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01/06

How Americans' trust in information from news organizations and social media sites has changed over time

Americans' trust in information from national and local news organizations has declined after a slight increase earlier this year, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. The decline has occurred in both major political parties and across all age groups.

Overall, 56% of U.S. adults now say they have a lot of or some trust in the information they get from national news organizations – down 11 percentage points since March 2025 and 20 points since we first asked this question in 2016. The share of Americans who have at least some trust in information from local news organizations remains higher (70%), although it has also dropped – from 80% in March and 82% in 2016.

Fewer than half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (44%) now say they have at least some trust in the information that comes from national news organizations. This is down from 53% in March and 70% in 2016, but it's still above its lowest point in 2021, when 35% of Republicans expressed this level of trust in the national media.

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'Exvangelical' women are leaving their churches. But is it decline or renewal?

(RNS) — Taylor Yoder, who grew up in an evangelical Christian family in southern Pennsylvania, was active in her church and its youth group. But as a young adult, she found that friendships with LGBTQ co-workers at a Starbucks caused her to reexamine what she'd been told about homosexuality. "Do I really believe that these people deserve to burn in hell just because they don't believe like me?" she asked herself.

When her family embraced Donald Trump, she continued to unpack, or "deconstruct," her faith. "What upsets me most is how politics has become so intertwined with the church," said Yoder. "It turned a lot of evangelicals in my life really ugly."

Today, at 31, she is an atheist, and one of many formerly evangelical young women who are disengaging from religion, and at higher rates than their male counterparts. Under the handle "[skeptical heretic](#)," she critiques evangelicalism and its political ties in videos on TikTok, gaining some 240,000 followers — enough to earn a living.

But the cost has been steep: She's barely in touch with her family, who warn she's bound for hell.

In this, too, Yoder is part of a trend: "Exvangelical" women have generated a flurry of memoirs, podcasts, social media posts and YouTube channels depicting evangelical culture as oppressive, unhealthy and even harmful. Their critiques converge on four themes: politics, patriarchy, abuse and the treatment of LGBTQ people. They tell of churches rallying behind Trump, keeping women out of leadership and instead promoting a culture of "purity," while failing to address abuse scandals exposed in the #ChurchToo movement that followed #MeToo...

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Many Americans say they often come across inaccurate news – and have a hard time knowing what's true



Many Americans often encounter news they think is inaccurate, and those who do are more likely to find it difficult to determine what's true and what's not.

Nine-in-ten U.S. adults say they at least sometimes come across news they think is inaccurate, including 42% who say this happens extremely often or often. Just 10% of Americans say they rarely or never come across inaccurate news, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey.

Meanwhile, Americans are split over how easy it is to distinguish truth from fiction when getting news. About half (51%) say they generally find it difficult to determine what's true and what's not when they get news, while a similar share (49%) find it easy.

There is a strong connection between how often Americans say they come across inaccurate news and how difficult they think it is to determine what is true. Those who report often encountering inaccurate news are more likely than those who rarely or never do to say it's hard to know what is true (59% vs. 31%).

The spread of false information online has become a top concern for Americans, as well as people in many other countries. A large majority of U.S. adults now get news digitally, but nondigital news consumers are less likely to say they frequently encounter inaccurate news. Among adults who don't use the internet or never get news from a smartphone, computer or tablet, 26% say they come across news that they think is inaccurate extremely often or often. This compares with 43% among those who do get news from digital devices...

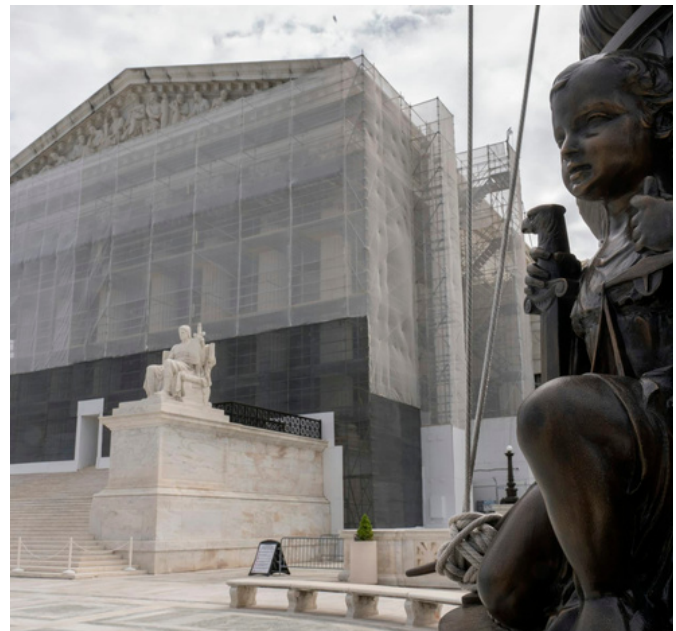
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The new religious liberty: Intolerance for all but the few

Most Americans believe religious liberty is a good thing and would be scandalized to know how some religious leaders, and even political leaders, are actively distorting its meaning to expand power. To be clear, not all Christians are involved. The current perversion of “religious liberty” is being foisted on the public by a minority of Christian believers as part of a deal with the Trump administration that trades their votes for religious liberty on their terms.

We should more properly talk about the Trump administrations, plural, since the reinterpretation of religious liberty was set up by President Donald Trump's first-term nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court. The effect has been felt, however, in the current term, in the Trump court's transparently biased decisions, abetted by the incessant preaching by the likes of Vice President JD Vance and Defense Secretary Hegseth, the official deification of Charlie Kirk and incessant deference to religious-right beliefs.

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The Supreme Court building is seen on April 30, 2025, in Washington, D.C. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

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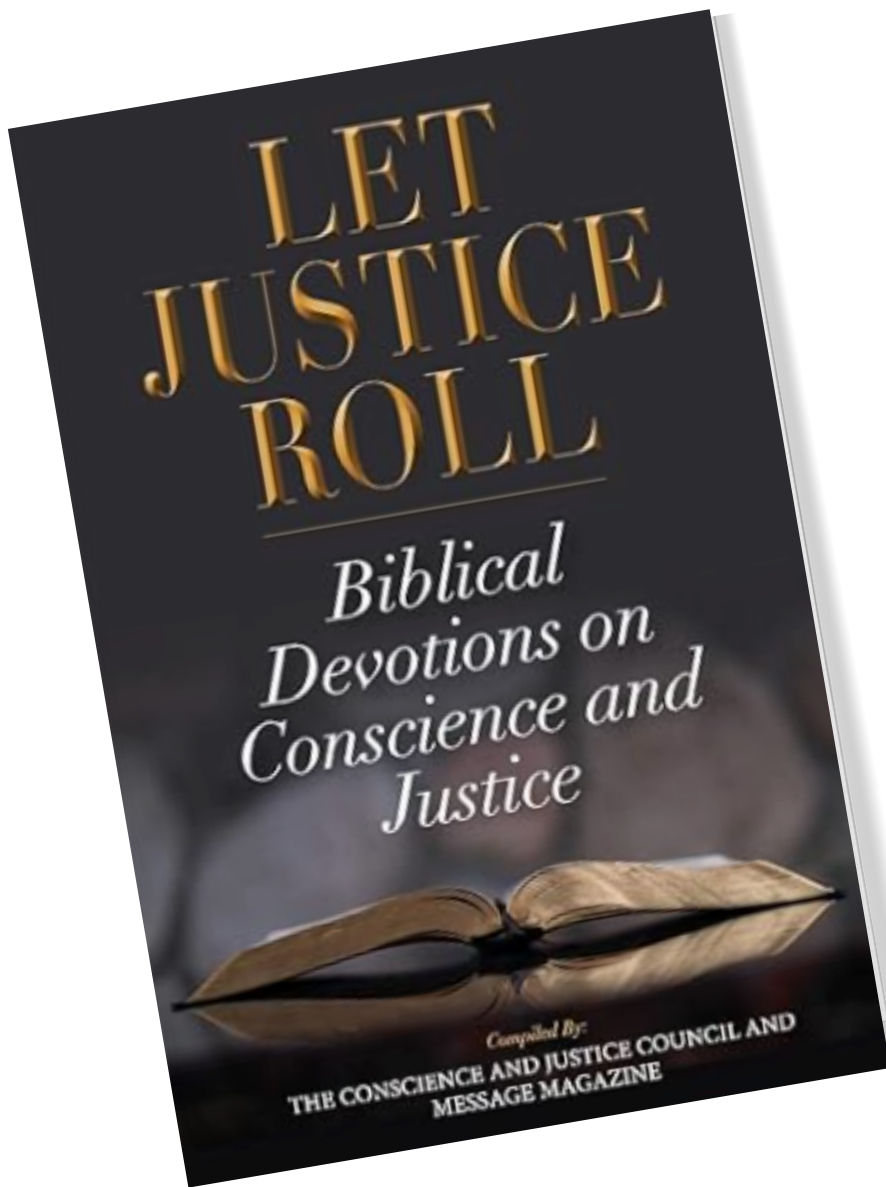
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Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

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OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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