

Men practising Christian worship

The results of a YouGov Survey of GB adults

All figures are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 7,212 GB 16+ adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 23rd - 26th September 2014. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 16+). Raw data was provided by YouGov, whilst calculations are performed by Single Christians.

Funded by Christian Vision for Men and Single Christians
Conceived and commissioned by Dr David Pullinger, Single Christians
Report available from www.cvm.org.uk

ABOUT THE FUNDING BODIES and SURVEY COMPANY

Christian Vision for Men (CVM) is a registered charity founded in 1989 operating all over the **United Kingdom** based in **Chesterfield**. Its mission statement is to "connect men to **Jesus** and the church to men". It works with over 2,000 churches, mainly by having its materials used by the churches men's groups to achieve its aims. Website: www.cvm.org.uk

Single Christians Ltd (SCL) is a not-for-profit company set up to facilitate a better understanding of the needs and aspirations of single people of Christian faith, primarily through research and provision of resources. Website: www.singlechristians.co.uk

YouGov plc is an international internet-based market research firm, founded in the UK in May 2000. Its methodology is to obtain responses from an invited group of internet users, and then to weight these responses in line with demographic information. It draws these demographically-representative samples from a panel of some 3 million people worldwide including over 400,000 people in the UK. Website: www.yougov.co.uk

QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE YOUNG GOV SURVEY

Question 1:

For the following question, if you do not consider yourself to be a practising Christian, please select the 'Not applicable' option. Also, please only think about the occasions that you attend places of worship for religious purposes (e.g. mass, confession etc.) and NOT occasions that you may attend for other reasons (e.g. weddings, visiting as a tourist etc.).

In general, approximately how often, if at all, would you say that you attend a Christian place of worship (i.e. Churches, Cathedrals etc.)? (Please select the option that best applies)

- Everyday
- Every two to three days
- Every four to five days
- Once a week
- Every two to three weeks
- Once a month
- Every two to three months
- Every four to six months
- Once a year
- Less often than once a year
- Never
- Not applicable - I am not a practising Christian

Question 2:

For the following question, if you have been married or have entered into a civil partnership more than once, please think about the first time you got married or entered into a civil partnership...

At what age did you first get married or enter into a civil partnership? (Please type your answer, in years, in the box below. If you can't remember the exact age, please provide your best estimate.)

DEFINITIONS USED IN PRESENTING THE RESULTS

Marital status

The following Marital Status options were presented to the YouGov representative Panels:

Married, Never Married, Civil Partnership, Divorced, Separated, Living together as married, Widowed.

Partnered

Includes Married, Civil Partnership, Living together as married and Separated.

Note: The inclusion of Separated into Partnered is because underlying the distinction is the ability to form a marriage or civil partnership. Legally the Separated remain Married until Divorced. They make up 2% of GB society.

Unpartnered

Includes Never Married, Divorced and Widowed

Social grades

Originally developed by the National Readership Survey (NRS) for its readers, social grades are used to classify demographics in the UK. Developed over 50 years ago, their definition is now maintained by the Market Research Society. The grades are often grouped into ABC1 and C2DE and these are usually taken to equate to middle class and working class respectively. Around 2% of the UK population is upper class and not included in the classification scheme.

Age groups

The Christian Connection 2012 survey found clear breaks of behaviour and attitude occurred at 30, 45 and 60 and age groups accordingly follow these when statistically possible. Those used by the Market Research Society are 16-24, 25-39, 40-54 and 55+.

Practising Christian and attendance at a place of worship

These are self-selected according to the answers given by panel members in the Questions asked of them (see previous slide). The term 'practising Christian' is used about all those who voluntarily identify themselves as such. The term 'regularly attending' is used to mean attending a place of worship for the purposes of worship at least once a month.

GB Great Britain

Formally the largest island in the British Isles, but here used to cover England, Wales and Scotland.

CAUTIONARY NOTES

The data covers all that society members identify as Christian worship

The responses cover all worship that GB citizens choose to identify as Christian. The data therefore covers all Christian denominations and independent churches - maybe a few that others would not count as Christian as not subscribing to the Trinitarian doctrine. There are large differences in the make-up of individual churches within denominations and anecdotal evidence of differences between denominations.

Only statistically valid results are presented.

The data is based on the responses of 7,212 people aged 16+ who live in GB, whose responses were then weighted to ensure that they representative of the make-up of GB society. Drilling down deeply into data sometimes results in insufficient numbers of people to be confident about the statistical validity and such data are not presented.

Methodological note

There are those of some marital statuses that are not fully covered by the options presented in the survey, for example the divorced who then live together as married. This is a fast growing group in GB in the age range 40-55, but the actual numbers are still small and prior consideration decided that they were insufficient to justify adding further options in the survey as they would not significantly change any percentages presented here but might have altered the response rate, thereby invalidating other results.

THREE DIFFERENT QUESTIONS - MANY DIFFERENT DATA PRESENTATIONS

Who in GB society goes to places of worship?



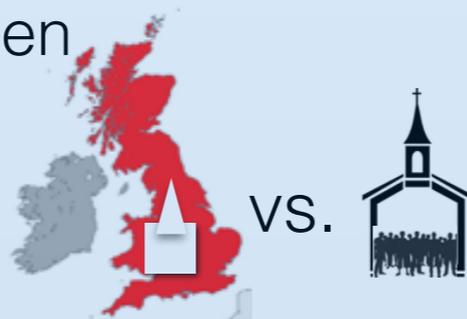
Percentage of GB society: how likely is it that someone will do X? For example, that someone goes to a place of worship regularly.

Who makes up those present in places of worship?



Percentage of a group in society: how likely is it that a member of the group will do X? For example, that a married person would say they are a practising Christian?

Are there any differences between those who practice Christianity and those who do not?



Numbers doing X. For example 6 million go to a place of Christian worship at least once a month.

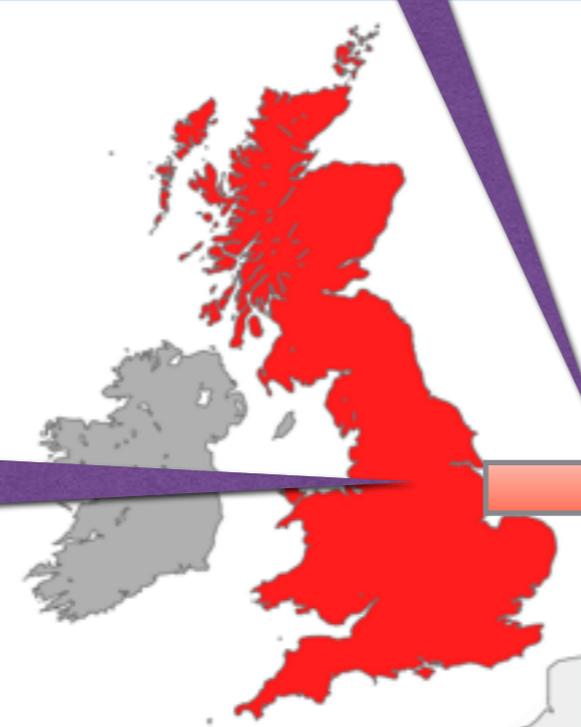
Percentages of different groups that do X. For example of the people who go to a Christian place of worship, 60% are married.

Percentage of a group that does X: if they do X how likely is that they will do Y? For example if saying they are practising Christian how many attend regularly.

BACKGROUND: WHO IN GB GOES TO PLACES OF WORSHIP?

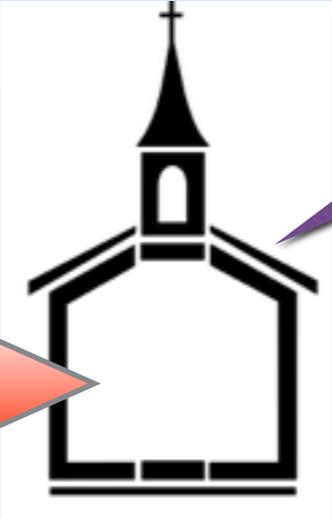
ONE IN TEN WORSHIP REGULARLY
30% of GB say they are Practising Christians
20% go to worship at least once a year
10% go to worship at least once a month

Grossed figures for ease of recall. Actual 31%,19%, 10%



FOR THE PARTNERED OR PREVIOUSLY PARTNERED
The marital status of practising Christians, as a percentage of their group in society, is in following order:
Widowed
Married
Divorced
Living together as married
Never Married

WORSHIP IS FOR MIDDLE CLASS
More middle class attend than working class.



WORSHIP IS FOR WOMEN
The greatest percentage of society attending are women and, in particular, ABC1 women.

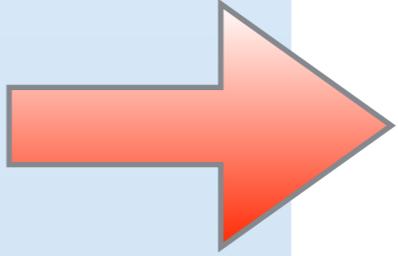
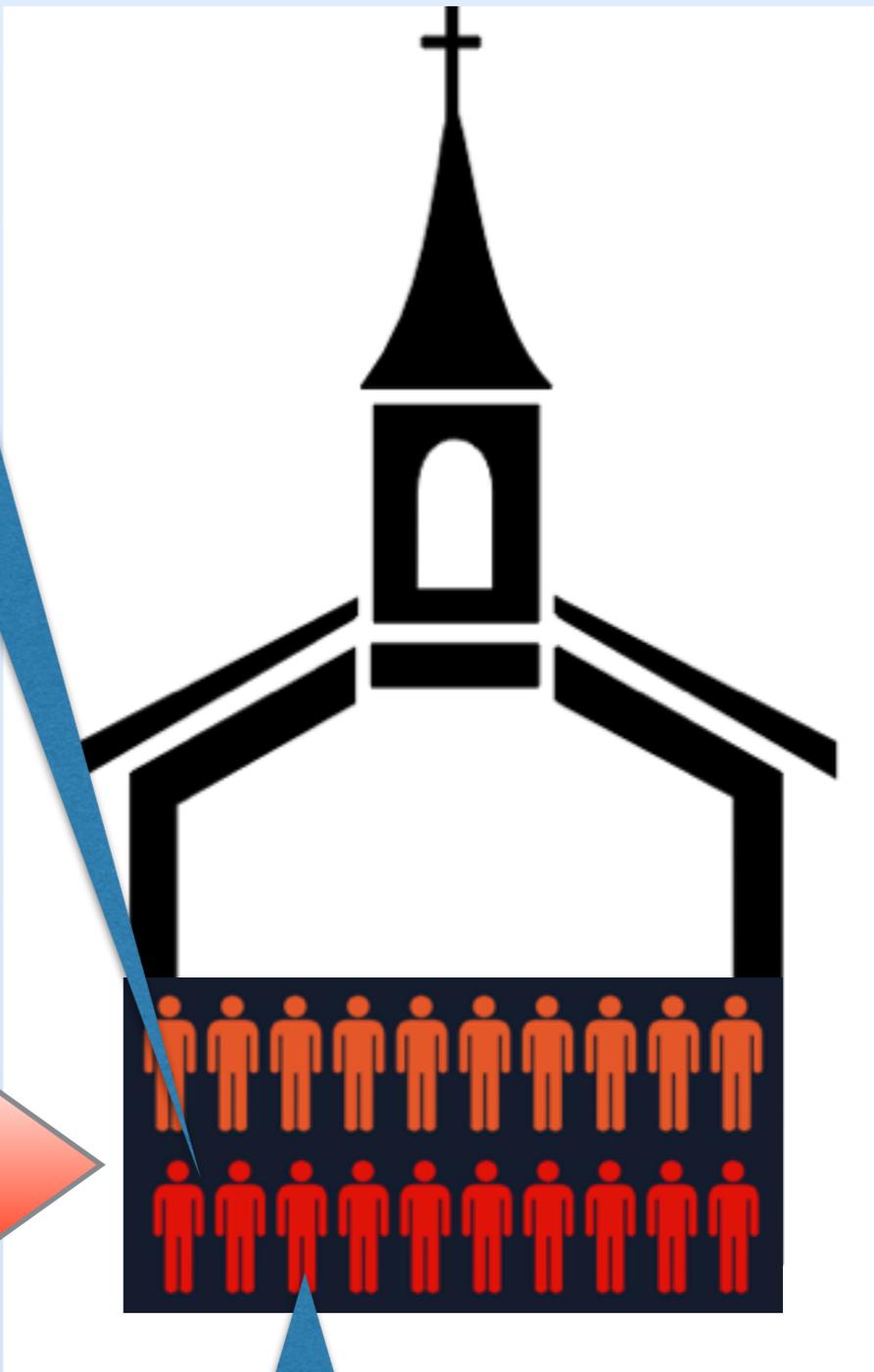
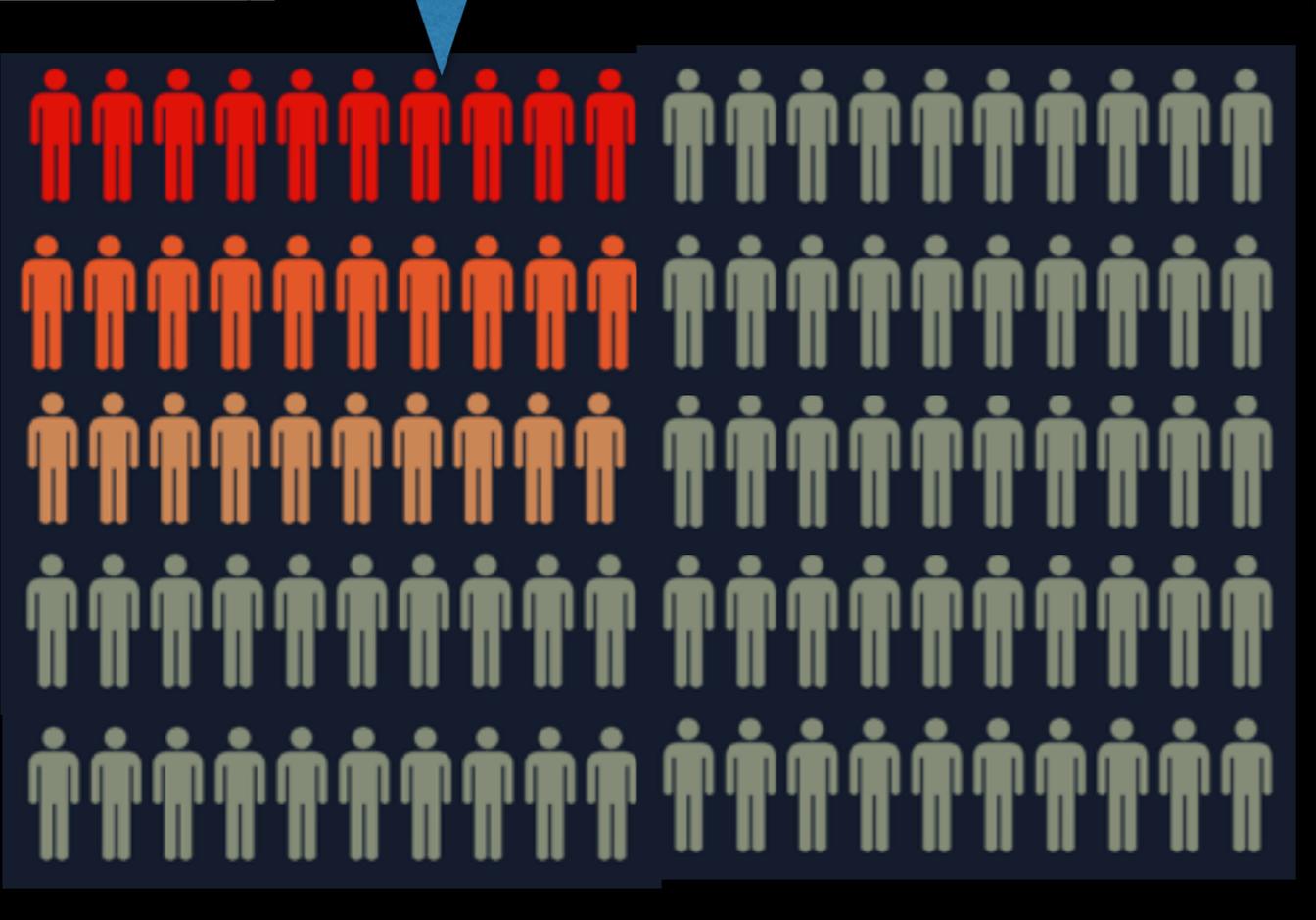
ONE IN TEN NEVER ATTEND
1 in 10 of society say they are practising Christians but attend very rarely or never. Those doing this most are married men, who are working class and older.

BACKGROUND:
NEARLY ONE THIRD OF GB SAY THEY ARE
PRACTISING CHRISTIANS.
1 in 10 in GB ATTEND A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF
WORSHIP AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH



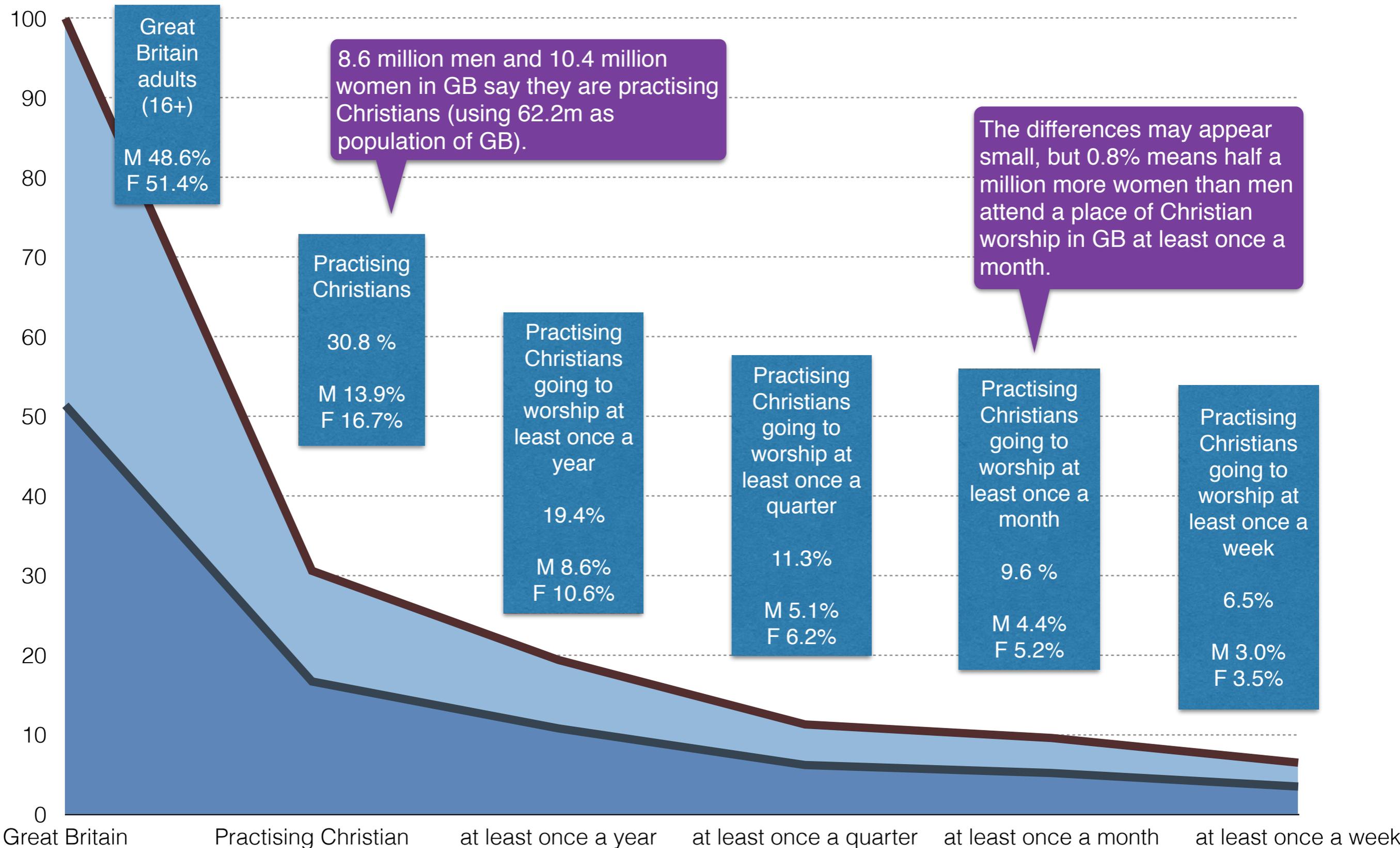
19 million
30% say they are practising
Christians in GB
Grossed figure for ease of recall; actual 31%

12 million
20% go to places of worship
at least once a year
Grossed figure for ease of recall; actual 19%



6 million
10% attend places of
Christian worship regularly at
least once a month in GB

HALF A MILLION MORE WOMEN REGULARLY ATTEND PLACES OF WORSHIP THAN MEN



8.6 million men and 10.4 million women in GB say they are practising Christians (using 62.2m as population of GB).

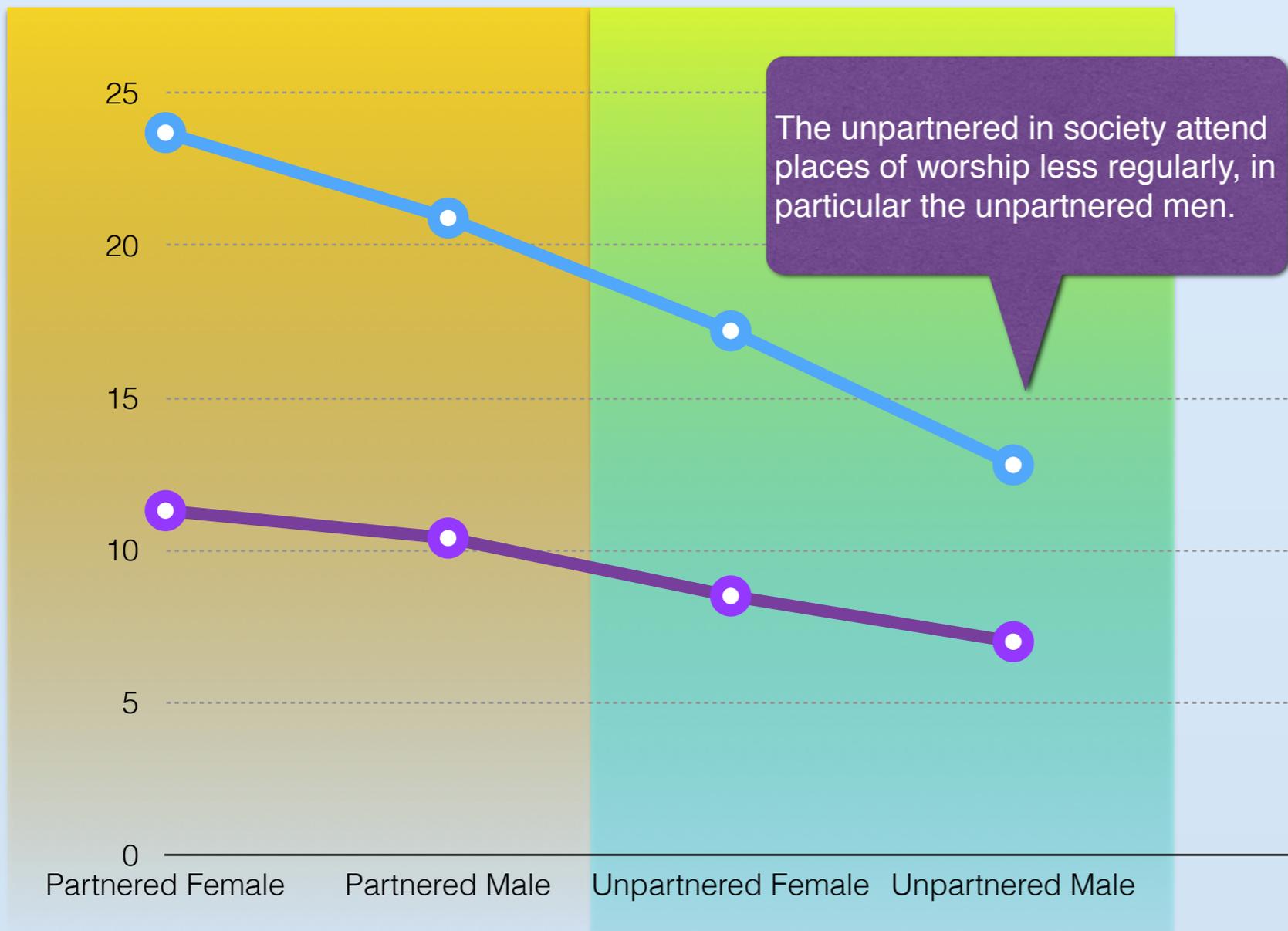
The differences may appear small, but 0.8% means half a million more women than men attend a place of Christian worship in GB at least once a month.

UNPARTNERED MEN ATTEND CHURCH LEAST

A greater percentage of partnered people attend a place of worship.

In order, as a percentage of their group in society:
 24 % Partnered women
 21 % Partnered men
 17 % Unpartnered women
 13 % Unpartnered men

● Attending at least once a year ● Attending at least once a month



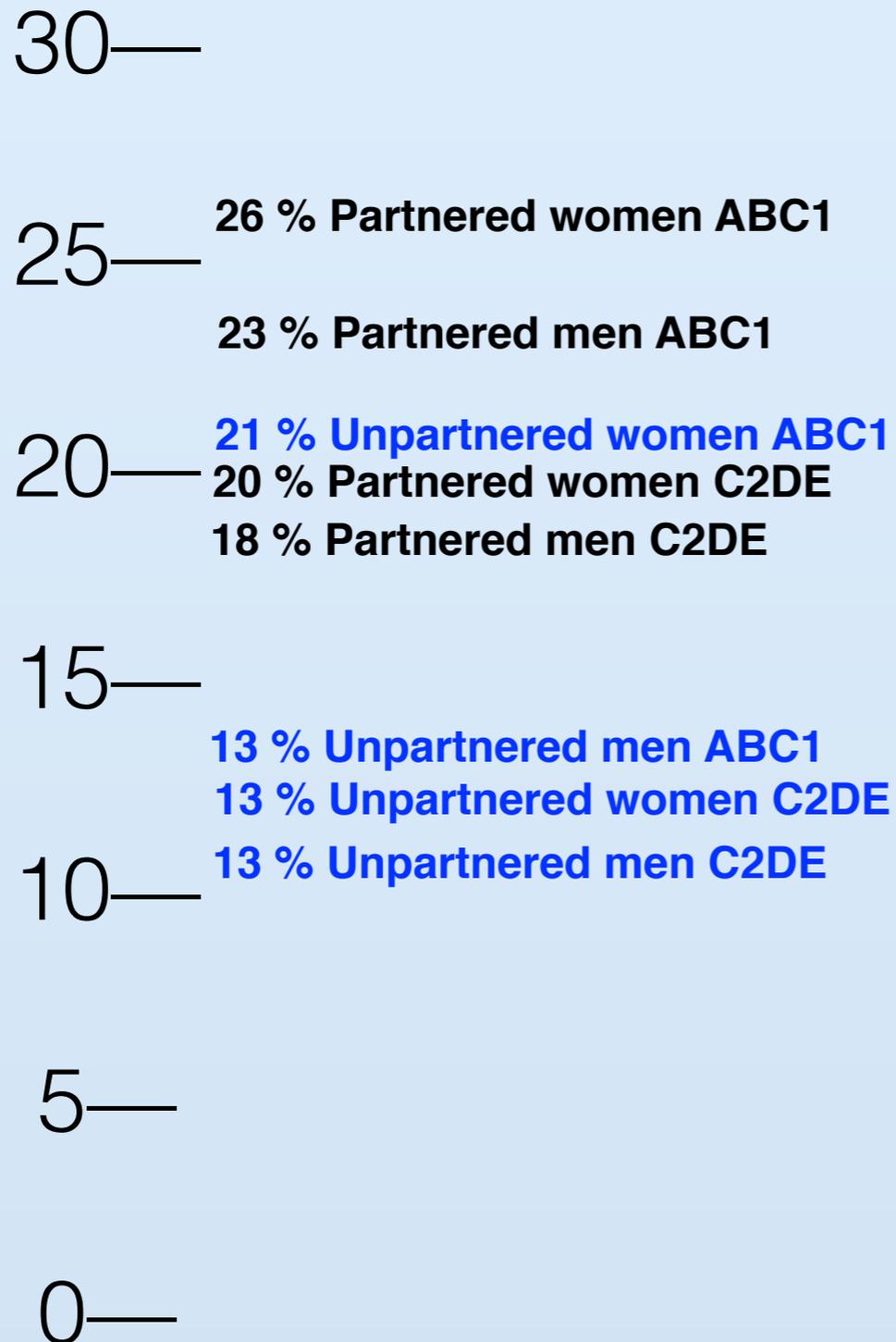
The unpartnered in society attend places of worship less regularly, in particular the unpartnered men.

BUT (see next slide) this higher percentage of unpartnered women is because of one particular group...

Percentage of that group in society attending at least once a year	Partnered	Unpartnered
Male 17.7 %	20.9%	12.8%
Female 21.1 %	23.7%	17.2%

Percentage of that group in society attending at least once a month	Partnered	Unpartnered
Male 9.0%	10.4%	7.0%
Female 10.2%	11.3%	8.5%

BOTH MIDDLE AND WORKING CLASS UNPARTNERED MEN ATTEND LEAST



Attending worship at least once a year	Percentages of the group in society	ABC1 22.2%	C2DE 16.1%
Male 17.7 %	Partnered 20.9 %	22.9%	18.2%
	Unpartnered 12.8 %	13.3%	12.5%
Female 21.1 %	Partnered 23.7 %	25.8%	20.2%
	Unpartnered 17.2 %	21.3%	12.8%

13% of unpartnered people in society attend a place of worship, except for the greater percentage, 21%, of ABC1 unpartnered women. Because ABC1 women are also the most numerous as a group in society, this means there are a large number of unpartnered ABC1 women in churches.

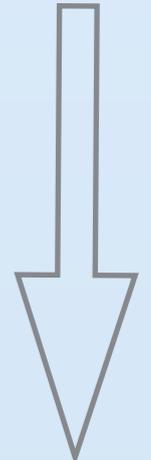
Note: a similar order is found in regular attendance at least once a month, but as one figure is not statistically valid, the table is not presented.

MANY PRACTISING CHRISTIANS NEVER OR RARELY ATTEND A PLACE OF WORSHIP. THESE TEND TOWARDS THE MARRIED MEN, WHO ARE WORKING CLASS AND

The Never Married, if still practising their Christianity, are most likely to attend.

Percentage of GB saying they are Practising Christians but not attending a place of worship at least once a year 10.5%	ABC1 8.8%	C2DE 12.9%
Male 11.2 %	9.0%	13.7%
Female 9.9%	8.7%	12.0%

Percentage of GB saying they are Practising Christians but not attending a place of worship at least once a year 10.5%	Partnered 12.7%	Unpartnered 9.5%
	Married 13.4%	Never Married 7.9%



10.5% of society say they are Practising Christians but attend a place of worship less than once a year. Who are they?

- The Married and C2DE
- particularly C2DE Married
- and in those, the 55+ Married C2DE men, of whom 1 in 5 in society say they are Practising Christians but attend a place of worship less than once a year.

Percentage of the Married Practising Christians in society not attending a place of worship at least once a year 13.4%	Married ABC1	Married C2DE
Married Male	9.3%	17.4% Over 55: 20.8%
Married Female	14.76%	14.5%

BACKGROUND: WHO MAKES UP THOSE PRESENT IN CHRISTIAN PLACES OF WORSHIP IN GB IN 2014?

WORSHIP OF THE MARRIED
3 in 5 attending places of worship regularly are married people, but less than half are married in society.

WORSHIP IS AGEING...
Those saying they are practising Christians and attending regularly increase with age, but regular attendees are disproportionately aged 60+

WORSHIP IS FOR WOMEN
The greatest proportion attending are women and, in particular, ABC1 women.

WORSHIP IS MIDDLE CLASS
62% of regular attendees are middle class (ABC1) and only 38% working class (C2DE)

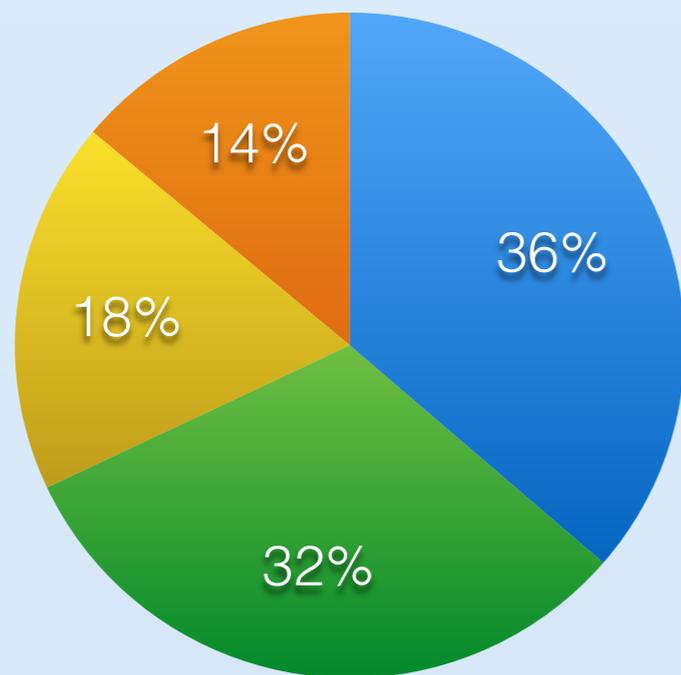
CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD INCREASES FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE
But then attendance reduces during the 40-55 age group when children become independent.



THE UNPARTNERED MEN, IN PARTICULAR, MAKE UP A SMALLER PROPORTION IN PLACES OF WORSHIP THAN IN SOCIETY

Make-up of those who worship at least once a month

- Partnered Female
- Partnered Male
- Unpartnered Female
- Unpartnered Male

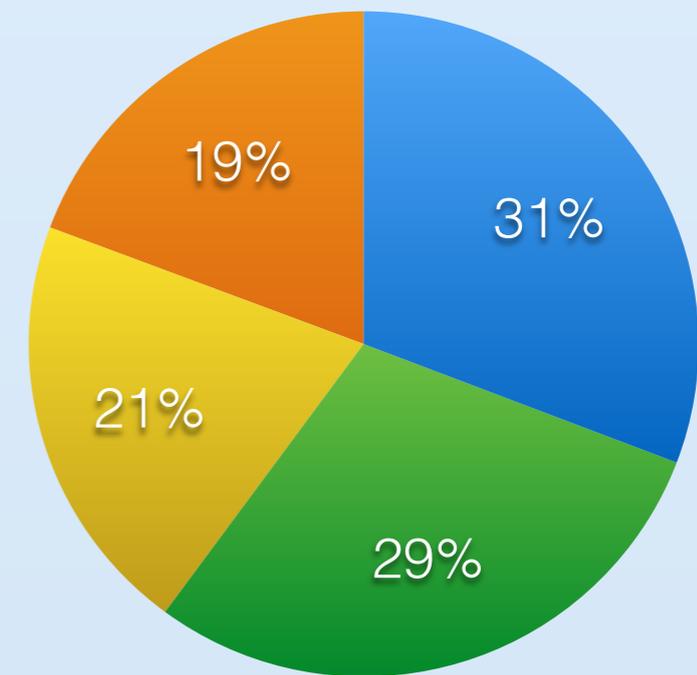


Difference in those unpartnered attendees compared to society:

Male: - 5.4%
Female: - 2.7%

Make-up of GB

- Partnered Female
- Partnered Male
- Unpartnered Female
- Unpartnered Male



Attending at least once a month	Partnered	Unpartnered
	68.0%	32.0%
Male 45.6%	31.6%	13.9%
Female 54.4%	36.3%	18.1%

GB	Partnered	Unpartnered
	60.2%	39.9%
Male 48.6%	29.3%	19.3%
Female 51.4%	30.8%	20.6%

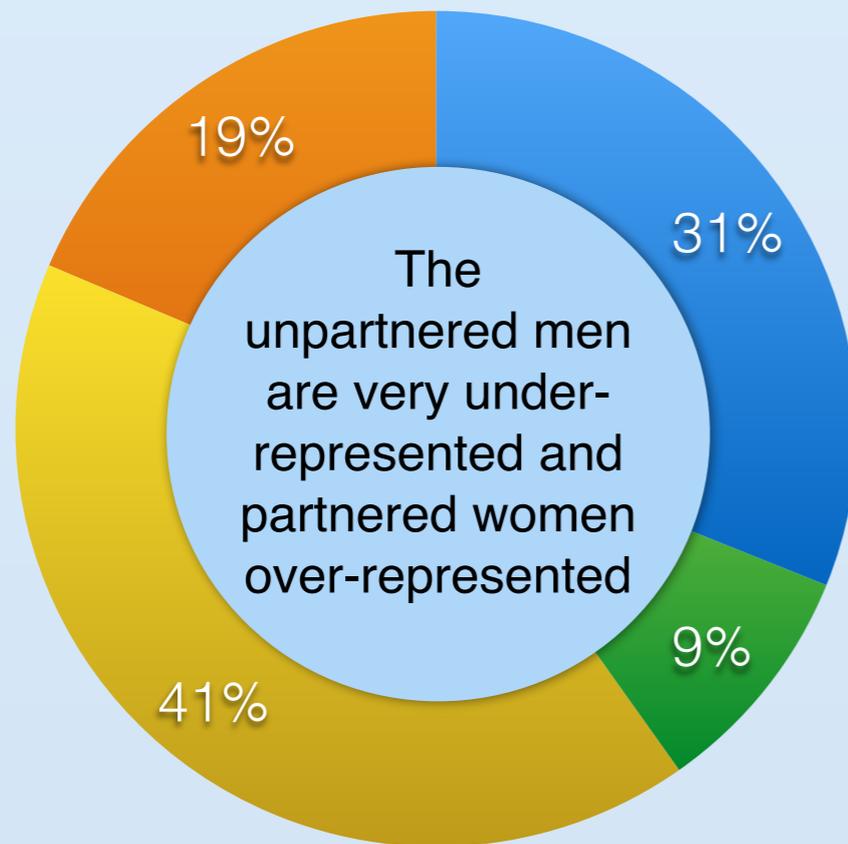
MIDDLE CLASS PLACES OF WORSHIP WOULD LOOK MORE UNBALANCED

Many places of worship are predominantly either ABC1 or C2DE. The marital balance of those attending would look very different in each case.

The charts show hypothetical extremes, assuming averages across denomination and GB.

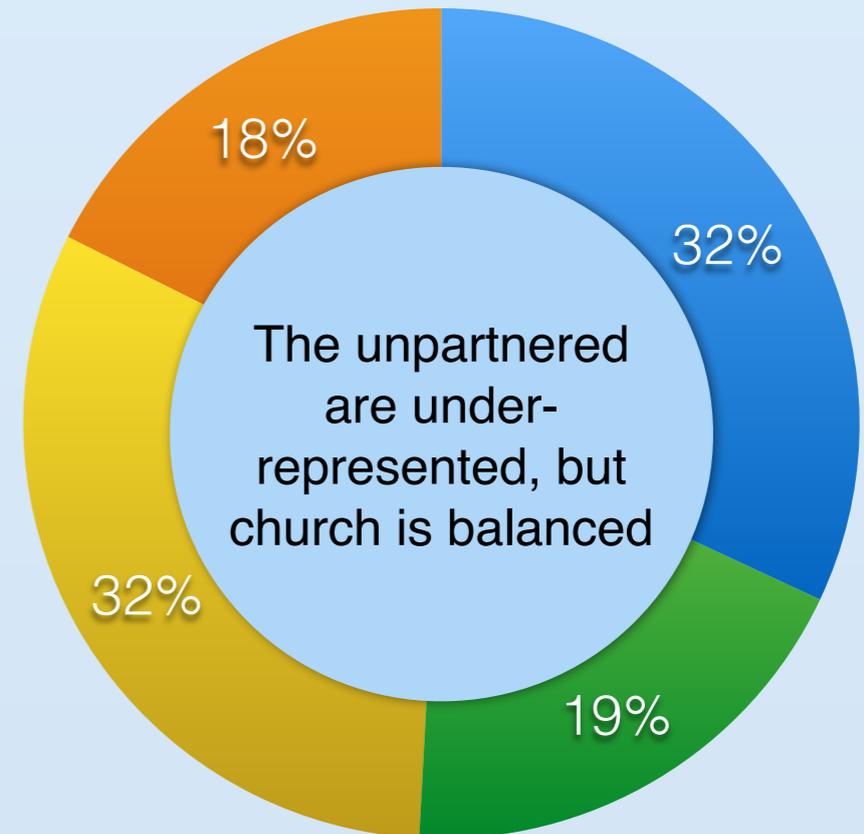
There are relatively more ABC1 partnered women and fewer ABC1 unpartnered men.

- Male Partnered
- Female Partnered
- Male Unpartnered
- Female Unpartnered



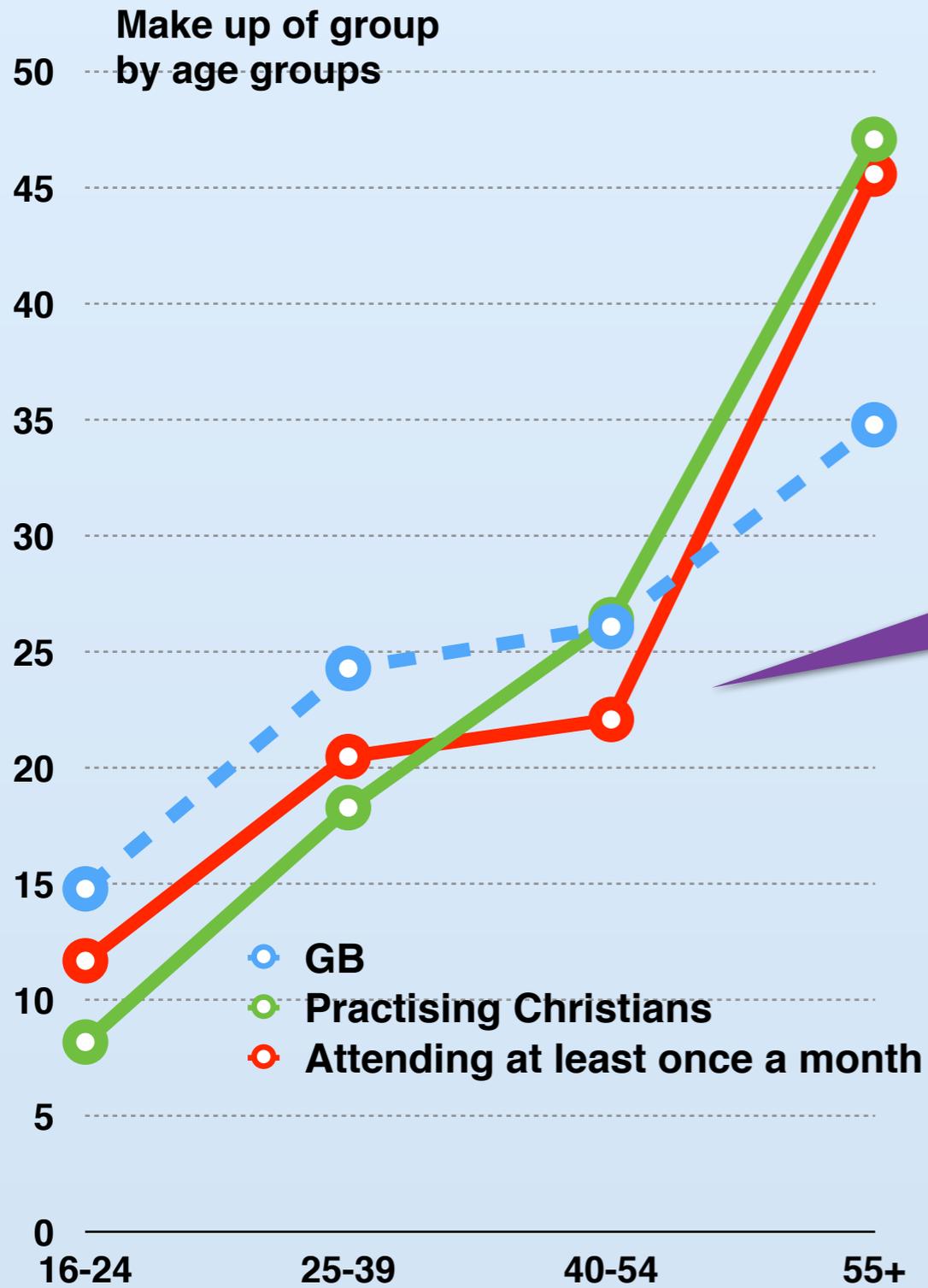
Make-up of a hypothetical ABC1-only place of worship

- Male Partnered
- Female Partnered
- Male Unpartnered
- Female Unpartnered



Make-up of a hypothetical C2DE-only place of worship

MEN APPEAR TO STOP ATTENDING WHEN THERE ARE NO LONGER CHILDREN IN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS



In context of older cohorts attending more, age group 40-54 attendance relatively drops compared to those who say they are practising Christians...

...mainly through the partnered (mostly married) men who stop attending during the age group 40-54 compared to other age groups

Partnered men and women as proportion of group of those attending at least once a month.



MEN AND CHRISTIAN WORSHIP: SUMMARY OF YOUNGOV DATA ANALYSIS

**1.8m fewer men than women in GB
say they are practising Christians**



Unpartnered men don't worship
Unpartnered men, especially the working class, are the least likely to attend a place of worship and attend least frequently.

What happens at 40-54?

Men with no dependent children present in the household continue to say they are practising Christians but attend less often.

Christian but never attend...

If saying they are practising Christians, married working class men are least likely to attend, especially when 55 and over.



1/2 million

The number to bring men up to same percentage of regular attendance (once a month) as women.

Middle-class single men in the minority

Double the number of middle-class unpartnered women attend than unpartnered middle-class men.

TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR REACHING MEN: SOME SUGGESTIONS BASED ON RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

2. Reach the most under-represented in GB society: Unpartnered men, both working class and middle class

Friendship patterns are crucial for the unpartnered.

Men tend to form friendships in 2s and 3s and then cluster in bigger groups. Prayer triplets, challenge monitoring, etc. are ideas that have worked. Social gatherings in church do not work as well for them and men stay away.

Most men form friendships through doing something together, exchanging tasks for each other, or discussions leading to re-framing ideas. In other words through action and contesting ideas (iron on iron). Neither are currently supported well in church worship.

There is also often fear or distrust of the single man. There is need for resilient communities of faith that can welcome them.

Idea: Identify man-based activities associated with worship or in worship that have worked well and promulgate.

1. Clear goal: Challenge for 1/2 million

The number to bring men up to same regular attendance (once a month) as women in GB.

3. Inspire men to stay worshipping:

3.1 Married men once their children have left home

Many men are in churches over 10 years but then appear to leave because finding little of real value other than their presence for their children.

This appears particularly true for working class men, who then attend less.

3.2 Unpartnered men aged 25+

Many younger unpartnered men who were attending leave and don't return. Why not? Not all marry and stay. Is it that they get more involved with outside activities, or that they find nothing for them in church?

What would make them stay? *Idea:* A survey for these two groups done at low cost through partnering churches.