

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS  
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE  
AUGUST 2008 RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
July 31-August 10, 2008  
N=2905**

**QUESTIONS 1-53 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK IF R HAS A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (RELIG=1-8, 11, 13-14 OR CHR=1) [N=2502]:**

Q.54 Now, as I read a pair of statements, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views even if neither is exactly right.

		Mar <u>2002</u>
29	My religion is the one, true faith leading to eternal life, OR	20
65	Many religions can lead to eternal life	76
3	Neither/Both equally (VOL.)	1
<u>3</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>
100		100

**IF R SAYS MANY RELIGIONS CAN LEAD TO ETERNAL LIFE (Q.54=2), ASK:**

Q.55 Which of the following religions do you think can lead to eternal life? Do you think that [INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE] can lead to eternal life, or not? Do you think [INSERT NEXT ITEM] can lead to eternal life, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASKED OF NON-PROTESTANTS [N=702]</b>			
a. Protestant faiths	74	13	13=100
<b>NO ITEM b.</b>			
<b>ASKED OF NON-CATHOLICS [N=1128]</b>			
c. Catholicism, the Catholic religion	73	14	13=100
<b>ASKED OF NON-JEWS [N=1638]</b>			
d. The Jewish religion	69	17	14=100
<b>ASKED OF NON-MUSLIMS [N=1664]</b>			
e. Islam, the Muslim religion	52	29	19=100
<b>ASKED OF NON-HINDUS [N=1667]</b>			
f. Hinduism	53	24	23=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=836]:**

**IF R SAYS MANY RELIGIONS CAN LEAD TO ETERNAL LIFE (Q.54=2), ASK:**

Q55gF1. And do you think that atheists [PRONOUNCED A-thee-ists] can achieve eternal life, or not?

42	Yes, they can
46	No, they cannot
<u>12</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=837]:**

**IF R SAYS MANY RELIGIONS CAN LEAD TO ETERNAL LIFE (Q.54=2), ASK:**

Q55hF2. And do you think that people who have no religious faith can achieve eternal life, or not?

- 56 Yes, they can
- 31 No, they cannot
- 13 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
- 100

**ASK ALL FORM 1 [N=1,440]:**

Q.56F1 And just in your own words, what do you think determines whether a person will achieve eternal life? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. DO NOT PROBE FOR FURTHER ANSWERS. IF NECESSARY, PROMPT WITH "In your own words."]

**29 ACTIONS**

- 16 Being good person/living good life/doing good works/morals/moral values/how you live your life
- 3 Treating others nicely/as you'd like to be treated
- 1 Living life in accordance with God's commands/God's will/the Bible
- 1 Behaving like Jesus/living good Christian life
- 1 Living life in accordance with one's own principles/being true to oneself
- 1 Following Ten Commandments
- 1 Other actions/generic actions
- 5 Combination of actions

**30 BELIEF**

- 17 In Jesus/the Lord/relationship with Jesus/accepting Jesus/Jesus' mercy/Being born-again/saved
- 7 In God/higher power/relationship with God
- \* In the Bible
- 6 Other beliefs/having faith/generic beliefs (including 'truth as one defines it')
- \* Combination of beliefs

**10 COMBINATION OF ACTIONS AND BELIEF**

- 4 Belief in God/God's mercy AND actions
- 3 Belief in Jesus/the Lord/Jesus' mercy AND actions
- \* Belief in Bible AND actions
- 3 Other beliefs/one's own beliefs AND actions

**8 OTHER**

- 1 It's up to God/God's mercy/God's grace
- 1 Intentions (e.g., having a good heart)/combination of intentions and actions or beliefs
- \* Karma
- 6 All others

**2 EVERYONE/NEARLY EVERYONE ACHIEVES ETERNAL LIFE**

**\* NOTHING DETERMINES ETERNAL LIFE/INEVITABLE**

**7 DO NOT BELIEVE IN ETERNAL LIFE**

**14 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED**

100