



**thirteen**  
WNET NEW YORK

[www.thirteen.org](http://www.thirteen.org)

1333 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Contact: Mary Schultz  
tel : 202.216.2394  
fax: 202.408.0608

## press information

### “RELIGION AND AMERICA’S ROLE IN THE WORLD” ADDITIONAL KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

- Eighty percent of people who attend religious services regularly believe that America is blessed by God and that America should set an example to the world as a Christian nation (77% agree). Only 48 percent of people who attend services less regularly agree that America is uniquely blessed by God, and 49 percent of them agree America should set an example as a Christian nation.
- A substantial minority of Americans (41%) say they consider America’s culture to be better than others, agreeing with the statement “our people are not perfect, but our culture is superior to others” (21% strongly agree).
- The most important foreign policy priority across the religious spectrum is controlling the proliferation of nuclear weapons (80% of Americans, 86% of white evangelicals, 82% of Catholics, and 76% of mainline Protestants extremely/very important). It is harder to find support for objectives that would require a significant, long-term investment of resources, such as improving the standard of living in developing countries (49% of Americans, 47% of white evangelicals, 45% of Catholics, and 47% of mainline Protestants extremely/very important) or promoting democracy in other nations (39% of Americans, 48% of white evangelicals, 38% of Catholics, and 36% of mainline Protestants extremely/very important).
- Evangelical Protestants express the greatest support for an interventionist role on the part of the U.S., while more moderate religious groups such as mainline Protestants and Catholics take a less interventionist posture.
- Evangelicals and traditional Catholics are more likely to believe the US is a positive presence in the world (58% and 53% positive respectively) than liberal Catholics, mainline Protestants and Americans who attend religious services only irregularly (37%, 45%, and 44% positive, respectively).
- Young evangelicals have a broader definition of pro-life issues than older evangelicals. Sixty-three percent of young evangelicals (ages 18-29) agree that poverty, disease, and torture are pro-life issues, compared to 56 percent of older evangelicals

To view the complete survey results and for more information about **RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY**, please visit [www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics).



A Production of  
Thirteen/WNET  
New York for PBS.

Funding provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. with additional support from Mutual of America Life Insurance Company,  
The Henry Luce Foundation and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting