

EMBRACING EXILE

Central

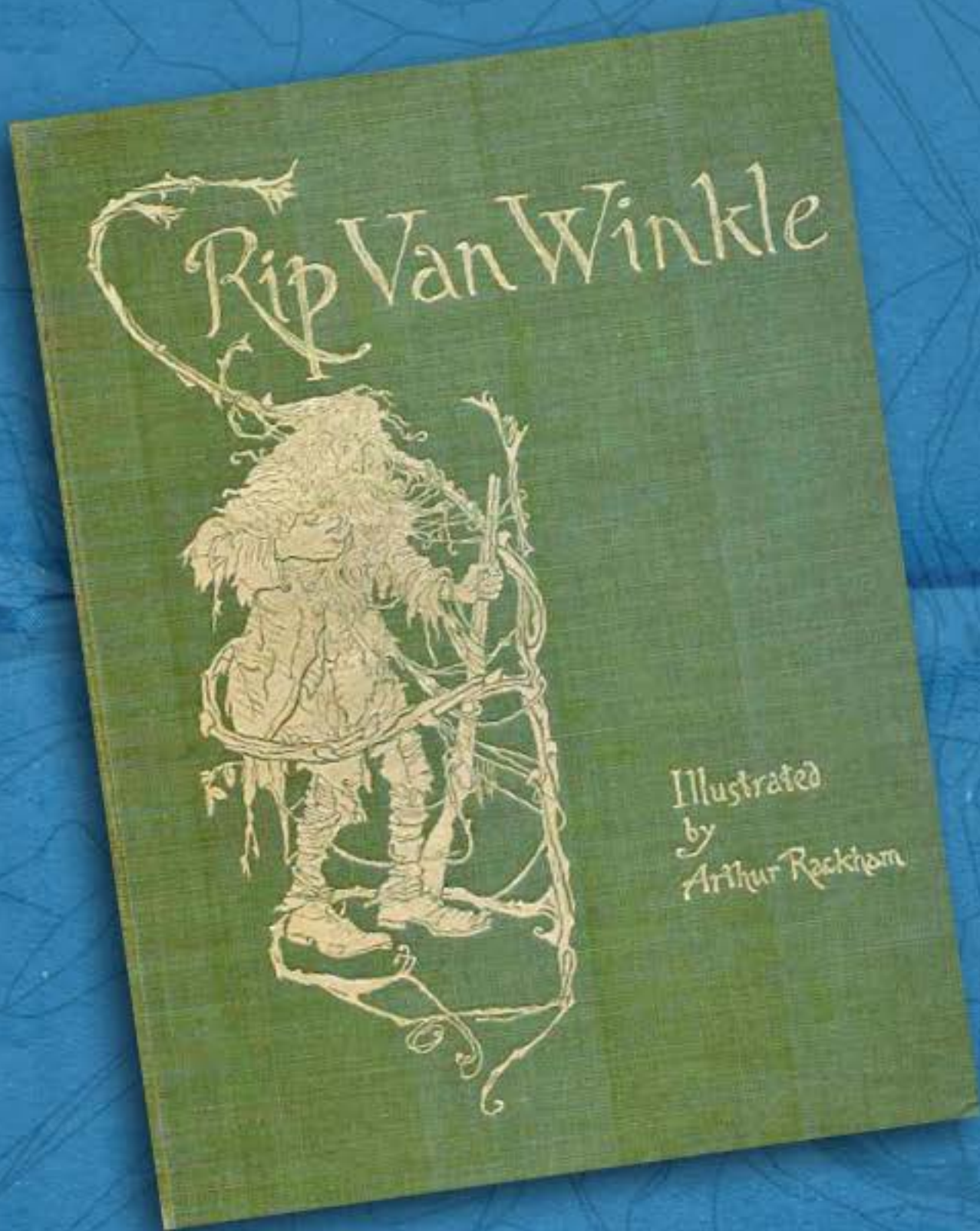


EMBRACING EXILE

HOPE IN A STRANGE LAND

2020

EMBRACING EXILE





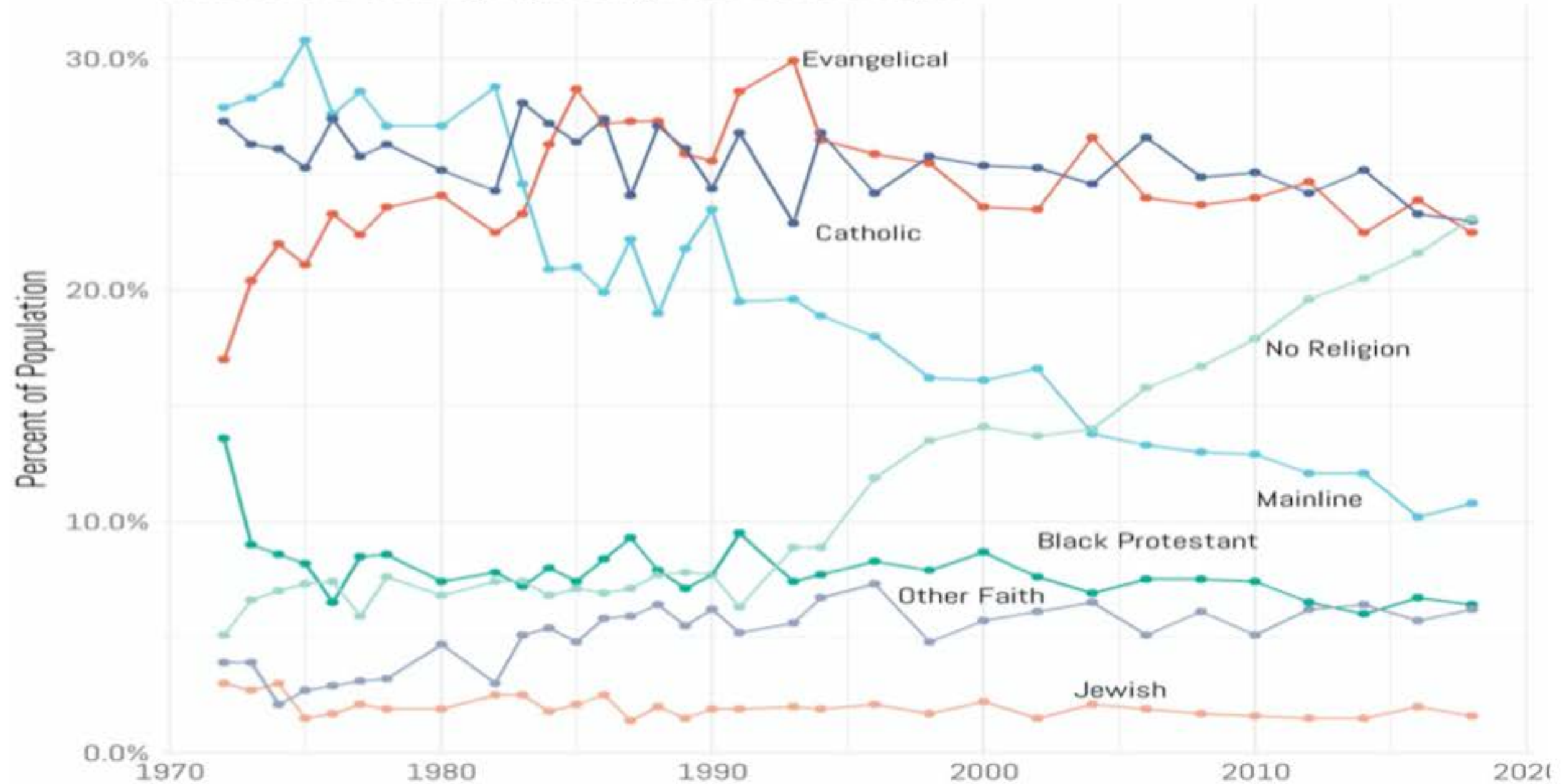
State of the Digital Church Series

Barna

Six Questions About the Future of the Hybrid Church Experience



America's Changing Religious Landscape

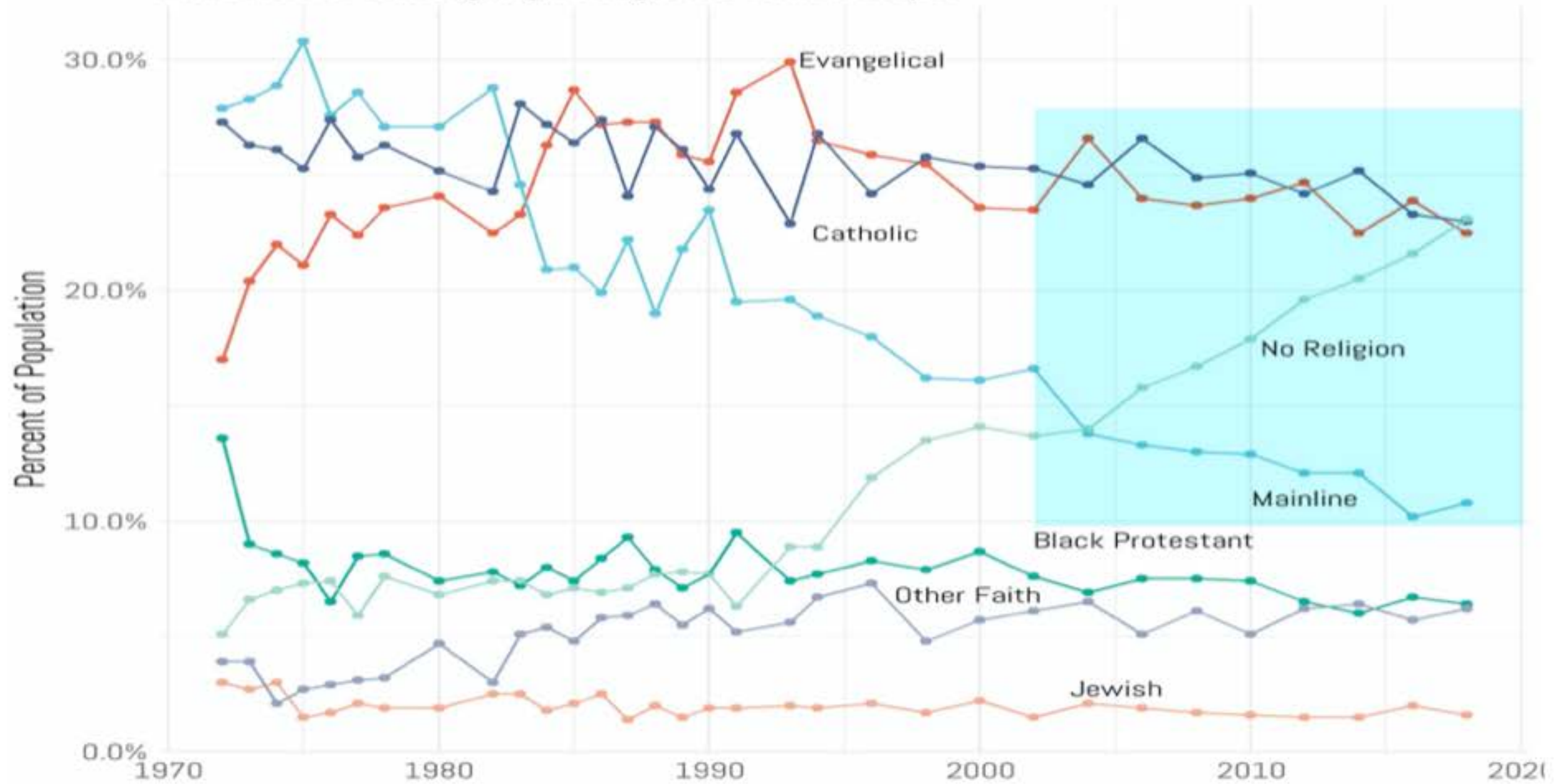


EXPANDED BURGEON IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY

Data: GSS 1972-2018



America's Changing Religious Landscape



RYAN BURGE IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY

Data: GSS 1972-2018



The rise of evangelical 'nones'

Ed Stetzer, special to CNN

🕒 Updated 3:35 PM ET, Fri June 12, 2015



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Beliefs

Pew study: More Americans reject religion, but believers firm in faith

(RNS) Americans as a whole are growing less religious, but those who still consider themselves to belong to a religion are, on average, just as committed to their faiths as they were in the past.



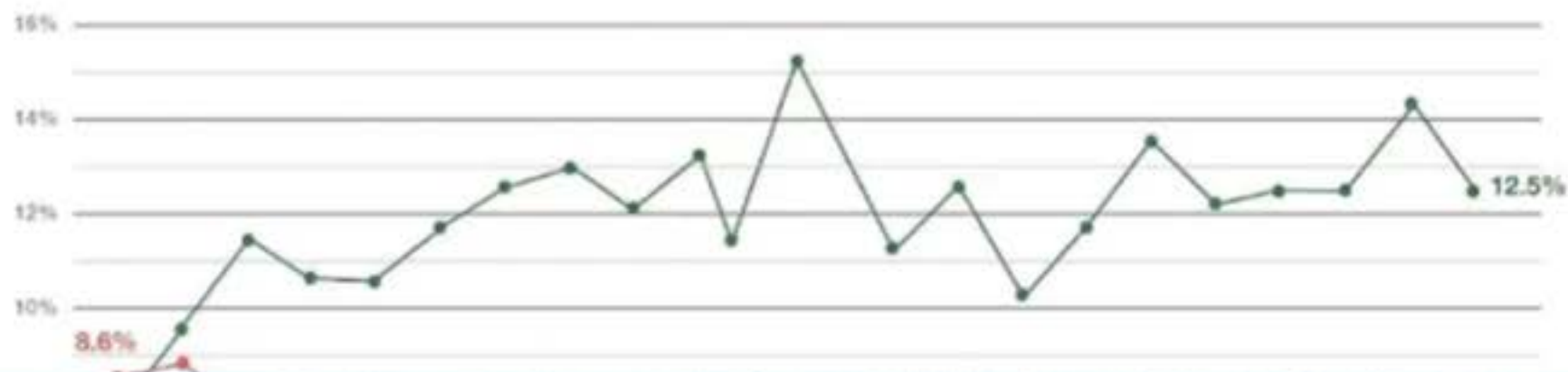


Acts of Faith

In a dramatic shift, the American church is more evangelical than ever

Among Americans:

Regular churchgoers who are evangelical vs. mainline

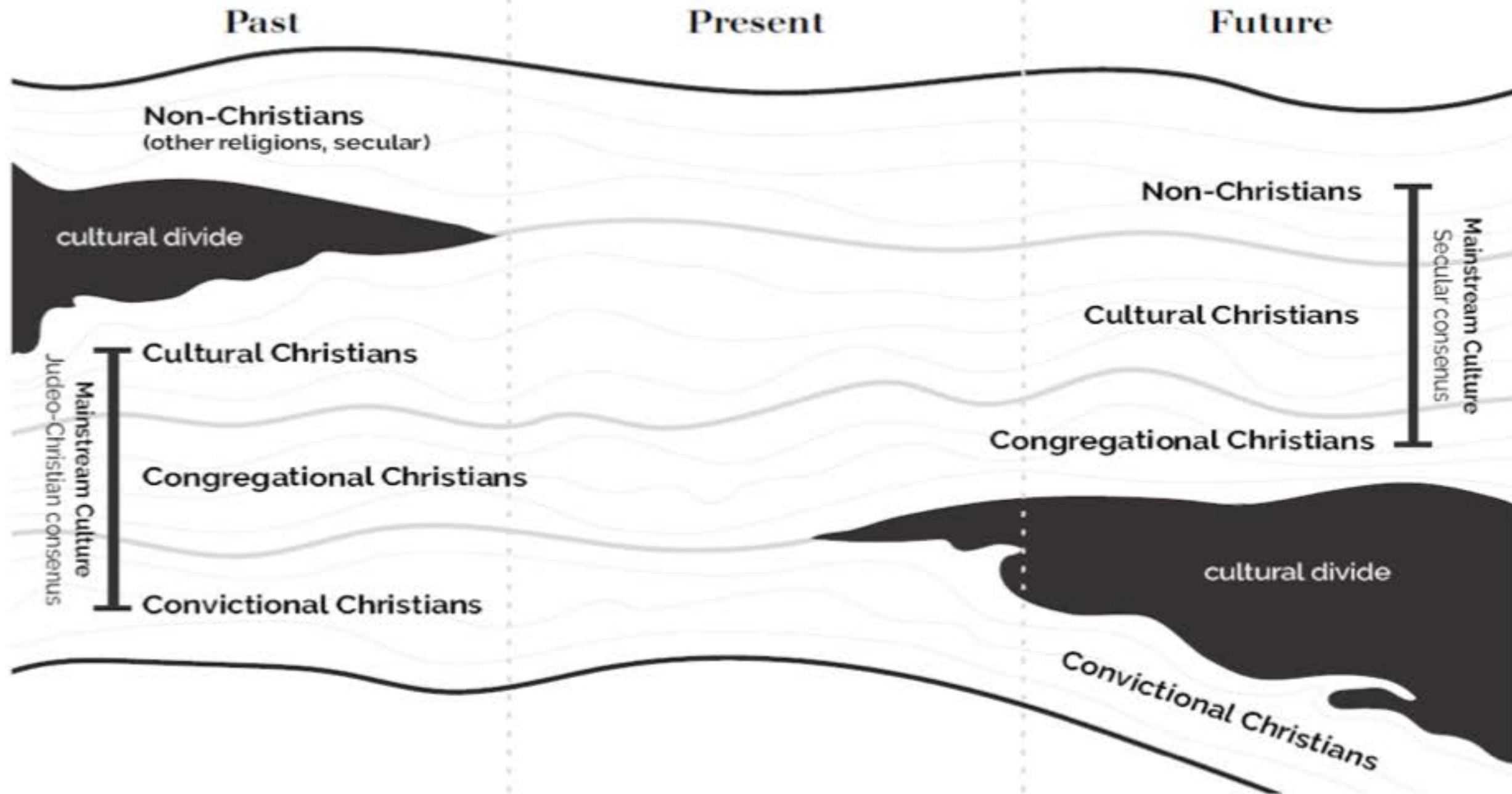




Convictional Christians are going to be a minority in the emerging America

...and due to COVID, we're going to get there
a little sooner than we thought.







**How do we engage with a nation
when our views are so polarized?**





Our Role as MEDICs

MOURN We grieve what's been lost.

EXPECT We trust the battle plan.

DISCERN We make wise decisions on the battlefield.

INFLUENCE We influence from the second chair.

CONTRIBUTE We seek God's blessing as citizens of another land.





IN EXILE WE VALUE
ENGAGEMENT
OVER
OUTRAGE



JEREMIAH 29:4-7

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”



In exile, Christians don't condemn, copy, condone, or consume the culture...

but create a new culture through our presence, our influence, and our prayers.



So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums, or your sorcerers who tell you, “You will not serve the king of Babylon.” They prophesy lies to you that will only serve to remove you far from your lands; I will banish you and you will perish.



**When we respond to outrage
with outrage,
we ruin our witness**





**Are you willing to engage with
this nation as it is,
not as you would like it to be?**



THE SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.