




7.28.24 | We love you. Yes, you

Joy! Church
3rd Edition

Why Does It Matter?



Joy! Church, 3rd Edition
Change is on its way

7/14/24: What's The Story? *Part 1*

7/21/24: What's The Story? *Part 2*

7/28/24: Why Does It Matter?

8/4/24: What Is Your Part?

3 massive, concurrent waves

Wave 3: Involuntary rise,
underground church

Wave 2: G.R.A.I.N tsunami

Wave 1: Ebb tides and riptides, conventional Christianity

WWW3

3 worldwide waves

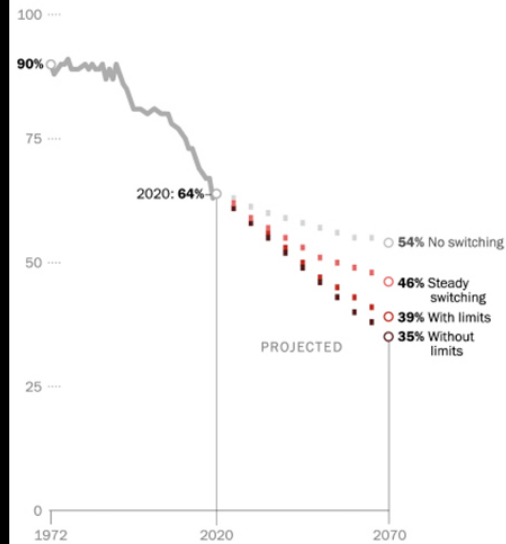
1. Decline of Christianity as leading religion in Western cultures. Worldwide, traditional church* will diminish in presence, significance and influence, especially the megachurch
2. Rise of GRAIN and profound effect it has and will have on every area of life and culture (family, religion, education, media, arts, entertainment, business, economics, liberty and government)
3. Potential rise of the underground church due to the foregoing factors plus the potential of becoming fully marginalized, derided, regulated, outlawed and persecuted

Within lifetimes
of those age 30
and under

USA could
(and likely will)
no longer be a
Christian nation

U.S. Christians projected to fall below 50% of population if recent trends continue

% of Americans who are Christian



Scenarios

- **No switching**
This scenario imagines no person in America has changed or will change their religion after 2020.
- **Steady switching**
Movement into and out of Christianity remains stable at recently observed rates. That is, in each new generation, 31% of Christians become religiously unaffiliated before they turn 30, and 21% of unaffiliated people become Christian.
- **Rising disaffiliation with limits**
In each new generation, a growing share of Christians switch out before they turn 30, while a shrinking share of 'nones' switch in. But the switching rate is capped to prevent the share of Christians who leave the faith from rising above 50%.
- **Rising disaffiliation without limits**
In each new generation, a growing share of Christians switch out before they turn 30, while a shrinking share of 'nones' switch in. No cap is imposed on switching rates.

Note: Historical data describes trends among U.S. adults based on surveys of adults. The 2020 estimate and subsequent projections show Americans of all ages. In 2020, we estimate that the religious composition of people of all ages roughly matches the adult composition. Sources: General Social Survey (1972-2006); Pew Research Center surveys (2007-2021); Pew Research Center projections (2020-2070). "Modeling the Future of Religion in America"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

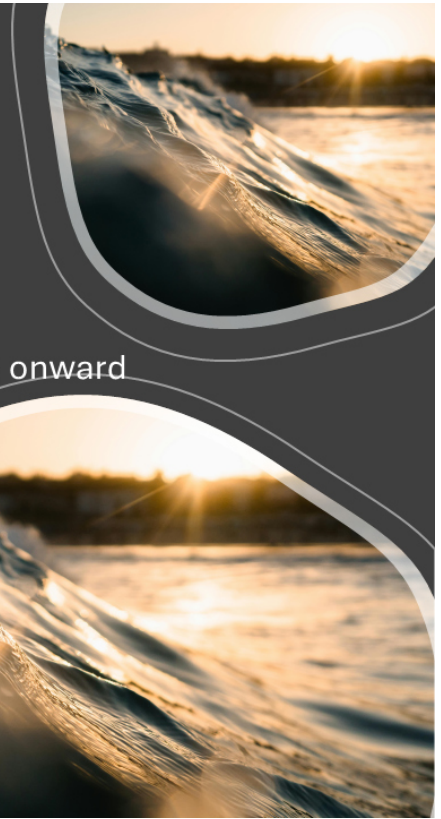
Grasping reality

- 20+ years, by every conventional metric, static or negative growth
- 60+ years, by every Kingdom metric, catastrophic failure
- 2024: Religious "Nones" became largest single group
- Rise of false gospels
 - Legalism (performance focus)
 - Libertinism (performance focus)
 - Moralistic Therapeutic Deism / "Old Testament Lite"
- Conflating world's systems and ways
- I / me / my / we paradigm (idolatry)
- Rise of "quick-prayer salvations" and escapist eschatologies
- Rise of "7-Mountain Mandate", New Apostolic Reformation, et al.

Wave 1: Decline

Outbound ebb tides and riptides

- Devolution of marriage and family
- Shift in foundational social mores
- Rise and fall of significant movements
 - Interstate highway system and industrial farming, 1960's onward
 - "Me" generations, 1960's onward
 - Women's movement, 1970's onward
 - Evangelical era, late 1970's onward
 - Systemic abuse, church & other leaders
 - Sea change: Internet, social media
 - Pandemics: Biological, economic, etc.
 - D.E.I., B.L.M., Me Too, systemic racism
 - Erosion of trust, leaders (all sectors)



Wave 2: GRAIN* tsunami (inbound changes)

- **G.** Genetic engineering (DNA, RNA, etc., "design" & manipulation)
- **R.** Robotics
- **A.** Artificial intelligence, including VR and AR
- **I.** Information technology, including block chain, crypto\$, etc.
- **N.** Nanotechnologies
- Christ's church MUST awaken to this
- Christ's church MUST embrace and lead how and where we can

* Coined by Leonard Sweet, theologian and futurist

Wave 3: Swell of the anti's

anti-church, anti-religion, anti-Christianity, etc.

- Christ's church **MUST awaken**
 - What we're doing is perilous
- Christ's church **MUST arise**
 - Generational crossroads
- Christ's church **MUST act**
 - SWOT, SSCH, etc.
 - Full-on pivot, NOW
 - Centrality and supremacy of Christ
 - Paradigm shift: Kingdom; disciples
 - Prepare to move underground
 - Live, love, learn, lead, leave legacy



Table Time

1. **What is your initial, personal reaction to all this? Discuss.**
2. **What is Holy Spirit nudging or shouting right now? Discuss.**
Saying to you, showing you, etc. What do you sense?
3. **Pray, intercede and/or prophecy as a group**
Remember: We pray from THIS side of the cross
Opportunity, victory, authority, power. NO FEAR, no shrinking