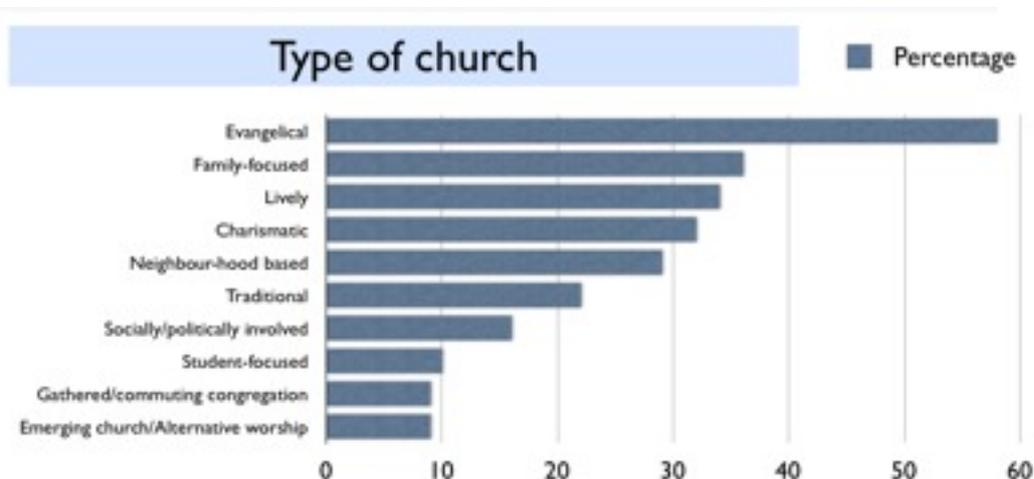


DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TYPES OF CHURCH

Summary



Respondents were invited to identify their church under one or more labels. Churches could be described using one or more of these descriptors, for example someone might say they go to a lively, student-focused evangelical church, or to a charismatic, socially involved emerging church. It is the type that is then compared, rather than denomination.

Lively churches

Lively churches are distinctive in that more of their single adult members say that they feel treated as members of the 'church family' than not, unlike all other types. As a consequence singles feel accepted and most don't feel a presumption that something is wrong with them. Happiest about their sexuality and singleness, they enjoy having time for faith and prayer, helping others or pursuing a ministry and opportunity to spend time with friends and family. However they are concerned about the gender imbalance and single women finding husbands.

Student-focused churches

Distinctively, the student-focused church is the only one where members say it knows what to do with them as singles.

Charismatic churches

Members are the only ones to say that they find not having intimacy in their lives difficult or very difficult. This may well be because they wish to avoid sex until marriage more than members of other types of church and are most strongly supportive of the church taking a strong line about it and so avoid intimate situations. Perhaps, too, this is

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

the reason why they want to, and most often do, discuss singleness with one of their church leaders.

Socially /politically involved churches

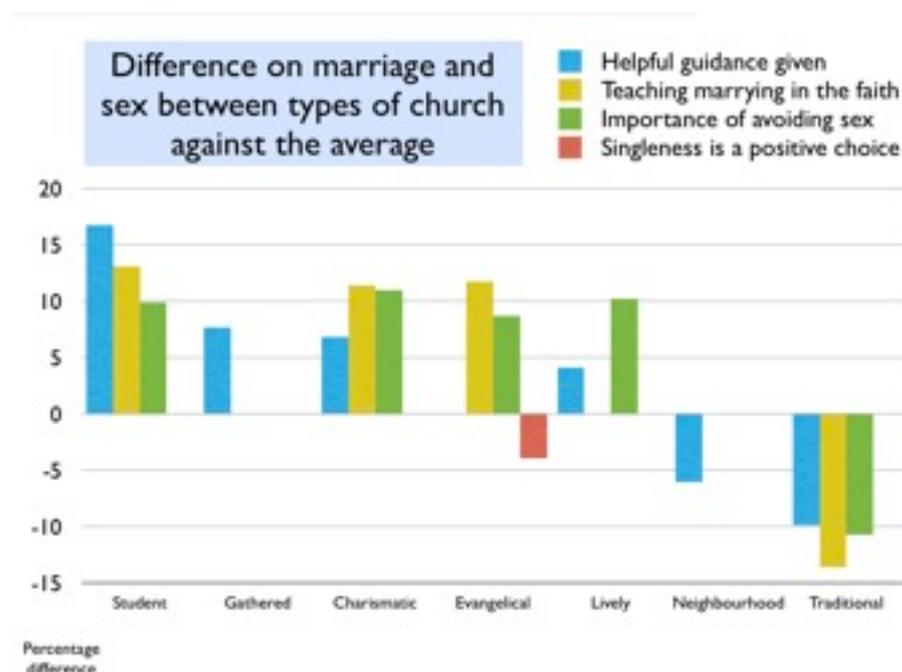
Members say that they feel most part of the church community of all types of church and are highly involved with church activities every week and community activities. They are significantly more concerned than other types about the gender imbalance and the implications for single women finding husbands

Traditional and Neighbourhood-based churches

The Traditional church is much less concerned about marriage, singleness and sexual ethics than others types. As a result this may be why members think they are more welcoming to single people. Neighbourhood-based churches are theologically similar to the Traditional church but single Christians feel much more part of the church community and join more into both church and community activities.

Evangelical churches

Singleness is much less a positive choice for members who go to evangelical churches. They are much less happy than members of all other churches in being single and enjoy the benefits of singleness less than those members of other types of church. Looking at the comparison suggests a reason. They feel expected to marry someone of the Christian faith, avoid sex and yet are given little teaching on relationships and singleness compared to other types of church whose members have similar expectations. In other words, members of evangelical churches say that that they receive the expectations of behaviour on marriage and sex, but without being equipped or supported in it.



DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

Overview

The percentage saying they were a member of such a type of church and a short summary [DN to follow] are listed below:

58 %	Evangelical
36 %	Family-focused
34 %	Lively
32 %	Charismatic
29 %	Neighbourhood-based
22 %	Traditional
16 %	Socially/politically involved
10%	Student-focused
9 %	Gathered/commuting congregation
9 %	Emerging Church/ Alternative worship

In looking at any differences between them, we have adopted a stringent statistical test that identifies only the most consistent of distinctions. What sometimes proves interesting is when churches might be expected to be different and are not. These we note too.

The types of church are listed in order of the most distinctions made from the others.

The single Christian in a Lively church

Throughout, the Lively type of church emerges as most different to the others. These churches are:

- More in agreement that others embrace the single adult for who they are
- Feel more accepted as single adults
- Of all church types, feel most part of the church community
- Feel treated as members of the 'church family' (the only ones overall that do so)
- Think that there are no problems in single people going to church
- Less likely to think there is presumption that something wrong because they are single (the only ones overall that do so)
- Are most comfortable with their sexuality
- Say they are happy as a single person and would also be happy if married
- If single, enjoy having the space and time to devote themselves to faith/prayer, to help others or pursue a ministry and chance to spend time with friends and family and socialise with close friends (only student-focused churches doing so more).

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

In addition, like some of the others:

- They are less likely to agree that the church is too feminine
- Receive relatively more advice on relationships and issues of singleness
- Are medium-ly involved in church activities every week
- And think they are likely to meet potential partners through church and church-related activities and family and friends.
- They don't see themselves as marrying a non-Christian (though less so than Evangelicals and Charismatics) and they are fine with sex belonging only in marriage and over half say it is important to avoid sex before marriage.
- However of all the larger types of church, they are most concerned about the gender imbalance and that women have less chance of finding a husband

The single Christian in a student-focused church

Distinctively, the student-focused church is the only one

- where they say it knows what to do with them as a single
- members more involved with sports and hobbies

They get most advice on relationships and issues of singleness and report they have have most often heard church leaders teach that Christians should only marry those who share their faith. However, they are much more willing to marry a non-Christian than four other types and under half say they are fine with sex belonging only in marriage (behind many other types). Over half say it is important to avoid sex before marriage.

Of all the types they enjoy most having the space and time to devote themselves to faith/prayer, to help others or pursue a ministry, and take chance to spend time with friends and family and socialise with close friends.

They are most social as would be expected and say that the best way to meet potential partners is through church and church related activities, family and friends. Of all types, they most disagree that their church ethos is too feminine.

The single Christian in a Charismatic church

Distinctively say that they

- find not having intimacy in their lives difficult or very difficult
- think that an event or conference would help raise awareness of singleness issues.

In addition, they top the types in:

- wanting to and most often discussing singleness with one of their church leaders
- being involved in church activities

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- in agreement that the church should take a strong and strict line against sex outside of and before marriage
- certain that they cannot see themselves marrying a non-Christian
- fine with sex belonging only in marriage
- believing it important to avoid sex before marriage as a practicing Christian

They receive some guidance on relationship and singleness issues.

The single Christian in an Evangelical church

Distinctively

- disagree that singleness is a positive choice for them
- expect their leaders to be responsible for addressing the needs of single Christians and reaching out to those outside the church.

Compared to Student-focused, Charismatic, Gathered congregations and Lively churches, they receive relatively less advice on relationships and issues of singleness, despite hearing church leaders teach that Christians should only marry those who share their faith (most after Student-focused). They don't particularly enjoy being single, unlike Lively and Student-focused churches, and feel less part of their church communities than many other types. They are near the bottom of the list when it comes to being involved with church activities at least once each week. They socialise less than other types of church with close friends at least once each week and generally.

Nevertheless they more strongly assert there are no circumstances in which they will marry a non-Christian, are fine with sex only belonging in marriage, say that it is important to avoid sex before marriage (although 4th behind other types) and agree that the church is right to take a strong and strict line against sex.

The single Christian in a gathered or commuting congregation

There is little to distinguish gathered or commuting congregations from the average for other churches.

They are only distinct in two places, each time second after student-focused churches,

- Receive relatively more advice on relationships and issues of singleness
- Say that the best way to meet potential partners is through church or church-related activities.

The single Christian in a Traditional church

The Traditional church appears distinctive in a number of places, nearly always as different to all others.

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- They see others as much more accepted in church and are least involved with church activities at least once a week
- They receive least advice from church leaders on relationships and issues of singleness.
- They don't think an event or conference would help raise awareness of singleness issues and distinctively they are less interested in attending such a conference or having more teaching to help understand their faith in the context of being single.
- Fewer have wanted to or talked to church leaders one to one
- The least number have heard Church leaders say they should marry someone of the same faith, and are most are prepared to marry a non-Christian.
- Fewest think it important to avoid sex before marriage and are the least concerned about the imbalance of numbers affecting chances of women finding a husband.
- Socialise least with close friends, but higher than average generally in a week and think, most of all types, that the best way to meet a potential partner is through joining clubs, groups and organisations in the community.

The Single Christian in a Neighbourhood-based church

- Feel much more part of the church community (closely following the Lively and Socially/politically involved churches)
- Lie in the middle of all the types in terms of church involvement at least once each week
- Are relatively high in joining in with community activities (after Emerging church and Socially/politically involved)
- Receive less advice on relationships and issues of singleness (just more than Traditional)
- Like the Traditional church, they also don't particularly support the Church taking a strong and strict line about sex outside of marriage.
- Consider a good way to meet a potential partner is through joining clubs, groups and organisations in the community (close behind the Traditional church members).

In summary, they appear theologically similar to the Traditional church but single Christians feel much more part of the church community and join more into both church and community activities.

The single Christian in a Family-focused church

Out of the ten types, the family-focused church lies in the middle or in the average. The only distinctive separations reported are the following:

- Feel slightly more part of church community (4th)

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- Slightly higher involved in church activities at least once a week (5th)
- Think best way to meet a potential partner is through family and friends (4th)
- Slightly more wouldn't marry a non-Christian (4th)
- Slightly more consider it important to avoid sex before marriage (5th)

The single Christian in a Socially /politically involved church

- Feel most part of the church community of all types of church
- More involved with church activities every week (after Student-focused and Charismatic)
- Socialise generally more than all others except Student-focused
- Involved most in community activities (after Emerging - and unlike Student-focused and Charismatic)
- They are significantly more concerned than other types about the gender imbalance and the implications for single women finding husbands

The single Christian in an Emerging Church/ alternative worship

The only distinctive element of an Emerging Church for single Christians outside the average is their involvement in community activities at least once each week.

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

Methodology

All relationships presented below are derived from identified associations which are significant at the $P < 0.001$ level.

(Although $P < 0.05$ is the conventional level of significance employed in scientific research, a more stringent threshold was used in this study, in order to account for multiple testing. Applying this more stringent P -value threshold substantially reduces the amount of false-positives reported from the data / information collected in this survey).

The following statistically significant differences by type of church attended were identified (associations were tested for all types of church: Evangelical, Charismatic, Emerging, Traditional, Socially/Politically involved, Neighbourhood-based, Gathered/commuting congregation, Student focused, Family focused, Lively):

- Do you think that single people outside the church find particular problems about Christianity or to going to church simple because they are single?

(Yes)

Church Type	%
Lively	25.6
All others	32.1

- Acceptance by the church:
 - The church embraces me for who I am

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Lively	74.0
All others	65.4

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Lively	0.46
All others	0.35

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- I feel part of the church community

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Socially/politically involved	77.8
Neighbourhood based	75.2
Family focused	74.9
Lively	76.7
All others	67.3

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Socially/politically involved	0.47
Neighbourhood based	0.45
Family focused	0.44
Lively	0.48
All others	0.35

- It feels as if there is presumption that there must be something wrong with me because I am single

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Lively	35.3
All others	41.0

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Lively	-0.07
All others	0.02

- The church does not know what to do with me as a single

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Student focused	34.8
All others	43.7

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Student focused	-0.09
All others	0.07

- I feel that I am a less accepted member of the congregation because I am single

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Lively	23.4
All others	28.9

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Lively	-0.27
All others	-0.16

- The church says it is a family but doesn't treat singles as family members

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Lively	32.5
All others	39.9

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Lively	-0.13
All others	0.00

- Personally I feel accepted in church but see that there are other singles who are not so well accepted

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Charismatic	31.9
Traditional	19.3
All others	25.6

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Charismatic	-0.03
Traditional	-0.20
All others	-0.11

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- The ethos of the church is too feminine, it is not very attractive to the average single man

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Student focused	29.8
Lively	31.0
All others	37.5

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	%
Student focused	-0.12
Lively	-0.06
All others	-0.05

- How helpful do you find your church leader's advice on relationships and issues of singleness?

They give very little guidance

Church Type	%
Charismatic	35.7
Traditional	52.4
Neighbourhood-based	48.6
Gathered congregation	34.8
Student focused	25.8
Lively	38.4
All others	42.5

- Have you ever discussed singleness with one of your church leaders on a one to one basis?

Yes, at my request

Church Type	%
Charismatic	31.3
Traditional	19.9
All others	27.2

No, have never wanted to

Church Type	%
Charismatic	36.0
Traditional	51.0

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

All others	40.5
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- Have you heard your church leader(s) teach that Christians should only marry those who share their faith?

(Yes, strongly)

Church Type	%
Evangelical	56.0
Charismatic	55.7
Traditional	30.7
Student focused	57.4
All others	44.3

- Marriage and happiness:

- I am happy as a single person and would also be happy if married

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Lively	68.7
All others	61.5

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Lively	0.36
All others	0.27

- Singleness is a positive choice for me, at least at the moment

(Strongly agree / agree)

Church Type	%
Evangelical	21.5
All others	25.4

(Positivity Rating)

Church Type	
Evangelical	-0.29
All others	-0.19

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- Being single I enjoy:

- The space and time to devote myself to faith/prayer

(Strongly agree/agree)

Church Type	%
Student focused	55.3
Lively	51.6
All others	46.5

- Having the space to devote time to help others or to pursue a ministry

(Strongly agree/agree)

Church Type	%
Charismatic	51.2
Student focused	55.5
Lively	53.4
All others	44.1

- The chance to spend more time with friends and family

(Strongly agree/agree)

Church Type	%
Student focused	51.8
Lively	54.4
All others	48.2

- How do you find the following?

- 'Not having intimacy in my life'

(Very difficult / difficult)

Church Type	%
Charismatic	79.6
All others	74.0

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- Frequency of involvement in socialising / activities / hobbies:

- Socialising with close friends

At least once each week

Church Type	%
Evangelical	49.7
Charismatic	53.5
Traditional	39.7
Student focused	64.1
Lively	53.5
All others	43.1

- Socialising generally

At least once each week

Church Type	%
Evangelical	43.8
Charismatic	48.8
Traditional	46.0
Socially/politically involved	48.8
Student focused	57.8
Lively	46.3
All others	36.7

- Involved with hobbies or sports

At least once each week

Church Type	%
Student focused	58.8
All others	46.6

- Involved with church activities (At least once each week)

Church Type	%
Evangelical	62.6
Charismatic	66.5
Traditional	52.5
Socially/politically involved	65.1
Neighbourhood-based	62.8
Student focused	65.5
Family focused	63.5
Lively	64.9
All others	54.8

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- Involved in community activities

At least once each week

Church Type	%
Emerging	22.4
Socially/politically involved	19.9
Neighbourhood-based	18.3
Lively	17.0
All others	13.8

- What is the best way to meet potential partners?

- Through church and church related events

Church Type	%
Evangelical	65.2
Charismatic	69.7
Traditional	46.5
Congregation	73.1
Student focused	76.3
Lively	68.9
All others	52.3

- Through family and friends

Church Type	%
Congregation	62.0
Student-focused	63.5
Family	55.0
Lively	56.2
All others	30.1

- Through joining clubs, groups and organisations in the community

Church Type	%
Traditional	42.3
Neighbourhood	41.3
All others	31.4

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- Could there be any circumstances in which you would marry a non-Christian?

No, I can't see I would ever marry a non-Christian

Church Type	%
Evangelical	65.9
Charismatic	66.2
Traditional	40.5
Family-focused	62.4
Lively	64.4
All others	51.8

- What is your view on sex before marriage?

Sex belongs only in marriage and I am fine with that

Church Type	%
Evangelical	57.3
Charismatic	58.9
Traditional	36.4
Lively	58.3
All others	47.8

- How important is it to avoid sex before marriage for you, as a practising Christian?

The most important

Church Type	%
Evangelical	50.2
Charismatic	52.5
Traditional	30.8
Student-focused	51.4
Family-focused	48.4
Lively	51.7
All others	41.5

- What do you think of the church's attitude towards and teaching on sexual ethics?

The church is right to take a strong and strict line against sex outside of and before marriage and speak out against it

Church Type	%
Evangelical	39.8
Charismatic	40.2
Traditional	27.8
Neighbourhood-based	29.6
All others	35.7

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- In general, there are more women in the church than men. How do you feel about this?

I am concerned because it lessens the chance of me finding a husband

Church Type	%
Evangelical	51.5
Charismatic	52.4
Traditional	37.1
Socially/politically involved	57.1
Lively	53.0
All others	41.4

- Would it help for you to have someone or a group of people to discuss issues of singleness with?

(Yes)

Church Type	%
Traditional	30.7
All others	40.6

- Do you think that an event or conference might help raise awareness of singleness issues? (Yes)

Church Type	%
Charismatic	40.8
Traditional	29.9
All others	34.1

- Would you be interested in attending an event or conference which might help raise awareness of singleness issues?

Yes, definitely

Church Type	%
Traditional	20.8
All others	29.0

- Would it help to have some more teaching, guidance or study materials to help you understand your faith in the context of being single?

Yes, I would like to learn more in this area

Church Type	%
Traditional	43.6
All others	49.5

DIFFERENCES BY TYPE OF CHURCH ATTENDED

- Who do you feel is responsible for addressing the needs of single Christians and reaching out to single people outside of the church?

Leaders in the church

Church Type	%
Evangelical	81.9
All others	74.5

- How do you feel about your own sexuality and sexual behaviour?

I am generally comfortable with my sexuality

Church Type	%
Lively	69.3
All others	61.9