



Spiritual Enterprise Institute

For
Immediate
Release

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The “Spiritual State Of The Union?” Landmark Gallup Survey Shows Major Shifts

Washington, D.C. & Princeton, N.J. --The Gallup Organization and the Spiritual Enterprise Institute [www.SpiritualEnterprise.org], today released the results of a national survey on the state of religious and spiritual attitudes and practices in America.

George Gallup III said, “This is the first comprehensive survey of its kind since 1999, and a new 13-statement “Spiritual Commitment Index” was developed to link to trend measurements from a smaller 2002 Gallup survey.” He also said, “We see rapid shifts in American attitudes -- as well as confirmation of the critical underpinning of religious and spiritual beliefs as they relate to current problems, the economy, volunteerism, and giving.

Ted Malloch, Founder of the Spiritual Enterprise Institute said, “One of the most compelling findings in the survey is evidence that the 18th Century concept of a Protestant Work Ethic has not only survived the 20th century wave of communism, socialism, secularism, and the welfare state – but may be positioned for a resurgence.”

Top Line Findings:*

- **Agree: “The Spiritual Health of the Nation is Important”**
 - 63% of all respondents (A 14 point decline since 2002)
 - 79% of church-goers (
 - 44% of self-identified Liberals
- **“Trust”**
 - 4 in 10 Americans believe today that, in general, people can be trusted.
 - 6 in 10 think “you can’t be too careful.”
 - 85% of Americans “mostly agree” that being ethical will pay off economically.
- **Religious Convictions:**
 - Since 1999, Americans saying they
 - are “**spiritual but not religious**” has increased 10 percentage points
 - are part of a “**Christian religious tradition**,” has declined 6 percentage points
 - have “**no religious tradition**” has increased 5 percentage points
 - 18% of the adult U.S. population can be described as “highly spiritually committed.”
 - 49% describe themselves as “religious”
 - 40% say they are “spiritual but not religious”
 - 70% say that because of their faith, they find meaning and purpose in life.

(More)

- **Volunteerism (Who Volunteers a great deal or some?)**

- 65% of Americans volunteer
- 81% for church-goers
- 87% for those self-identified as “born again“

- **Spirituality in the Workplace**

- 79% believe open expression of religion at their place of work should be either encouraged (32%) or tolerated (47%).
- 19% employees report there are groups at their place of work that meet regularly for prayer or Bible study.

Charles Harper, of The John Templeton Foundation, said, “This research is a vital key to understanding, and provides a valuable service to commentators discussing the impact of spiritual values and trends in American life, including the economy, work and family life, and voting patterns.” The Templeton Foundation helped fund the SEI / Gallup survey.

“We see many important trends in this data* – but we also want to provide the research and analysis to students, journalists, policy-makers, and the clergy, to draw their own conclusions.” said SEI Founder, Malloch. The research is posted at www.SpiritualEnterprise.org“

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The Spiritual Enterprise Institute [<http://www.spiritualenterprise.org>] was established in 2005, to stimulate new thinking with regard to *Spiritual Capital*, and how it can best be employed to benefit social and economic development through *Spiritual Enterprise*.

The Gallup Organization has studied human nature and behavior for more than 70 years. Gallup's 2,000 professionals deliver services at client organizations, through the Web, at Gallup University's campuses, and in 40 offices around the world.

The John Templeton Foundation, a funder of SEI, serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discovery in areas engaging life's biggest questions -- explorations into the laws of nature and the universe to questions on the nature of love, gratitude, forgiveness, and creativity.

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*The Gallup Organization survey was conducted for The Spiritual Enterprise Institute to examine the relationship between spirituality and the economy, as well as other areas. The results are based on 1004 interviews with the adult general population residing in telephone households in the continental United States. For results based on samples of this size, there is 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be plus or minus three percentage points.