

# The numbers of single adults practising Christian worship

The results of a YouGov Survey of GB adults

All figures are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 7,212 GB 16+ adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 23rd - 26th September 2014. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 16+). Raw data was provided by YouGov, whilst calculations are performed by Single Christians.

**Funded by Single Christians and Christian Vision for Men.**

Conceived and commissioned by Dr David Pullinger, Single Christians.

Report available from [www.singlechristians.co.uk](http://www.singlechristians.co.uk)

## ABOUT THE FUNDING BODIES and SURVEY COMPANY

**Christian Vision for Men (CVM)** is a registered charity founded in 1989 operating all over the **United Kingdom** based in **Chesterfield**. Its mission statement is to "connect men to **Jesus** and the church to men". It works with over 2,000 churches, mainly by having its materials used by the churches men's groups to achieve its aims. Website: [www.cvm.org.uk](http://www.cvm.org.uk)

**Single Christians Ltd (SCL)** is a not-for-profit company set up to facilitate a better understanding of the needs and aspirations of single people of Christian faith, primarily through research and provision of resources. Website: [www.singlechristians.co.uk](http://www.singlechristians.co.uk)

**YouGov plc** is an international internet-based market research firm, founded in the UK in May 2000. Its methodology is to obtain responses from an invited group of internet users, and then to weight these responses in line with demographic information. It draws these demographically-representative samples from a panel of some 3 million people worldwide including over 400,000 people in the UK. Website: [www.YouGov.co.uk](http://www.YouGov.co.uk)

## QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE YOUNG GOV SURVEY

### Question 1:

For the following question, if you do not consider yourself to be a practising Christian, please select the 'Not applicable' option. Also, please only think about the occasions that you attend places of worship for religious purposes (e.g. mass, confession etc.) and NOT occasions that you may attend for other reasons (e.g. weddings, visiting as a tourist etc.).

In general, approximately how often, if at all, would you say that you attend a Christian place of worship (i.e. Churches, Cathedrals etc.)? (Please select the option that best applies)

- Everyday
- Every two to three days
- Every four to five days
- Once a week
- Every two to three weeks
- Once a month
- Every two to three months
- Every four to six months
- Once a year
- Less often than once a year
- Never
- Not applicable - I am not a practising Christian

### Question 2:

For the following question, if you have been married or have entered into a civil partnership more than once, please think about the first time you got married or entered into a civil partnership...

At what age did you first get married or enter into a civil partnership? (Please type your answer, in years, in the box below. If you can't remember the exact age, please provide your best estimate.)

# DEFINITIONS USED IN PRESENTING THE RESULTS

## **Marital status**

The following Marital Status options were presented to the YouGov representative Panels:

Married, Never Married, Civil Partnership, Divorced, Separated, Living together as married, Widowed.

## **Partnered**

Includes Married, Civil Partnership, Living together as married and Separated.

Note: The inclusion of Separated into Partnered is because underlying the distinction is the ability to form a marriage or civil partnership. Legally the Separated remain Married until Divorced. They make up 2% of GB society.

## **Unpartnered**

Includes Never Married, Divorced and Widowed

## **Social grades**

Originally developed by the National Readership Survey (NRS) for its readers, social grades are used to classify demographics in the UK. Developed over 50 years ago, their definition is now maintained by the Market Research Society. The grades are often grouped into ABC1 and C2DE and these are usually taken to equate to middle class and working class respectively. Around 2% of the UK population is upper class and not included in the classification scheme.

## **Age groups**

The Christian Connection 2012 survey found clear breaks of behaviour and attitude occurred at 30, 45 and 60 and age groups accordingly follow these when statistically possible. Those used by the Market Research Society are 16-24, 25-39, 40-54 and 55+.

## **Practising Christian and attendance at a place of worship**

These are self-selected according to the answers given by panel members in the Questions asked of them (see previous slide). The term 'practising Christian' is used about all those who voluntarily identify themselves as such. The term 'regularly attending' is used to mean attending a place of worship for the purposes of worship at least once a month.

## **GB Great Britain**

Formally the largest island in the British Isles, but here used to cover England, Wales and Scotland.

## CAUTIONARY NOTES

### **The data covers all that society members identify as Christian worship**

The responses cover all worship that GB citizens choose to identify as Christian. The data therefore covers all Christian denominations and independent churches - maybe a few that others would not count as Christian as not subscribing to the Trinitarian doctrine. There are large differences in the make-up of individual churches within denominations and anecdotal evidence of differences between denominations.

### **Only statistically valid results are presented.**

The data is based on the responses of 7,212 people aged 16 years and over in GB whose responses were then weighted to ensure that they representative of the make-up of GB society. Drilling down deeply into data sometimes results in insufficient numbers of people to be confident about the statistical validity and such data are not presented.

### **Methodological note**

There are those of some marital statuses that are not fully covered by the options presented in the survey, for example the divorced who then live together as married. This is a fast growing group in GB in the age range 40-55, but the actual numbers are still small and prior consideration decided that they were insufficient to justify adding further options in the survey as they would not significantly change any percentages presented here but might have altered the response rate, thereby invalidating other results.

# THREE DIFFERENT QUESTIONS - MANY DIFFERENT DATA PRESENTATIONS

Who in GB society goes to places of worship?



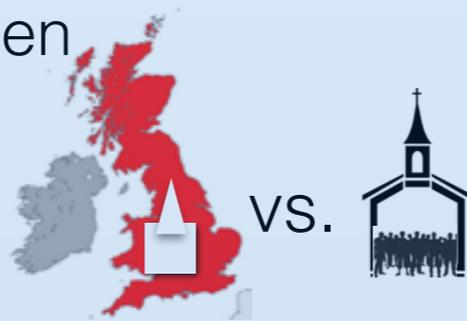
Percentage of GB society: how likely is it that someone will do X? For example, that someone goes to a place of worship regularly.

Who makes up those present in places of worship?



Percentage of a group in society: how likely is it that a member of the group will do X? For example, that a married person would say they are a practising Christian?

Are there any differences between those who practice Christianity and those who do not?



Numbers doing X. For example 6 million go to a place of Christian worship at least once a month.

Percentages of different groups that do X. For example of the people who go to a Christian place of worship, 60% are married.

Percentage of a group that does X: if they do X how likely is that they will do Y? For example if saying they are practising Christian how many attend regularly.

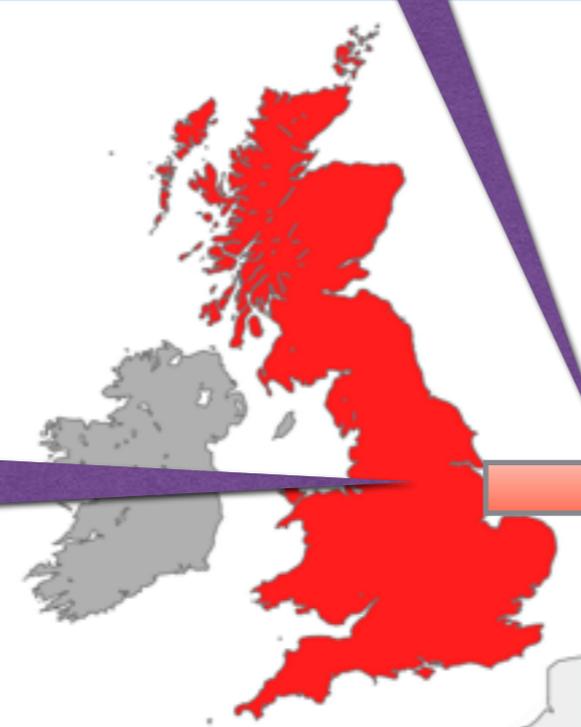
# WHO IN GB GOES TO PLACES OF WORSHIP?

**ONE IN TEN WORSHIP REGULARLY**  
30% of GB say they are Practising Christians  
20% go to worship at least once a year  
10% go to worship at least once a month  
  
Grossed figures for ease of recall. Actual 31%, 19%, 10%

**FOR THE PARTNERED OR PREVIOUSLY PARTNERED**  
The marital status of practising Christians, as a percentage of their group in society, is in following order:  
Widowed  
Married  
Divorced  
Living together as married  
Never Married

**WORSHIP IS FOR MIDDLE CLASS**  
More middle class attend than working class.

**WORSHIP IS FOR WOMEN**  
The greatest percentage of society attending are women and, in particular, ABC1 women.



**ONE IN TEN NEVER ATTEND**  
1 in 10 of society say they are practising Christians but attend very rarely or never. Those doing this most are married men, who are working class and older.

NEARLY ONE THIRD OF GB SAY THEY ARE PRACTISING CHRISTIANS. 1 in 10 in GB ATTEND A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF WORSHIP AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH



**19 million**

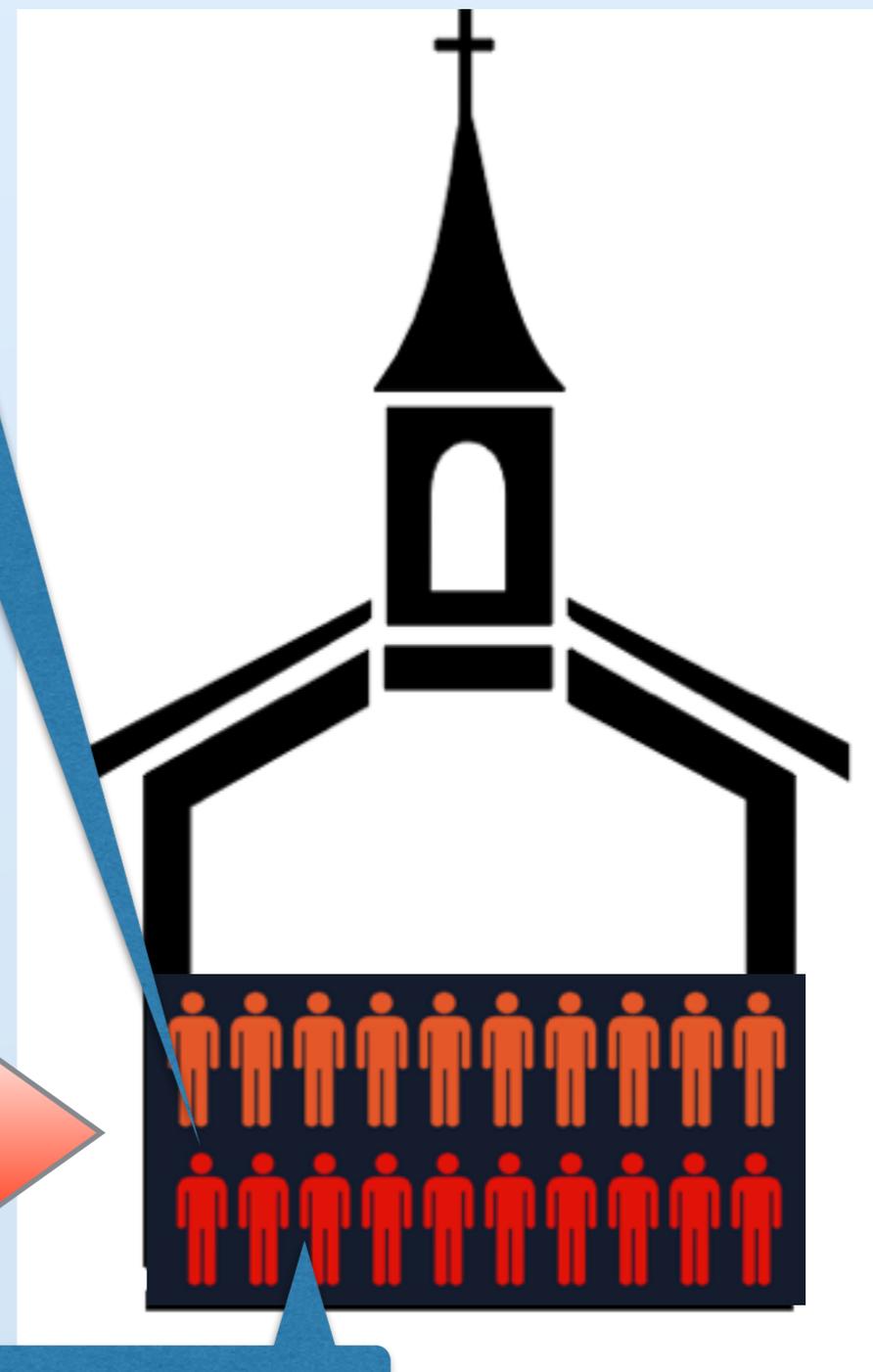
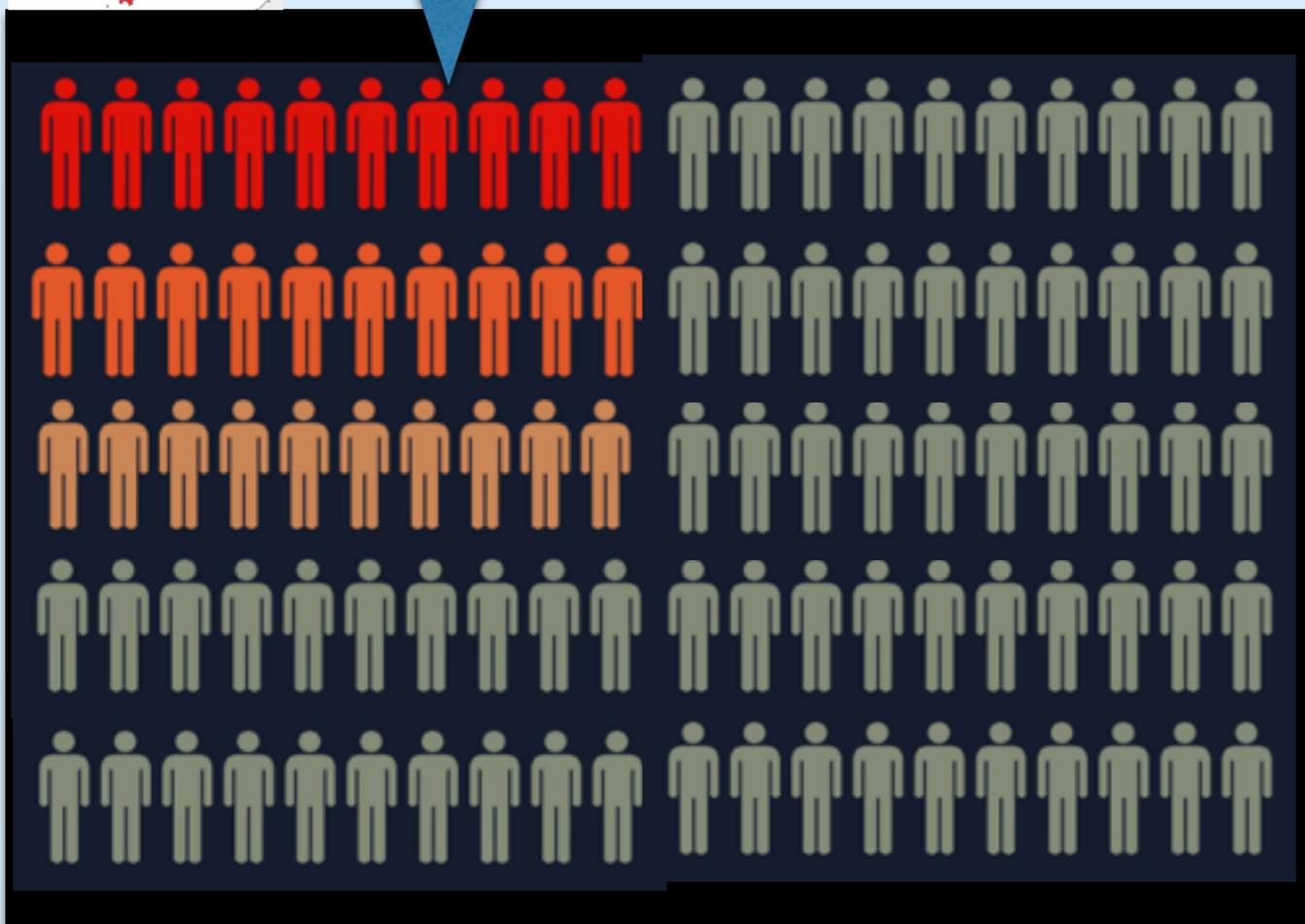
30% say they are practising Christians in GB

Grossed figure for ease of recall; actual 31%

**12 million**

20% go to places of worship at least once a year

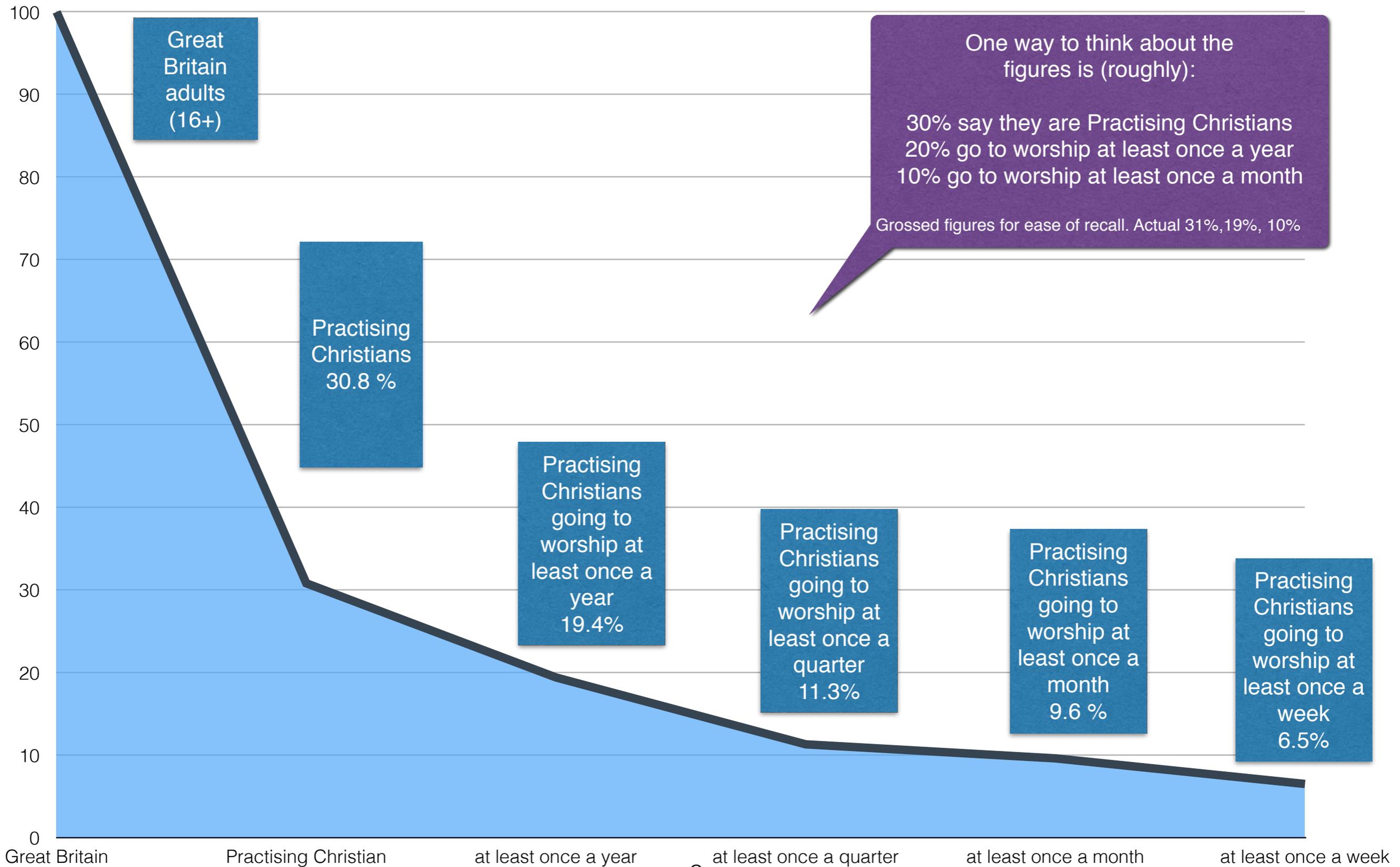
Grossed figure for ease of recall; actual 19%



**6 million**

10% attend places of Christian worship regularly at least once a month in GB

IN MORE DETAIL: ATTENDANCE AT PLACES OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP FOR THE PURPOSES OF WORSHIP

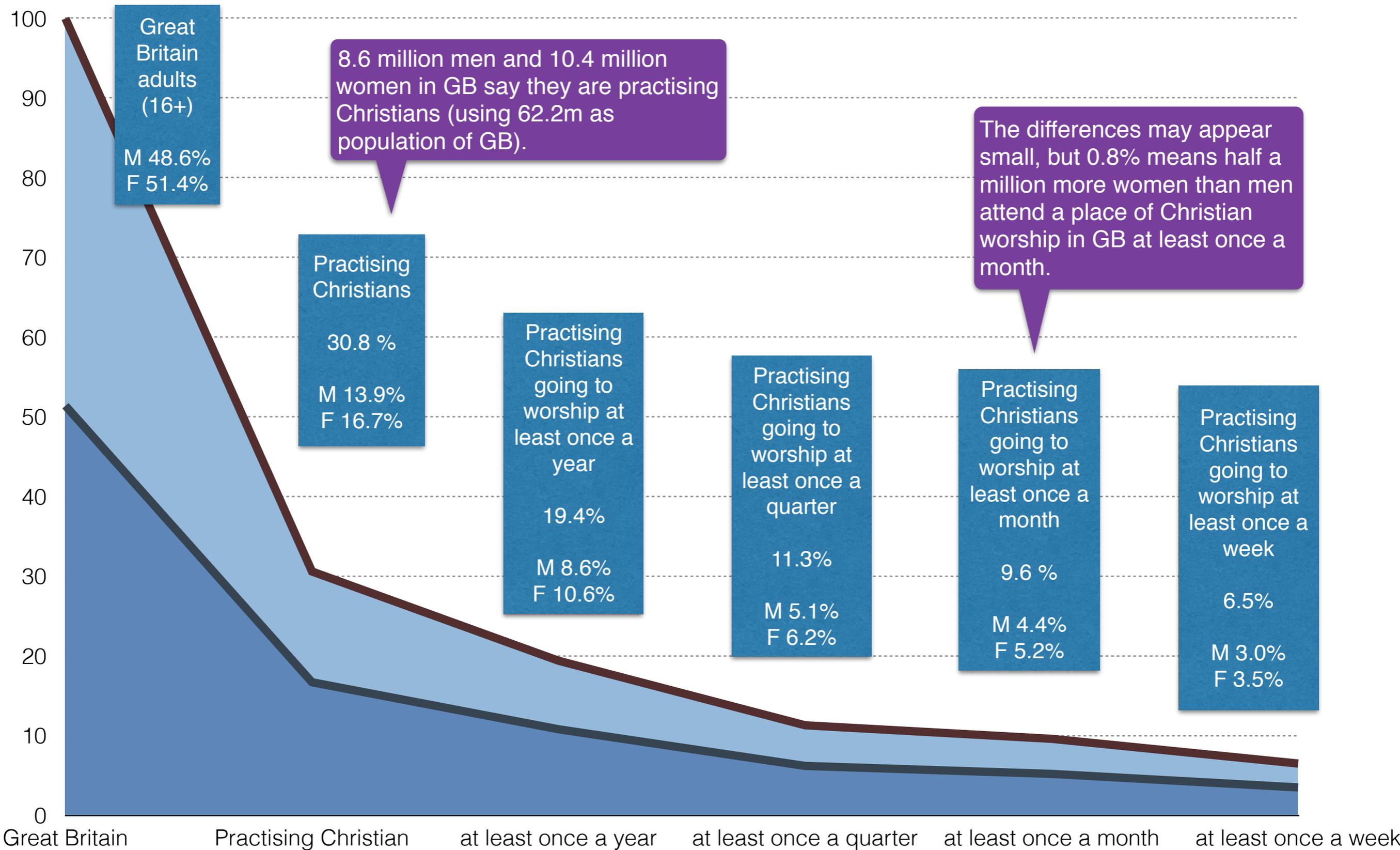


One way to think about the figures is (roughly):

- 30% say they are Practising Christians
- 20% go to worship at least once a year
- 10% go to worship at least once a month

Grossed figures for ease of recall. Actual 31%, 19%, 10%

MORE WOMEN ATTEND PLACES OF WORSHIP



8.6 million men and 10.4 million women in GB say they are practising Christians (using 62.2m as population of GB).

The differences may appear small, but 0.8% means half a million more women than men attend a place of Christian worship in GB at least once a month.

# CHRISTIANITY APPEARS TO BE FOR THE MARRIED

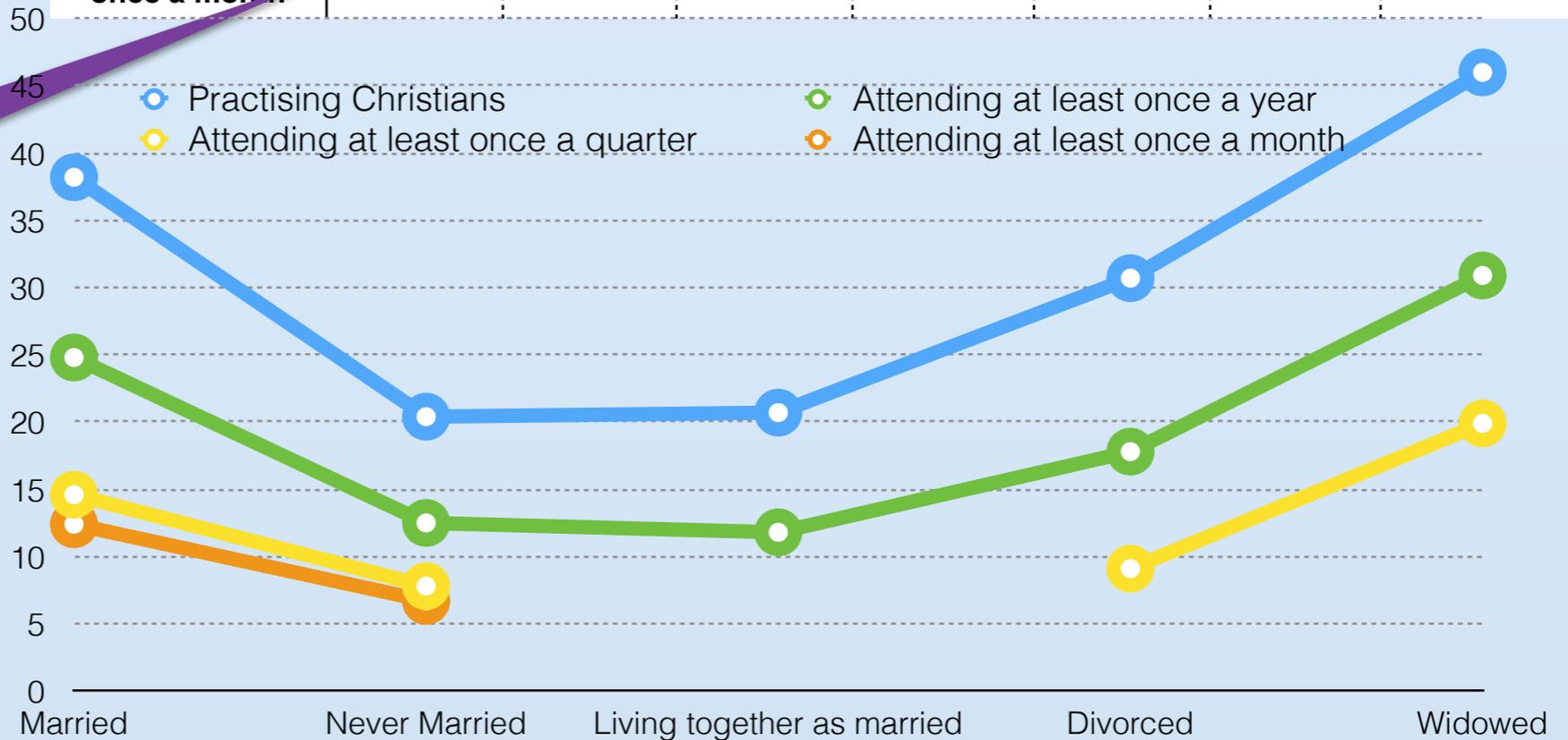
Those who are partnered or who have been partnered are much more likely to say they are practising Christians. In order:

- Widowed
- Married
- Divorced
- Living together as married
- Never Married

Of the population, 12.4% of Married people attend church at least once a month, but only 6.7% of those who have Never Married

As percentage of society's Marital Status	Married	Never Married	Living together as married	Divorced	Widowed	Separated	Civil Partnership
<b>Practising Christians</b>	<b>38.2%</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>	<b>46.0%</b>	-	-
<b>attending at least once a year</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>30.9%</b>	-	-
<b>attending at least once a quarter</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	-	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	-	-
<b>attending at least once a month</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	-	-	-	-	-

Note: a dash means the numbers are insufficient in this survey to be statistically reliable and so are not presented.

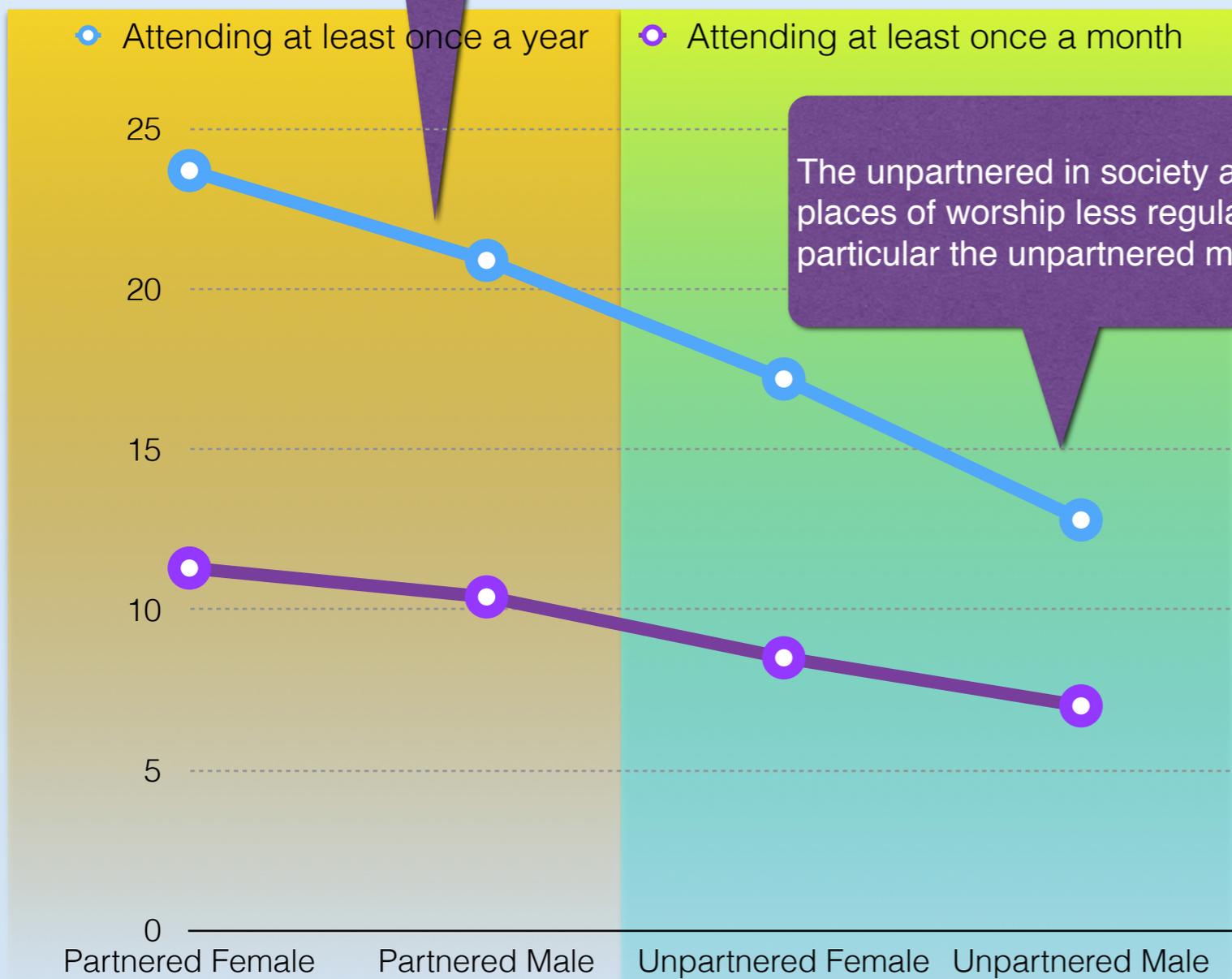


A greater percentage of partnered people attend a Christian place of worship. In order, as a percentage of that group in society:

- 24 % Partnered women
- 21 % Partnered men
- 17 % Unpartnered women
- 13 % Unpartnered men

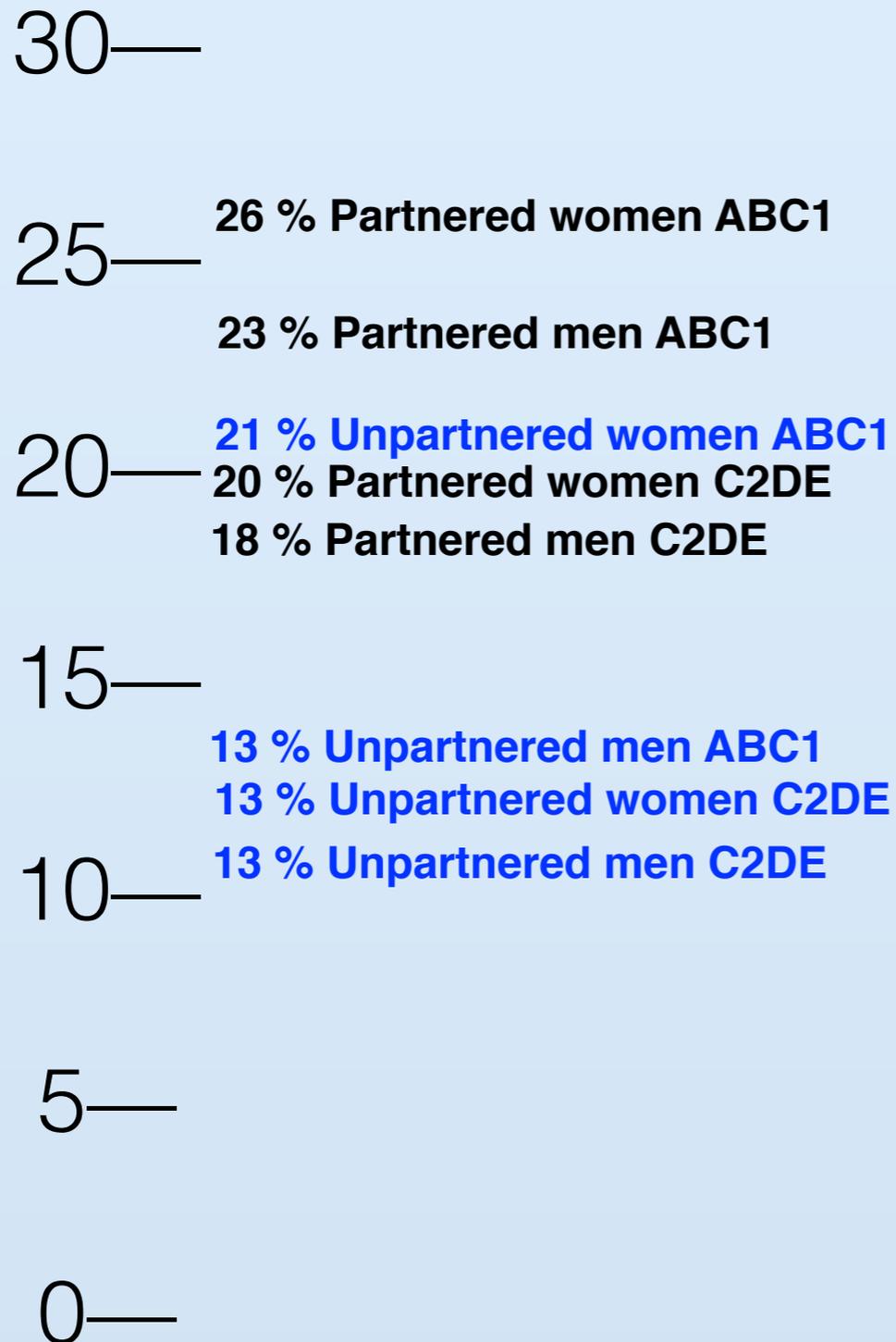
BUT (see next slide) the higher percentage of unpartnered women than unpartnered men is because of one particular group...

The unpartnered in society attend places of worship less regularly, in particular the unpartnered men.



Percentage of that group in society attending at least once a year	Partnered	Unpartnered
<b>Male</b> 17.7 %	20.9%	12.8%
<b>Female</b> 21.1 %	23.7%	17.2%

Percentage of that group in society attending at least once a month	Partnered	Unpartnered
<b>Male</b> 9.0%	10.4%	7.0%
<b>Female</b> 10.2%	11.3%	8.5%



Attending worship at least once a year	Percentages of the group in society	ABC1	C2DE
		22.2%	16.1%
Male 17.7 %	Partnered 20.9 %	22.9%	18.2%
	Unpartnered 12.8 %	13.3%	12.5%
Female 21.1 %	Partnered 23.7 %	25.8%	20.2%
	Unpartnered 17.2 %	21.3%	12.8%

13% of unpartnered people in society attend a place of worship, except for the greater percentage, 21%, of ABC1 unpartnered women. Because ABC1 women are also the most numerous as a group in society, this means there are a large number of unpartnered ABC1 women in churches.

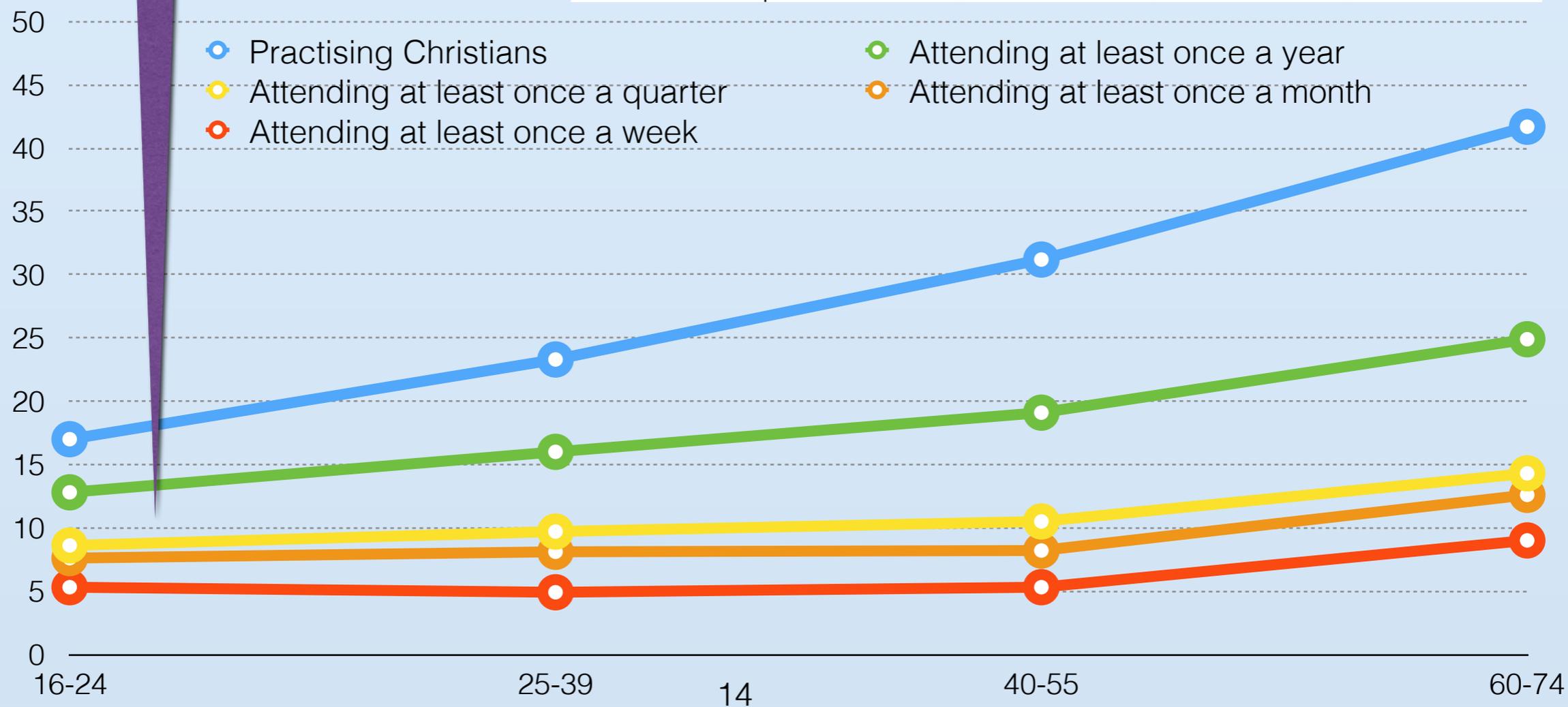
Note: a similar order is found in regular attendance at least once a month, but as one figure is not statistically valid, the table is not presented.

# AGEING PRACTICE OF WORSHIP

The cohort effect of ageing Christian practice in GB is clearly visible here.

Note how the shape of quarterly, monthly and weekly practice are similar.

Practice of worship as percentage of GB age group	16-24	25-39	40-55	55+
<b>Practising Christians</b>	17.0%	23.3	31.2%	41.7%
<b>at least once a year</b>	12.8%	16.0%	19.1%	24.9%
<b>at least once a quarter</b>	8.6%	9.7%	10.5%	14.3%
<b>at least once a month</b>	7.6%	8.1%	8.2%	12.6%
<b>at least once a week</b>	5.3%	4.9%	5.3%	9.0%

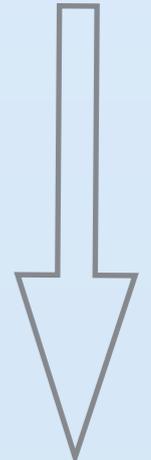


MANY PRACTISING CHRISTIANS NEVER OR RARELY ATTEND A PLACE OF WORSHIP. THESE TEND TOWARDS THE MARRIED MEN, WHO ARE WORKING CLASS AND OLDER

The Never Married, if still practising their Christianity, are most likely to attend.

Percentage of GB saying they are Practising Christians but not attending a place of worship at least once a year 10.5%	ABC1 8.8%	C2DE 12.9%
<b>Male</b> 11.2 %	9.0%	13.7%
<b>Female</b> 9.9%	8.7%	12.0%

Percentage of GB saying they are Practising Christians but not attending a place of worship at least once a year 10.5%	Partnered 12.7%	Unpartnered 9.5%
	<b>Married</b> 13.4%	<b>Never Married</b> 7.9%



10.5% of society say they are Practising Christians but attend a place of worship less than once a year. Who are they?

- The Married and C2DE
- particularly C2DE Married
- and in those, the 55+ Married C2DE men, of whom 1 in 5 in society say they are Practising Christians but attend a place of worship less than once a year.

Percentage of the Married Practising Christians in society not attending a place of worship at least once a year 13.4%	Married ABC1	Married C2DE
<b>Married Male</b>	9.3%	17.4% <b>Over 55: 20.8%</b>
<b>Married Female</b>	14.76%	14.5%

## WHO MAKES UP THOSE PRESENT IN CHRISTIAN PLACES OF WORSHIP IN GB IN 2014?

### WOMEN

The greatest proportion attending are women and, in particular, ABC1 women.

### OLDER AGE GROUPS

Those saying they are practising Christians and attending regularly increase with age, but regular attendees are disproportionately aged 60+

### THE MARRIED

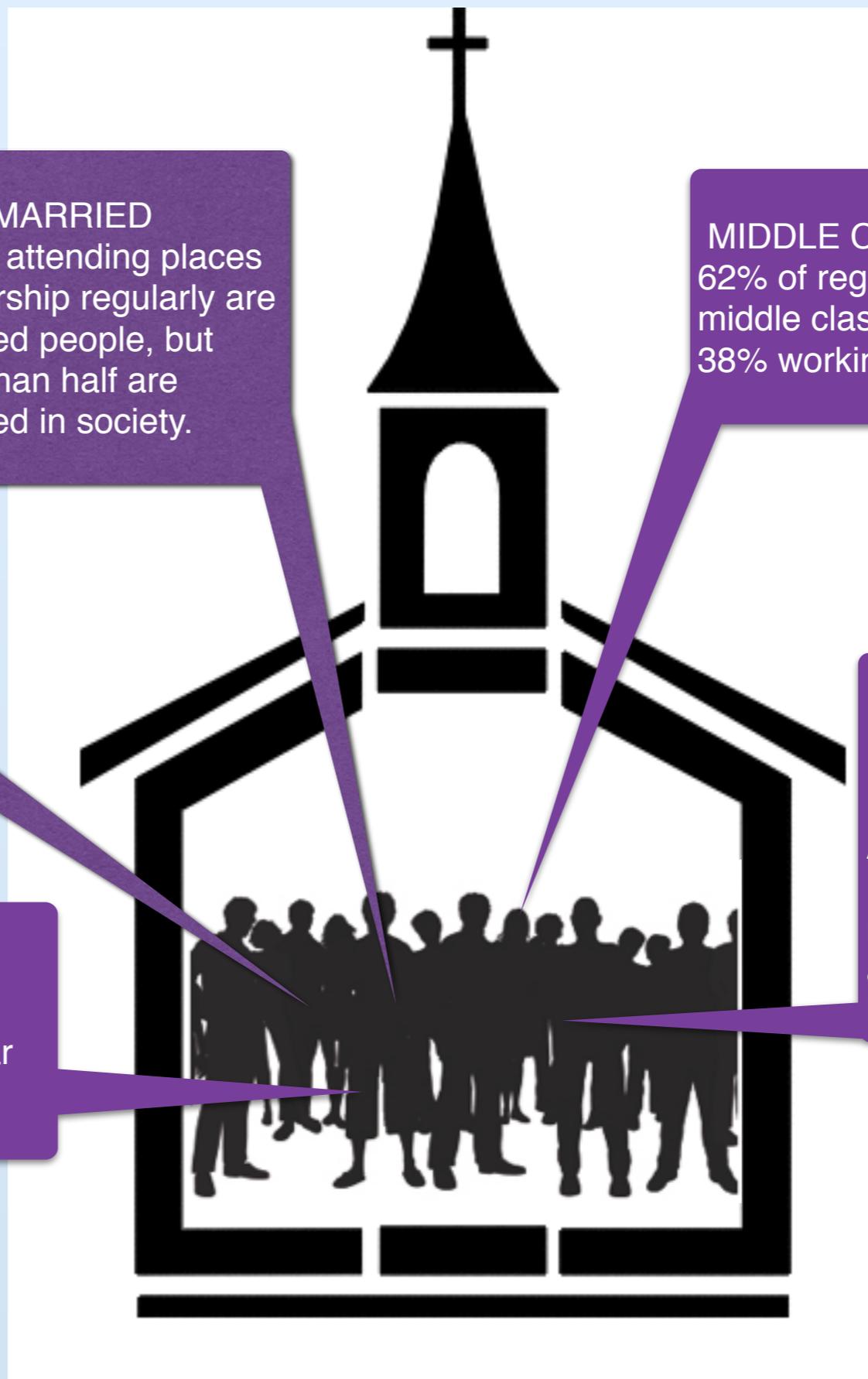
3 in 5 attending places of worship regularly are married people, but less than half are married in society.

### MIDDLE CLASS

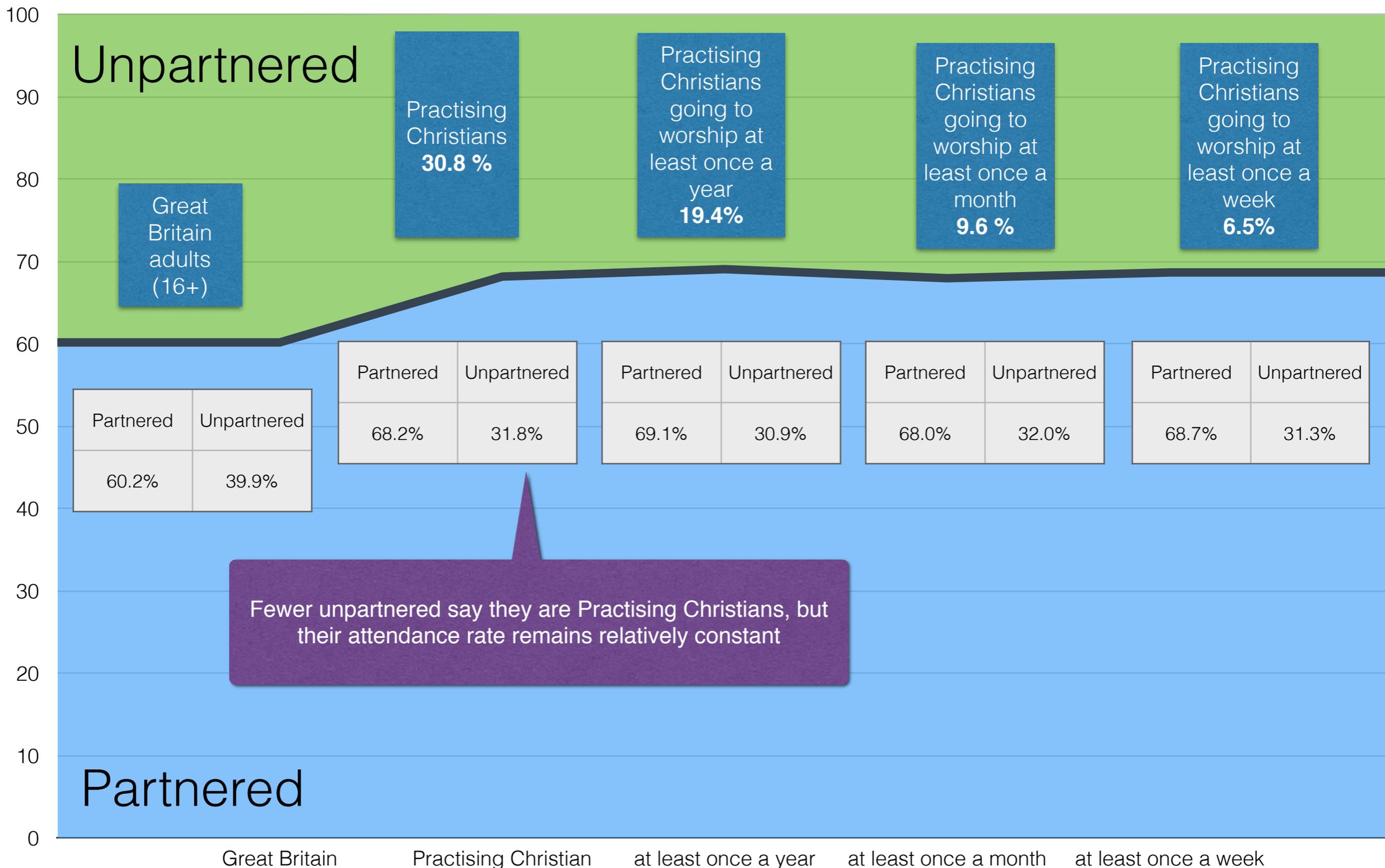
62% of regular attendees are middle class (ABC1) and only 38% working class (C2DE)

### CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD INCREASES FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE

But then attendance reduces during the 40-55 age group when children become independent.



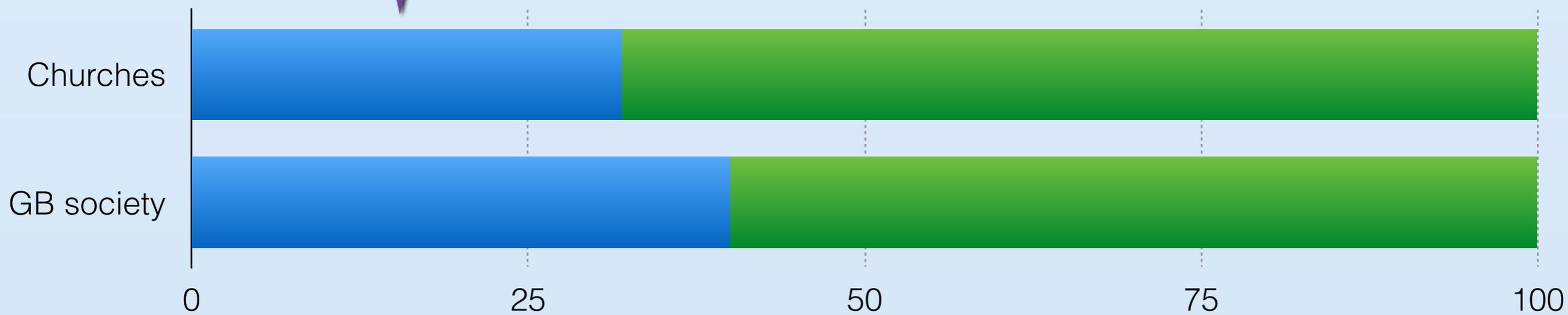
THE PARTNERED ARE MORE LIKELY TO SAY THEY ARE PRACTISING CHRISTIANS AND ATTEND WORSHIP



THE UNPARTNERED REGULARLY ATTEND CHRISTIAN PLACES OF WORSHIP LESS THAN THE PARTNERED

32% of those regularly attending a place of worship are unpartnered - but 40% are unpartnered in society

BUT still just under 1 in 3 of those regularly attending Christian churches are unpartnered.



Make-up of those who worship at least once a month

Attending at least once a month	Partnered 68.0%	Unpartnered 32.0%
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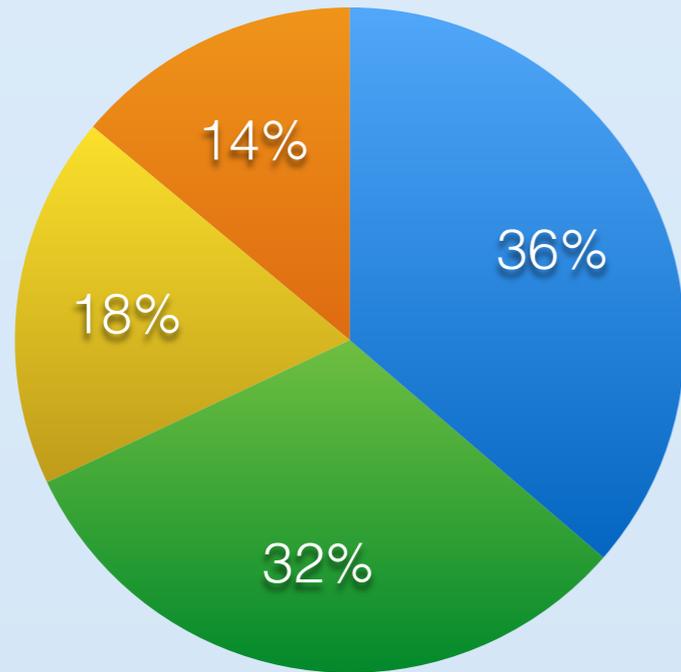
Make-up of GB

GB	Partnered 60.2%	Unpartnered 39.9%
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THE UNPARTNERED MEN, IN PARTICULAR, MAKE UP A SMALLER PROPORTION OF THOSE PRESENT IN CHRISTIAN PLACES OF WORSHIP THAN IN SOCIETY

### Make-up of those who worship at least once a month

- Partnered Female
- Partnered Male
- Unpartnered Female
- Unpartnered Male



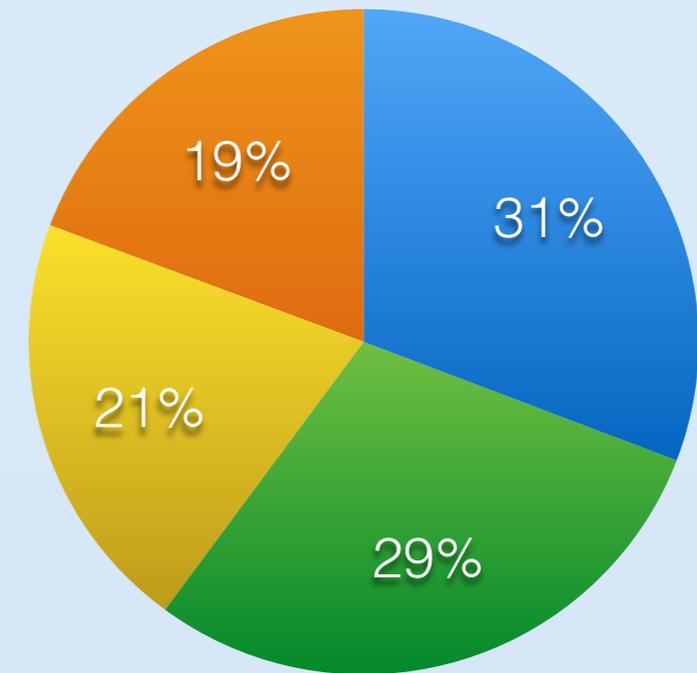
**Difference in those unpartnered attendees compared to society:**

**Male: - 5.4%**  
**Female: - 2.7%**

Attending at least once a month	Partnered 68.0%	Unpartnered 32.0%
Male 45.6%	31.6%	13.9%
Female 54.4%	36.3%	18.1%

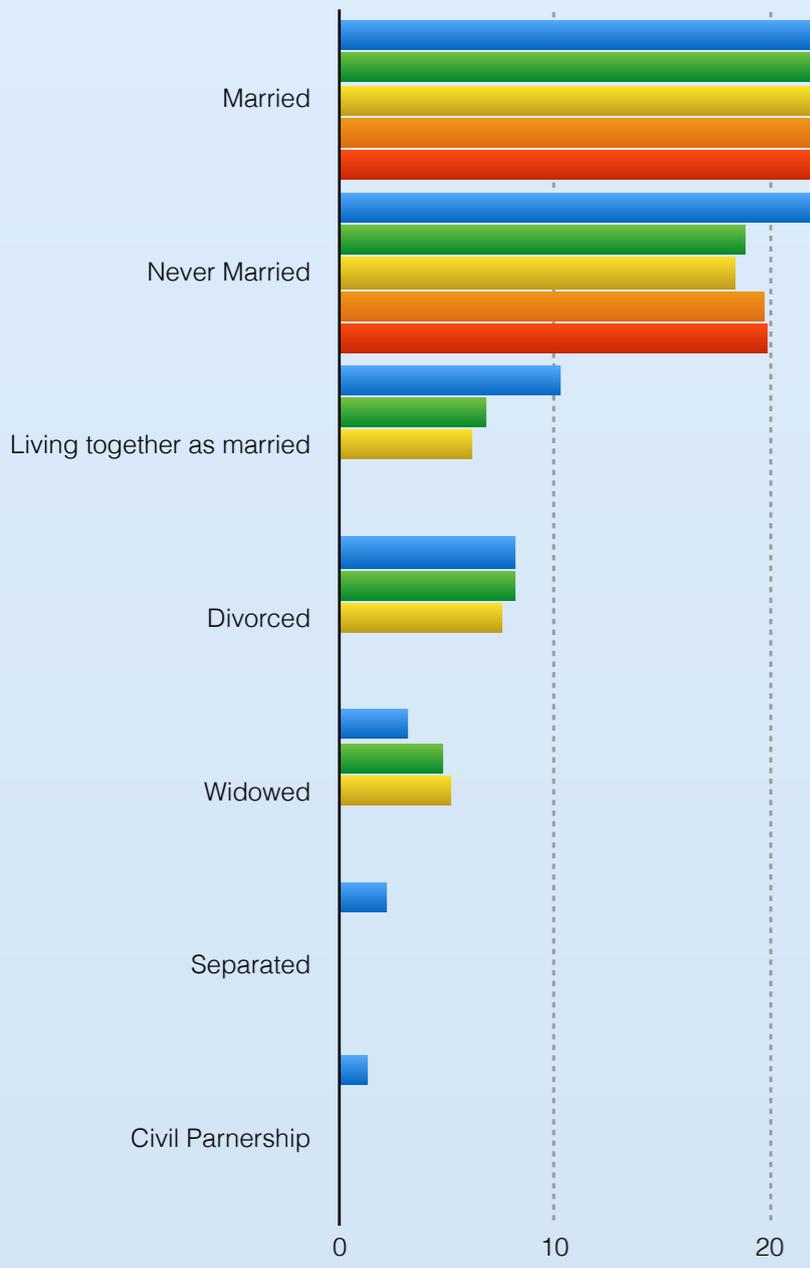
### Make-up of GB

- Partnered Female
- Partnered Male
- Unpartnered Female
- Unpartnered Male



GB	Partnered 60.2%	Unpartnered 39.9%
Male 48.6%	29.3%	19.3%
Female 51.4%	30.8%	20.6%

# CHRISTIANITY IS FOR THE MARRIED



47% of GB adults are married, but married people make up 60% of those who attend Christian churches at least once per month

Percentage make-up of each group	Married	Never Married	Living together as married	Divorced	Widowed	Separated	Civil Partnership
<b>GB</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>28.5%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>Practising Christians</b>	<b>57.6%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	-	-
<b>attending at least once a year</b>	<b>59.3%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	-	-
<b>attending at least once a month</b>	<b>59.6%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>attending at least once a week</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	-	-	-	-	-

Note: a dash means the numbers are insufficient in this survey to be statistically reliable and so are not

IN A REGULAR MONTHLY CONGREGATION..  
On average across all denominations and churches,  
3 in 5 of the regular once a month congregation are  
married and 1 in 5 never married.

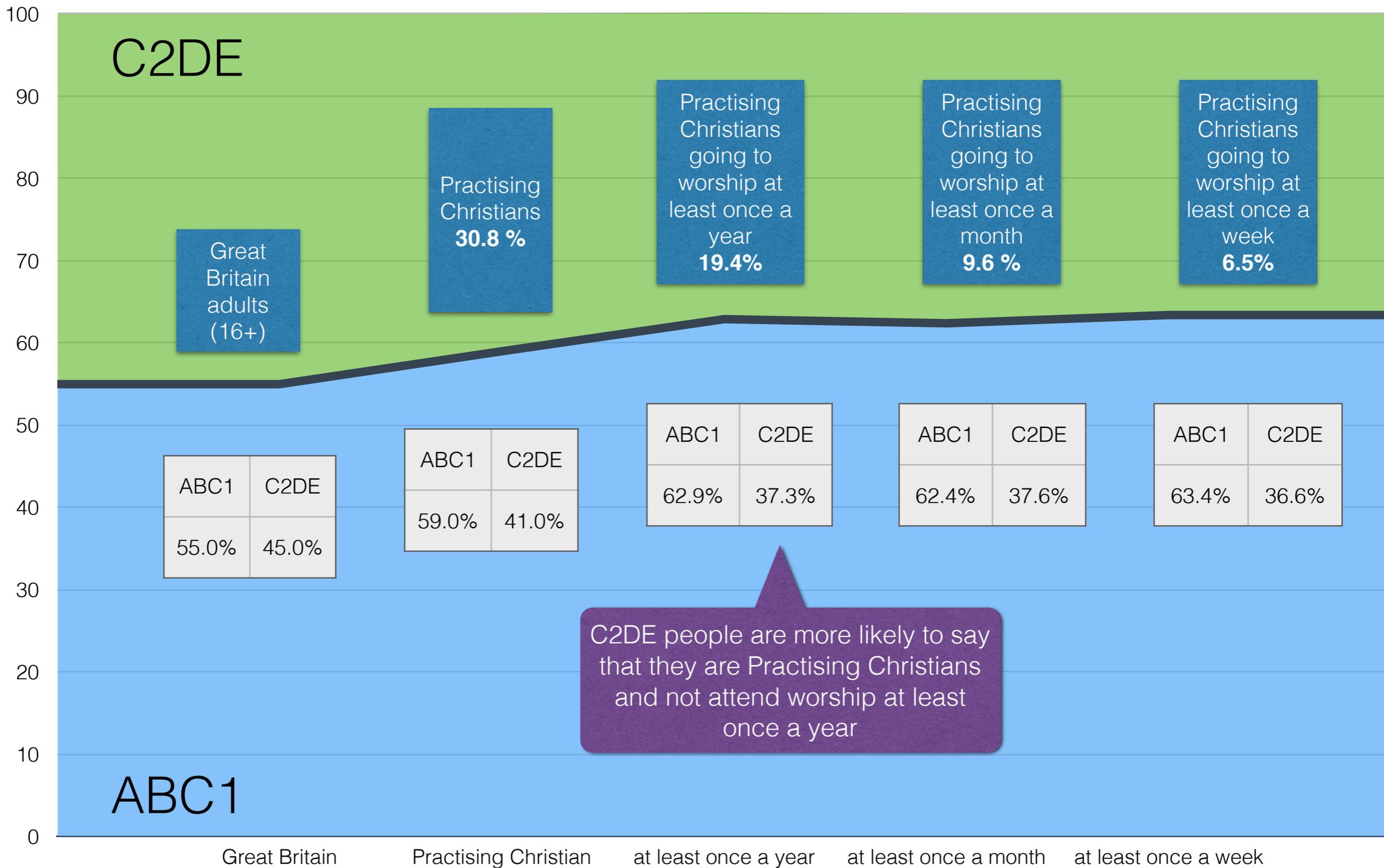
IN AN ANNUAL CONGREGATION...  
Over a year, in general, out of every 15  
people attending a Christian place of  
worship, there are:

Unpartnered:  
3 Never married  
1 Divorced  
1 Widowed

Partnered:  
9 Married  
1 Living together as married

Note: other marital statuses are much smaller percentages





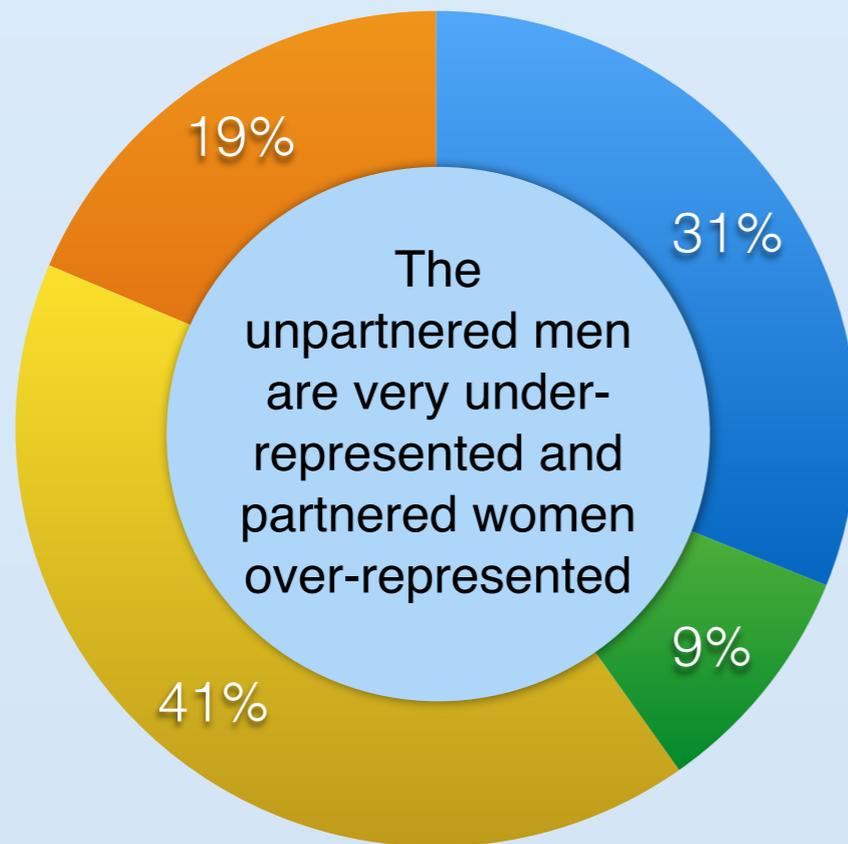
## MIDDLE CLASS PLACES OF WORSHIP WOULD LOOK MORE UNBALANCED

Many places of worship are predominantly either ABC1 or C2DE. The marital balance of those attending would look very different in each case.

The charts show hypothetical extremes, assuming averages across denomination and GB.

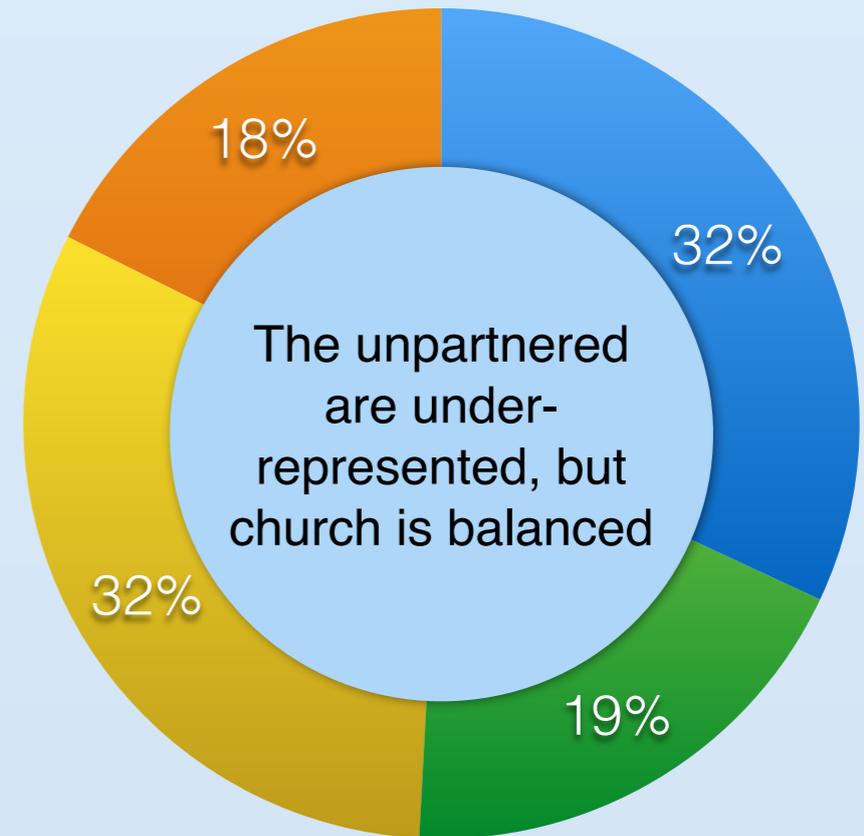
There are relatively more ABC1 partnered women and fewer ABC1 unpartnered men.

- Male Partnered
- Female Partnered
- Male Unpartnered
- Female Unpartnered



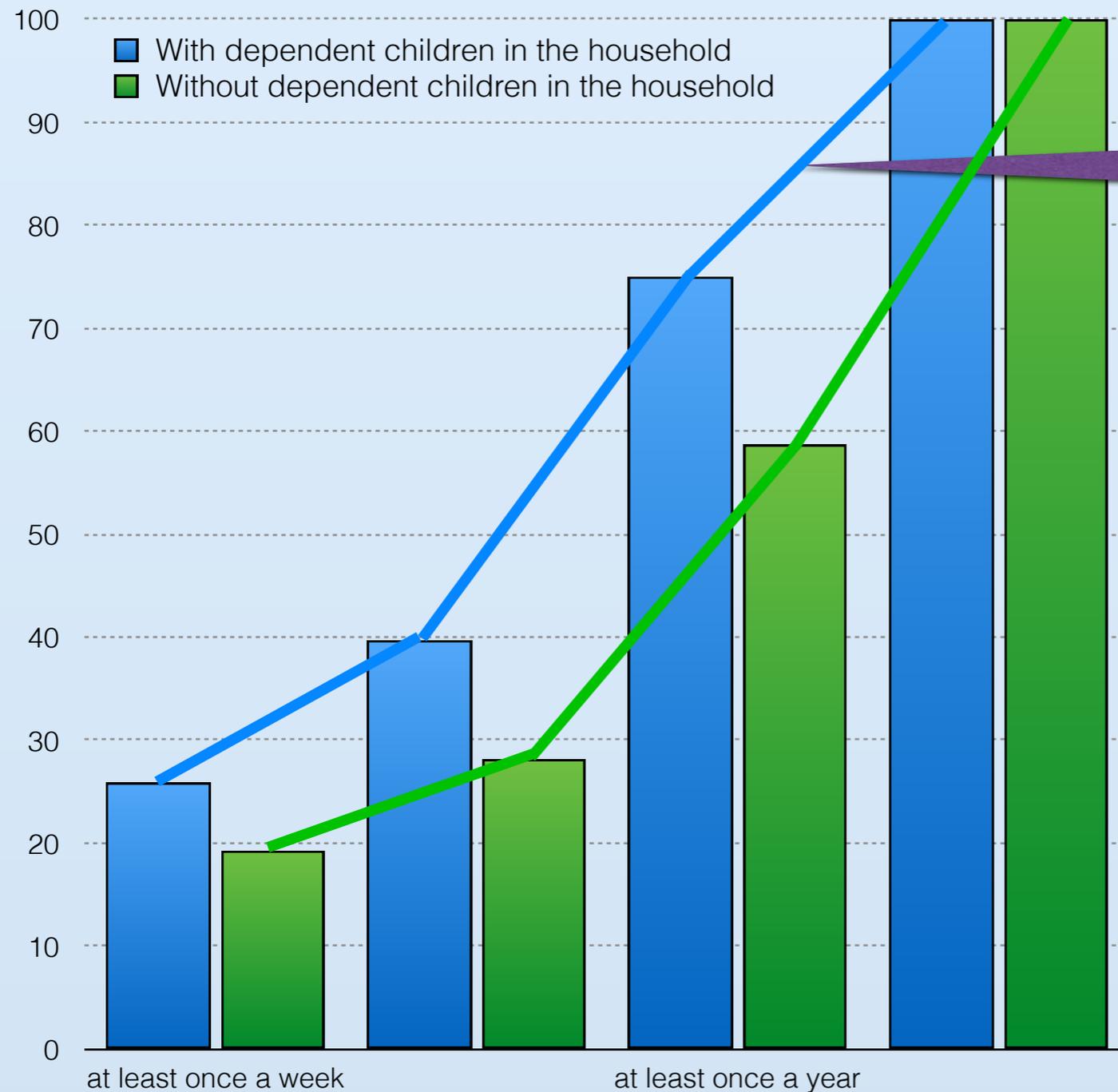
Make-up of a hypothetical ABC1-only place of worship

- Male Partnered
- Female Partnered
- Male Unpartnered
- Female Unpartnered



Make-up of a hypothetical C2DE-only place of worship

THOSE WITH CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD  
ATTEND MORE FREQUENTLY



The presence of children in the household does not increase the likelihood of being a practising Christian. But if you do, then you attend more frequently.

Percentage of attendance of those saying they are practising Christians	Presence of children in household	Absence of children in household
<b>Practising Christians</b>	100%	100%
<b>Attending at least once a year</b>	75.1%	58.7%
<b>Attending at least once a month</b>	39.8%	28.2%
<b>Attending at least once a week</b>	25.9%	19.3%



compared with



**Some statements are frequently heard that we don't know whether are true or false, for example: 'Christians marry younger',**

For this, we compared those who go to church regularly (at least once a month) with those who say they are non-practising Christians.

The results show there is no strong evidence for Christians marrying much younger, perhaps 3-4 months. At the older age group the opposite appears to be true - that they married later in life by two years.

Median age of first marriage		Age group 18 - 44	Age group 45 - 59
Not a practising Christian		27.6	24.6
	Male	28.2	26.1
	Female	26.9	23.2
Attending at least once a quarter		27.3	26.4
	Male	27.9	27.6
	Female	26.6	25.2

Note: a median is the half-way point, when half the people marry younger than this age point and half older than it.