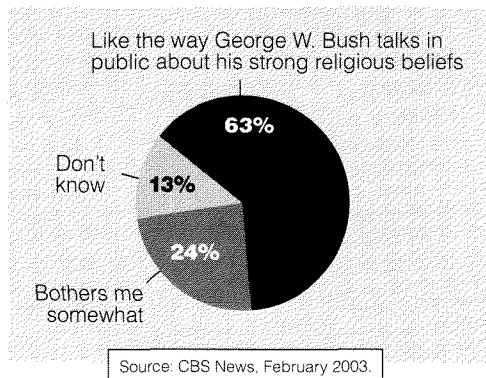


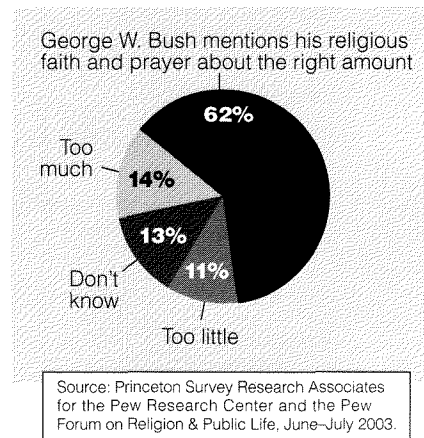
President Bush's Faith

Around six in ten Americans like the way President Bush talks about his strong religious beliefs in public. About the same number say that he relies on his religious beliefs about the right amount when making decisions. Only 10 percent say that he relies on them too much. More people think big business has too much influence on the Bush administration than feel that way about the Religious Right.

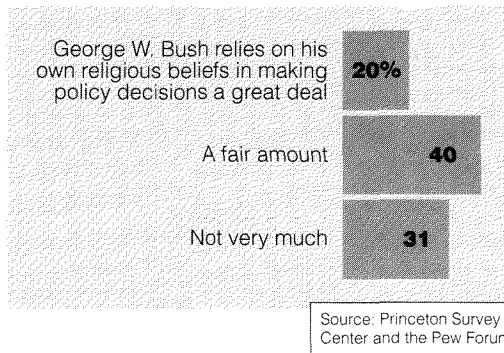
Question: Some people.... What about you...?



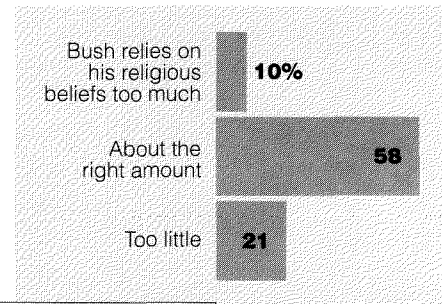
Question: Do you think...?



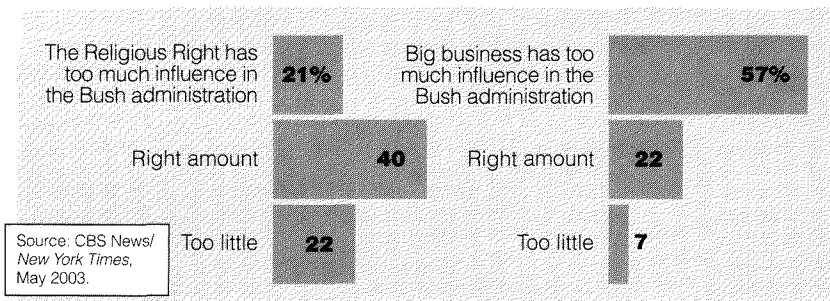
Question: How much do you think...?



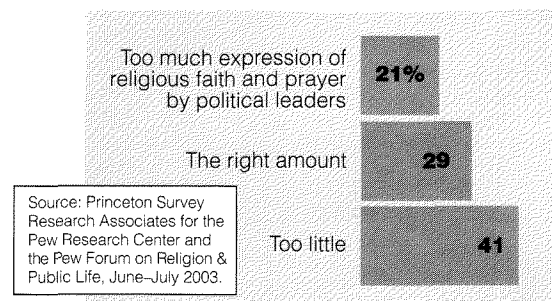
Question: In making policy decisions...?



Question: Do you think...?



Question: Do you think there has been...?

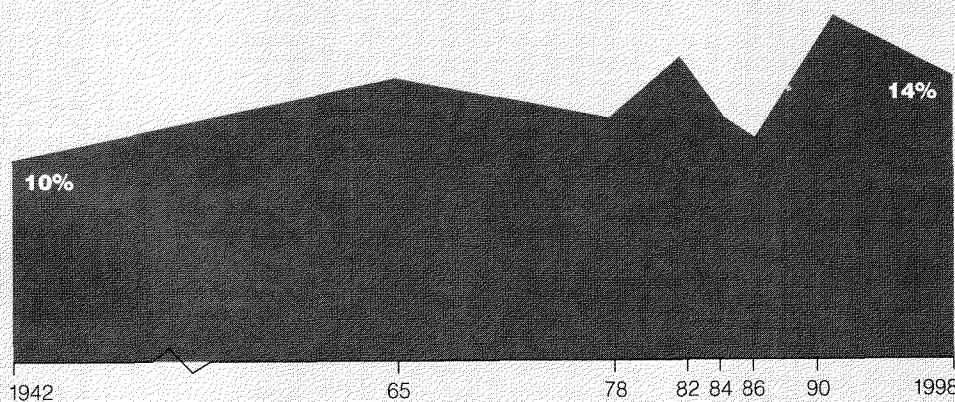


Bible Reading

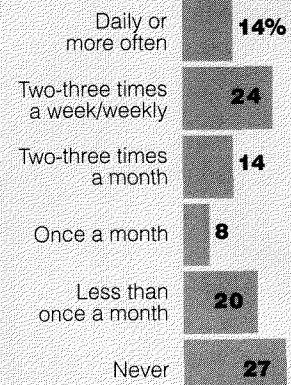
President Bush says that he reads the Bible daily. So, too, do about 15 percent of his fellow citizens. At the other end of the spectrum, about a quarter say they never read it. About 90 percent have a Bible at home, a figure unchanged from 1954, when Gallup first posed the question. About a quarter say they have read the Bible all the way through. Thirty percent today say the Bible is the actual word of God, to be taken literally word for word, while 52 percent believe it is the inspired word of God. Fifteen percent call it an ancient book of fables, legends, and history.

Question: How often do you...?

Read Bible daily or more often



Read the Bible—1998



Note: Question wording varied.

Question: Do you happen to have any of these books in your home...?

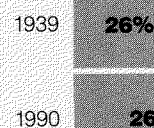
Have a Bible in your home



Note: Question wording varied slightly.

Question: Have you...?

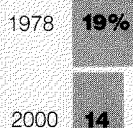
Read the Bible all the way through



Note: Wording in 1990 question was: "Just your best guess, about how much of the Old Testament of the Bible would you say you have ever read?"

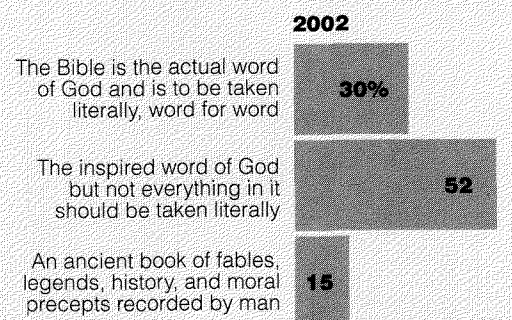
Question: Do you happen to be...?

In a Bible study group



Note: Wording for 1978 question was: "Are you involved in or do you practice Bible study groups?"

Question: Which of the following statements comes closest to describing your views about the Bible...?



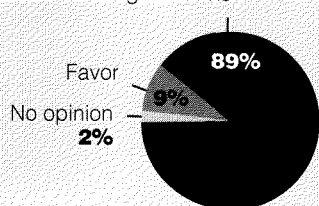
Source: The Gallup Organization, latest that of 2002. The American Bible Society sponsored some of these surveys.

The Ethic of Individual Responsibility

In 2000, George W. Bush said that he wanted to “usher in a responsibility era.” The American people appear ready to embrace it. Americans don’t blame the fast food, tobacco, cigarette, or the entertainment industries for the choices individuals make. If the country embraces proposals to allow people to invest some of their Social Security taxes in the stock market, more than 80 percent say it should not be up to the government to make up for individuals’ losses. Americans think individuals need to take more responsibility for solving the country’s problems.

Question: Would you...?

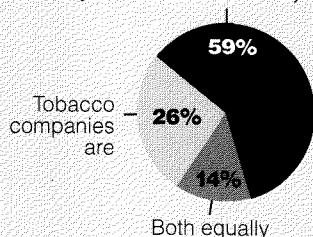
Oppose holding the fast food industry legally responsible for the diet-related health problems of people who eat fast food on a regular basis



Source: The Gallup Organization, July 2003.

Question: Which of the following statements best describes your view...?

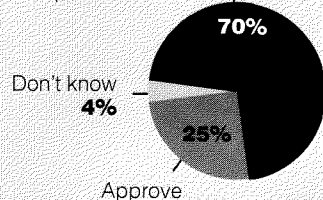
Smokers are to blame for health problems faced by smokers in this country



Source: Gallup, CNN, USA Today, July 2000.

Question: Earlier this year, a jury for the first time.... Do you...?

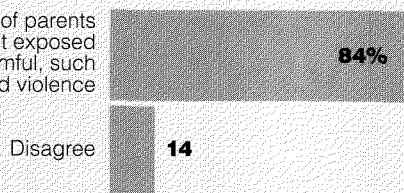
Disapprove of jury decision that gun manufacturers should be held financially responsible for shooting deaths and other illegal uses of their weapons



Source: Washington Post, July 1999.

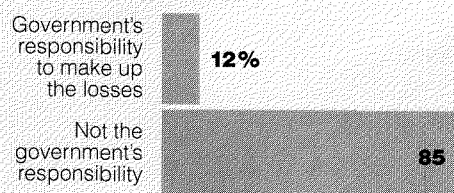
Question: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree...?

Agree it is mainly the responsibility of parents to see to it that their children aren't exposed to TV programs that might be harmful, such as those full of sex and violence



Source: Institute for Social Inquiry/The Roper Center for Reader's Digest, February-March 1995.

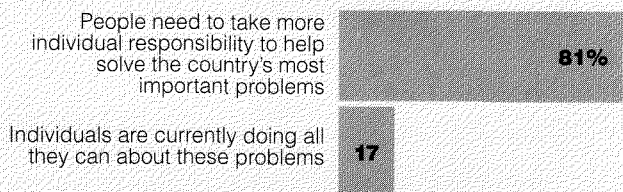
Question: If people who choose to invest their Social Security taxes in the stock market lose their money, should it be...?



Source: CBS News/New York Times, November 2002.

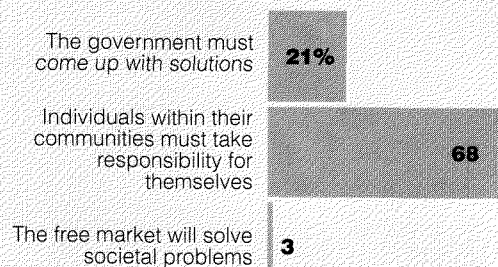
Question: Do you think...?

People need to take more individual responsibility to help solve the country's most important problems

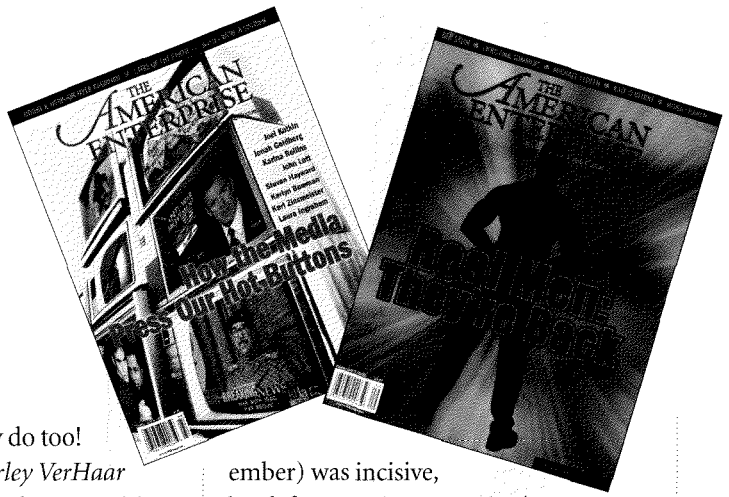


Source: CBS News, January-February, 1997.

Question: Which is closest to your view of the best way to solve America's problems...?



Source: Penn, Schoen & Berland for the Democratic Leadership Council, February 1999.



I read your "Real Men" issue (September) from front to back. When I finished, I looked at the front cover and softly said aloud, "Thank God Almighty."

I am a most fortunate woman: age 57, American, and married for 35 years to a bona fide real man. He is a husband, son, grandfather, brother, and in-law extraordinary; a protector, a provider, an intellect, an artist, an engineer, a mechanic, a gardener, a plumber, a professor, and a leader of men and women.

Americans have finally come around to acknowledging that we owe men like him just about every single thing that we treasure. Not for one minute would I trade places with any man that I know, but I am profoundly grateful for the men such as my husband who protect this nation and all that I hold dear. Thank you for honoring REAL men.

Mary Anne Bailey
Melbourne, Florida

Hooray! As the mother of two young men, one a Marine, the other a husband, father, and hard-working provider, I am glad to know there is published material that supports their manhood. I am very liberal, but I realized that my boys were full of testosterone and used sports, bonfires, hunting, and occasional fights as outlets. What is wrong with men being men?

I married a man who played hockey, not with dolls. If I wanted a companion with female qualities, I would have married a woman and we could have adopted girls. And maybe we could have bred males out of the human race.

No thanks! I like males just the way

they are, and I hope they do too!

Shirley VerHaar
New Orleans, Louisiana

Thank you for your "Real Men" issue. I especially enjoyed Ben Stein's "The Car and the Man." Though I do not have a Corvette like he did, I do have a beautiful medium-green 1966 T-Bird—which I still drive at age 89. (I'm a very careful driver!)

Loretta Micuda
Paradise Valley, Arizona

Hunting may be a "man" thing, but sneaking up on an animal with an assault weapon to blow it away for kicks seems more psychotic than "manly" to me ("Me Man, Me Hunt," Blake Hurst).

I wish that your "Real Men" issue had focused more on how men channel their energy into creative activity. Just think of St. Peter's Basilica or the "Ode to Joy"—great works achieved by men, and more manly than hunting any day.

Herman King
Gloucester, Virginia

I enjoyed Christina Hoff Sommers' "Men—It's in Their Nature" (BIRD'S EYE). But then she cited George W. Bush and his political friends as examples of masculinity that will rekindle in Americans an appreciation for masculine virtues. Is this where she wants her son to find inspiration? Allow me to be disappointed.

R. Horemans
Mol, Belgium

Josh Larsen's review of *Buffalo Soldiers* ("Buffalo Scam," NOW PLAYING, Sept-

ember) was incisive, but left out an important point: The real Buffalo Soldiers were black troopers of the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry formed after the Civil War. They played a critical role in patrolling the Southwest against raids by Indians.

The title of the movie is thus a wholly gratuitous insult to the memory of these brave Americans. What, after all, do troops in 1989 Germany have to do with buffalo? Apparently the politically correct mindset ranks being anti-military as more important than recognizing the contributions of black Americans.

David Stolinsky
Los Angeles, California

Iain Murray's "Liable to Suffer" (THE ECONOMIST, September) is of particular interest to me: Sixty years ago, my wife entered a hospital in Texas for what was to be a simple bladder operation. She was incontinent for the rest of her life. A doctor told us, "A very serious mistake has been made. Try not to be bitter about it." At that time, malpractice litigation was practically unknown.

Today, we have a different set of problems. It should be illegal for lawyers to solicit clients through advertising; fines for careless doctors, just like other fines, should be paid to the state, not the plaintiff; contingency fees and awards for pain and suffering should be eliminated. Articles such as Mr. Murray's will help call attention to the present abuse of justice.

John Clark
Marion, Ohio