

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
DECEMBER 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 4, 2017
N=1,503**

QUESTIONS 1-3, 6-7, 11-12, 16-17, 21-24, 34-35, 41-42, 50-51, 56-57 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 5, 8-10, 13-14, 18-20, 25, 27, 30-33, 36-40, 43-49, 52-55, 58-75

ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.4 Do you celebrate Christmas, or not?

Nov 29-Dec 4		Dec 3-8
<u>2017</u>		<u>2013</u>
90	Yes	92
8	No	7
1	Sometimes (VOL.)	1
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<1

TREND FOR COMPARISON: *Do you celebrate Christmas?*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
<i>Gallup/USA Today: Dec 10-12, 2010</i>	95	4	<1
<i>Gallup/USA Today: December, 2008</i>	93	7	0
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today: December, 2005</i>	96	4	<1
<i>Gallup: December, 2003</i>	95	5	0
<i>Gallup: December, 2000</i>	96	4	<1
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today: December, 1994</i>	96	4	<1

ASK IF CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS OR DECLINED TO SAY (Q.4=1,3,9):Q.4a For you personally, is Christmas **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**?**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Nov 29-Dec 4		Dec 3-8
<u>2017</u>		<u>2013</u>
46	More of a religious holiday	52
33	More of a cultural holiday	33
9	Both of these (VOL.)	7
1	Other/none of these (VOL.)	1
0	Do not celebrate Christmas (VOL.)	0
<1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1
8	<i>Does not celebrate Christmas (Q.4=2)</i>	7

ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.15 In your view, would you prefer if stores and businesses greet their customers by saying "merry Christmas," OR would you prefer if stores and businesses use less-religious terms such as "happy holidays" and "season's greetings," or doesn't it matter to you?

Nov 29-Dec 4 <u>2017</u>		Dec 5-9 <u>2012</u>	December <u>2005</u>
32	Prefer "merry Christmas"	42	43
15	Prefer less-religious terms	12	12
52	Doesn't matter	46	45
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<1	1

ASK ALL:

On another subject,

Q.26 Thinking about holiday displays on government property, which comes closest to your view? [**READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE**]?

Nov 29-Dec 4 <u>2017</u>		Dec 3-7 <u>2014</u>
26	No religious symbols, like Christian nativity scenes, should be allowed on government property, [OR]	20
29	Religious symbols like Christian nativity scenes should be allowed on government property, but ONLY if accompanied by symbols from other faiths such as Hanukkah [PRONOUNCED: "HAH-nuh-kuh"] candles, [OR]	28
37	Christian symbols like nativity scenes should be allowed on government property whether or not they are accompanied by symbols from other faiths	44
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8

ASK ALL:

Q.28 And thinking about the way Christmas is celebrated in American society in general, do you think the RELIGIOUS aspects of the Christmas season are [**RANDOMIZE:** emphasized more now than in the past, emphasized less now than in the past], or hasn't this changed very much?

Nov 29-Dec 4 <u>2017</u>	
12	Religious aspects of the Christmas season are emphasized more now than in the past
56	Religious aspects of the Christmas season are emphasized less now than in the past
30	Hasn't changed very much
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.28 And thinking about the way Christmas is celebrated in American society in general, do you think the RELIGIOUS aspects of the Christmas season are **[RANDOMIZE: emphasized more now than in the past, emphasized less now than in the past]**, or hasn't this changed very much?

ASK IF MORE/LESS (Q.28 = 1,2):

Q.29 And how much, if at all, does this bother you? **[READ]**

BASED ON TOTAL:

Nov 29-Dec 4

2017

12	Religious aspects of the Christmas season are emphasized more now than in the past
2	A lot
2	Some
2	Not much
6	Not at all
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
56	Religious aspects of the Christmas season are emphasized less now than in the past
18	A lot
14	Some
8	Not much
16	Not at all
<1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
30	Hasn't changed very much
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.76 Do you plan to **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** on Christmas Eve or Christmas day this year, or not? And do you plan to **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]** on Christmas Eve or Christmas day this year, or not?

			(VOL.)	(VOL.)	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Plan to do this, but on a different day</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	
a.	Attend a gathering with extended family or friends				
	Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	82	16	<1	2
	Dec 3-8, 2013	86	12	<1	1
b.	Attend religious services				
	Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	51	45	<1	3
	Dec 3-8, 2013	54	43	1	3

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you, or does your family, do each of the following as part of its celebration of Christmas, or not? How about attend religious services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

USA Today/Gallup: December, 2010¹

	62	39	--	<1
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¹ Those who answered in a previous question that they did not celebrate Christmas were not asked this question and recorded as "no." "Plan to do this, but on a different day" was not a volunteered option.

Next,

ASK ALL:

Q.77 Do you believe that Jesus Christ was born to a virgin, or don't you believe this?

Nov 29-Dec 4 <u>2017</u>		Dec 3-7 <u>2014</u>	Dec 3-8 <u>2013</u>
66	Yes, believe	73	73
25	No, don't believe	20	19
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	7

ASK ALL:

Q.77 Do you believe that Jesus Christ was born to a virgin, or don't you believe this?

ASK IF "DON'T BELIEVE" OR "DK/REF" ON Q.77 (Q.77=2,9):

Q.78 Regardless of your religious beliefs, do you think Jesus Christ ever actually lived, or not?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Nov 29-Dec 4 <u>2017</u>		Dec 3-7 <u>2014</u>
66	Yes, believe Jesus Christ was born to a virgin	73
34	NET Don't believe/Don't know if Jesus Christ was born to a virgin	27
22	Yes, believe Jesus Christ lived	20
7	No, don't believe Jesus Christ lived	5
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

ASK IF "BELIEVE" IN Q.77 OR Q.78 (Q.77=1 OR Q.78=1):

Q.79 Thinking about the Christmas story, for each of the following, please tell me whether you believe it is an event that actually occurred or not. First, **[INSERT, RANDOMIZE]**... Do you believe this is an event that actually occurred, or don't you believe this? Next, **[INSERT NEXT]**...**[IF NECESSARY: Do you believe this is an event that actually occurred, or don't you believe this?]**

BASED ON TOTAL:

	Believe this event actually <u>occurred</u>	No, don't <u>believe</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>NET Don't believe in Jesus</i>
a. An angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus				
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	67	17	5	11
Dec 3-7, 2014	74	15	3	7
b. Wise men were guided by a star and brought Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh				
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	68	15	5	11
Dec 3-7, 2014	75	14	4	7
c. The newborn baby Jesus was laid in a manger				
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	75	8	5	11
Dec 3-7, 2014	81	9	3	7