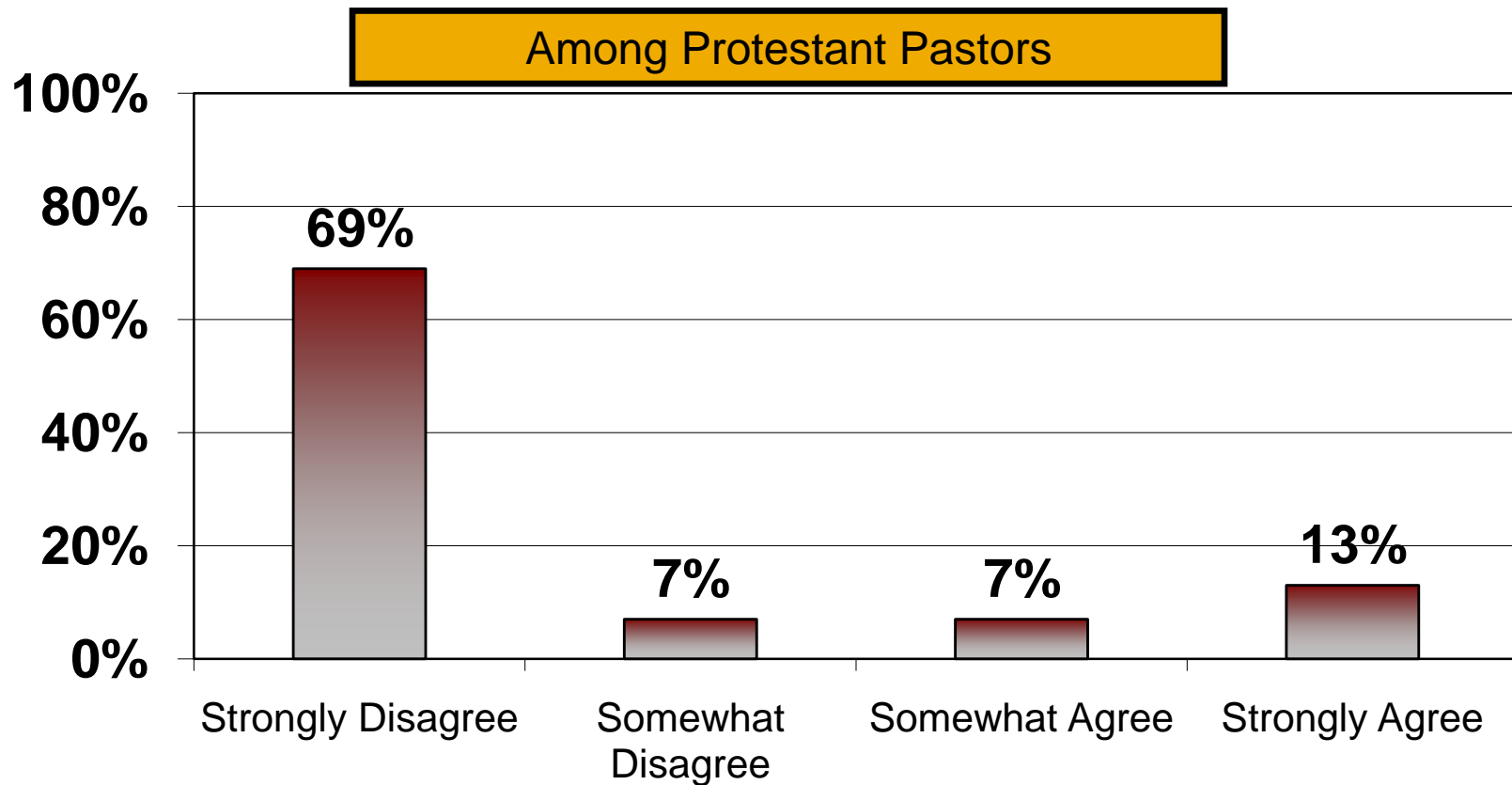
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"Christians and Muslims pray to the same God."

Among Protestant Pastors

- Strongly Disagree: 69%
- Somewhat Disagree: 7%
- Somewhat Agree: 7%
- Strongly Agree: 13%

Don't Know 4%

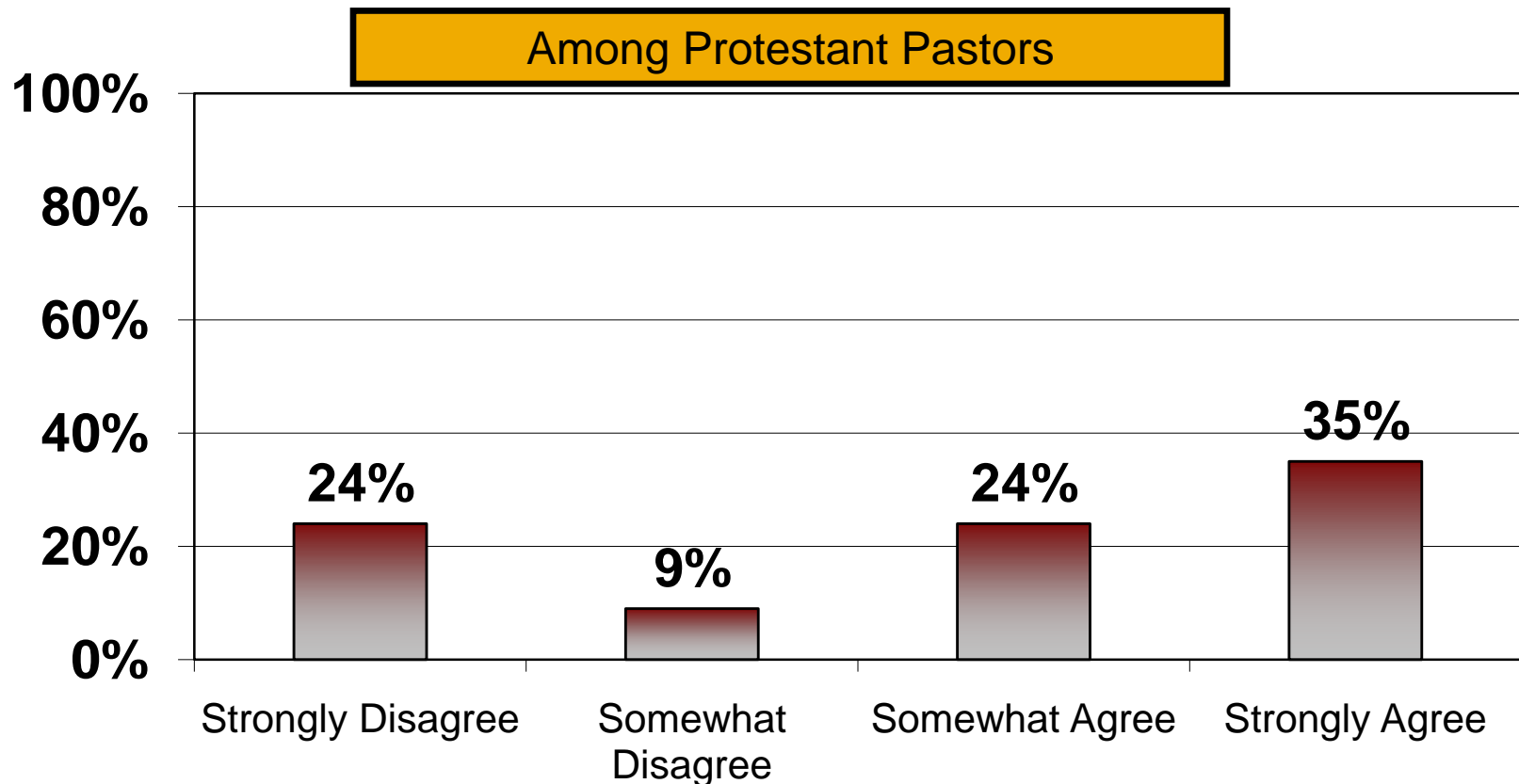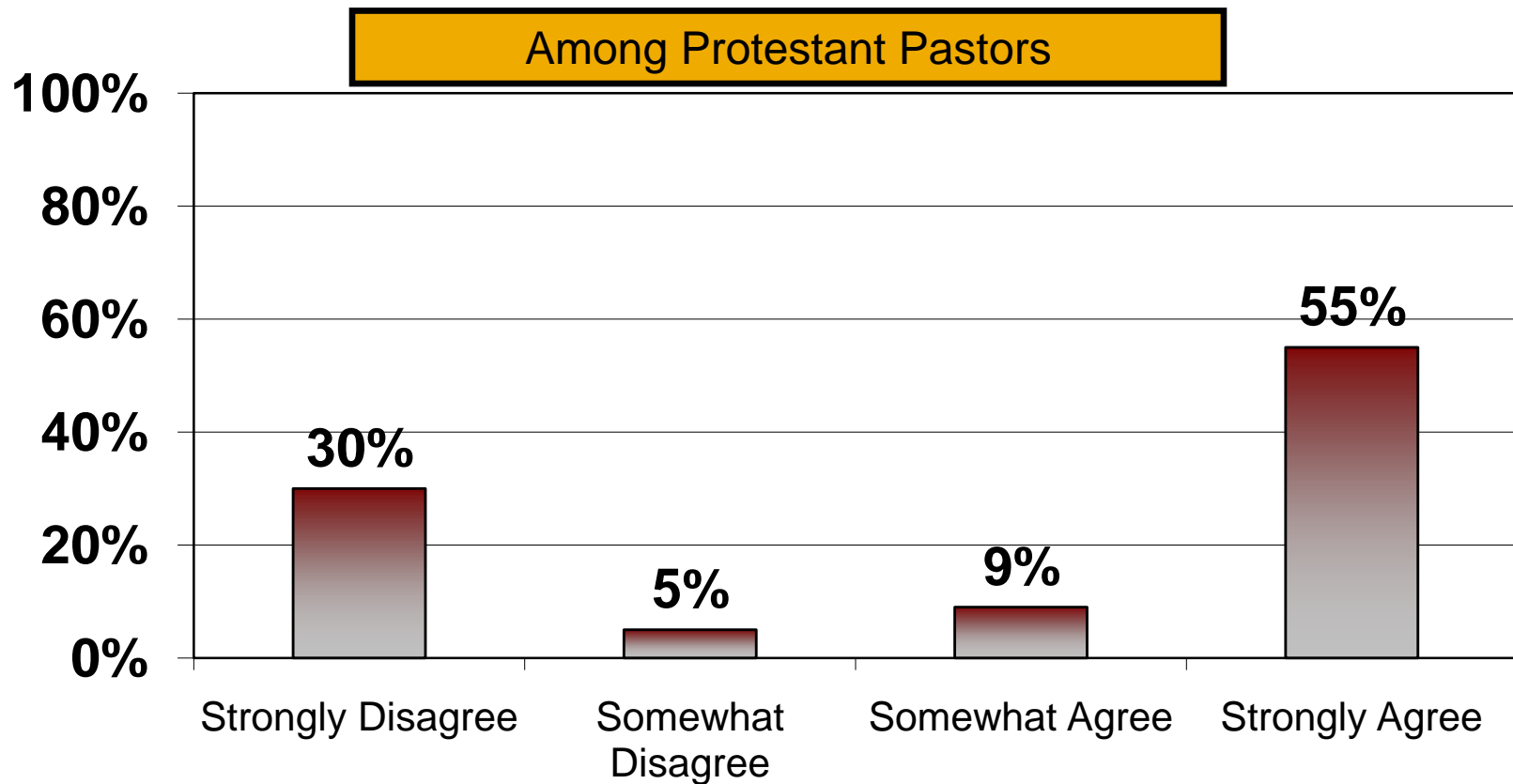For the following questions, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree

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"Christians and Muslims pray to the same God."

Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

❑ Pastors who consider themselves "Evangelical" are more likely to *strongly disagree* than pastors who consider themselves "Mainline" – 76% compared to 46%.

❑ Pastors with a Bachelor's degree or less are more likely to *strongly disagree* than pastors with a Master's degree or higher – 84% compared to 61%.

❑ Pastors who strongly agree they know a Muslim personally are more likely to *strongly agree* that Christians and Muslims pray to the same God – 17%.

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"I believe Christianity and Islam should seek to coexist in America today."

Among Protestant Pastors

- Strongly Disagree: 24%
- Somewhat Disagree: 9%
- Somewhat Agree: 24%
- Strongly Agree: 35%

Don't Know 8%

For the following questions, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

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"I believe Christianity and Islam should seek to coexist in America today."

Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

- Pastors who consider themselves "Mainline" are more likely to *strongly agree* than pastors who consider themselves "Evangelical" – 52% compared to 31%.

- Pastors with a Master's degree or higher are more likely to *strongly agree* than pastors with a Bachelor's degree or less– 44% compared to 19%.

- Pastors who strongly agree they know a Muslim personally are more likely to *strongly agree* that Christianity and Islam should seek to coexist – 40%.

- Pastors of churches that were started before 1921 are more likely to *strongly agree* than pastors of churches started after 1920 – 46% compared to 30%.

"I know a Muslim personally."

Among Protestant Pastors

Chart showing percentages:
- Strongly Disagree: 30%
- Somewhat Disagree: 5%
- Somewhat Agree: 9%
- Strongly Agree: 55%

Don't Know 1%

For the following questions, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

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"I know a Muslim personally."

Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

- Pastors in rural areas are more likely to *strongly disagree* (37%) than pastors in large cities (21%) or suburbs (21%).

- Pastors with a Bachelor's degree or less are more likely to *strongly disagree* than pastors with a Master's degree or higher – 41% compared to 24%.

- Pastors of churches with less than 50 attendees are more likely to *strongly disagree* (41%) than pastors of churches of 50-99 (31%), 100-249 (26%), or 250 or more attendees (26%).

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"There are former Muslims or Muslim background Christian believers in my church."
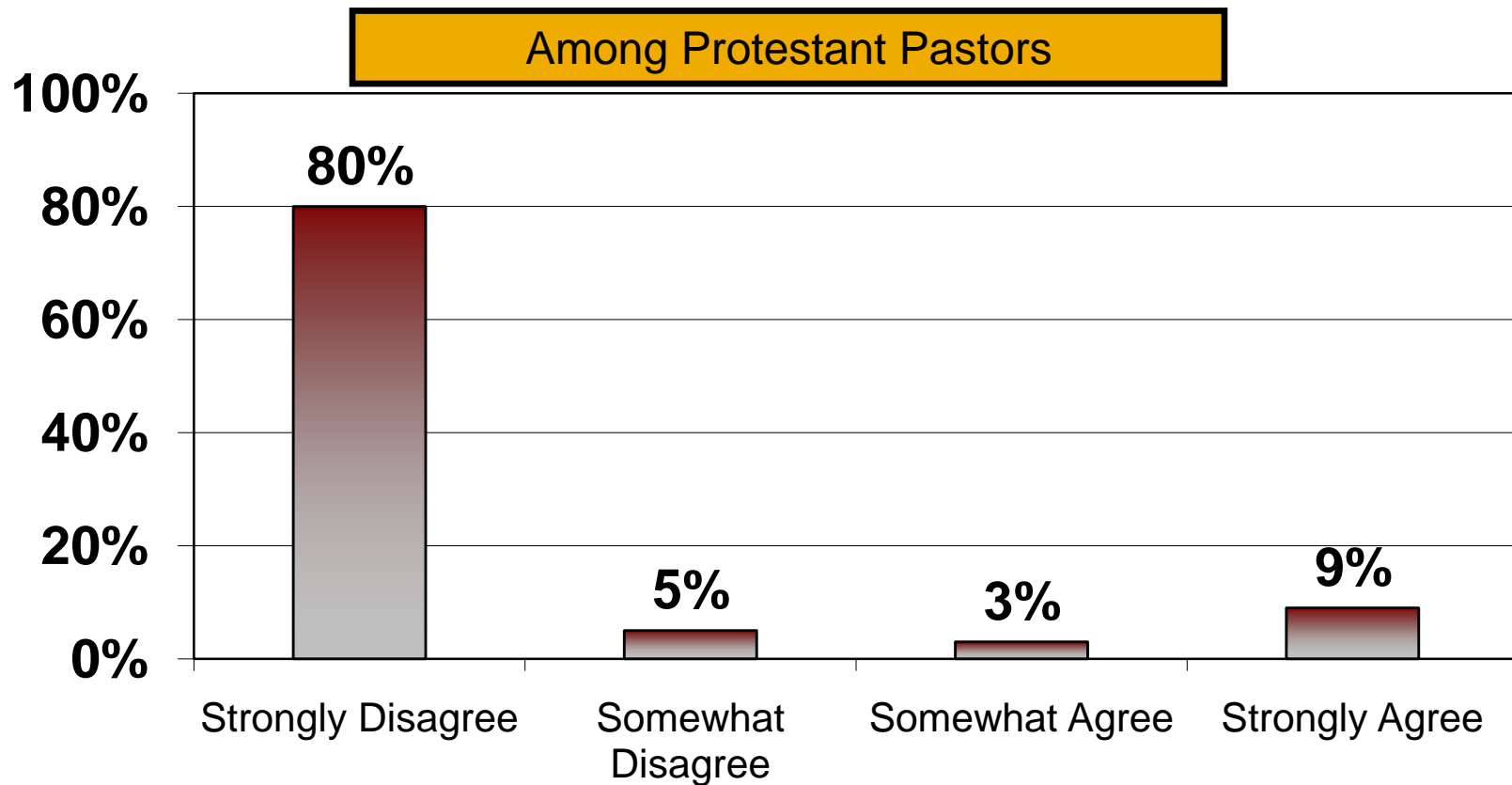
Among Protestant Pastors

- Strongly Disagree: 80%
- Somewhat Disagree: 5%
- Somewhat Agree: 3%
- Strongly Agree: 9%

Don't Know 4%

For the following questions, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

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"The Islamic religion is a relevant and viable religion for today."

Among Protestant Pastors

- Strongly Disagree: 54%
- Somewhat Disagree: 13%
- Somewhat Agree: 14%
- Strongly Agree: 11%
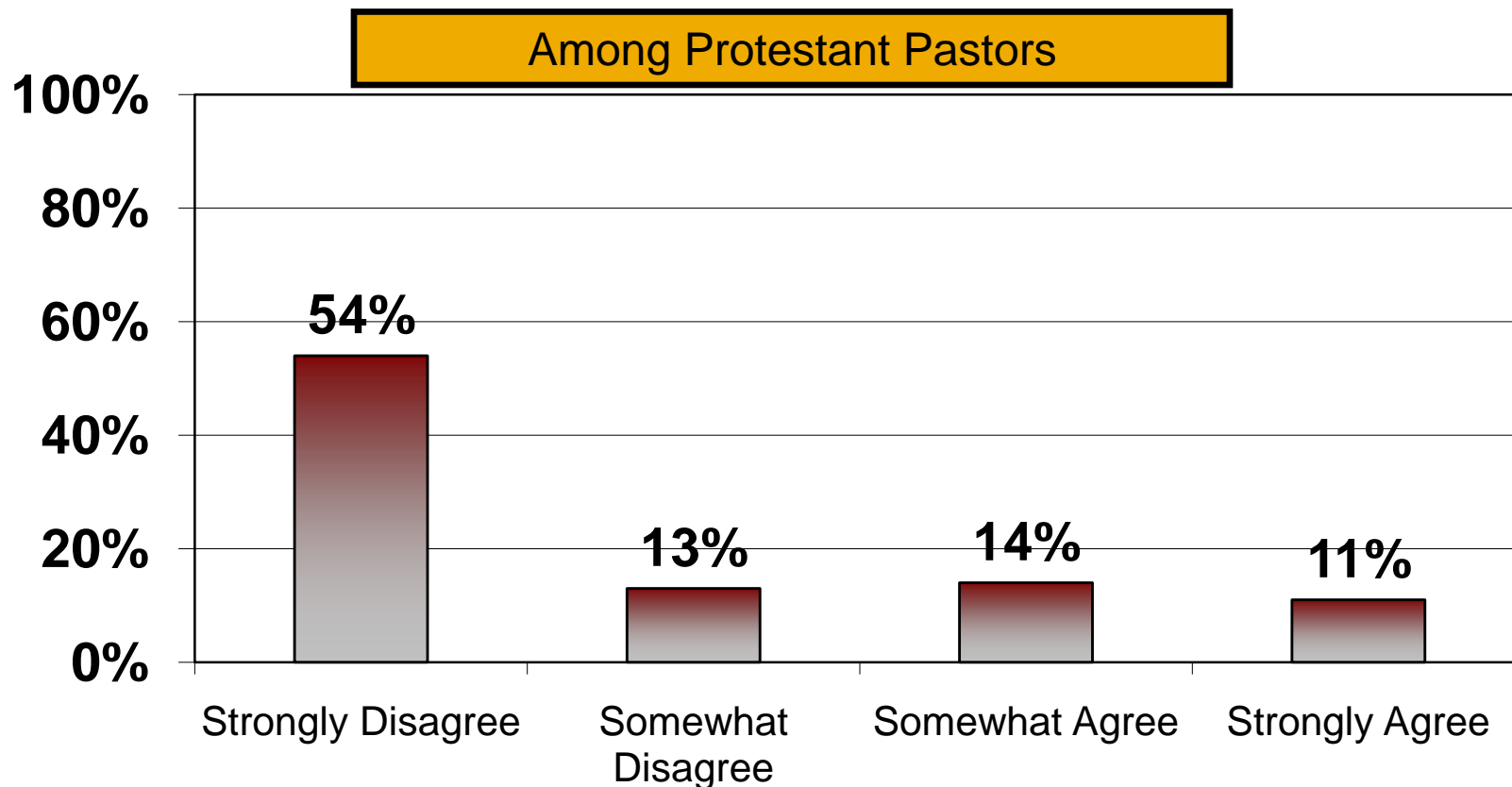
Don't Know 7%

For the following questions, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

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"The Islamic religion is a relevant and viable religion for today."

Differences by Subgroups of Protestant Pastors

☐ Pastors who consider themselves "Mainline" are more likely to *strongly agree* than pastors who consider themselves "Evangelical" – 20% compared to 9%.

☐ Pastors with a Master's degree or higher are more likely to *strongly agree* than pastors with a Bachelor's degree or less – 15% compared to 5%.

☐ Pastors of churches that were started before 1921 are more likely to *strongly agree* than pastors of churches started after 1920 – 18% compared to 8%.

☐ Pastors who strongly agree they know a Muslim personally are more likely to *strongly agree* that the Islamic religion is a relevant and viable religion for today – 15%.

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Protestant pastor views of Islam