NO RELIGION OR SPIRITUAL BELIEF

CHRISTIANITY

SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS

ALL OTHER RELIGIONS

16% CHURCH GOER
At least monthly

9% ACTIVE PRACTISERS
Extremely involved

WHY NO RELIGION?

Top 3

1. Prefer a scientific and evidence-based approach 43%
2. Religion is outdated and traditional 17%
3. Religion is a crutch for the weak 14%
(n=352)

WHAT DO THOSE WHO ARE SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS BELIEVE?

Top 3

1. There is an ultimate purpose and meaning in life 41%
2. The existence of a spiritual realm 34%
3. Any spiritual path can lead to enlightenment 30%
(n=201)

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAORI CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY TO NEW ZEALAND’S SOCIETY

(352 respondents)

Acknowledgement of sacred places 73%
Importance of extended family 69%
Respect for elders 68%
Better understanding of the NZ story 54%
Care for the environment 54%

HAS THE MAORI CULTURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUALITY INFLUENCED VALUES AND BELIEFS IN NEW ZEALAND?

YES DEFINITELY / SOMEWHAT 61%

35%
33%
20%
12%

FAITH & BELIEF
NEW ZEALAND
**OUTGROWING RELIGION?**

- **NEVER BEEN RELIGIOUS**
  - 26%
- **CONTINUER**
  - Committed to religion brought up in
  - 24%
- **NO LONGER RELIGIOUS**
  - 23%
- **SYNTHESIZER**
  - Set of beliefs not fitting any one religion
  - 14%
- **CONVERTER**
  - Switched from a different religion
  - 7%
- **ADOPTER**
  - Non-religious prior to choosing current religion
  - 5%

**OPENNESS TO EXPLORING RELIGION**

Analysis of ‘non-Christians’ (n=601)

- Very interested / quite open
  - 10%
- Would consider
  - 15%
- Unlikely / would not consider
  - 75%

**HOW OFTEN DO KIWIS SPEAK ABOUT RELIGION OR SPIRITUALITY WITH FRIENDS?**

- **OFTEN 11%**
- **OCCASIONALLY 48%**
- **NEVER 41%**

**TOP 3 ATTRACTORS TO RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY**

(%) who are strongly attracted

- **18%** Seeing people who live out a genuine faith
- **15%** Experiencing a personal trauma or life event
- **14%** Stories or testimonies from people who have changed due to their faith

**TOP 3 REPELLENTS TO RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY**

(%) who are strongly repelled

- **19%** Stories or testimonies from people who have changed due to their faith
- **25%** Hearing from public figures and celebrities who are examples of that faith
- **27%** Miraculous stories

**IS THE DISCUSSION OF RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY APPROPRIATE FOR THE CLASSROOM?**

- 55%

**OF KIWIS ARE OPEN TO THE DISCUSSION OF SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION IN STATE SCHOOLS**

**Top 3 BENEFITS OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS**

1. Children can explore the concept of religion
   - 45%
2. Helps broaden children’s perspectives
   - 39%
3. Opportunities for discussion
   - 39%

**Top 3 CHALLENGES OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS:**

1. It only explores Christianity
   - 48%
2. Discrimination of children who opt out
   - 45%
3. Children taught different beliefs than at home
   - 43%
PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANITY

KIWI ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHRISTIANITY

TOP 5 ISSUE BLOCKERS: ISSUES THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO PREVENT NON-CHRISTIANS WHO ARE OPEN TO CHANGE FROM EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY (n=348)

1. Teaching on Homosexuality: 36%
2. Hell and Condemnation: 28%
3. Suffering: 24%
4. Role of Women: 23%
5. Supernatural Aspects: 22%

TOP 5 BEHAVIOUR BLOCKERS: BEHAVIOURS THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO PREVENT NON-CHRISTIANS WHO ARE OPEN TO CHANGE FROM EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY (n=348)

1. Church Abuse: 62%
2. Hypocrisy: 49%
3. Religious Wars: 49%
4. Judging Others: 48%
5. Issues around Money: 42%

(Modified Engel Scale)
**Perceptions of Christians, The Church and Jesus**

**Christians**

Approximately 347,000 Kiwis (9%) don’t know any Christians.

The 91% of New Zealanders who know at least 1 Christian perceive Christians to be:

1. **Caring** 43%
2. **Faithful** 38%
3. **Kind** 37%
4. **Loving** 36%
5. **Honest** 33%
6. **Traditional** 23%
7. **Truthful** 22%
8. **Judgemental** 21%
9. **Opinionated** 19%
10. **Hypocritical** 18%

**Church**

How much do you know about the Church in New Zealand?

- 22% Nothing at all
- 60% Moderate / a little
- 18% A great deal / a lot

How well do you know your local church?

- 56% Not well at all
- 25% Moderate / slightly well
- 20% Extremely / very well

What is the impact of the churches in your local area?

- 30% Extremely / very
- 28% Slightly / somewhat
- 42% Not at all

**Jesus**

How much do Kiwis know about Jesus’ life?

- 32% Very little / nothing
- 28% A moderate amount
- 39% A significant amount

Methodology: A national survey of New Zealanders, n = 1,007 representative of the population by age, gender and region. Responses reflect full sample except where otherwise stated. New Zealand public data is sourced from NZ Stats. Research conducted in March 2018.

Research & visualisation by McCrindle, mccrindle.com.au