

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Adeline Gonzalez

Public Relations

Adeline\_gonzalez@taylor.edu

## **Gen- Z's Double Rates of Atheism**

UPLAND, IN, March 2021—Generation Z is the newest generation, born between 1997 and 2012/15. This group makes up nearly 68 million in the US alone. They are the first “post-Christian” generation, as Christianity does not have as much influence over society as it used to. However, the result is clear for much of Gen-Z— Atheism.

While Gen-Z may be spiritually inclined, they are not apt to follow a specific religion. Evidence for this is that the percentage of teens who identify as such Atheists is double that of the general population 13% vs. 6% of all adults. This statistic alone shows the drastic perspective differences from Gen-Z and other generations.

According to a study conducted by the Barna.com, “More than one-third of Gen Z (37%) believes it is not possible to know for sure if God is real, compared to 32 percent of all adults.” “Nearly half of teens, on par with Millennials, say “I need factual evidence to support my beliefs” (46%)—which helps to explain their uneasiness with the relationship between science and the Bible. Significantly fewer teens and young adults (28% and 25%) than Gen X and Boomers (36% and 45%) see the two as complementary.”

The study findings showed that although Atheism is on the rise in Generation Z, that some church attendees do hold a positive view on the church. They feel that it is a place to find purpose and cultivate a community in which they can be themselves.

Even among these positive outlooks, many other church-going teens say that the church is “hypocritical”, “rather shallow”, “the church is not a safe place to express doubts”, “the church rejects much of what science tells us about the world”, and “the church is overprotective of teenagers.” All of these views play a role in why the Generation Z has turned away from religion. Large percentages of Generation Z think that church rituals are “empty.” These percentages believe God can be found outside of religion and apart from the modern-day church.

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