

Theological Perspectives Among Members

Beliefs & Practices

February 1, 2019

Study Objectives

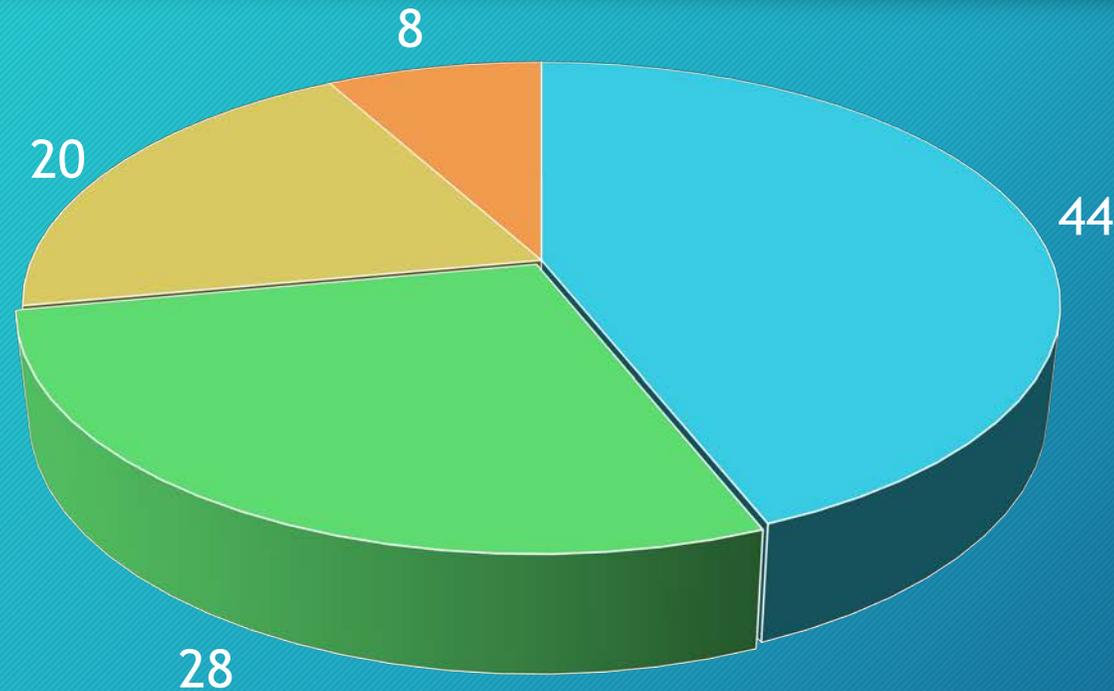
- To improve our understanding of the thoughts, feelings and beliefs of United Methodist members.
- Offer some perspective around issues currently facing the church to be better communicators.

Study Design

- United Methodist Communications contracted with online panel organization, Research NOW, to field this study. Panel represents over 40,000 self-identified United Methodists.
- 541 United Methodist members completed the online questionnaire.
 - Members defined as individual who identify as United Methodist with a role as a member or regular attendee with no leadership position. Invitations sent randomly within the panel.
- Study fielded September 27 to October 4, 2018.
- Questionnaire asked about religious beliefs and practices, as well as demographics.

Results

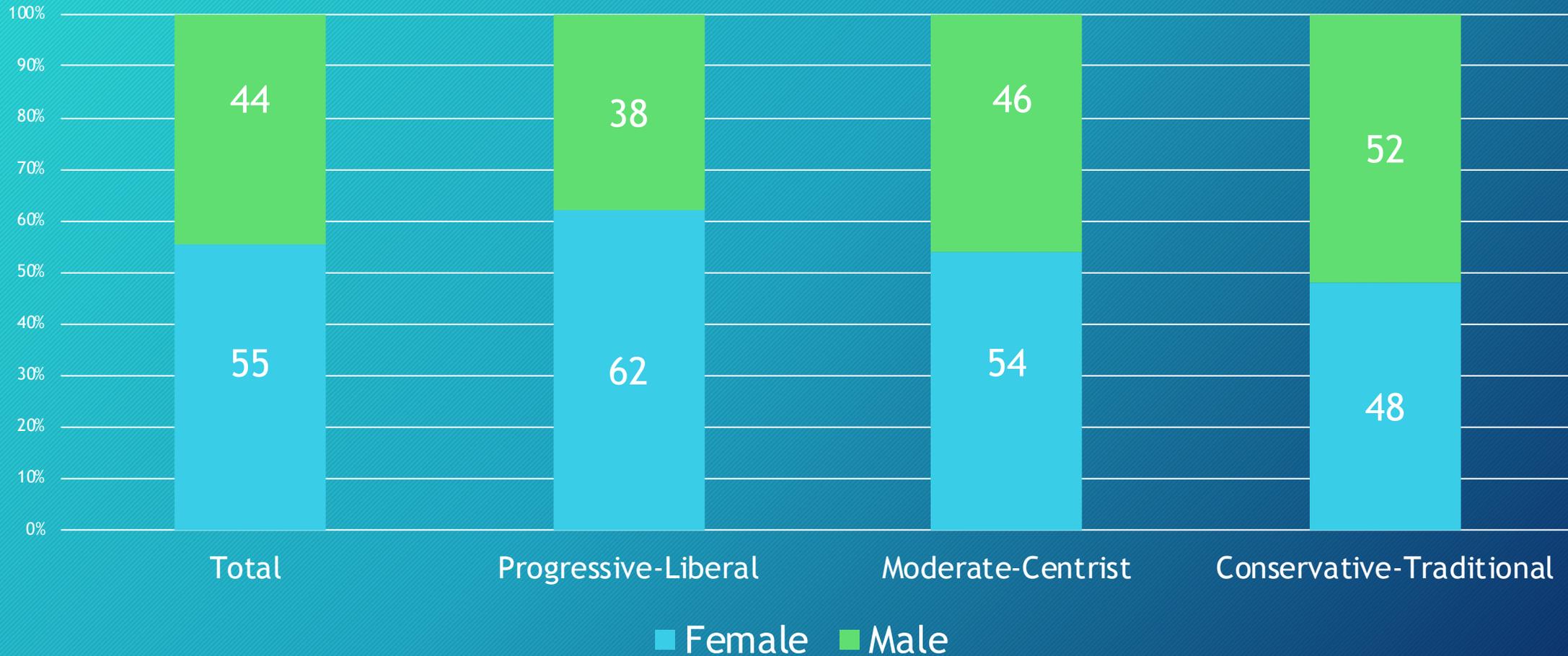
Theological Orientations: Self-Identified



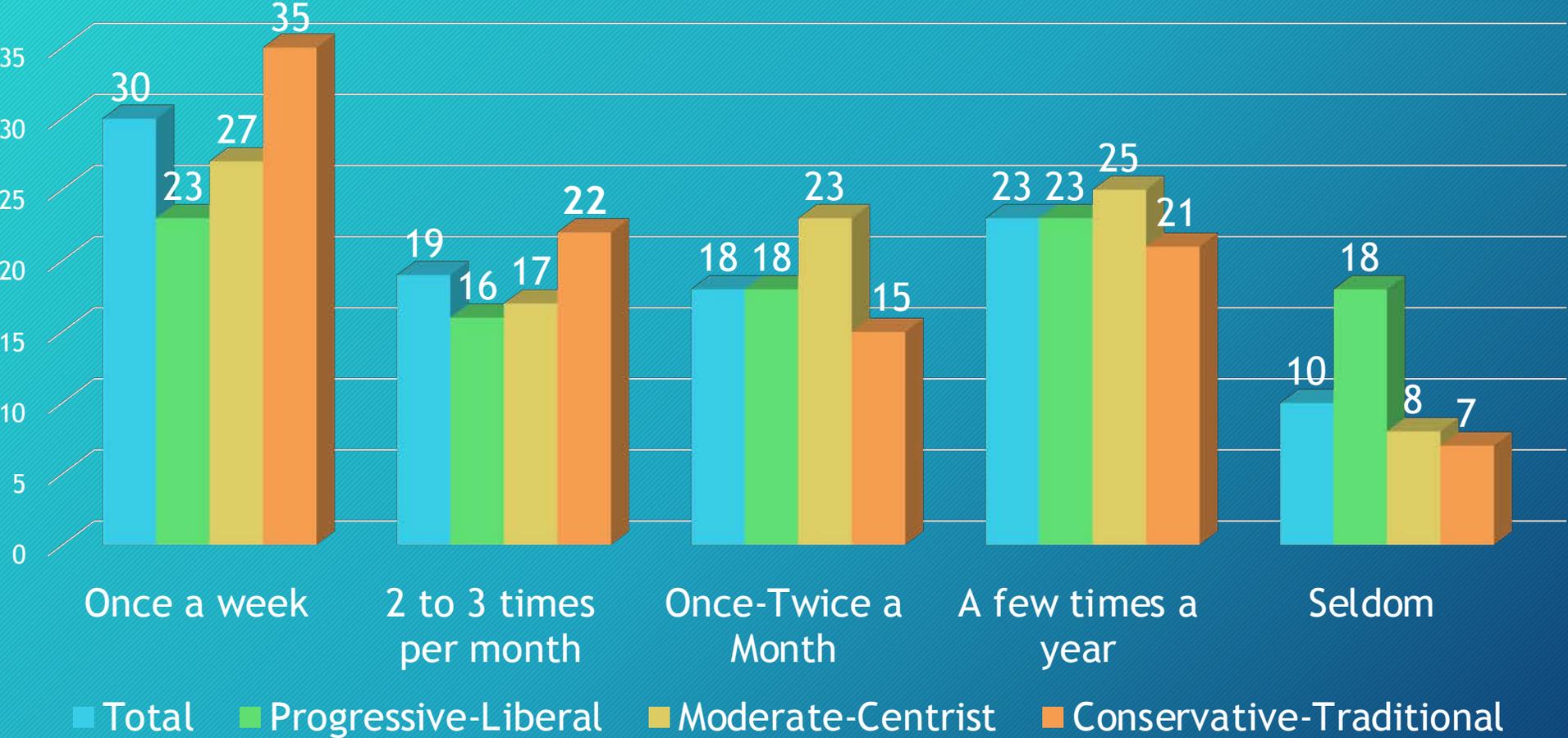
□ Conservative-Traditional □ Moderate-Centrist □ Progressive-Liberal □ Unsure

Question: Theology is the study of the nature of God and religious belief. Personal theology covers a wide spectrum, or range, and is often difficult to describe. As a United Methodist we would like to understand how you describe your personal theology. Commonly used words can help place each of us at a point on this spectrum. Please select from the list below that which best describes your personal theology. This is not asking how you vote in a political election. This is asking you to describe your personal theology.

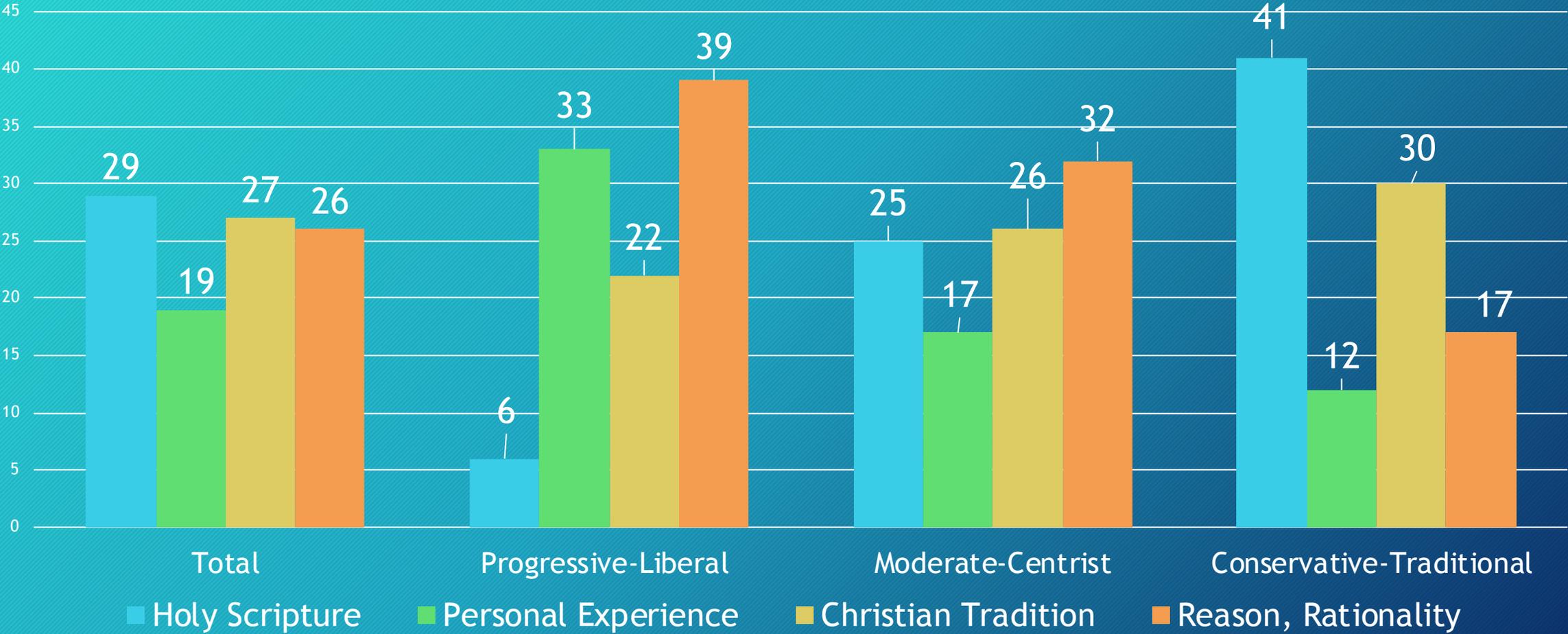
Member Theological Views: Gender



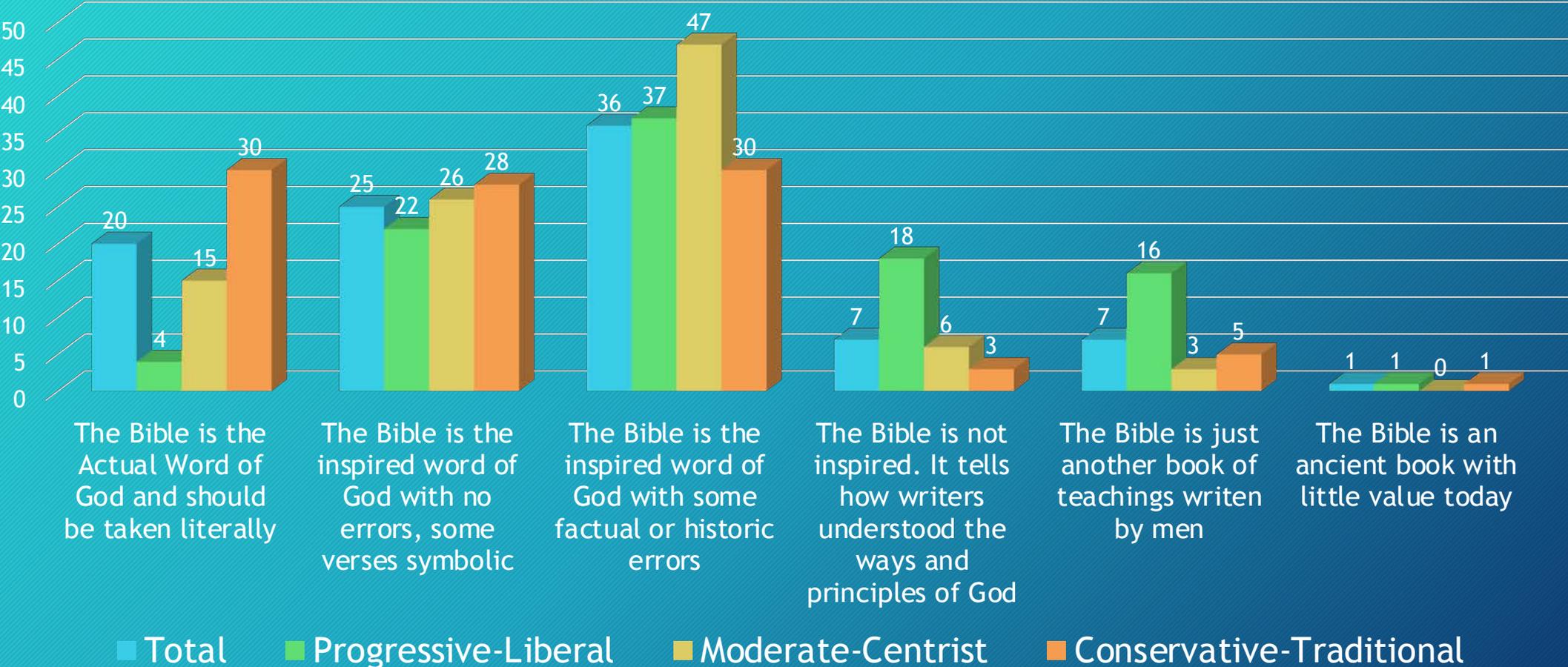
Theological View by Frequency of Attendance



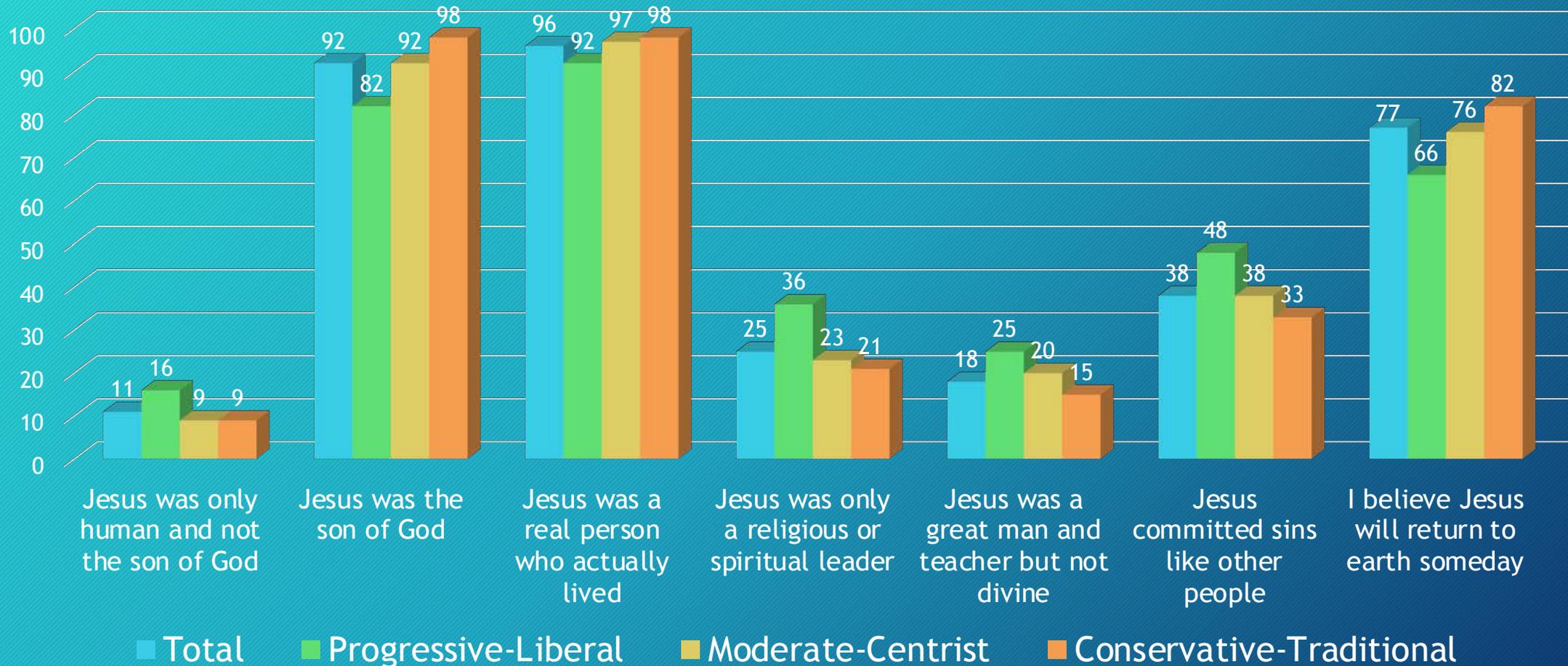
Most Authoritative Source in Personal Theology



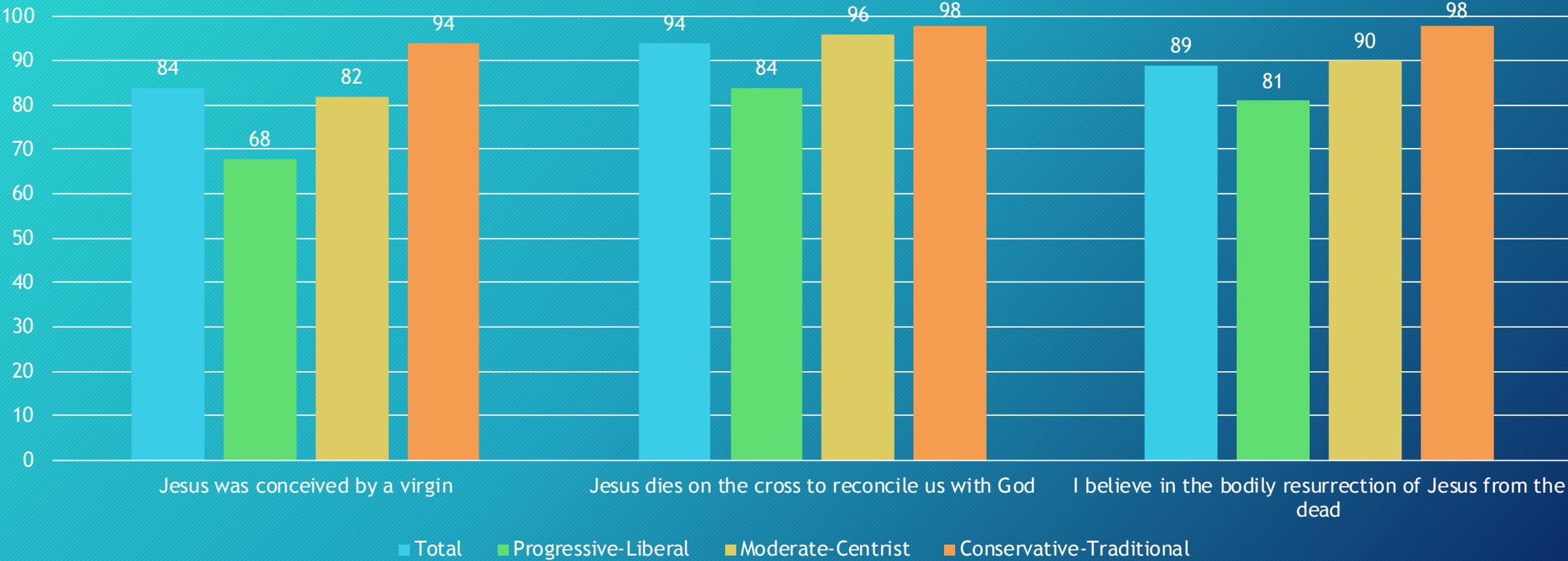
Theological Views by Agreement with Statements about the Bible



Theological Views by Agreement with Statements about Jesus



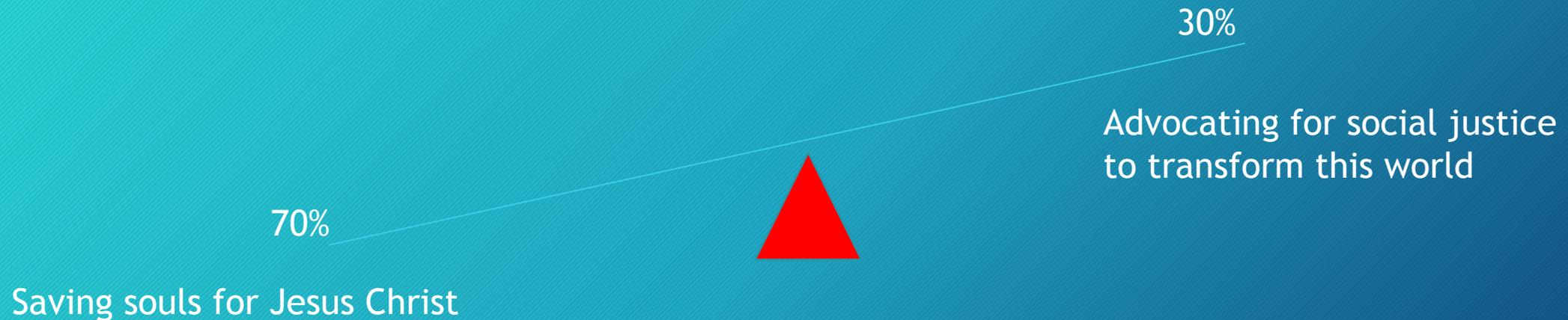
Theological Views by Agreement with Statements about Jesus



Agreement with Belief Statements

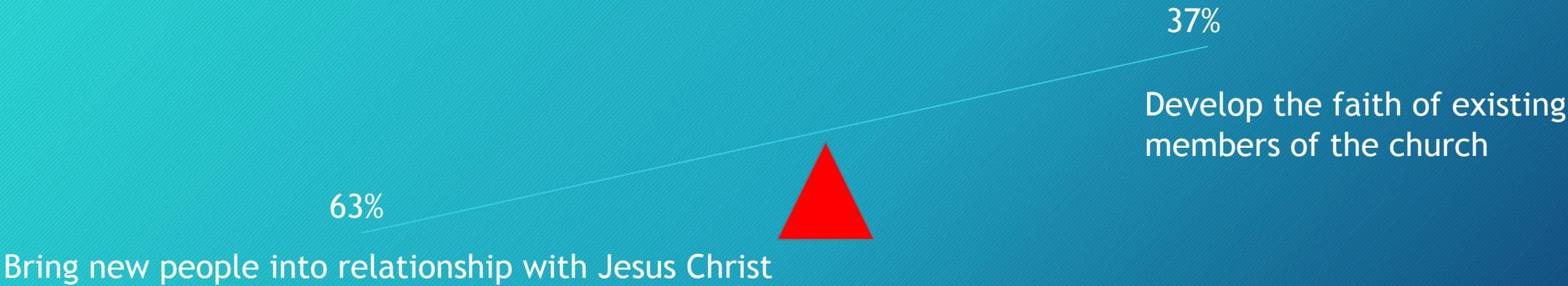


Which should be the primary focus of The United Methodist Church?



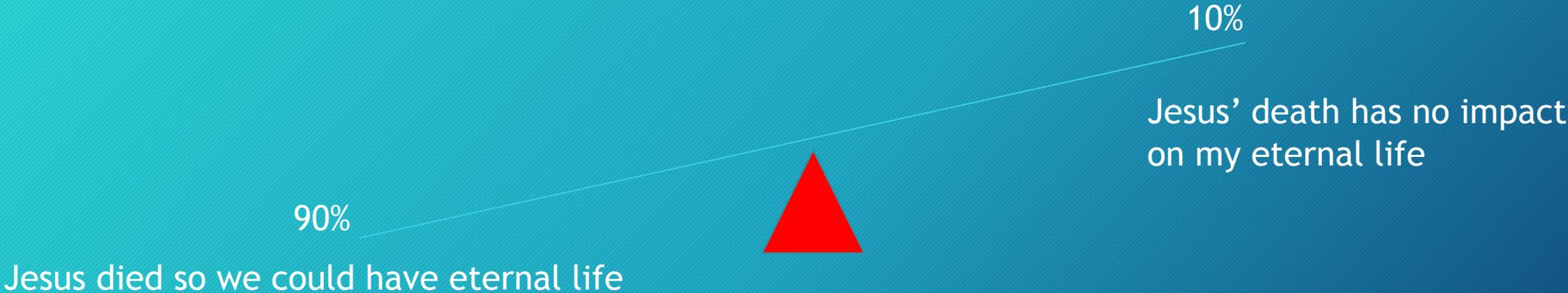
Primary Focus should be:	Progressive-Liberal	Moderate-Centrist	Conservative-Traditional
Saving souls for Jesus Christ	32	68	88
Advocating for social justice to transform this world	68	32	12

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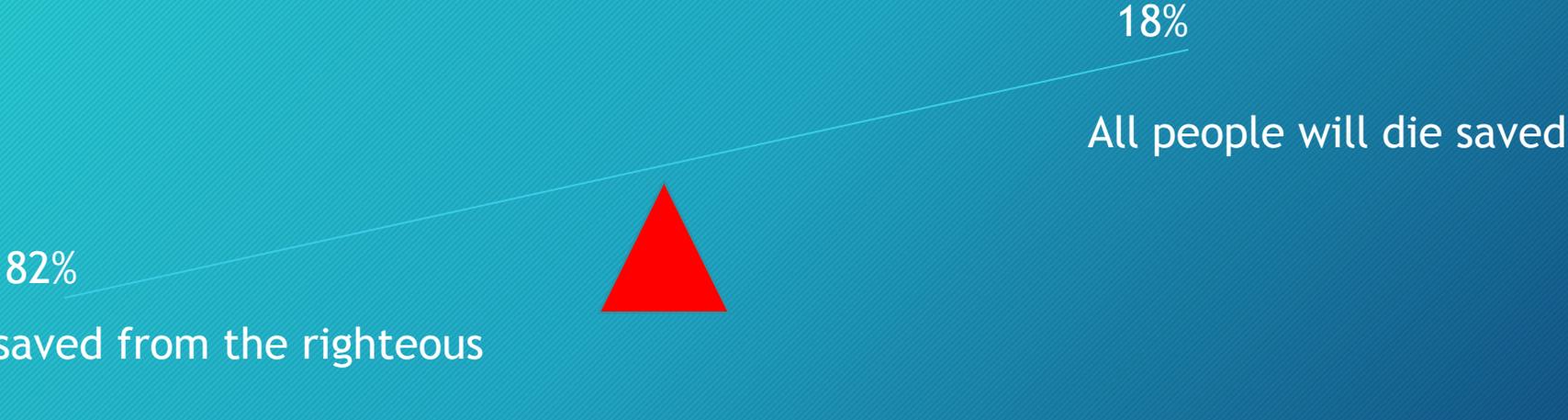
Primary Focus should be:	Progressive-Liberal	Moderate-Centrist	Conservative-Traditional
Bring new people into relationship with Jesus Christ	49	60	71
Develop the faith of existing members of the church	51	40	29

Which comes closest to your own view of Jesus' death?



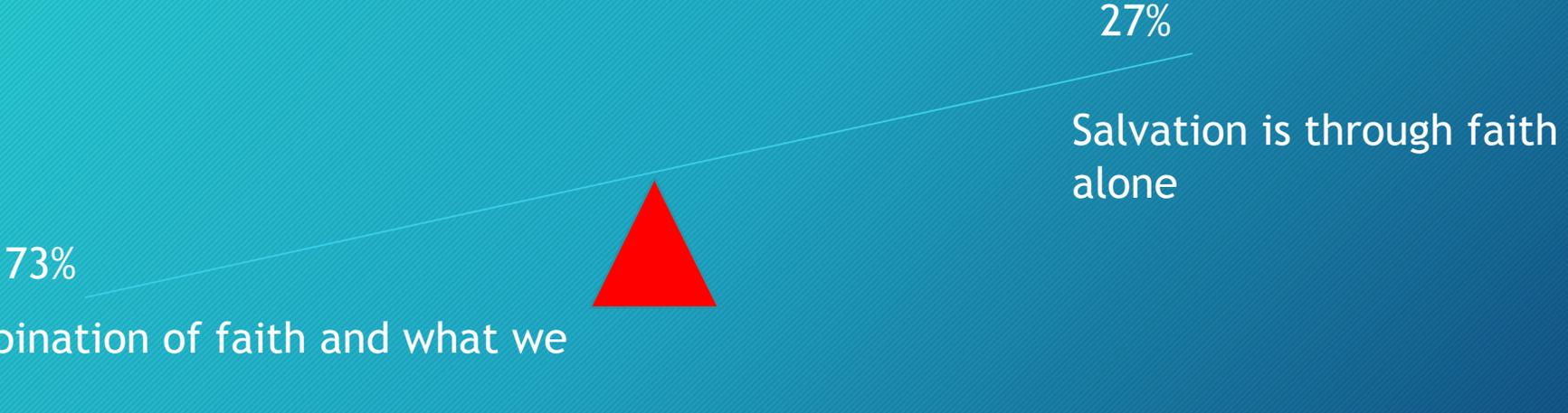
View of Jesus' death	Progressive-Liberal	Moderate-Centrist	Conservative-Traditional
Jesus died so we could have eternal life	82	90	95
Jesus' death has no impact on my eternal life	18	10	5

Which comes closest to your own view of salvation?



View of salvation	Progressive-Liberal	Moderate-Centrist	Conservative-Traditional
Salvation is being saved from the righteous judgment of God	69	80	89
All people will die saved	31	20	11

Which comes closest to your own view of salvation?



View of salvation	Progressive-Liberal	Moderate-Centrist	Conservative-Traditional
Salvation is through faith alone	15	26	33
Salvation is a combination of faith and what we do in this world	85	74	67

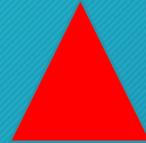
Which comes closest to your own view of Jesus' role in salvation?

72%

The only way to salvation is through a relationship with Jesus

28%

There are ways to salvation that do not involve Jesus



View of salvation	Progressive-Liberal	Moderate-Centrist	Conservative-Traditional
The only way to salvation is through a relationship with Jesus	54	64	86
There are ways to salvation that do not involve Jesus	46	36	14

Which comes closest to your own view of the nature of mankind?



View of salvation	Progressive-Liberal	Moderate-Centrist	Conservative-Traditional
Once you are saved, you are always saved	33	37	41
A person can fall away and lose their salvation	67	63	59