

# 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

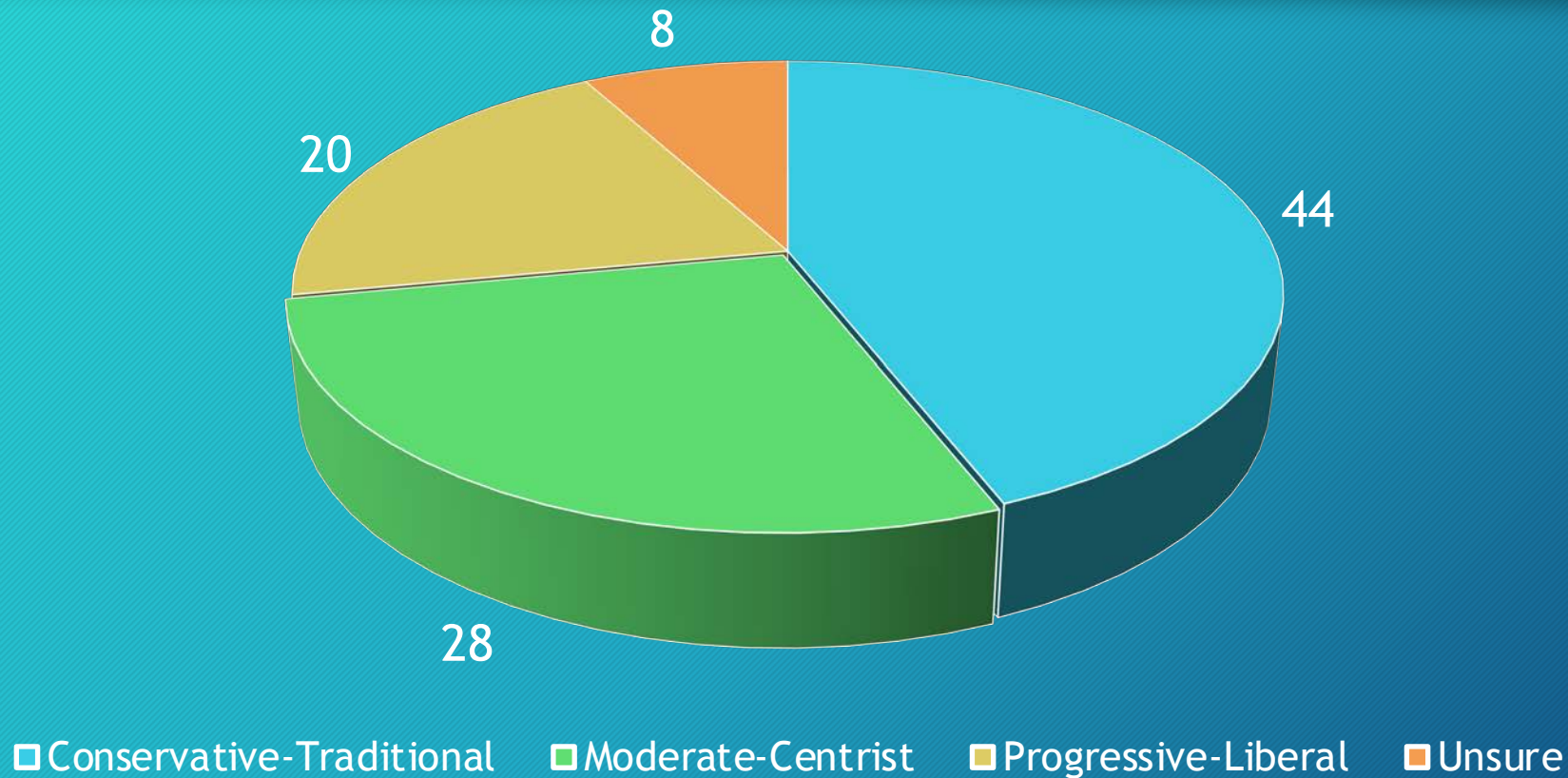
- United Methodist Communications contracted with online panel organization, Research NOW, to field this study. Panel represents over 40,000 self-identified United Methodists.
- 541 United Methodist members completed the online questionnaire.
  - Members defined as individual who identify as United Methodist 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



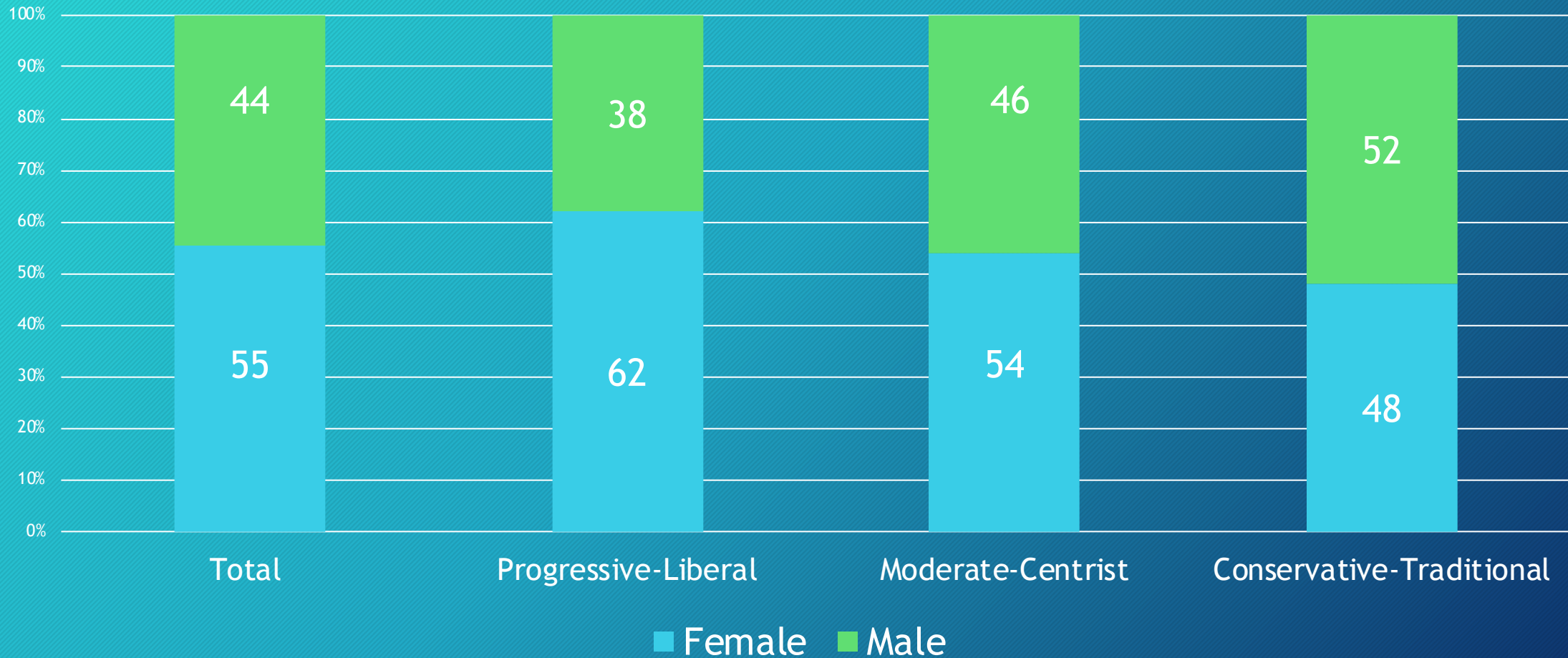
# Theological Orientations: Self-Identified



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.

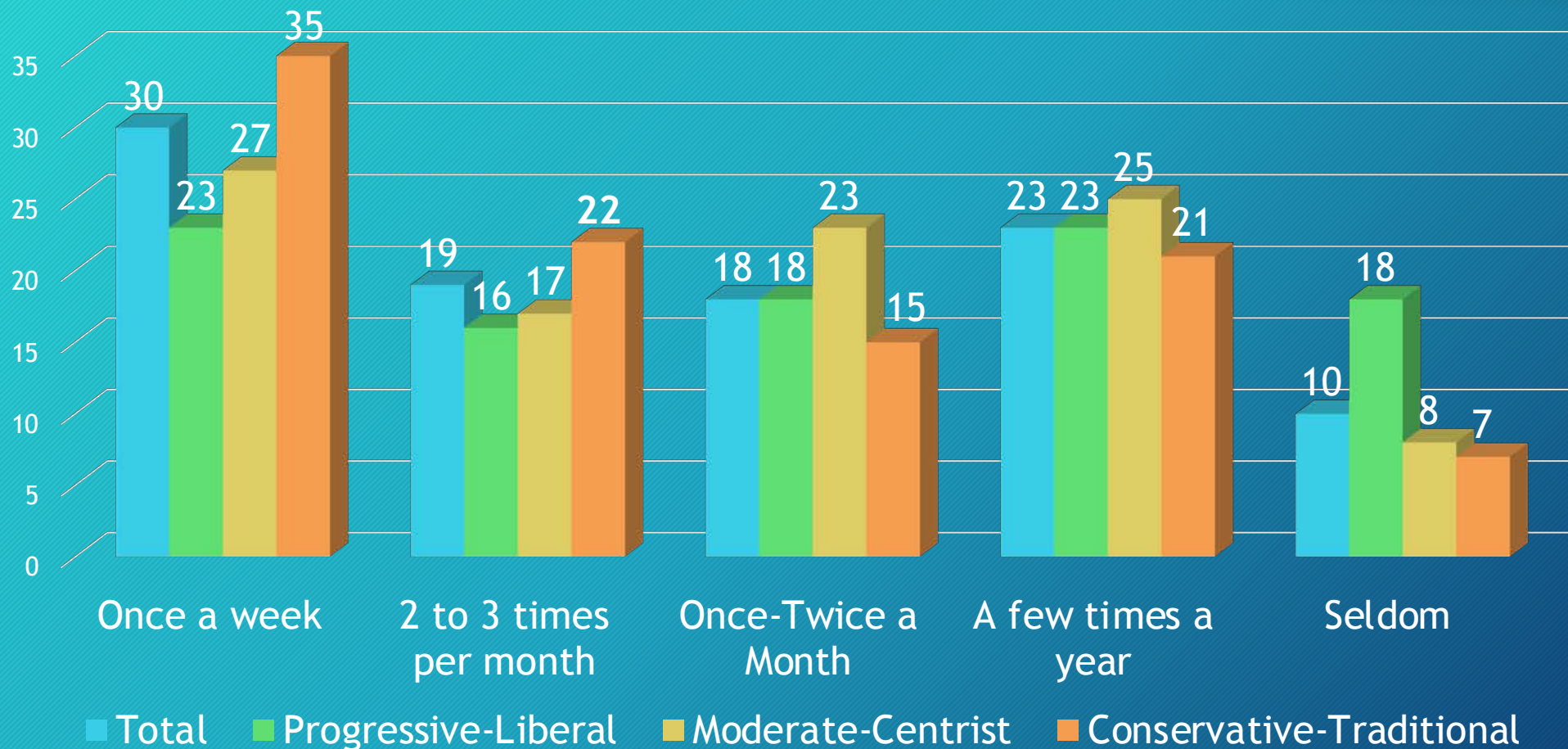


# Member Theological Views: Gender



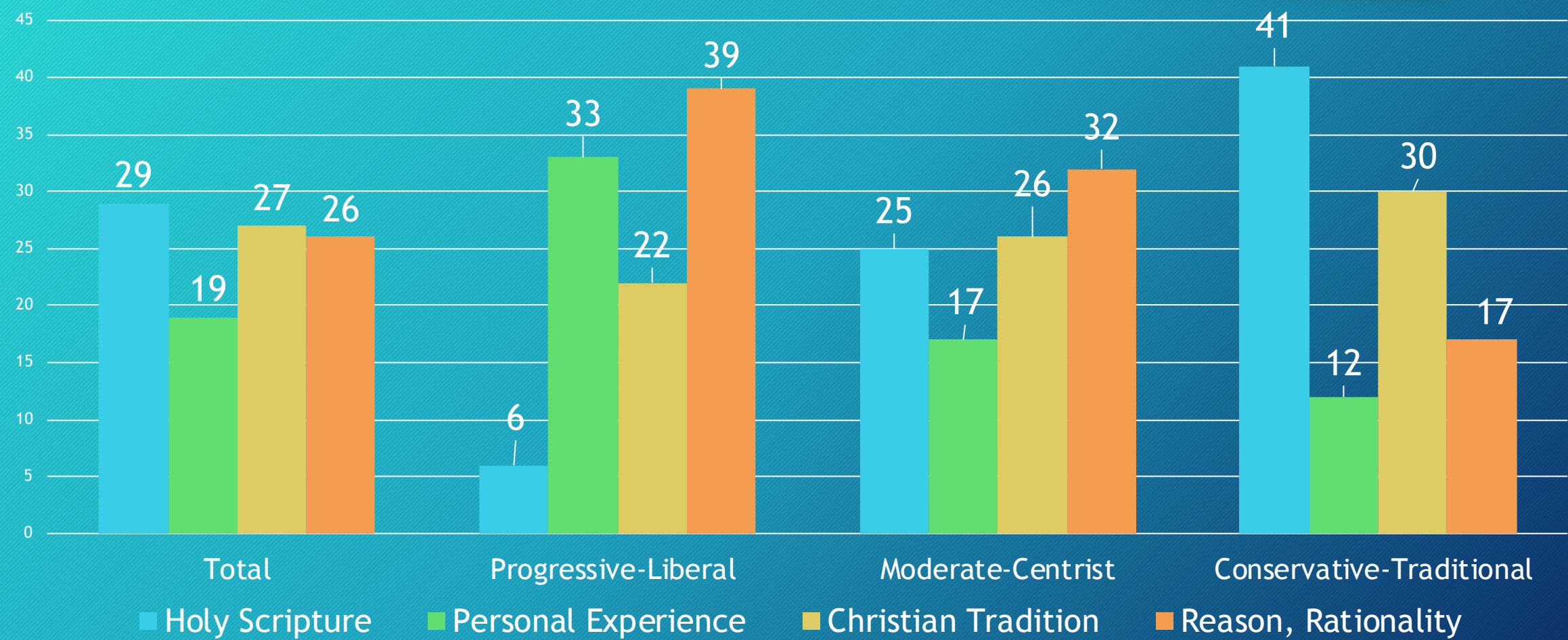


# Theological View by Frequency of Attendance



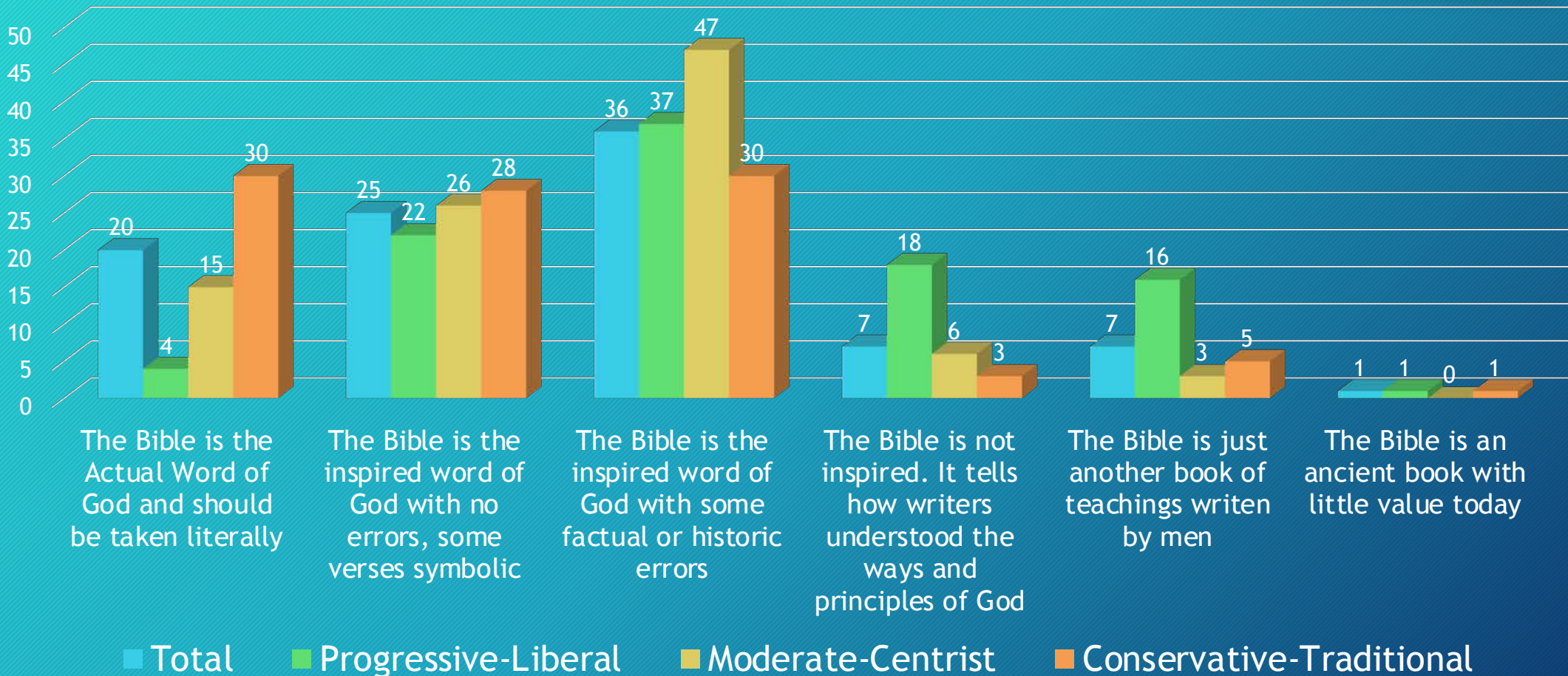


# Most Authoritative Source in Personal Theology



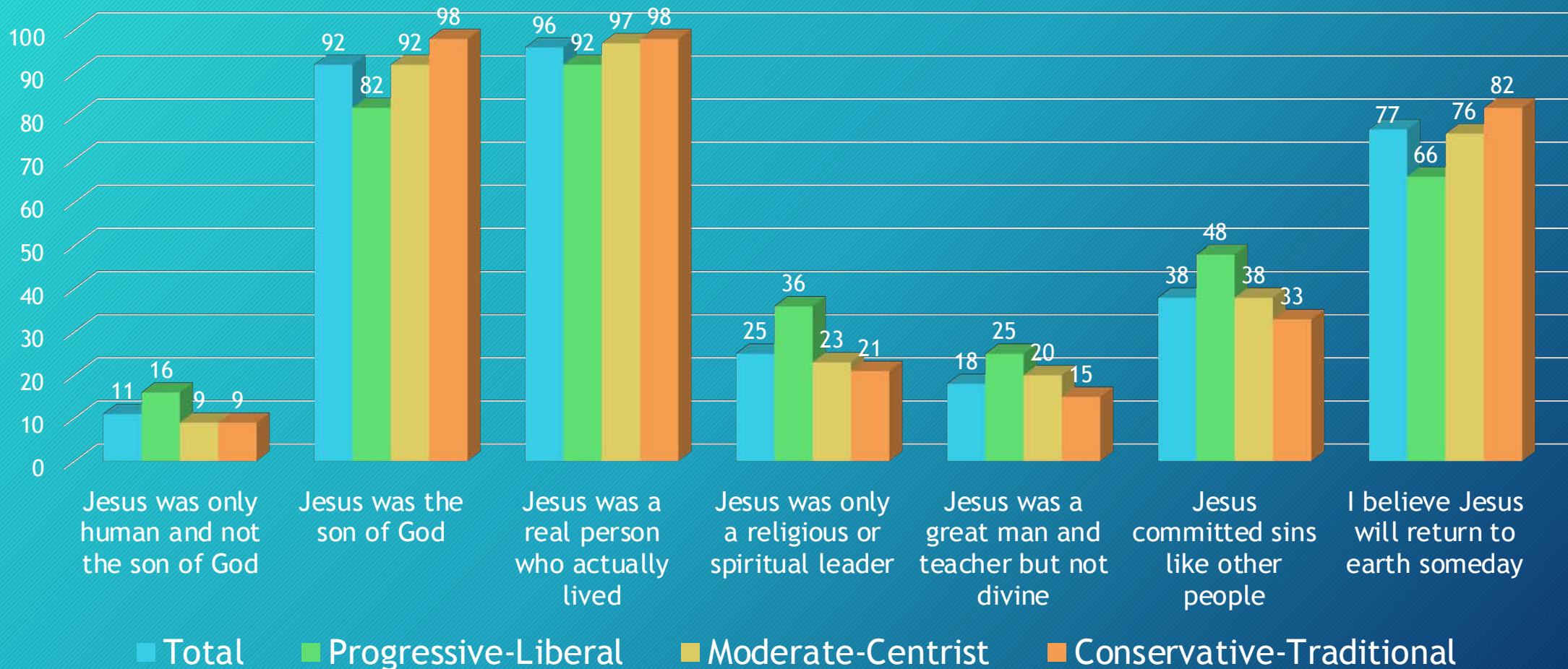


# Theological Views by Agreement with Statements about the Bible



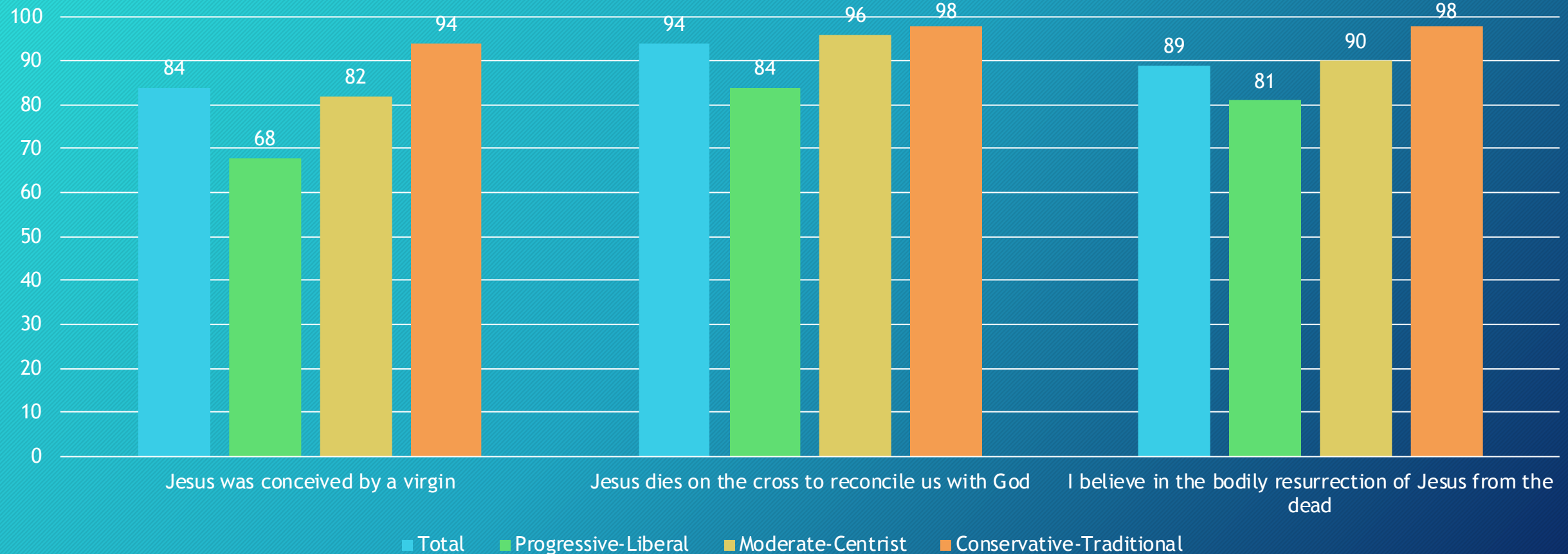


# Theological Views by Agreement with Statements about Jesus





# Theological Views by Agreement with Statements about Jesus



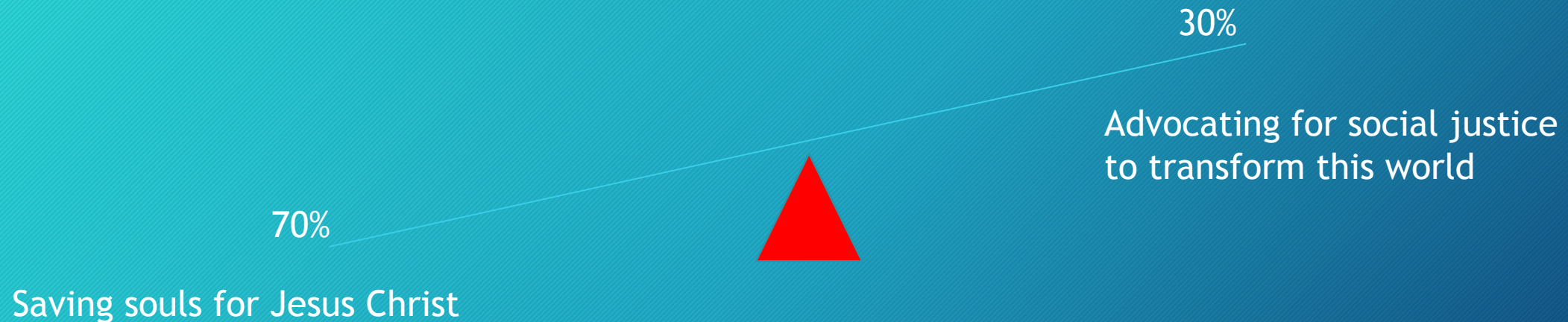


# Agreement with Belief Statements





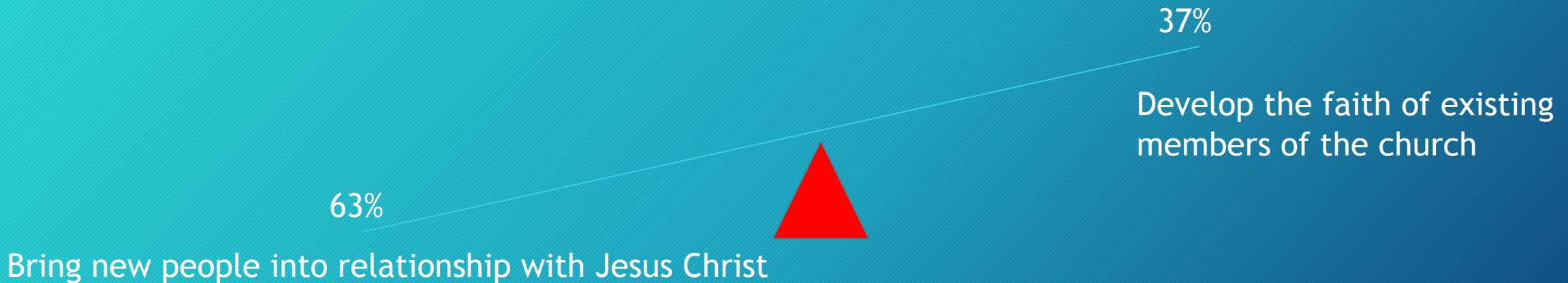
# Which should be the primary focus of The United Methodist Church?



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



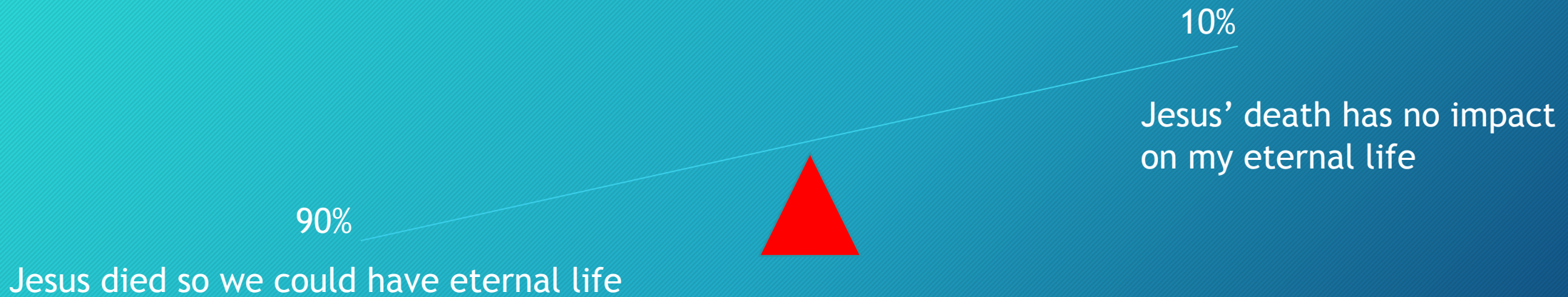
# Which should be the primary focus of The United Methodist Church?



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



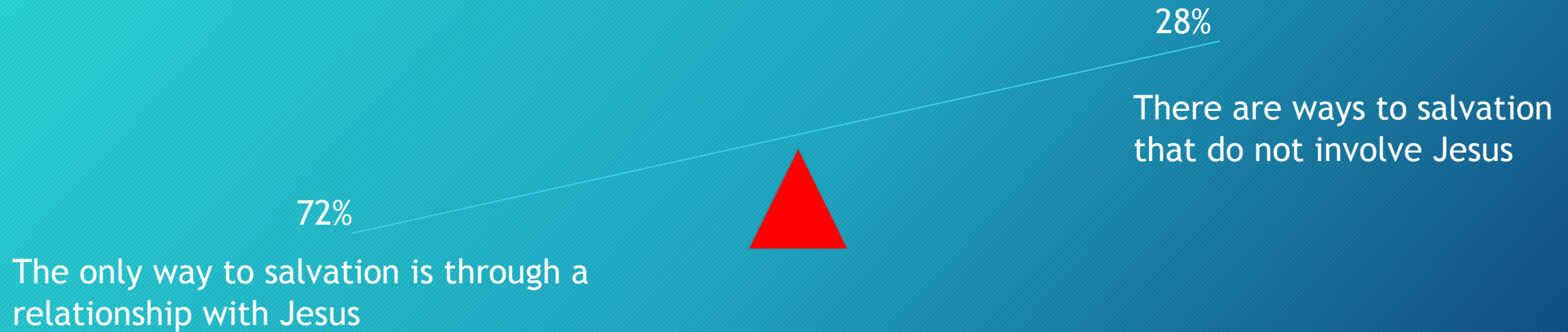
# Which comes closest to your own view of salvation?



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



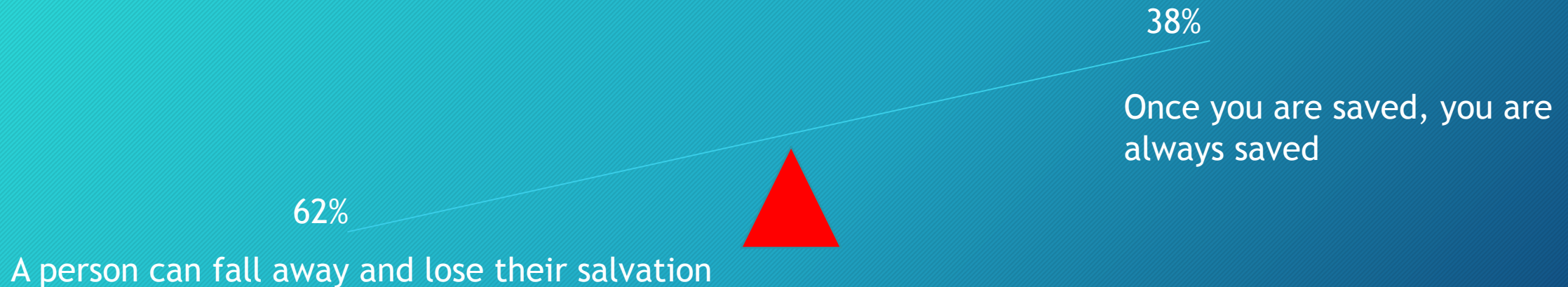
# Which comes closest to your own view of Jesus' role in salvation?



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