

Evangelical and Non-evangelical Voting & Views of Politics in America

Survey of 3,000 Americans



For the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College

Methodology

- ❑ The study was sponsored by the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College
- ❑ The online survey of Americans was conducted May 9-16, 2018
- ❑ The completed sample is 3,000 surveys
- ❑ A minimum of 1,000 respondents were screened for each of three groups (those qualifying for both evangelical groups are included in the reporting for both):
 - ❑ 1,000 Americans who are not evangelicals (**NonEV** do not have evangelical beliefs nor self-identify as evangelical or born again)
 - ❑ 1,064 Americans who have evangelical beliefs (**EVB**)
 - ❑ 1,814 Americans who self-identify as an evangelical or born again Christian (**SI**)

Methodology

- ❑ Slight weights were used for each group to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, and education
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the online panel does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$ for non-evangelicals, $\pm 3.1\%$ for those with evangelical beliefs, and $\pm 2.4\%$ for self-identified evangelicals (These margins of error account for the effect of weighting)
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

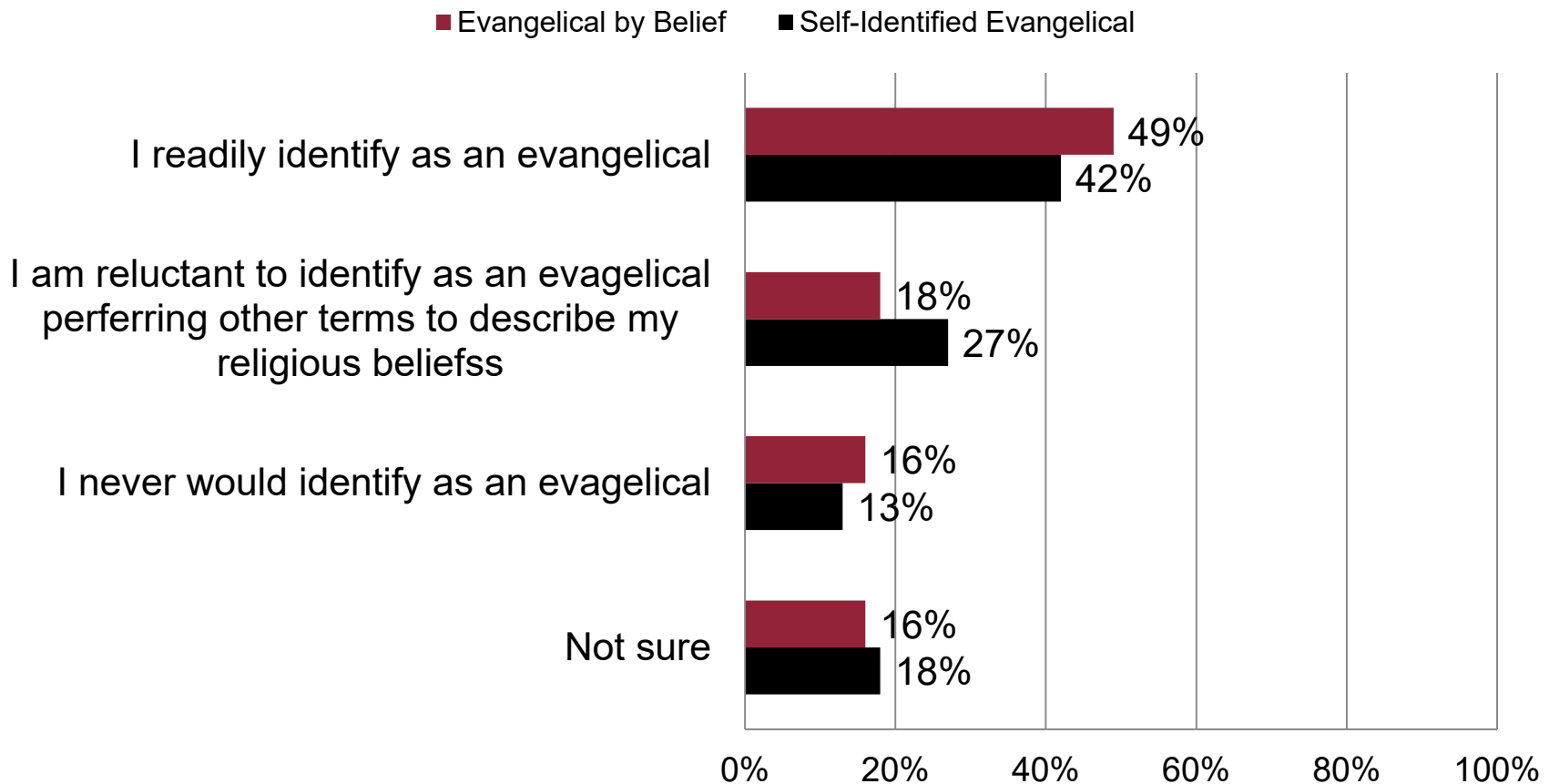
Evangelical Beliefs

- Evangelical Beliefs are defined using the NAE LifeWay Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
 - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
 - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
 - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
 - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

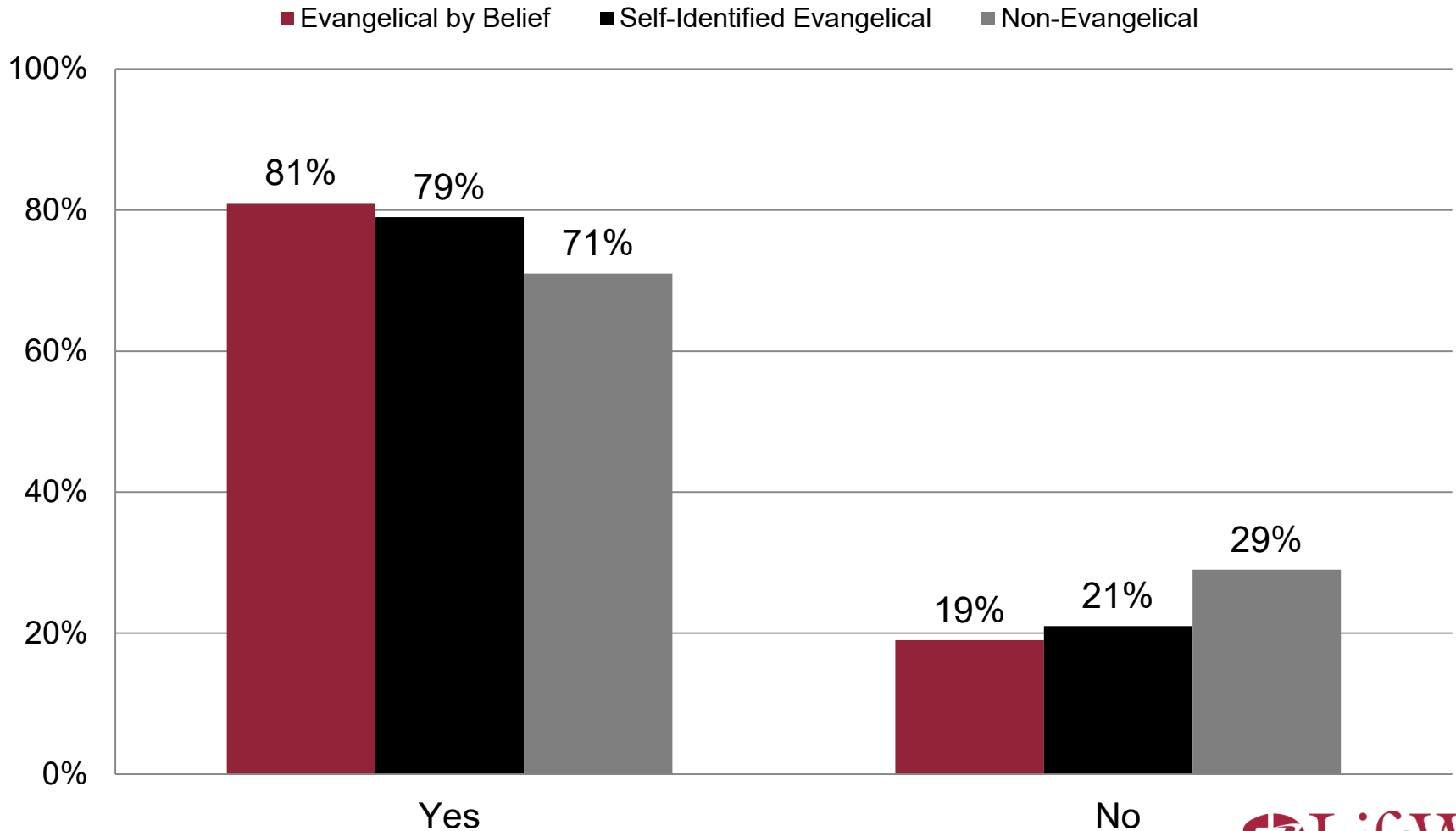
Survey Responses

49% of evangelicals by belief and 42% of self-identified evangelicals readily identify as evangelical

Among Evangelicals

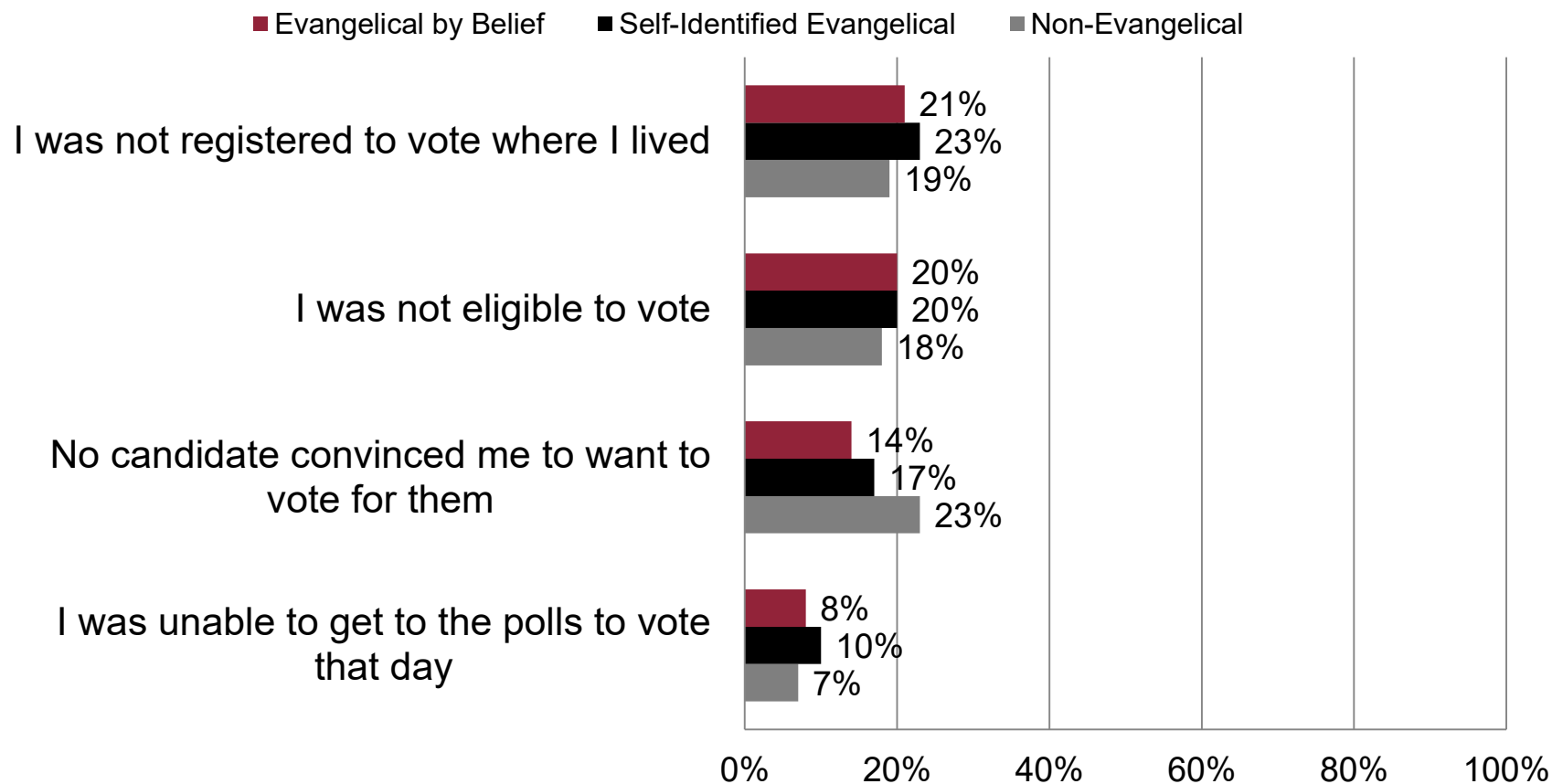


Breakdown of who voted in the 2016 presidential election



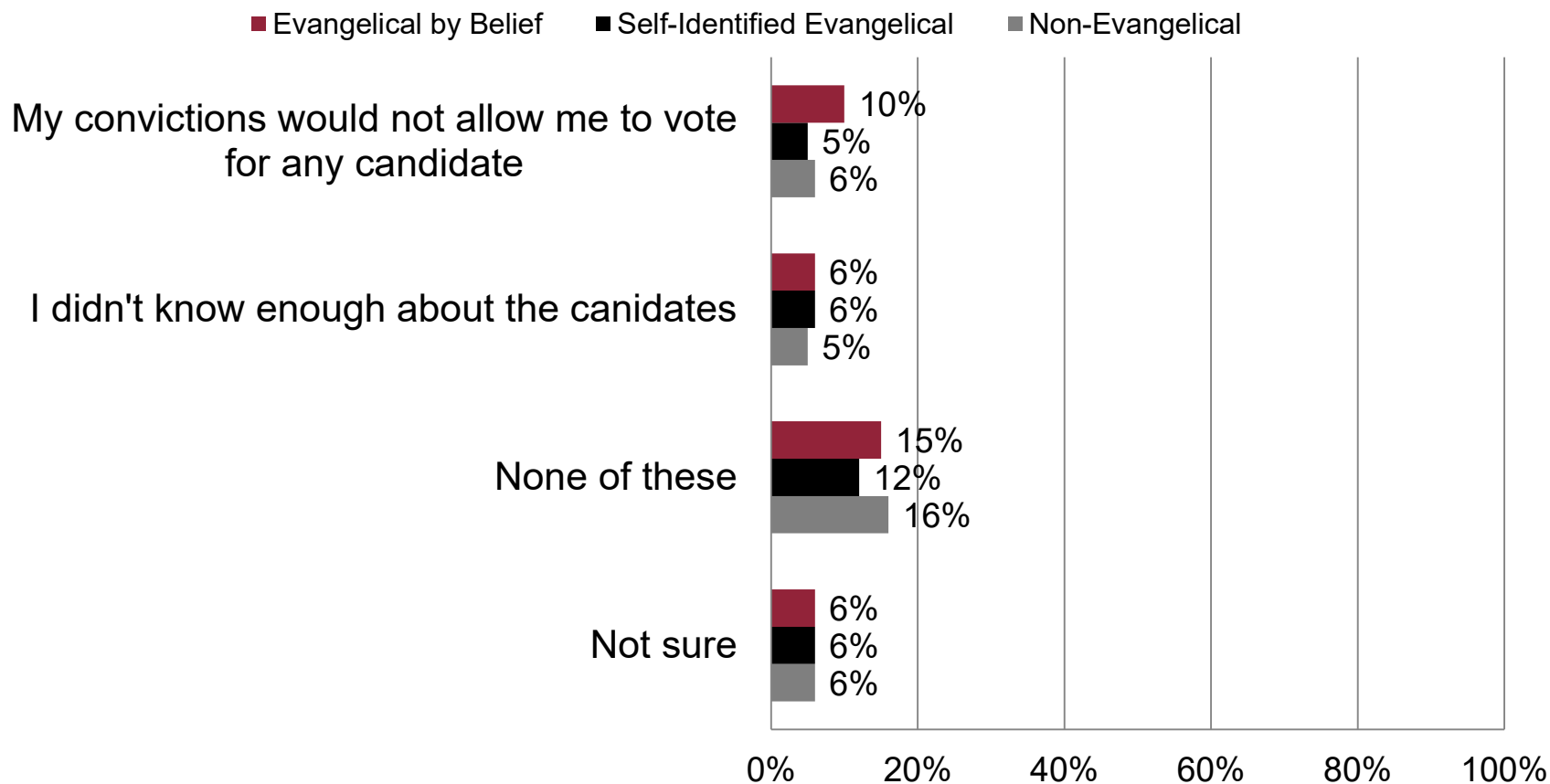
Common reasons for not voting are “I was not eligible to vote” and “I was not registered to vote where I lived”

Among Those Who Did Not Vote in 2016



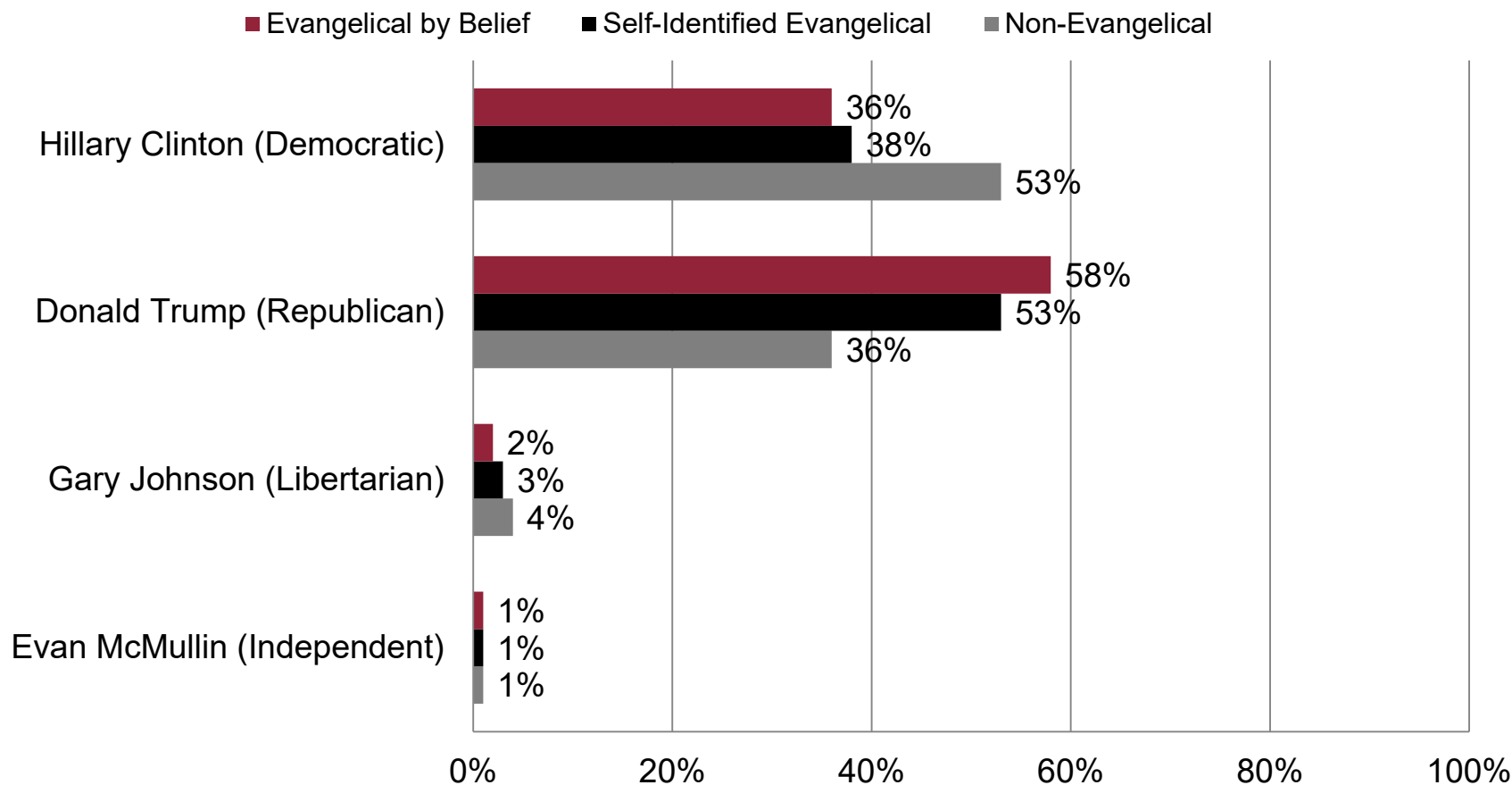
Reasons for not voting (continued) also included peoples convictions

Among Those Who Did Not Vote in 2016



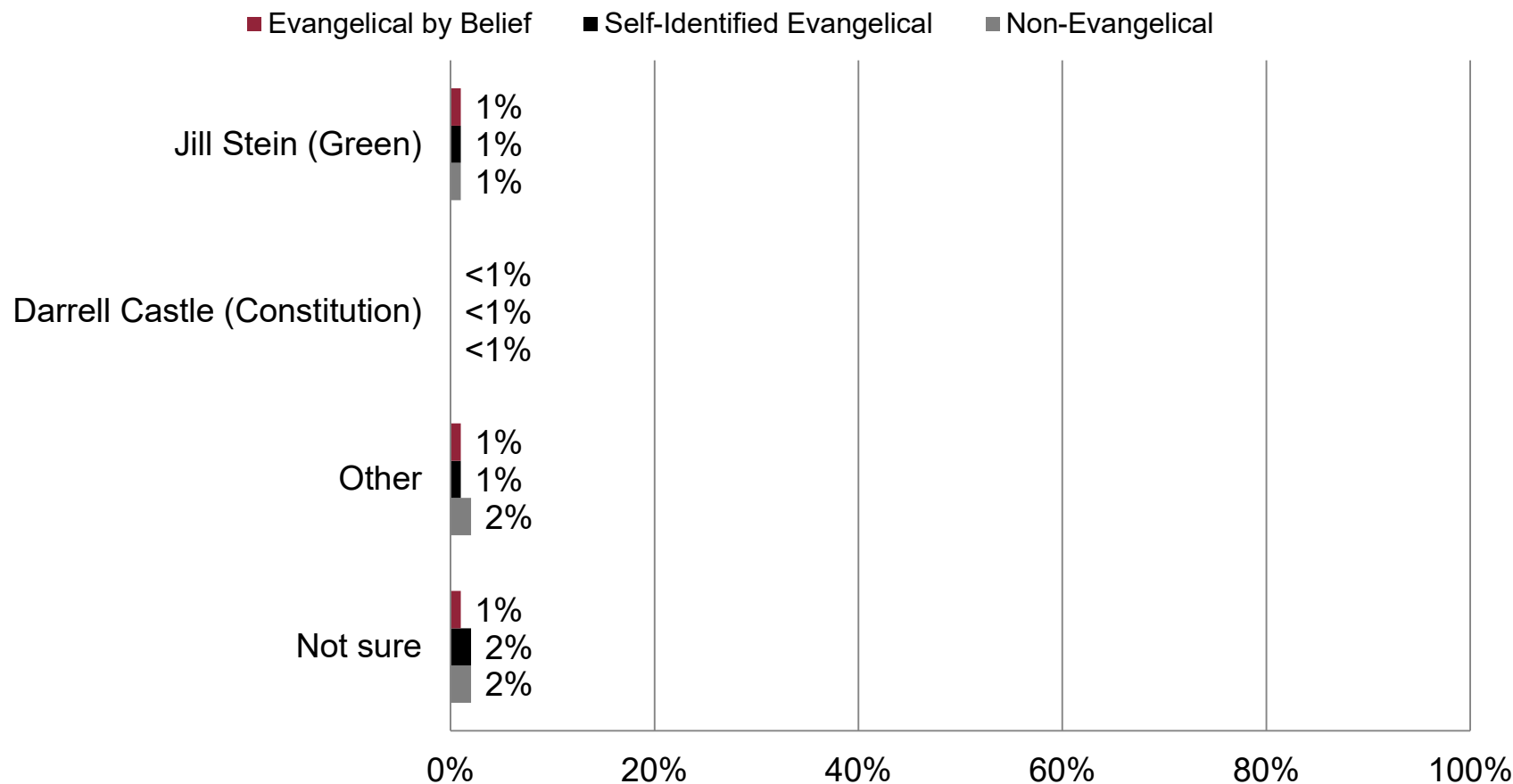
58% of evangelicals by belief and 53% of self-identified evangelicals voted for Trump

Among Those Who Voted in 2016



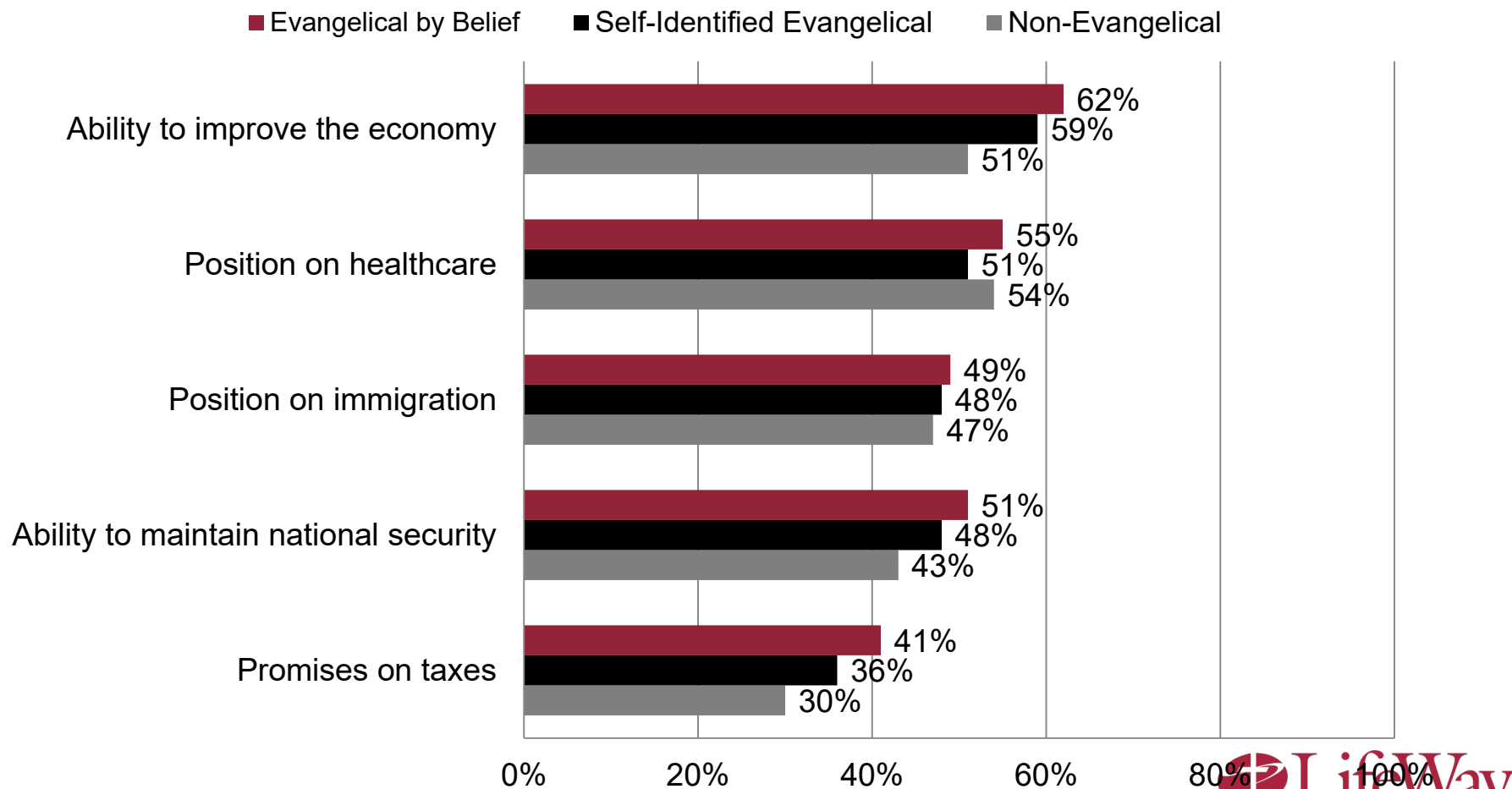
Very few votes went to third party candidates

Among Those Who Voted in 2016



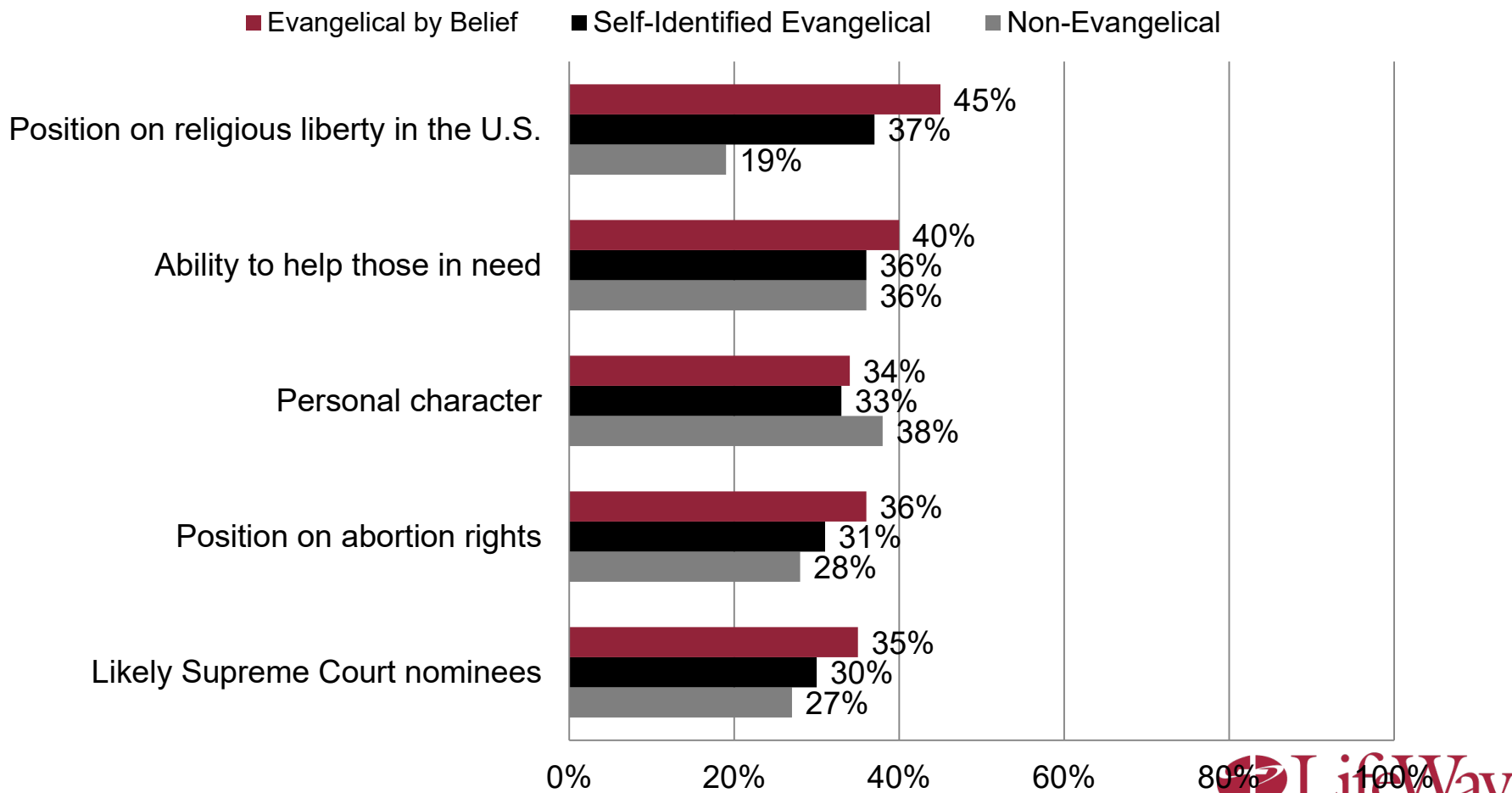
“In the 2016 presidential election, which if any of the following influenced you to vote for the candidate you did?”

Among Those Who Voted in 2016



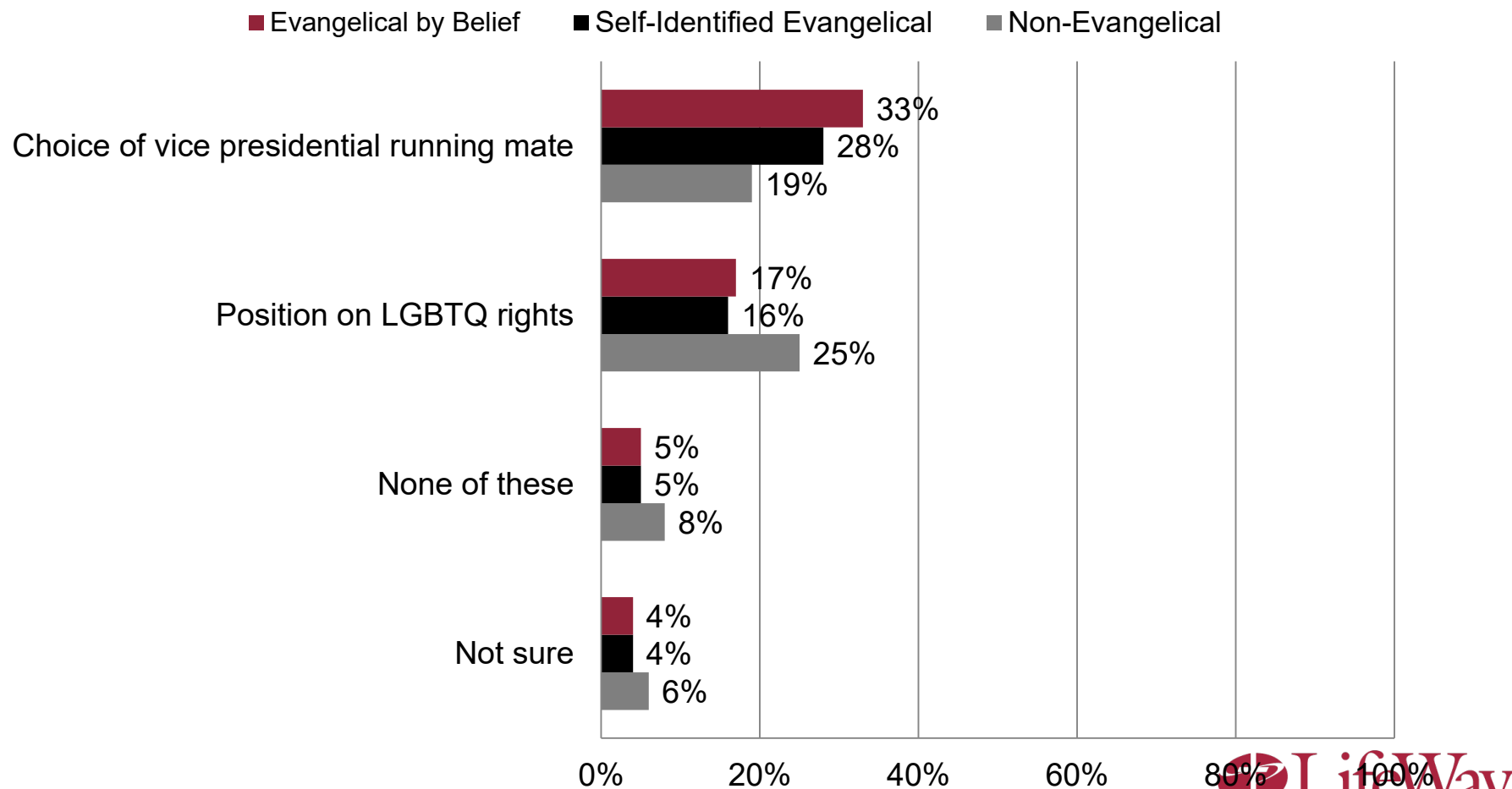
“In the 2016 presidential election, which if any of the following influenced you to vote for the candidate you did?” (continued)

Among Those Who Voted in 2016



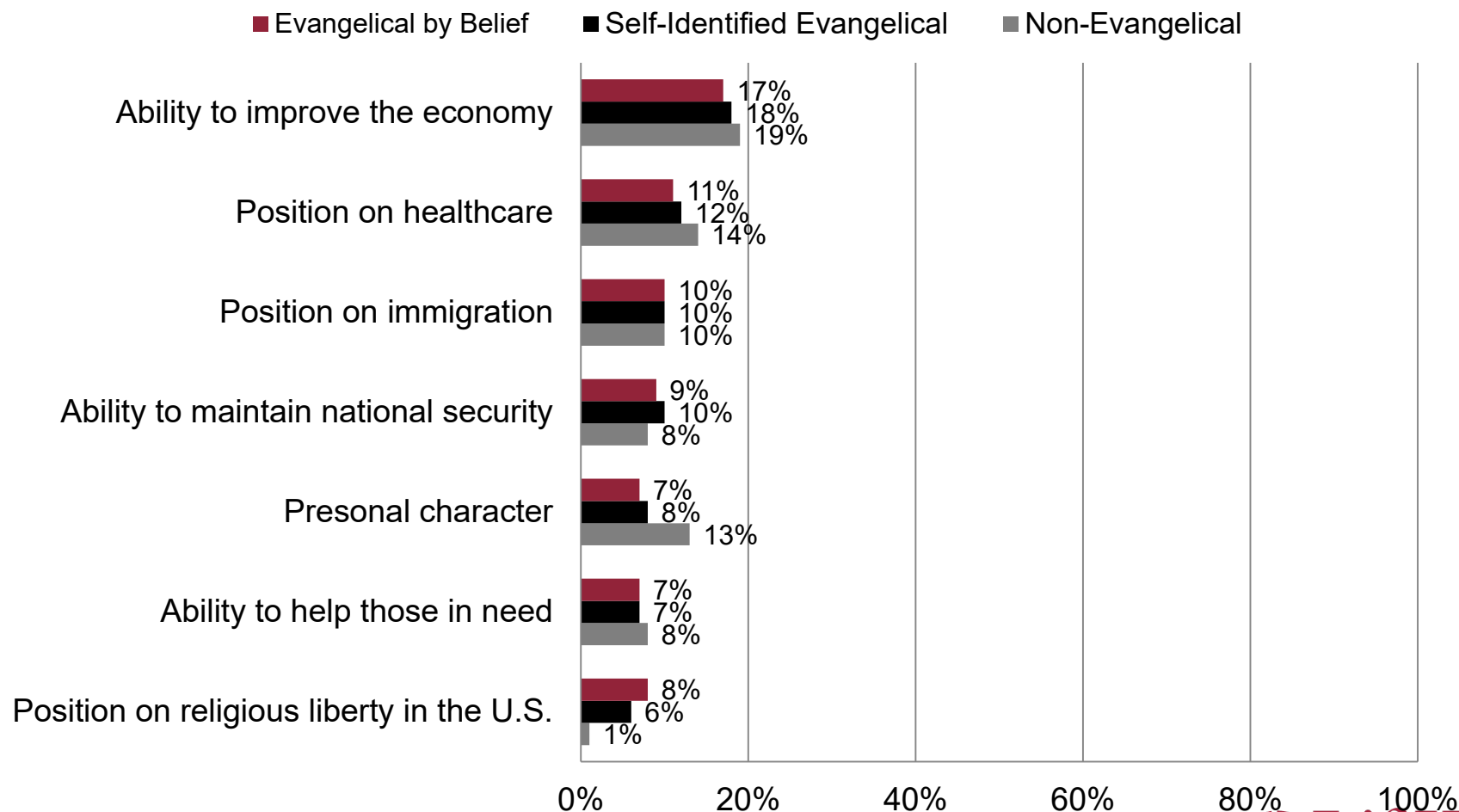
“In the 2016 presidential election, which if any of the following influenced you to vote for the candidate you did?” (continued)

Among Those Who Voted in 2016



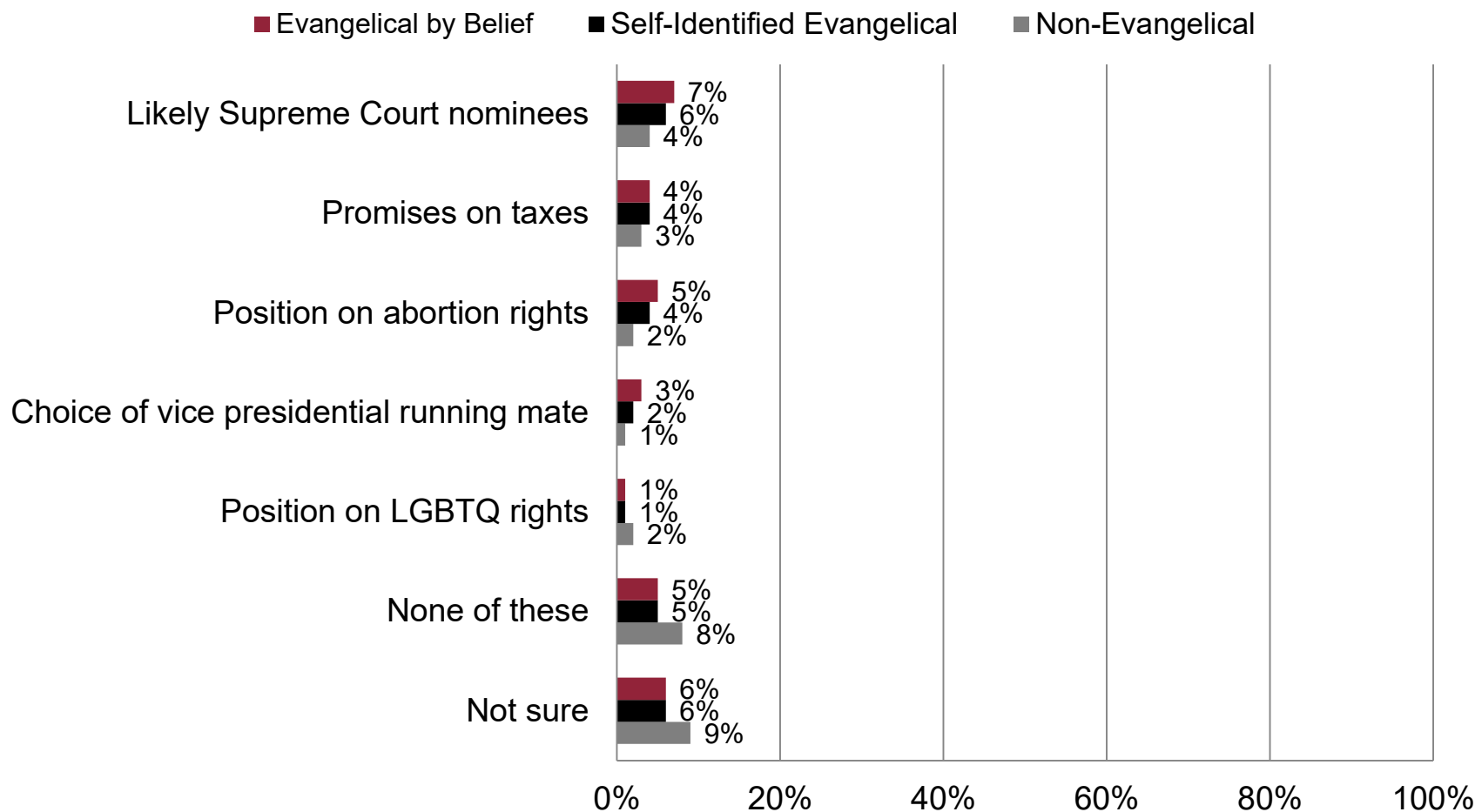
The economy was an important factor to voters, followed by healthcare and immigration

Among Those Who Voted in 2016



Supreme Court nominees and abortion rights drove fewer votes

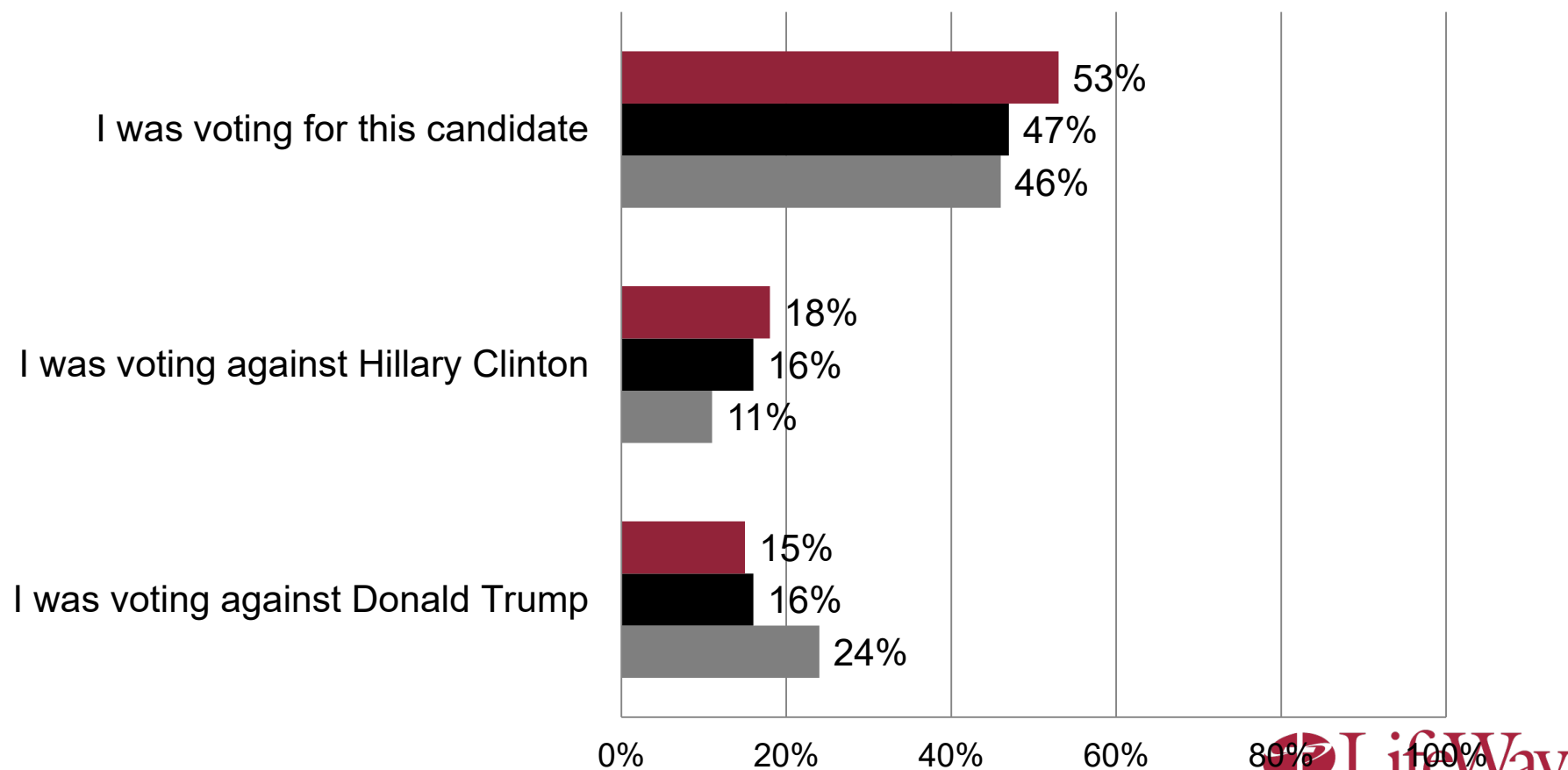
Among Those Who Voted in 2016



“Which of the following best characterizes how you thought about your vote?”

Among Those Who Voted in 2016

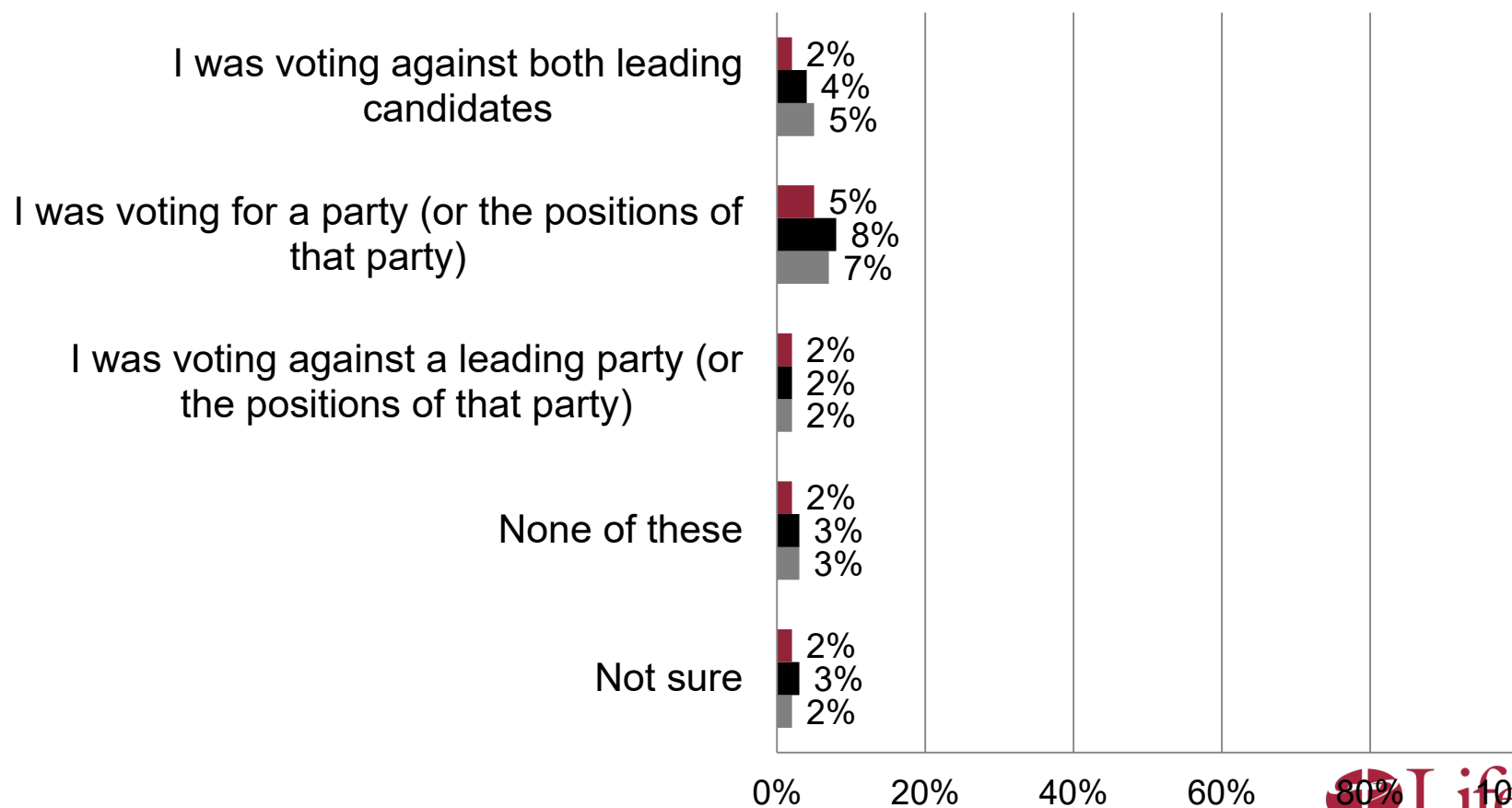
■ Evangelical by Belief ■ Self-Identified Evangelical ■ Non-Evangelical



“Which of the following best characterizes how you thought about your vote?” (continued)

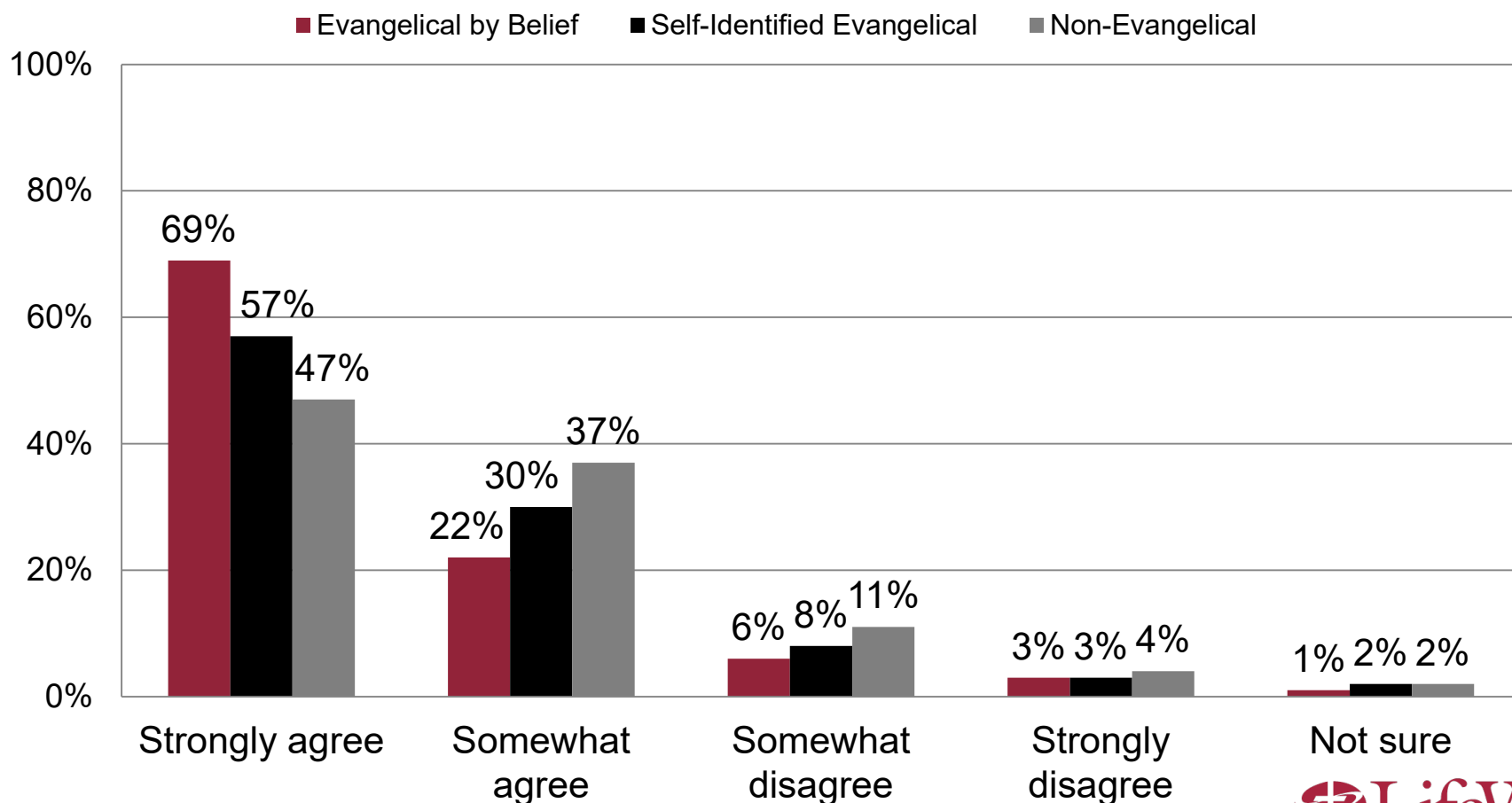
Among Those Who Voted in 2016

■ Evangelical by Belief ■ Self-Identified Evangelical ■ Non-Evangelical



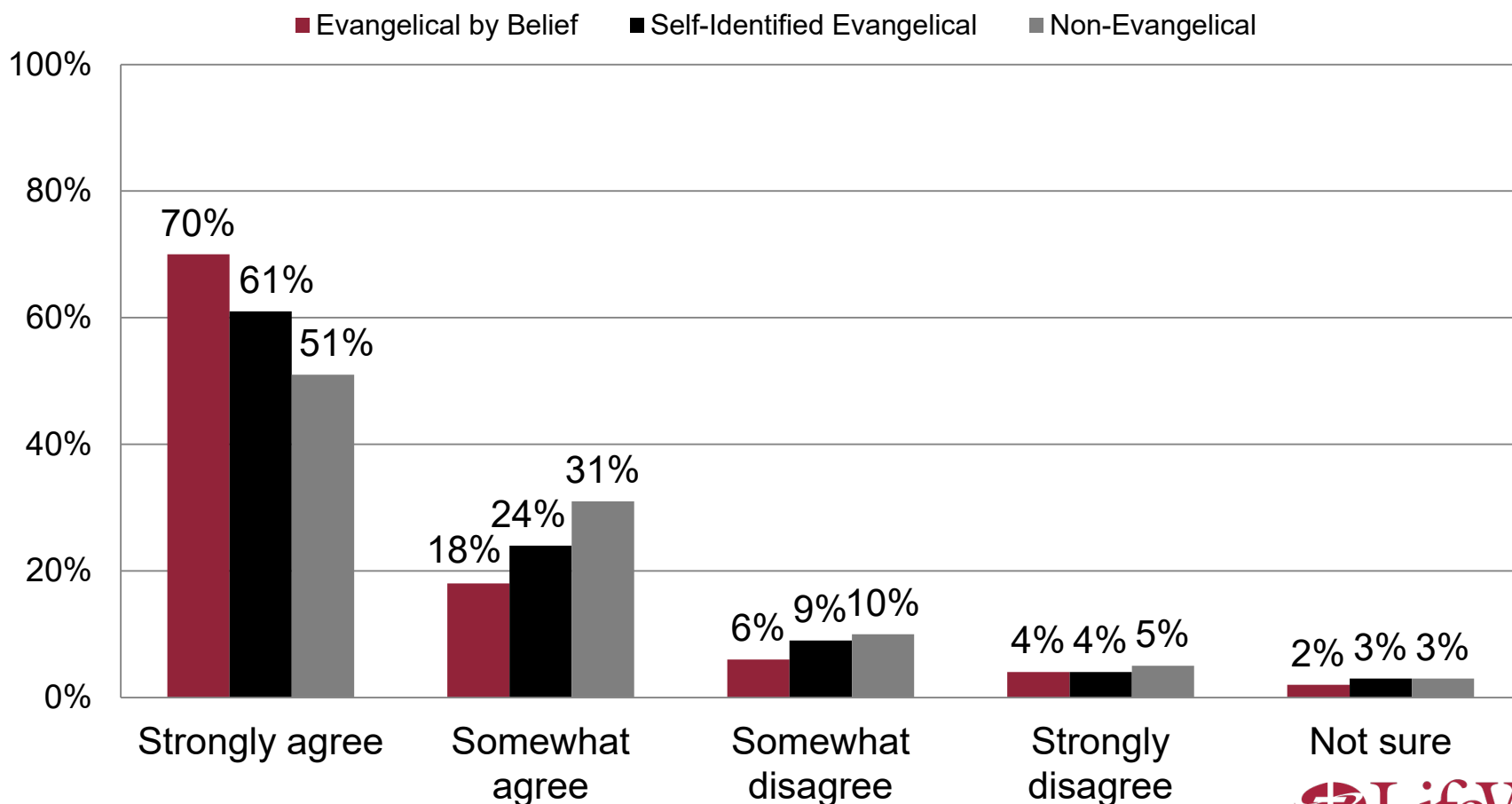
“At the time I voted in the 2016 presidential election, I felt strong support for who I voted for.”

Among Those Who Voted in 2016



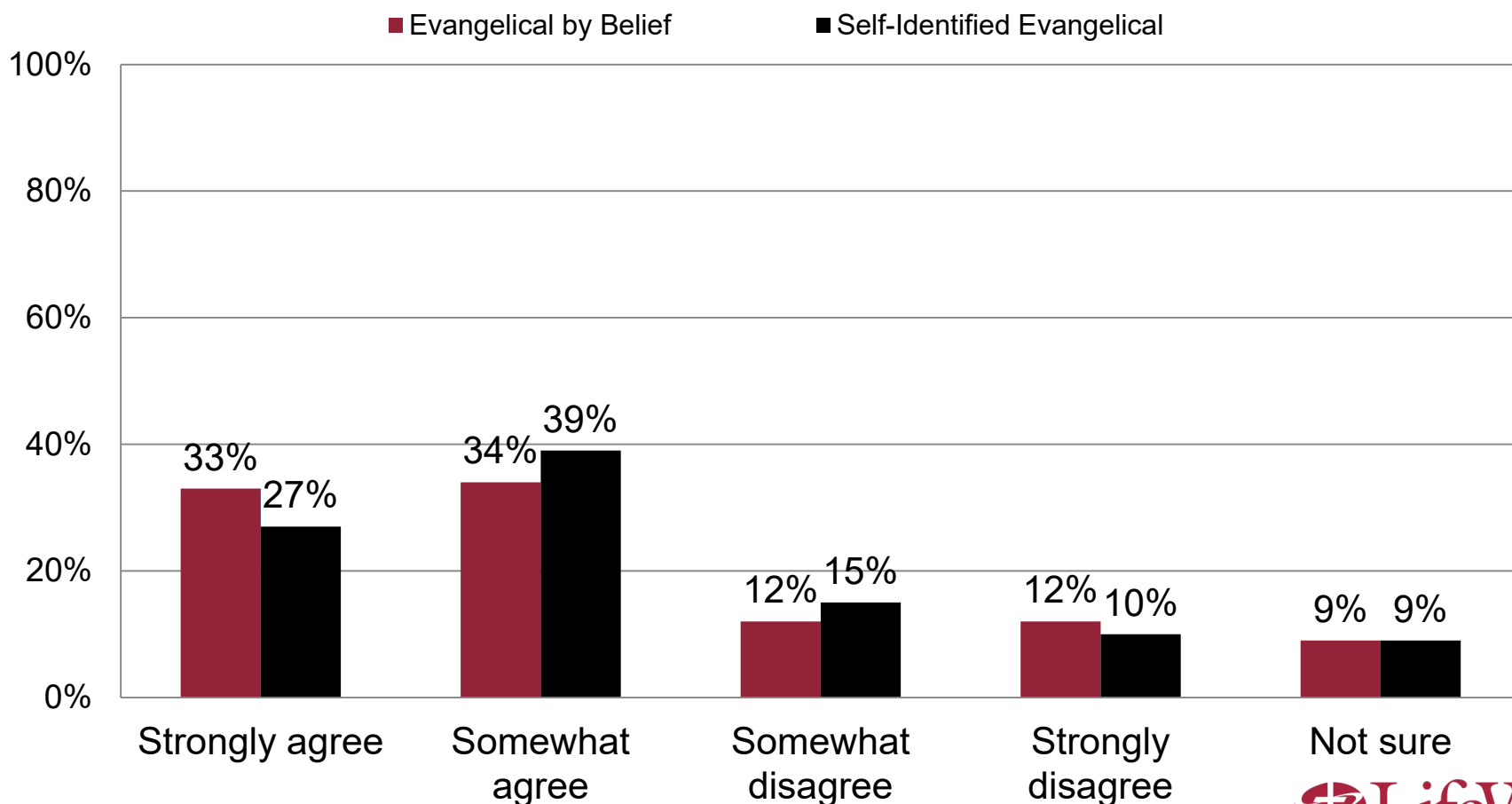
“Today, I feel strong support for who I voted for in the 2016 presidential election.”

Among Those Who Voted in 2016



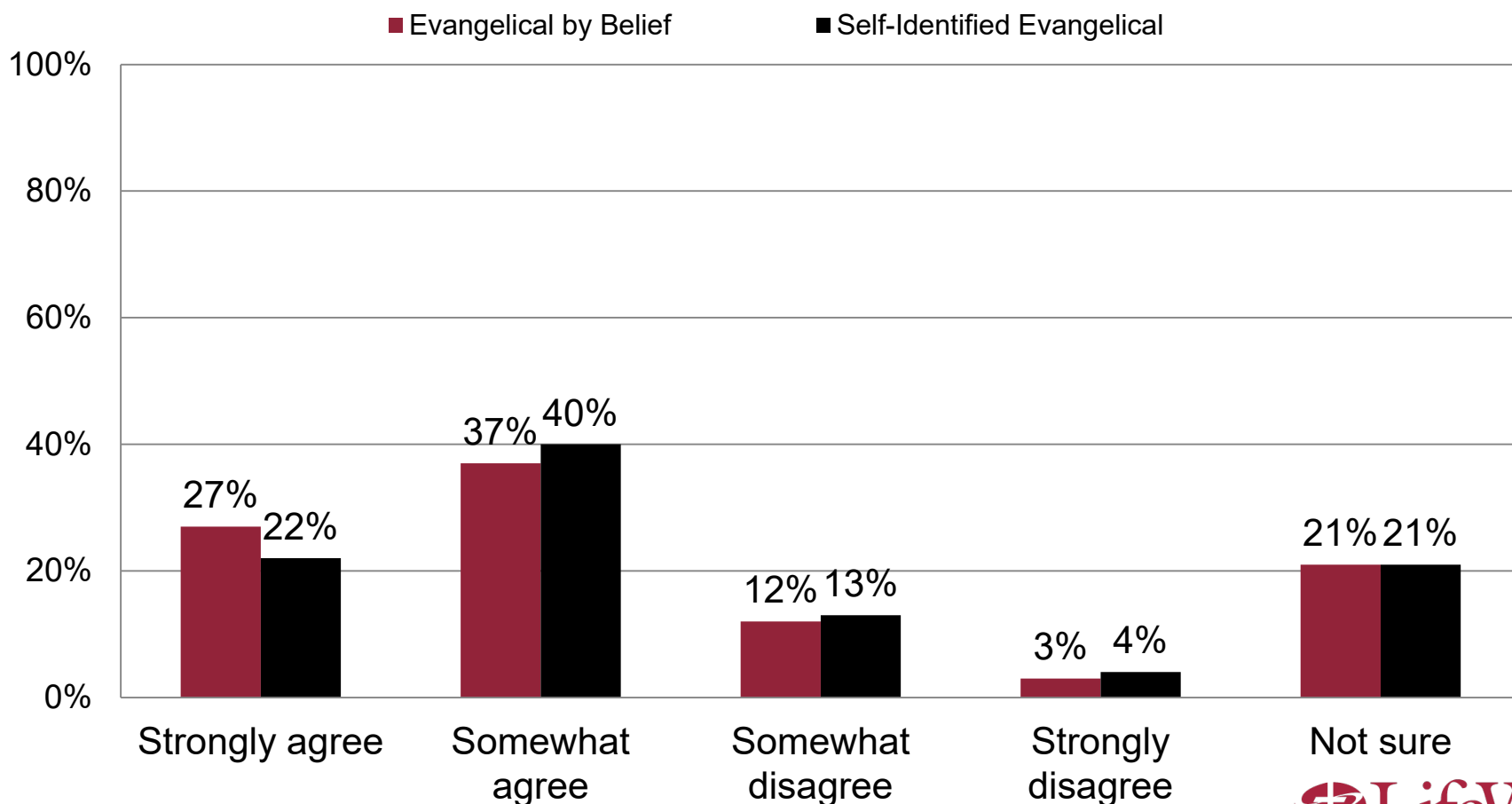
“Committed Christians can benefit from a political leader even if that leader’s personal life does not line up with Christian teaching.”

Among Evangelicals



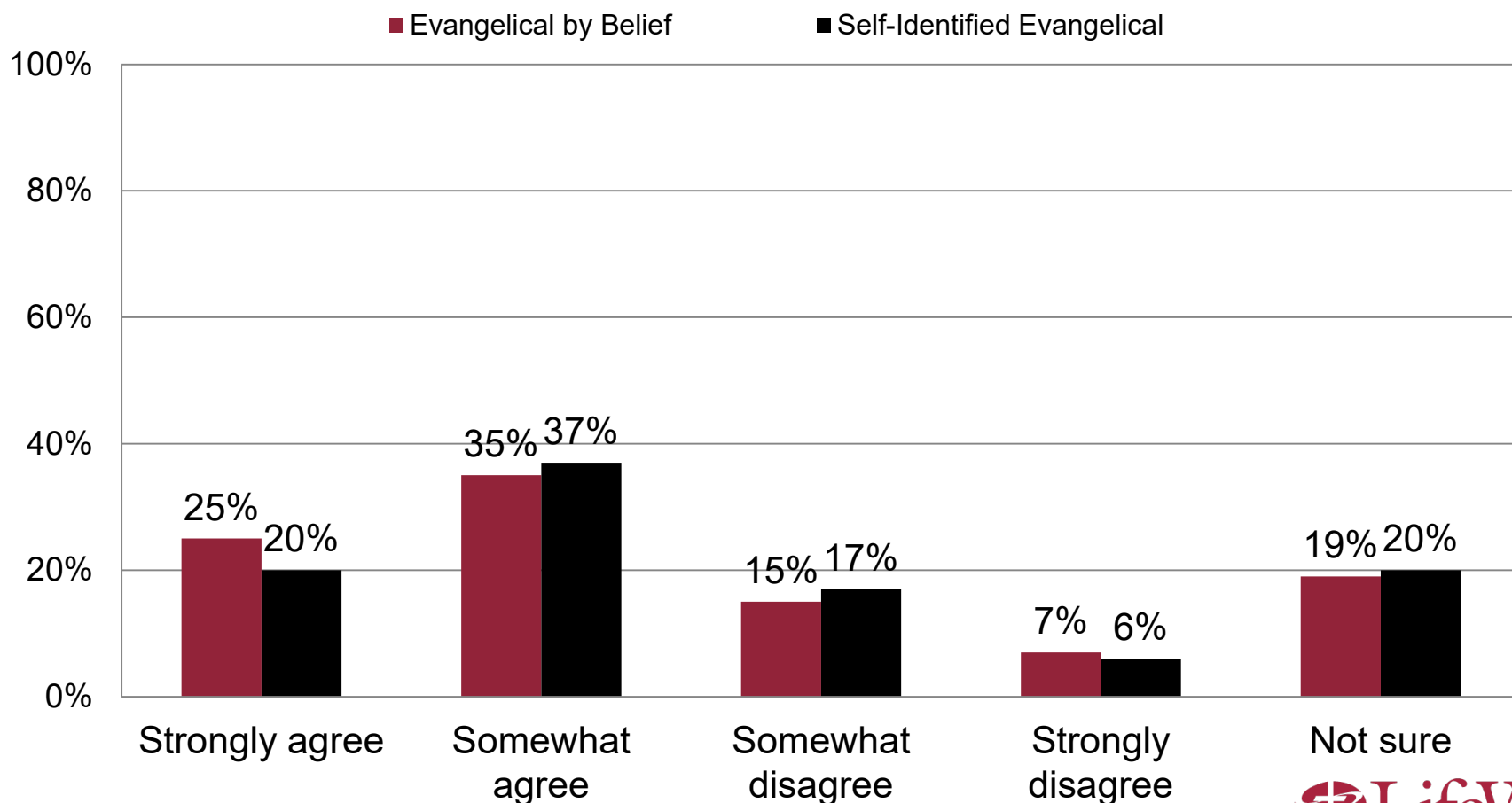
“Since the 2016 presidential election, groups within the Christian church have become increasingly polarized on issues of politics.”

Among Evangelicals



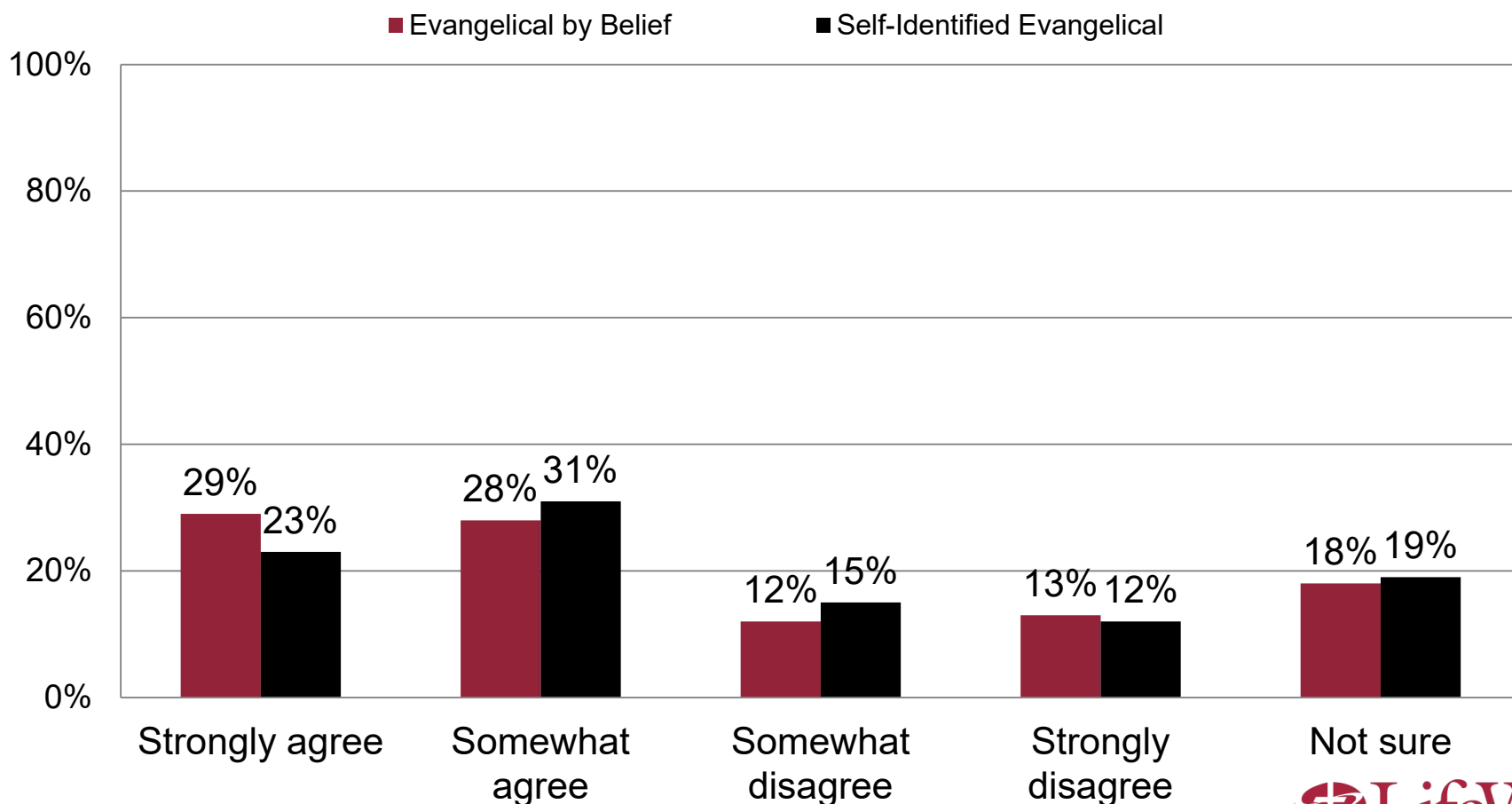
“The 2016 presidential election revealed political divides within the Christian church that have existed for a long time.”

Among Evangelicals



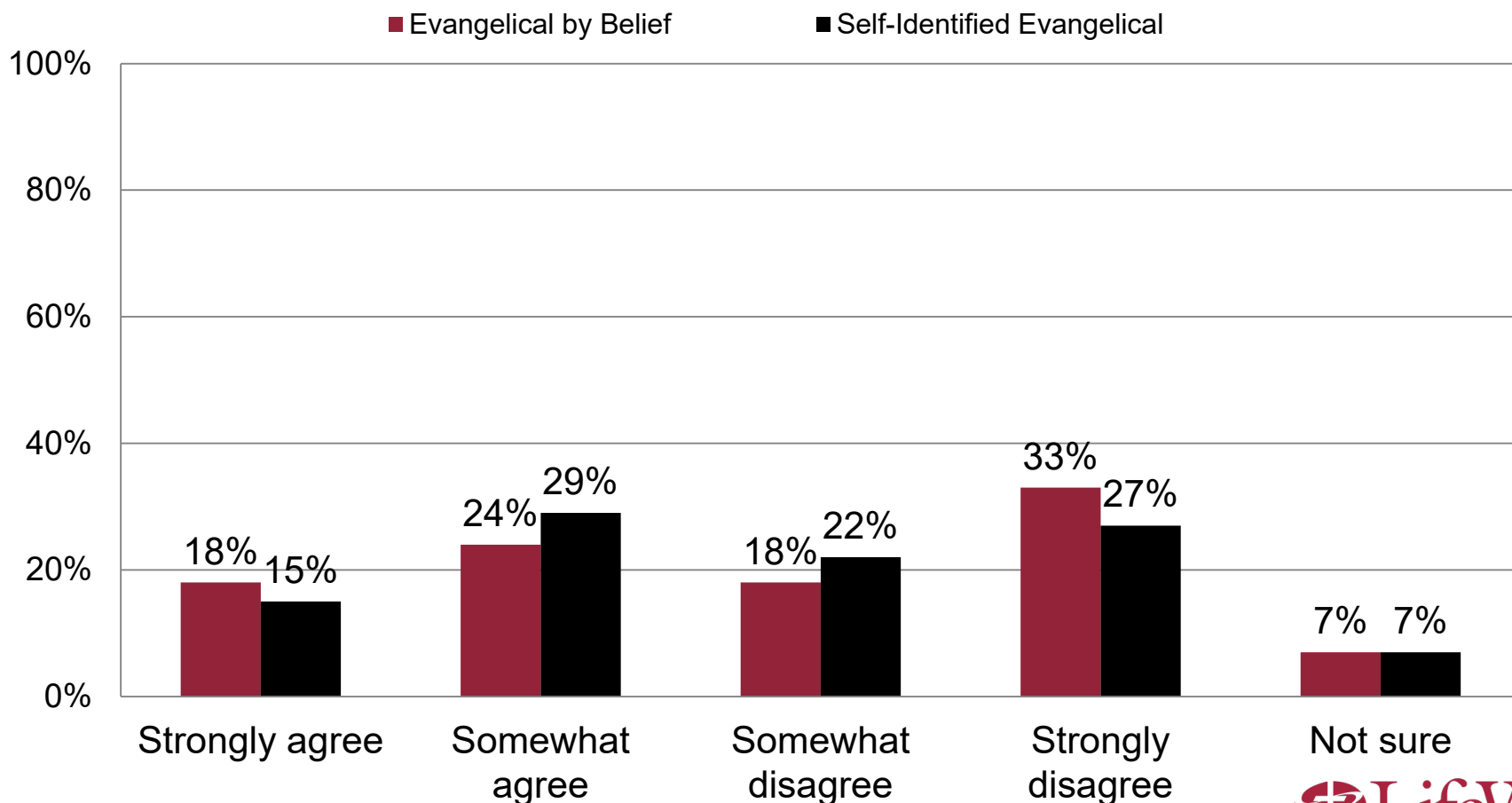
“The goals conservatives achieve under President Trump will last after his presidency.”

Among Evangelicals



“The divisive political climate in America today makes it harder for me to share my Christian faith.”

Among Evangelicals

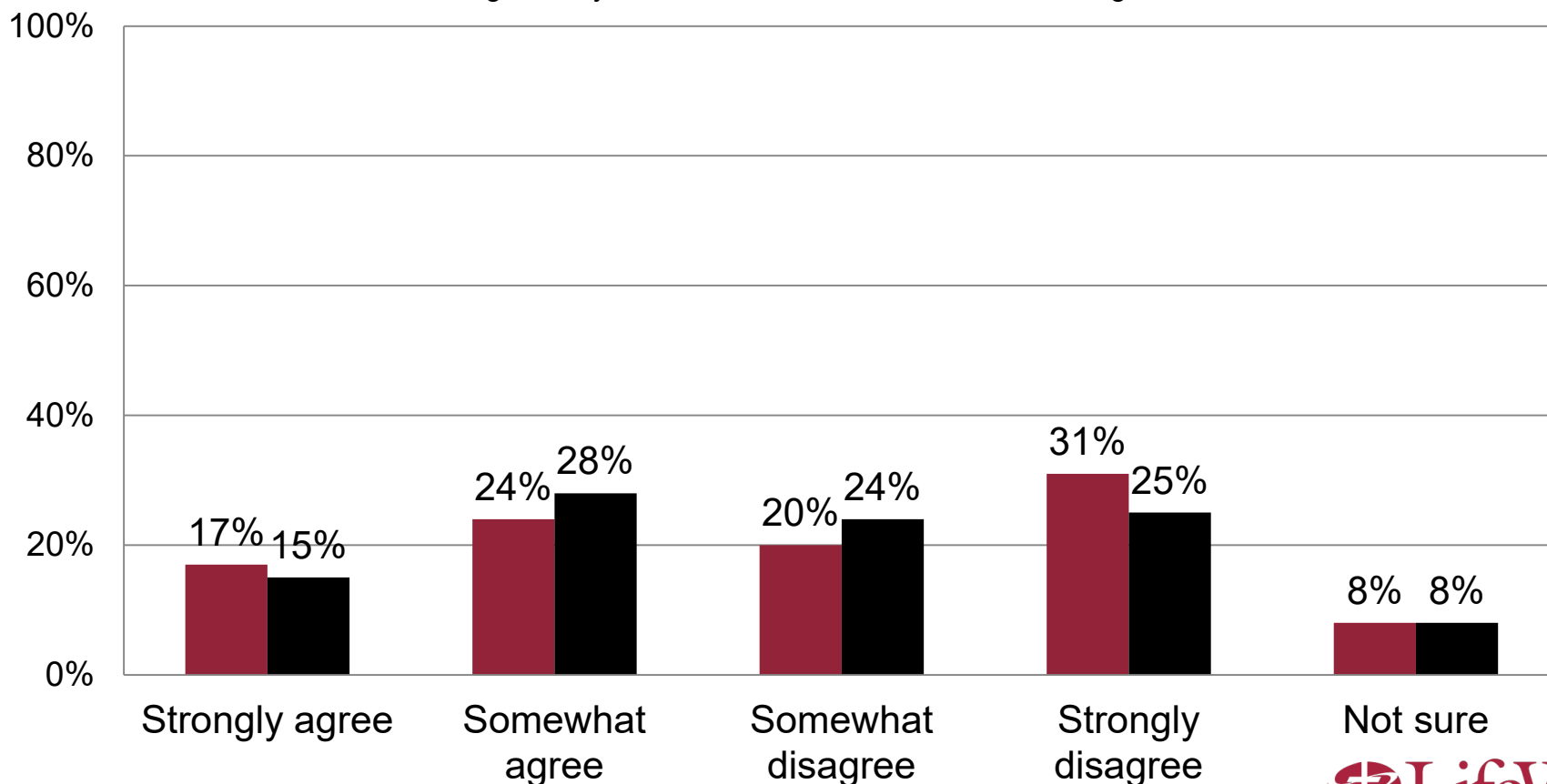


“The divisive political climate in America today makes it harder for me to build relationships with neighbors, co-workers, or acquaintances.”

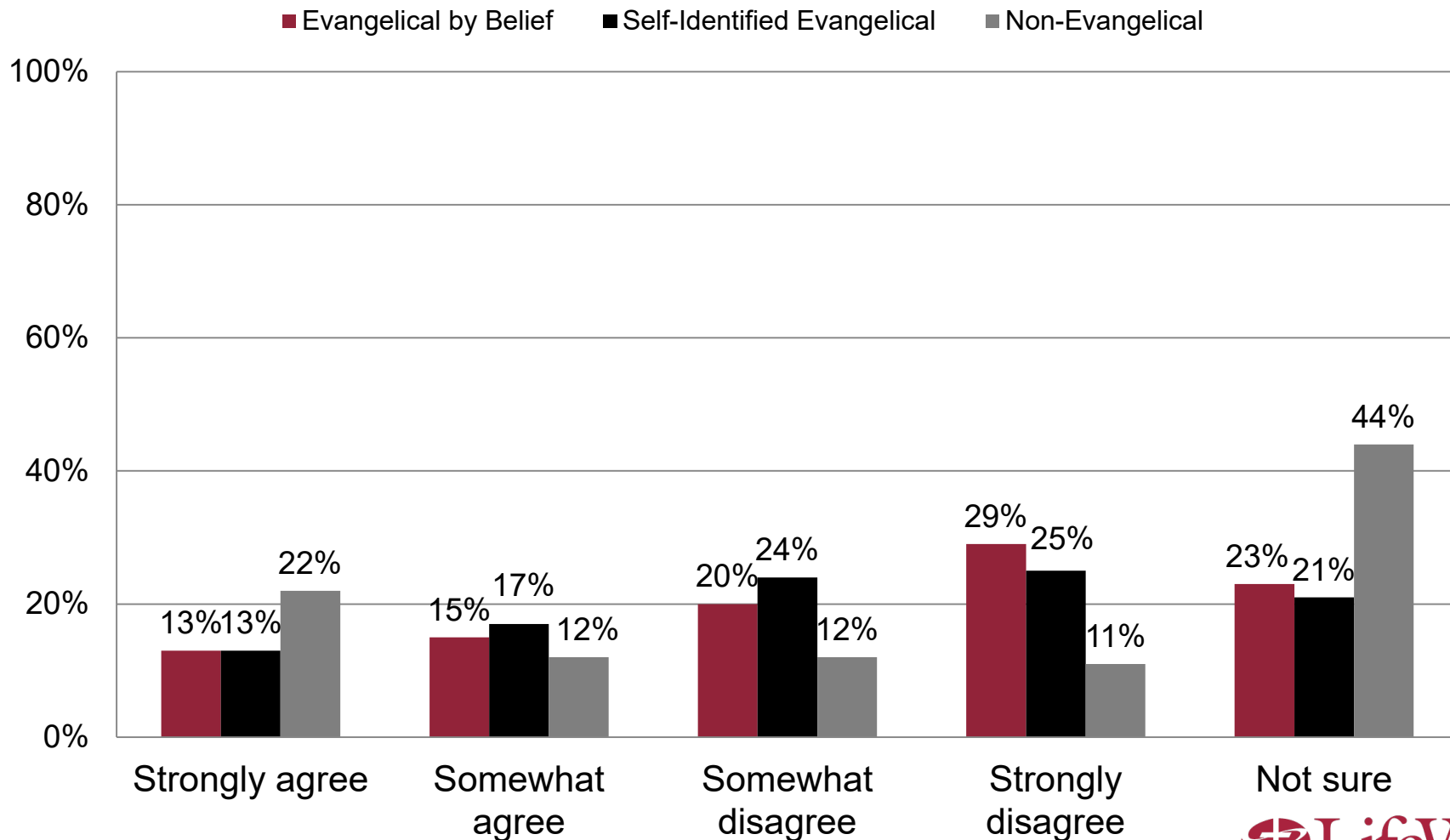
Among Evangelicals

■ Evangelical by Belief

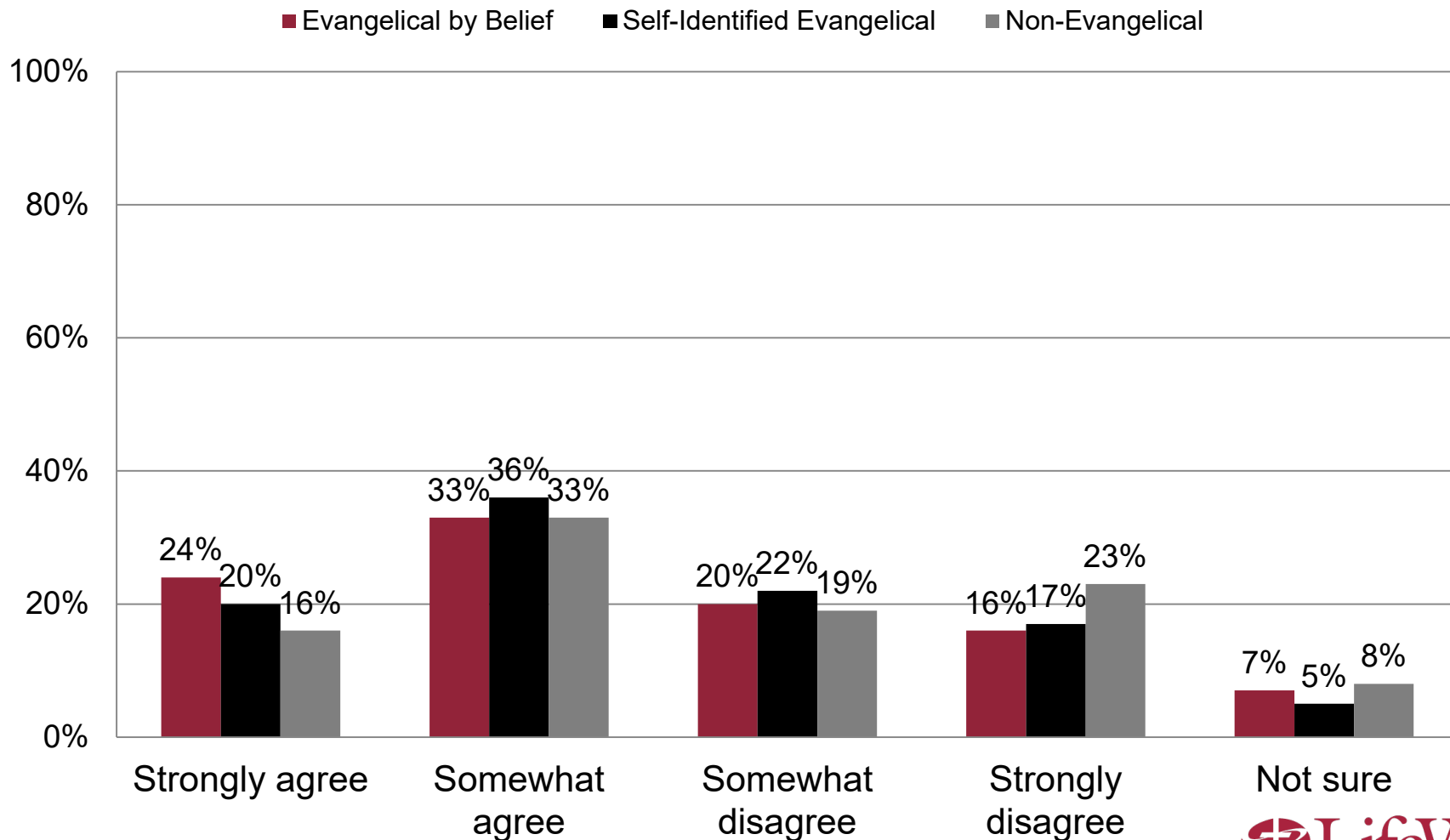
■ Self-Identified Evangelical



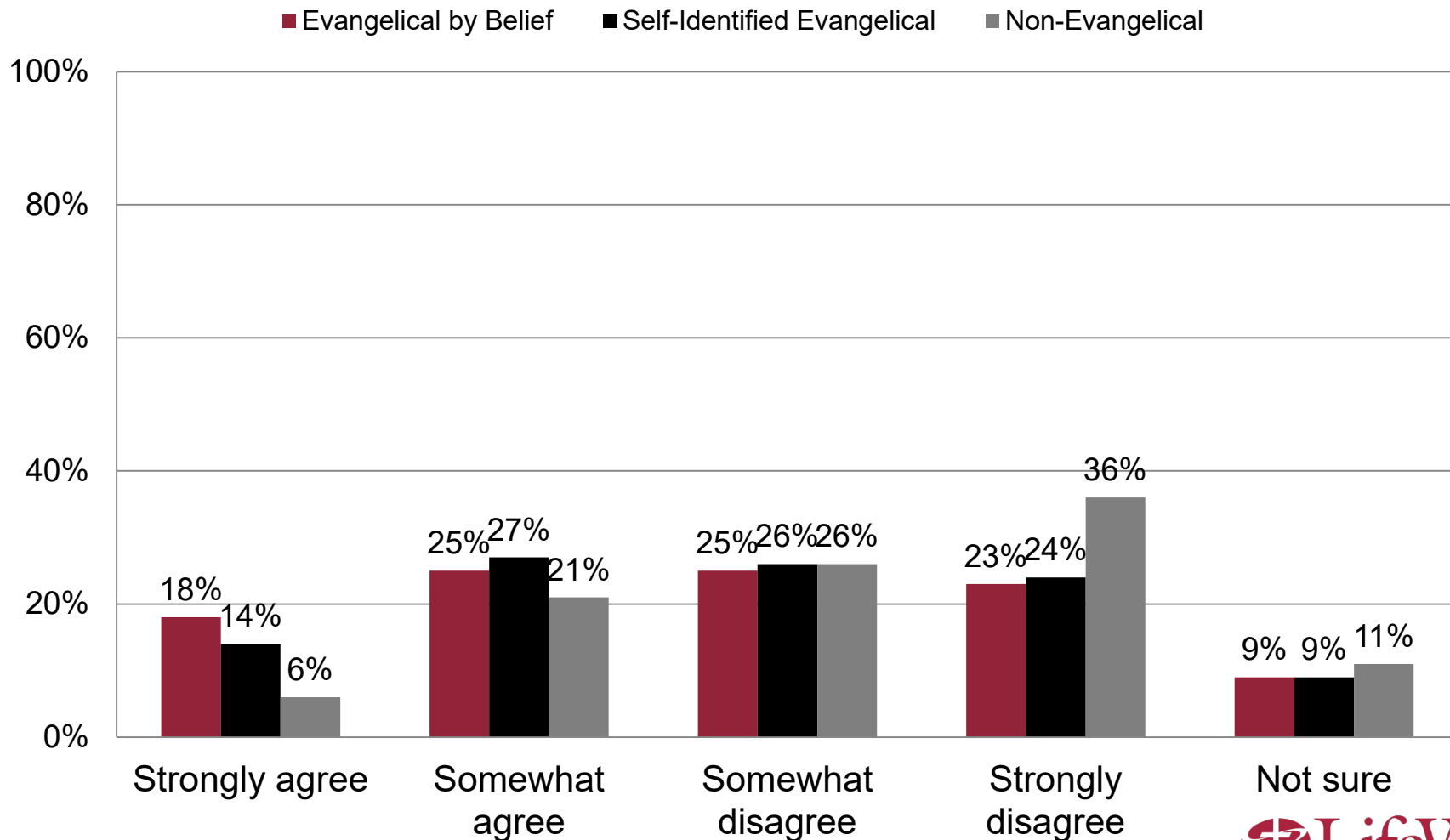
34% of non-evangelicals say Evangelical Christians are too closely aligned with President Trump



Half or more often discuss with their friends issues that government leaders are debating

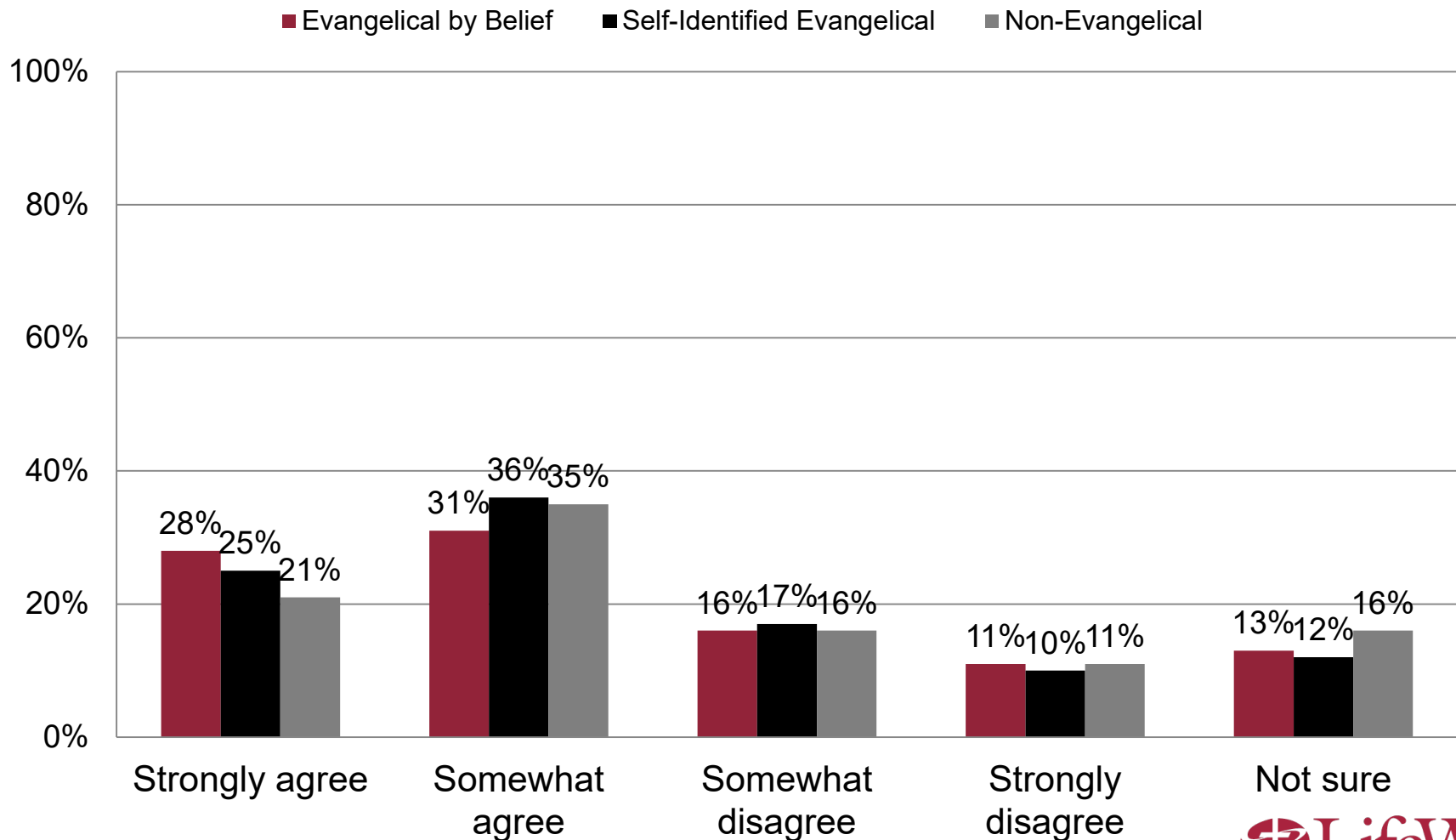


62% of non-evangelicals do not think they should support leaders when they say or do things they disagree with



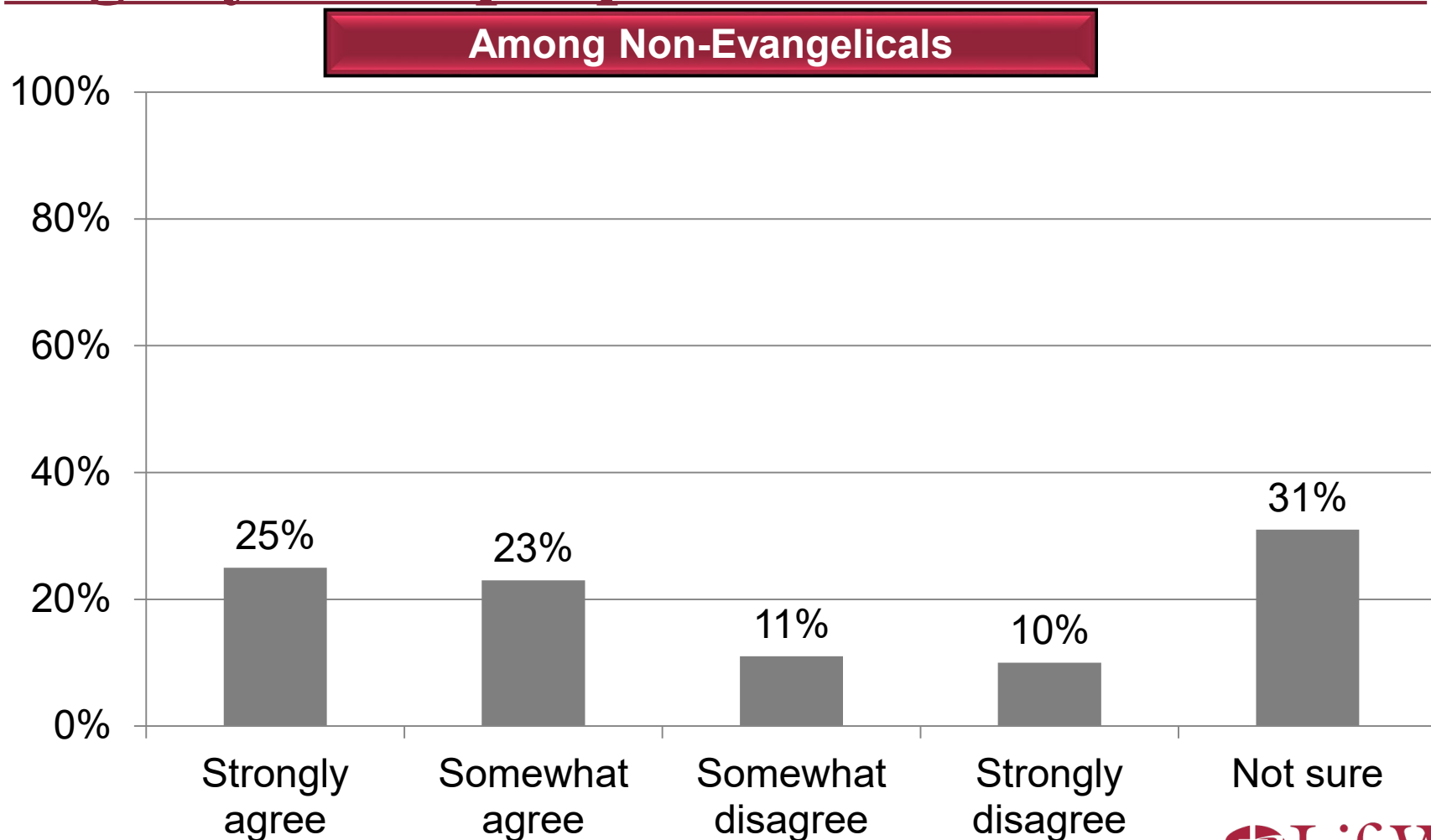
Q31 "When a political leader is making important decisions I support, I should also support the leader when they say or do things I disagree with."

A majority agree with supporting individual issues than individual political leaders

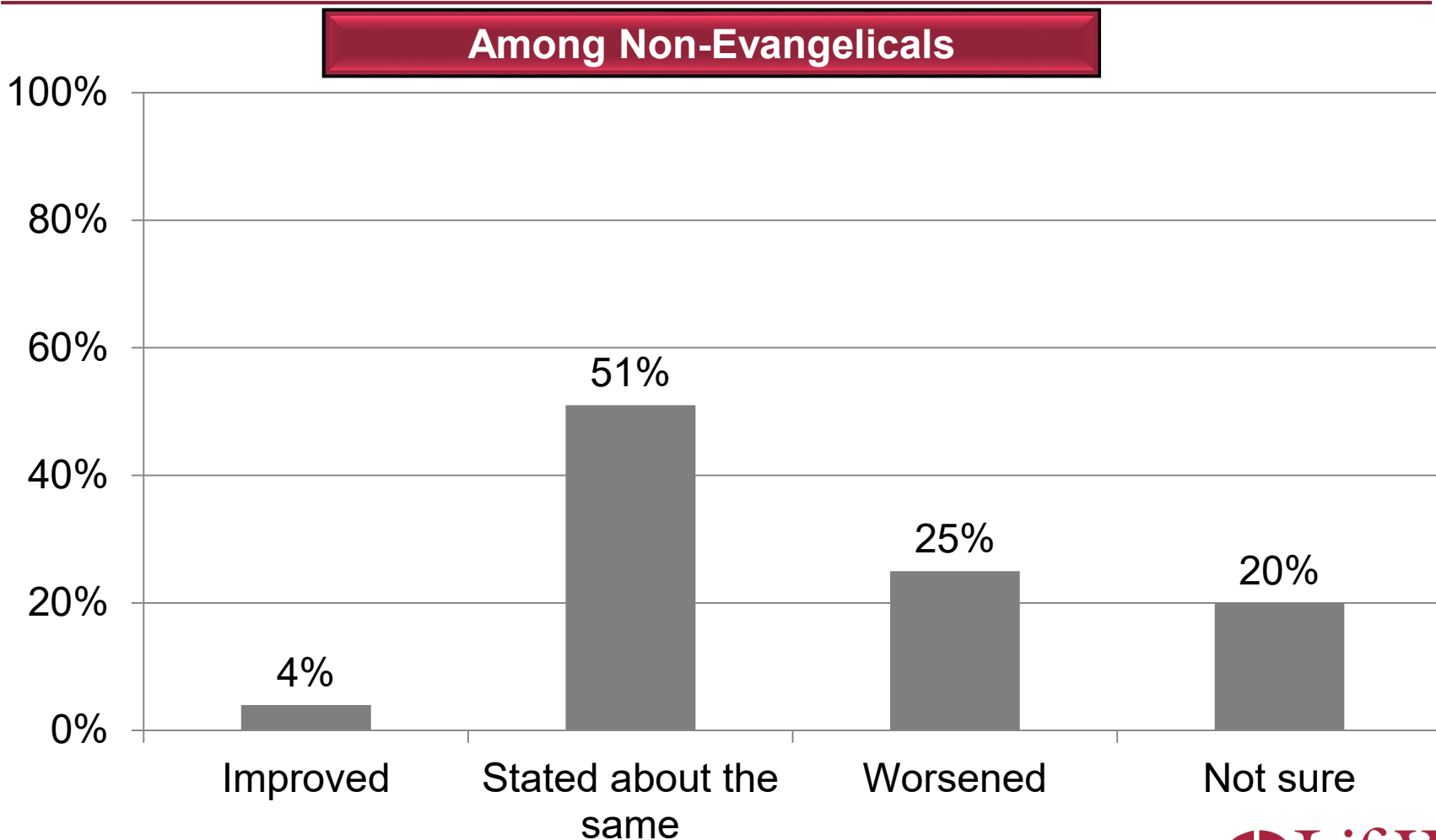


Q32 "My political support should be focused on praising or criticizing positions on individual issues rather than supporting individual political leaders."

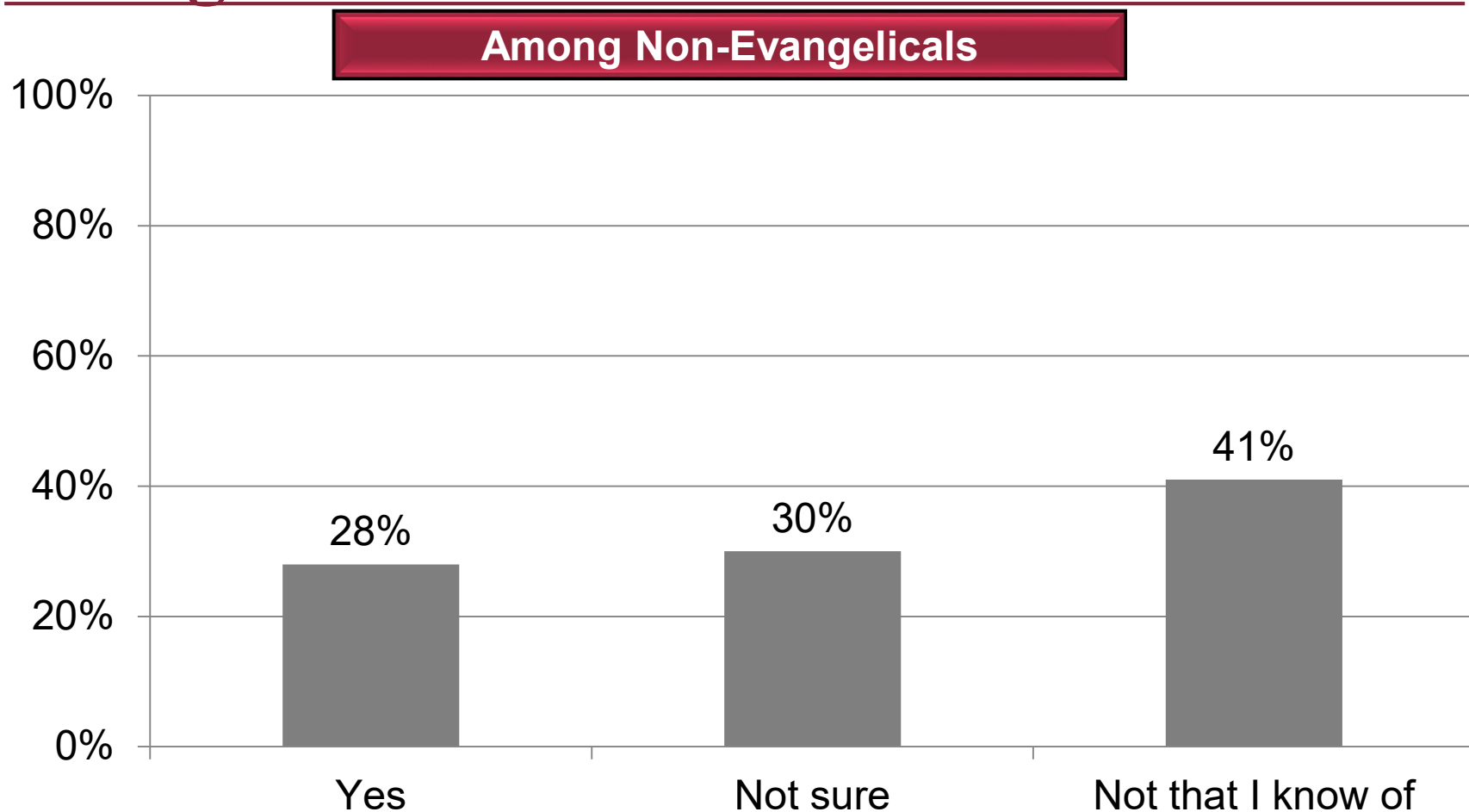
47% agree that evangelicals seem to care more about their issues than the dignity of all people



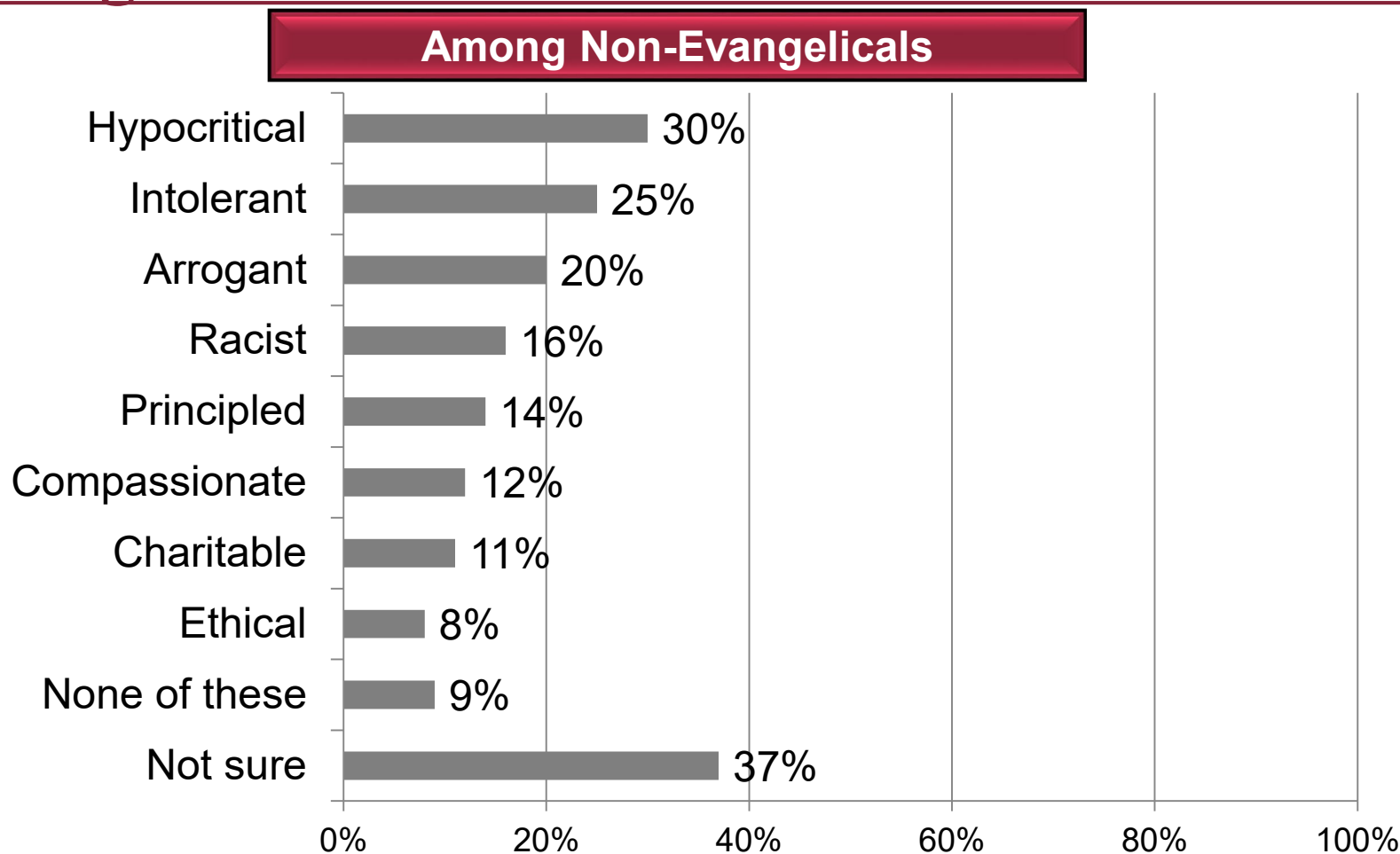
25% say that their perception of evangelical Christians have worsened since the 2016 election



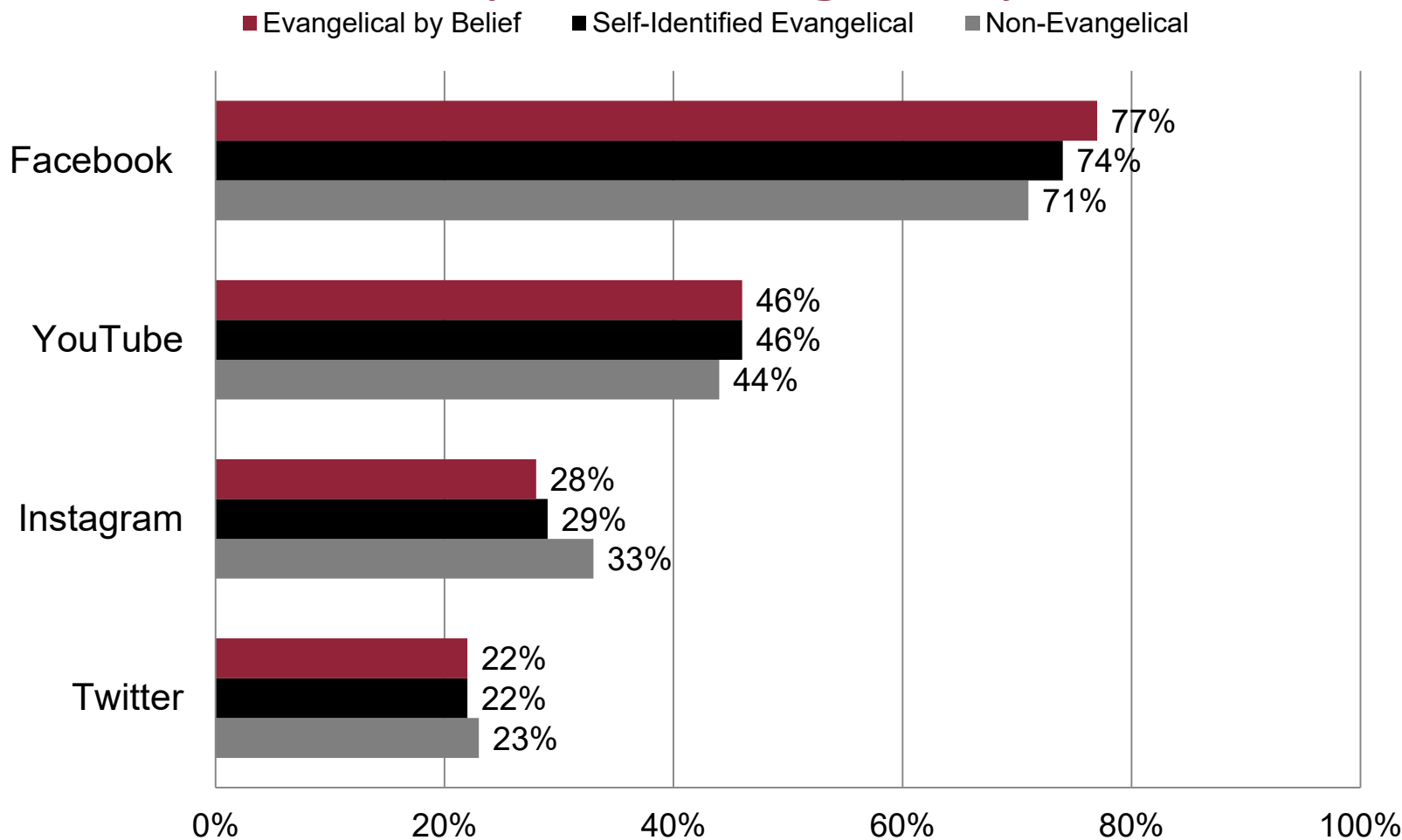
28% say they have friends who are evangelical Christians.



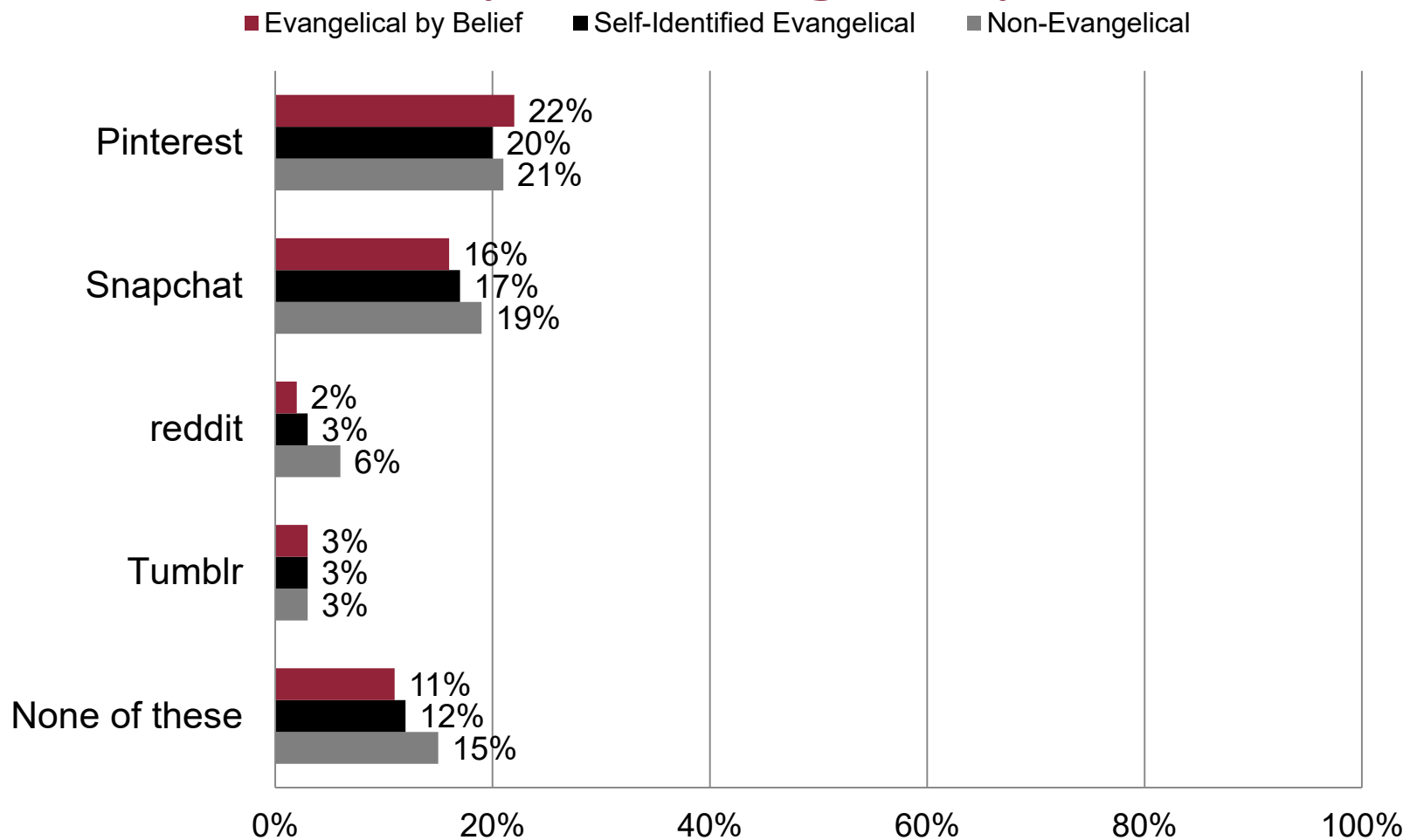
“Which, if any, of the following describe evangelical Christians?”



“Which, if any, of the following types of social media do you use regularly?”

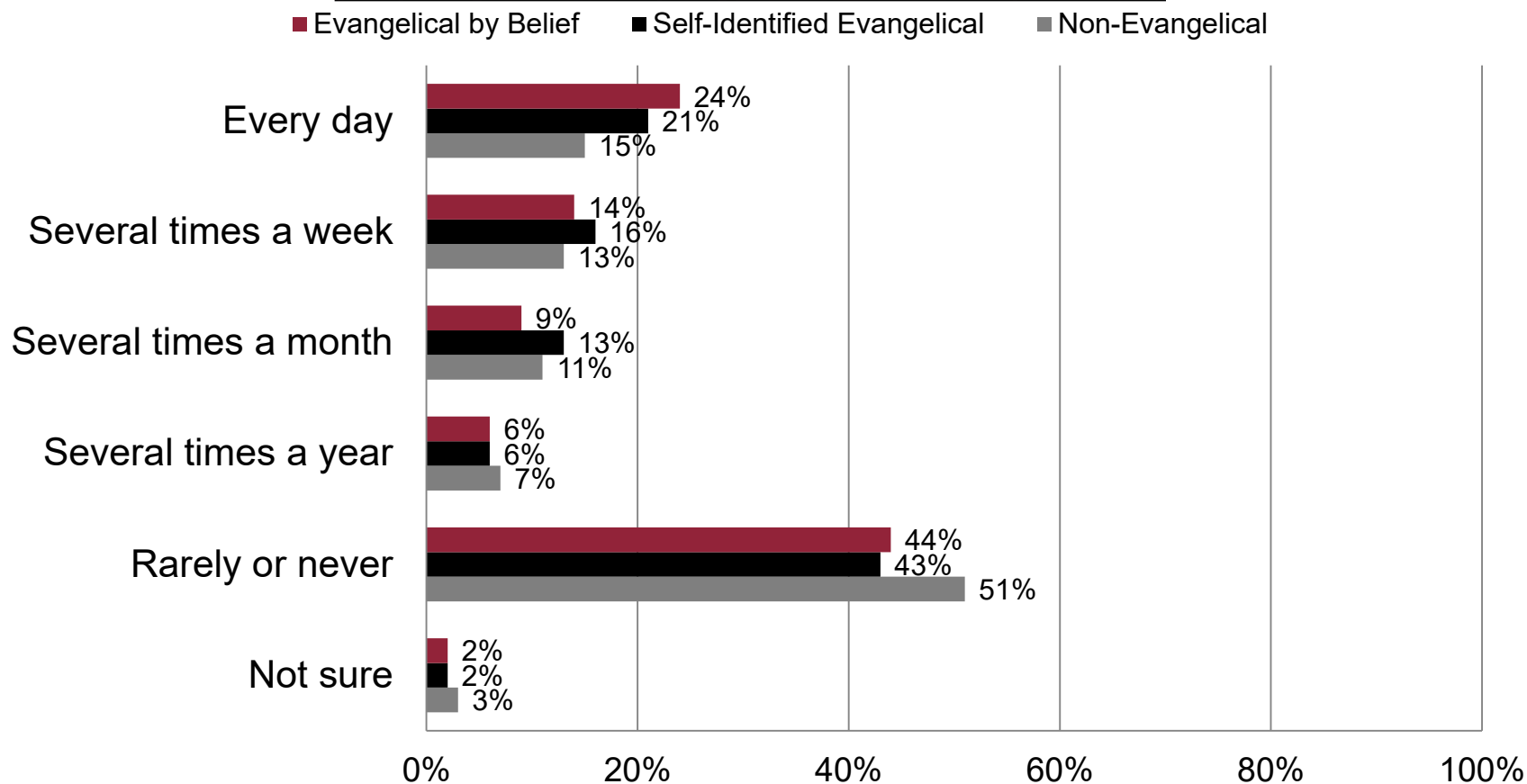


“Which, if any, of the following types of social media do you use regularly?” (continued)



“How often do you engage others on social or political issues on social media?”

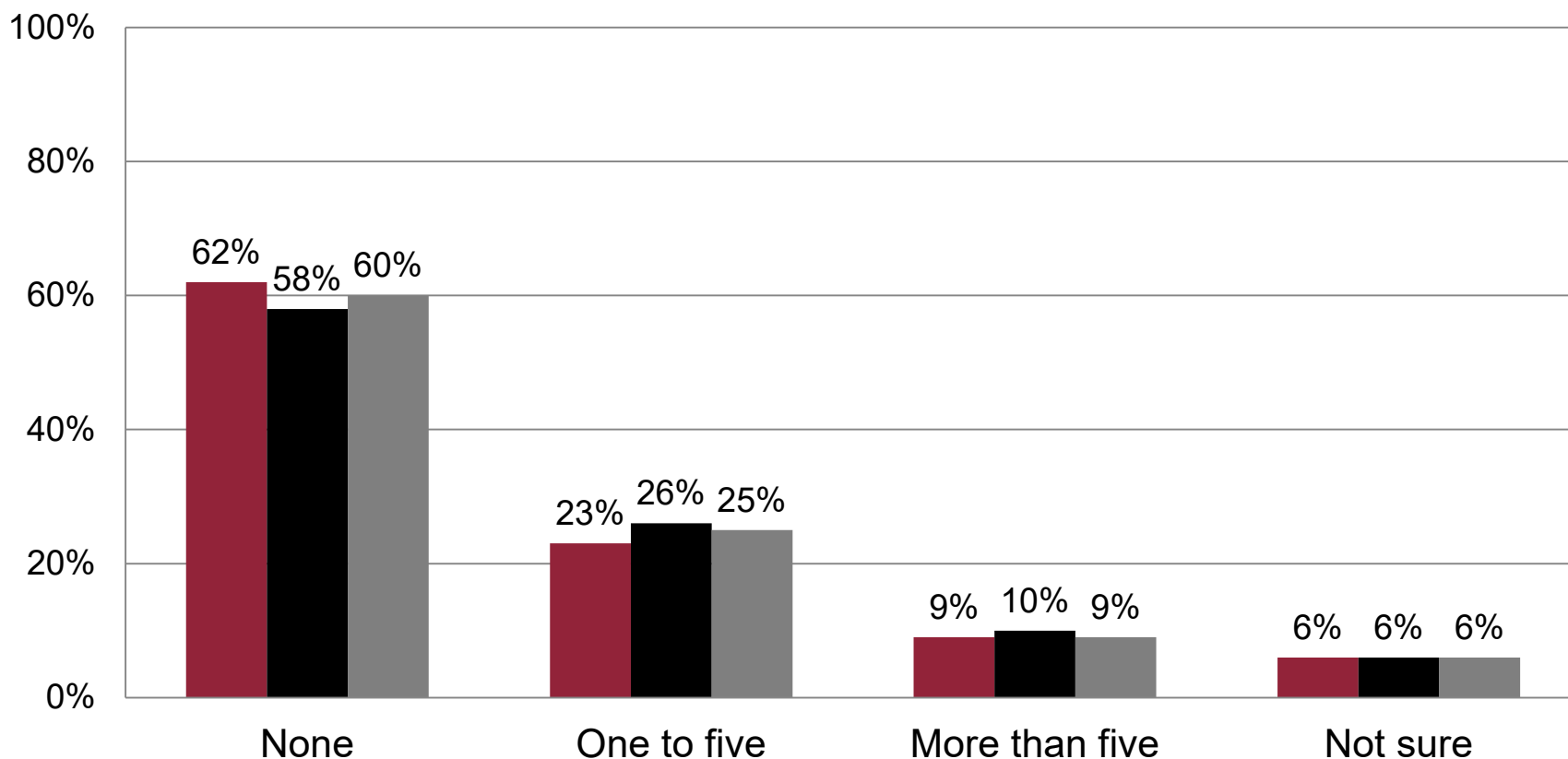
Among Those Who Use Social Media



A majority say they have not unfollowed or unfriended someone on social media due to social or political issues

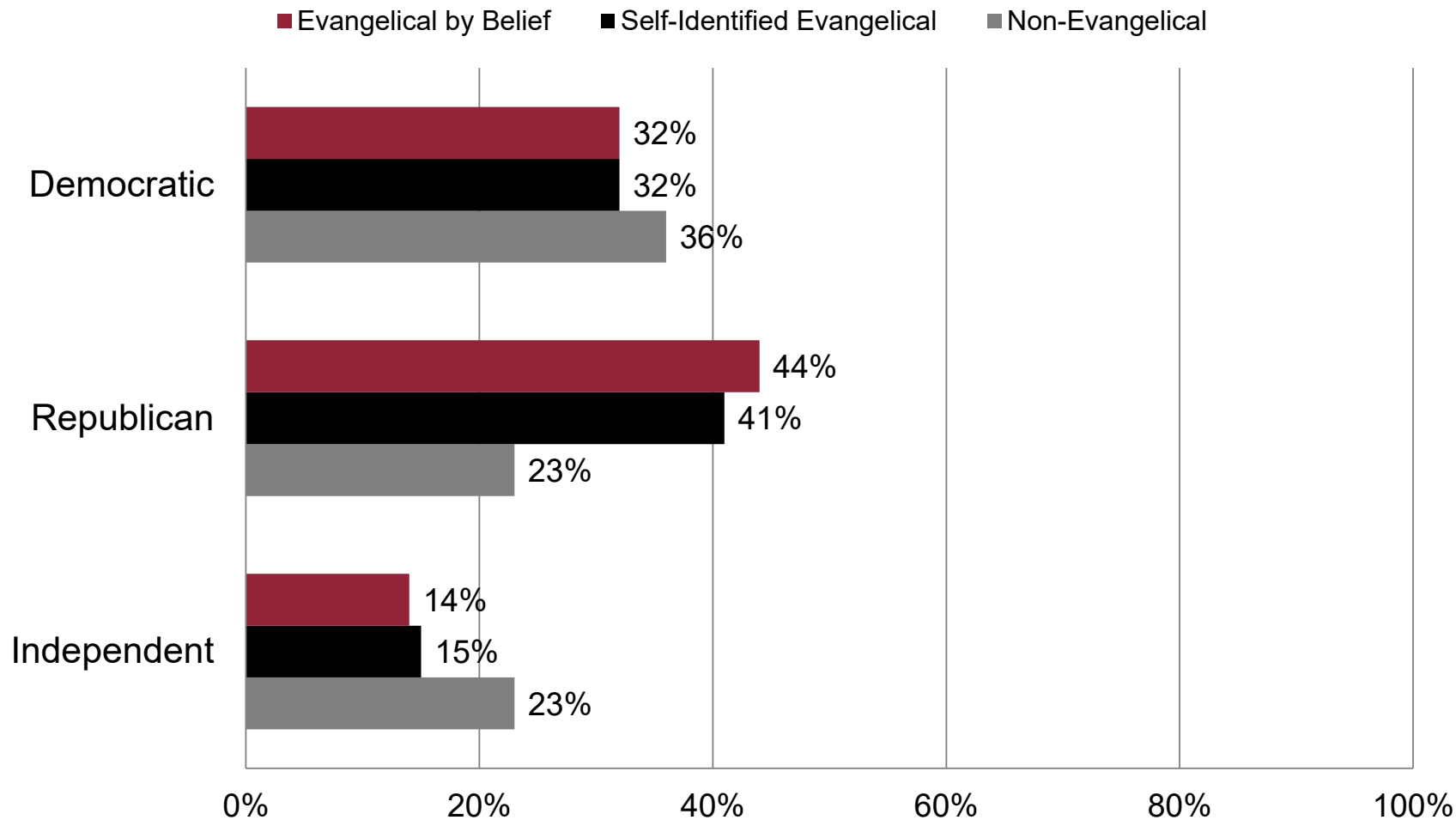
Among Those Who Use Social Media

■ Evangelical by Belief ■ Self-Identified Evangelical ■ Non-Evangelical



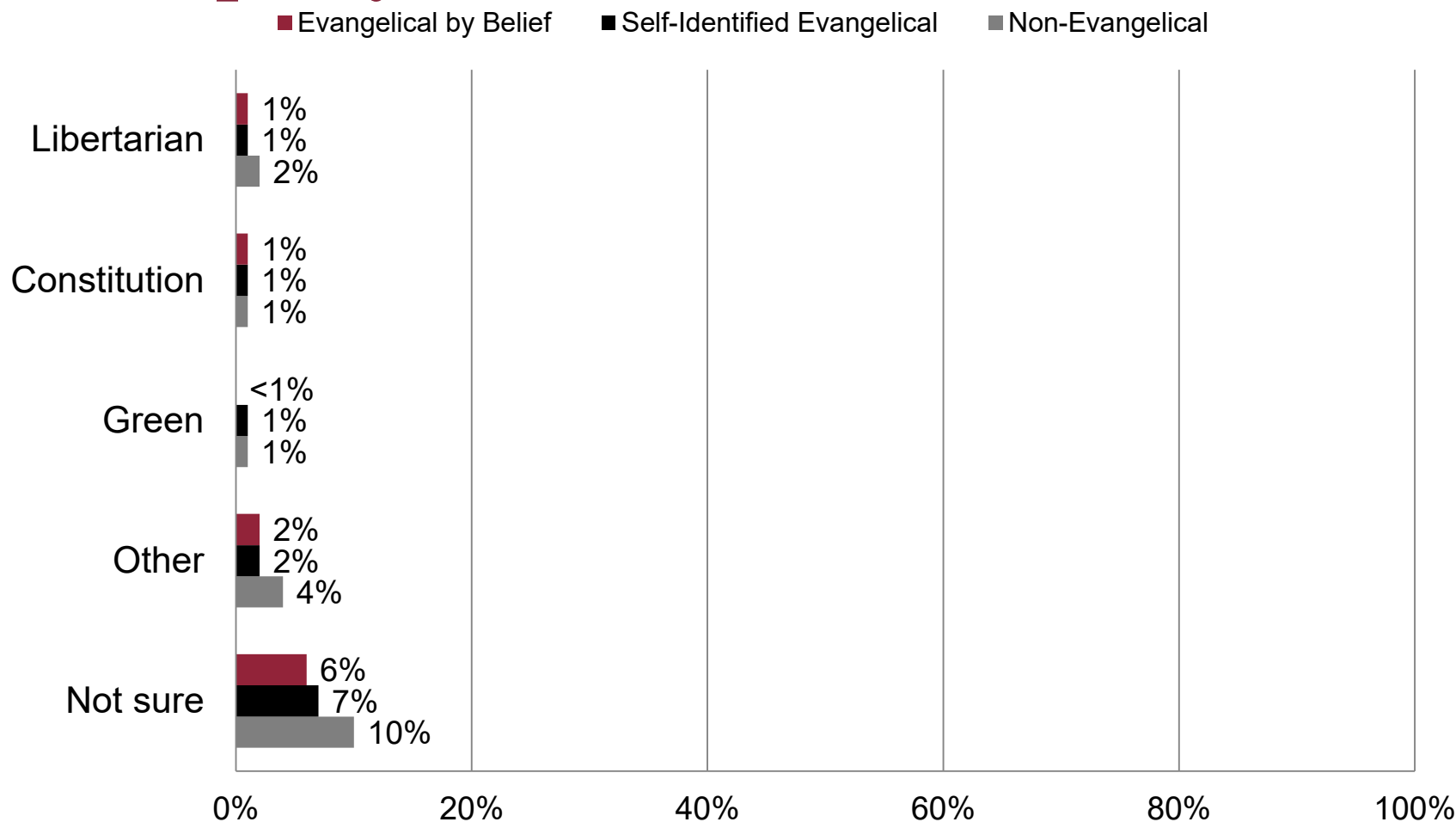
Q39 "In the last year, how many people have you unfollowed or unfriended because they said something online related to social issues or politics that upset or bothered you?" EVB n=936, SI n=1594, nonEV n=838

36% of non-evangelicals identify as Democratic, compared to 32% of evangelicals by belief and self-identified evangelicals

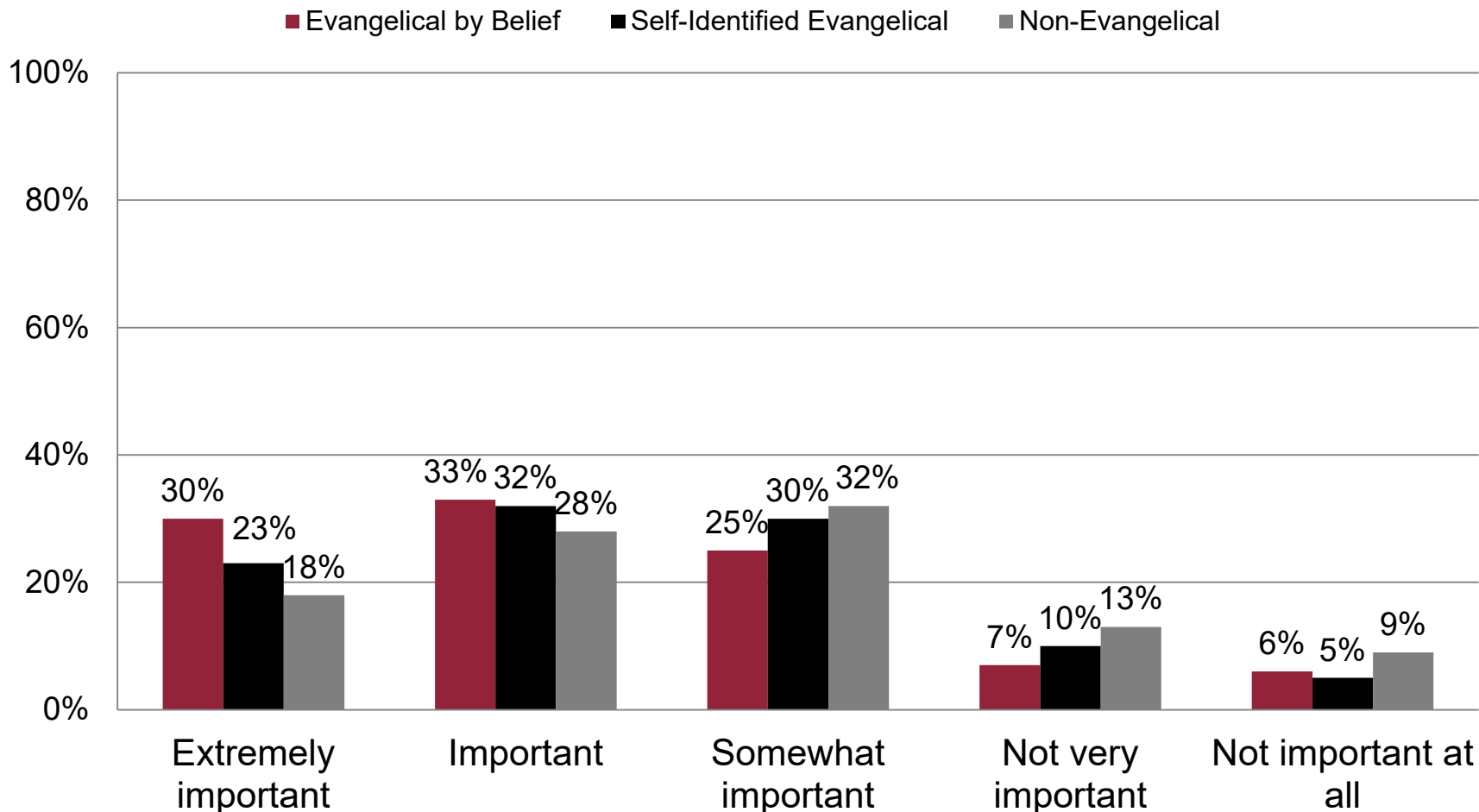


Q40 "In which party are you registered to vote or do you consider yourself to be a member? (Select One)"

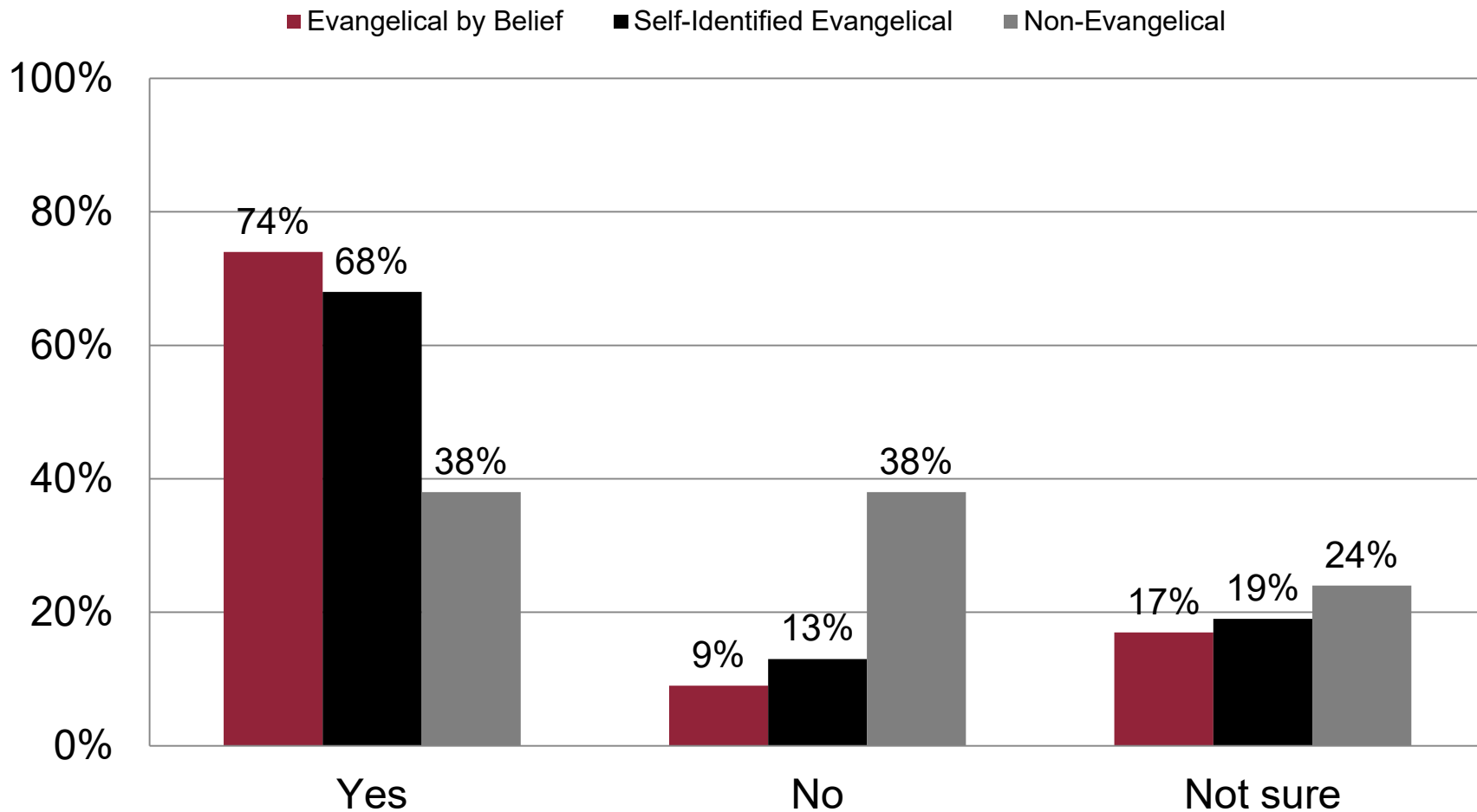
Each group is less like to identify with a third-party



13% of evangelicals by belief, 15% of self-identified evangelicals, and 22% of non-evangelicals say politics is not important

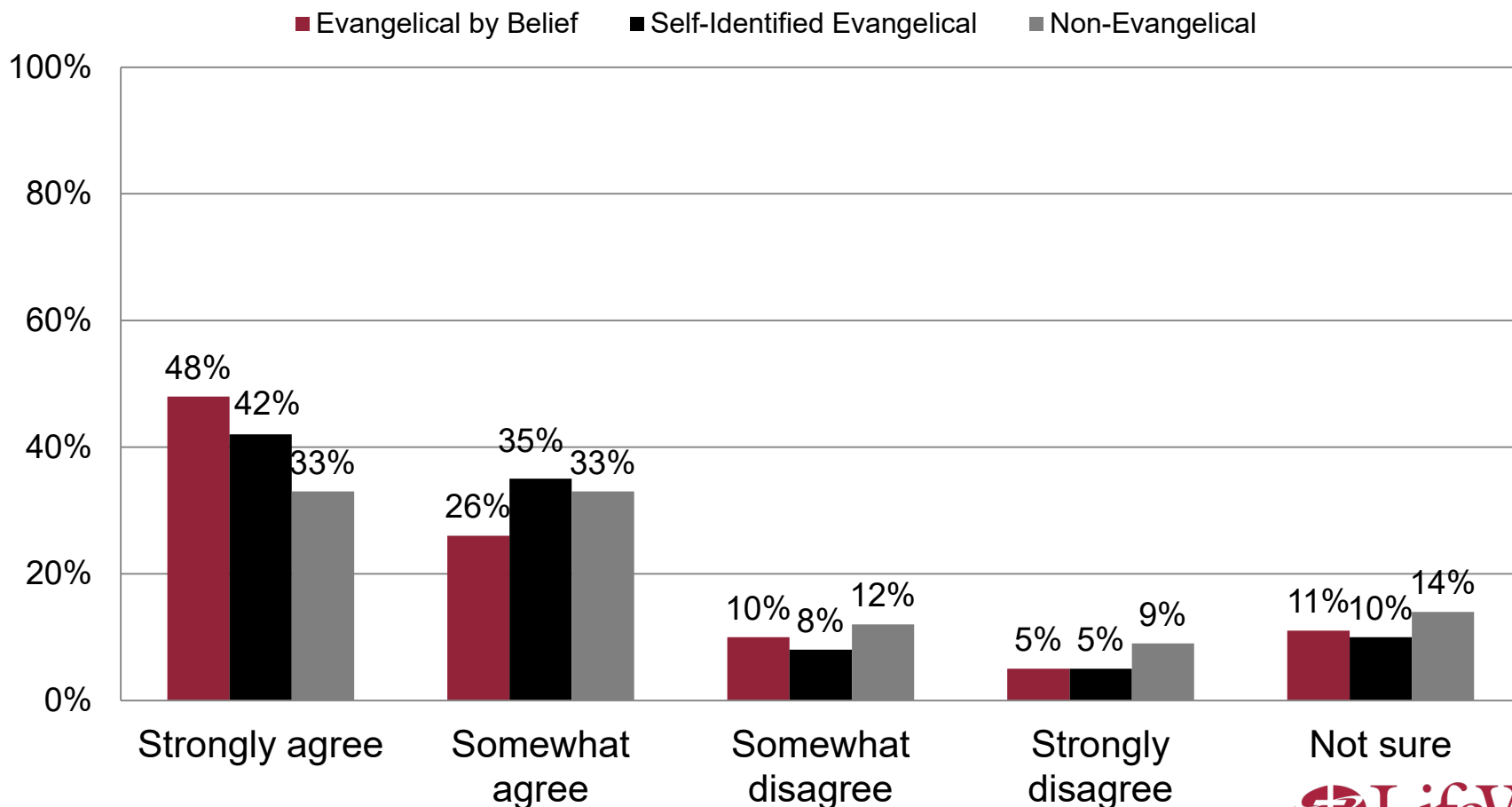


74% of evangelicals by belief and 68% of self-identified evangelicals consider themselves pro-life, compared to 38% of non-evangelicals



“Someone can be a committed Christian and a Republican.”

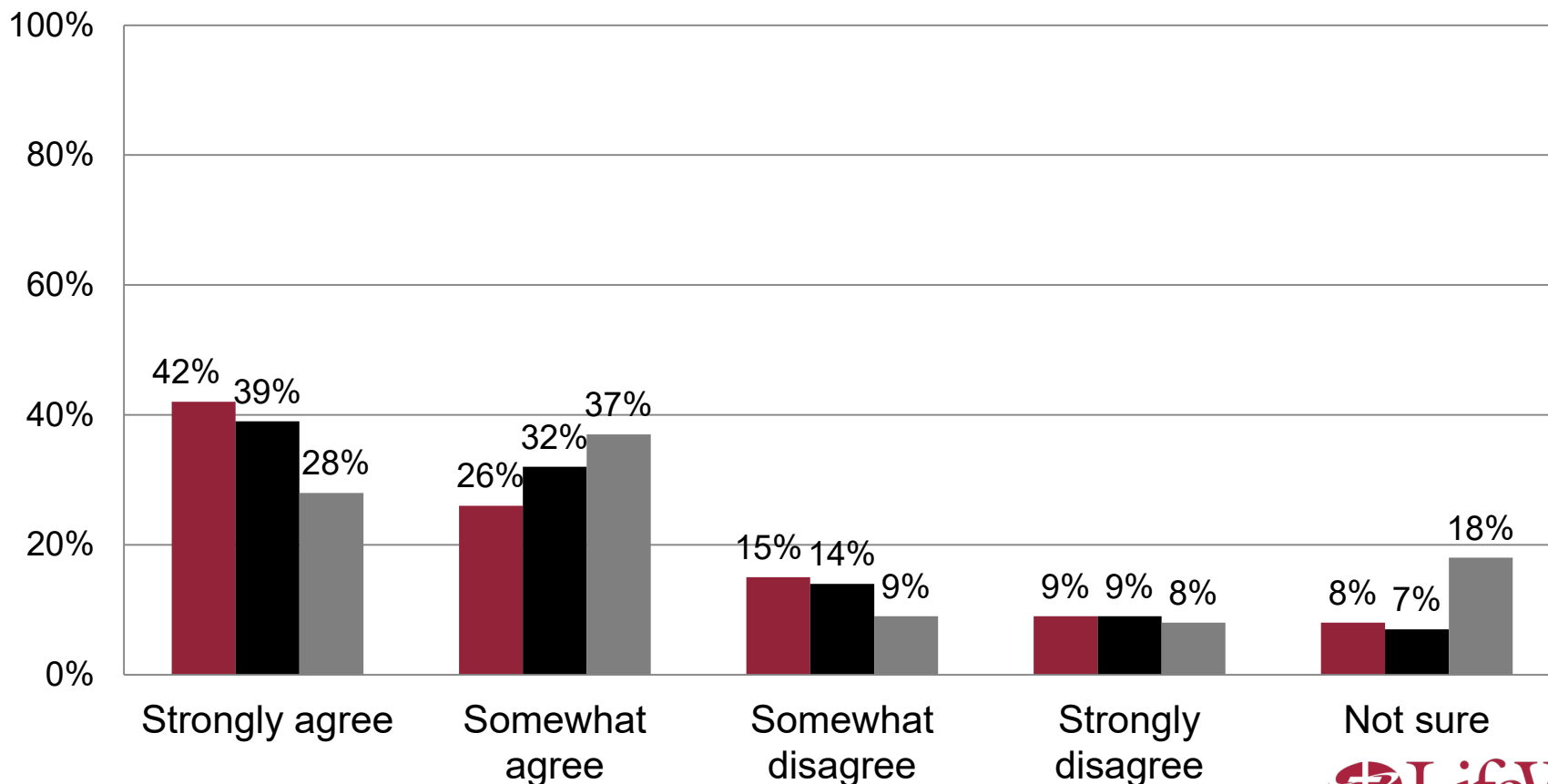
Among Democrats



“Someone can be a committed Christian and a Democrat.”

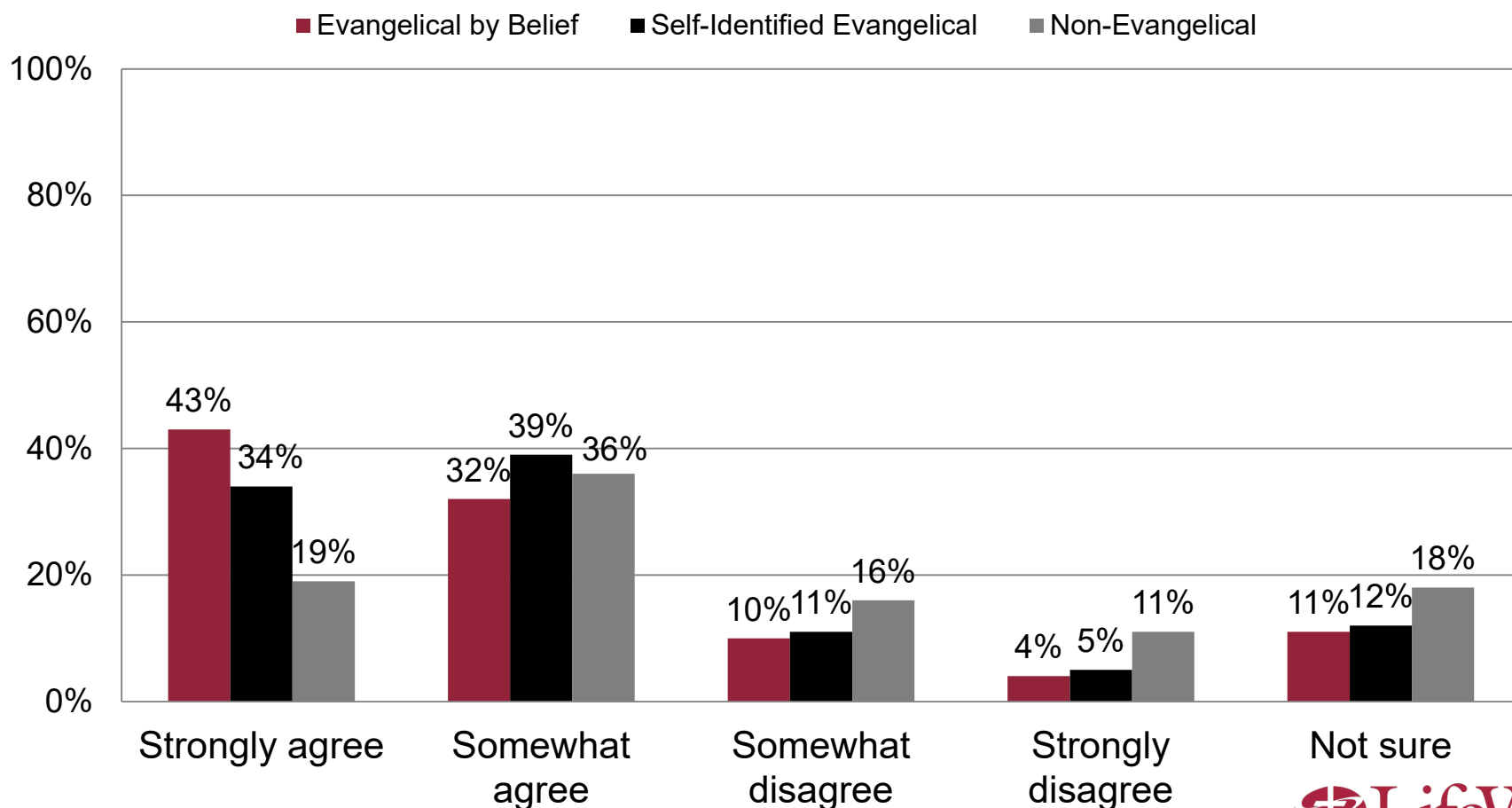
Among Republicans

■ Evangelical by Belief ■ Self-Identified Evangelical ■ Non-Evangelical

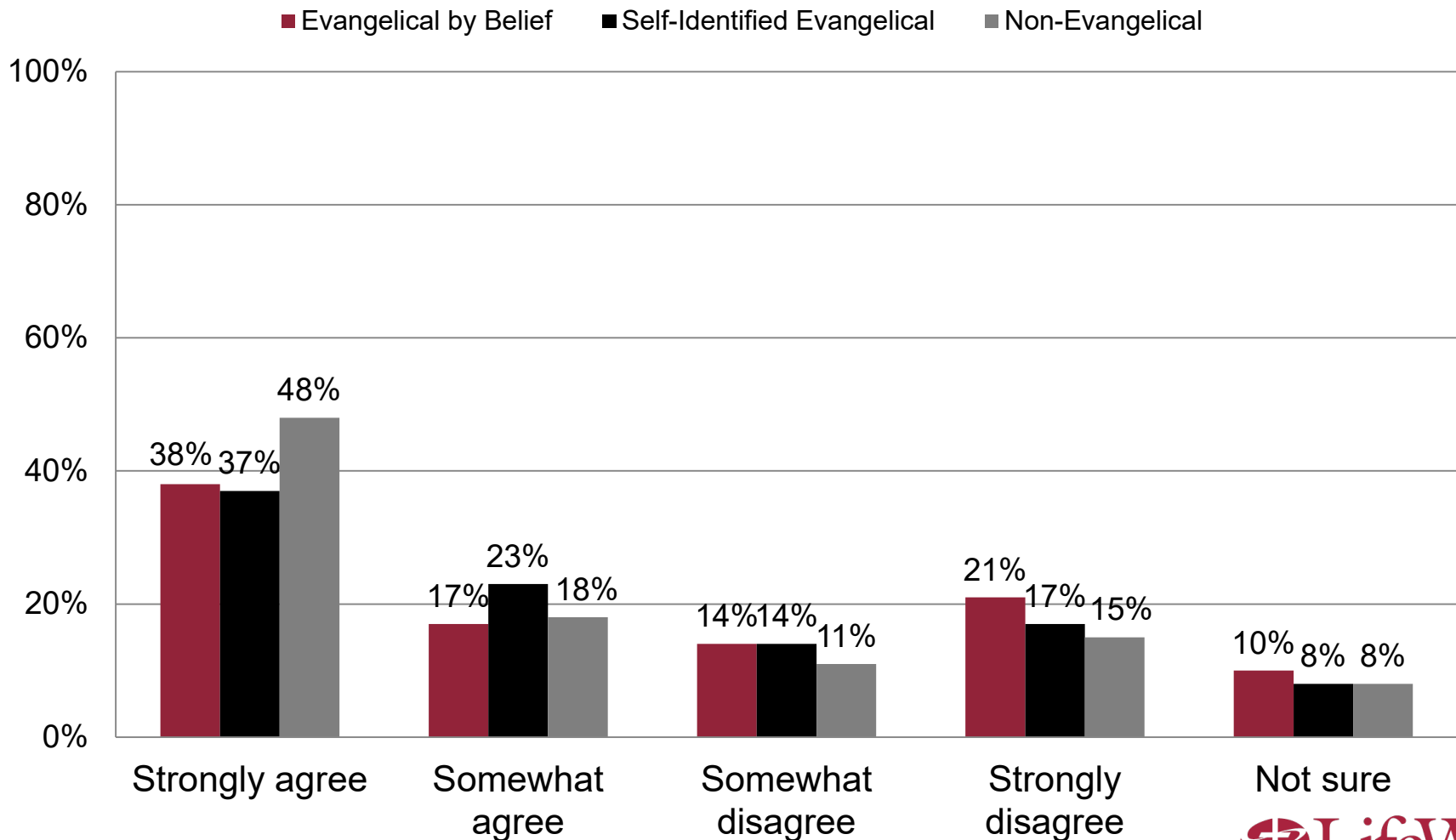


54% of non-evangelicals would be willing to vote for a truly pro-life candidate in any political party

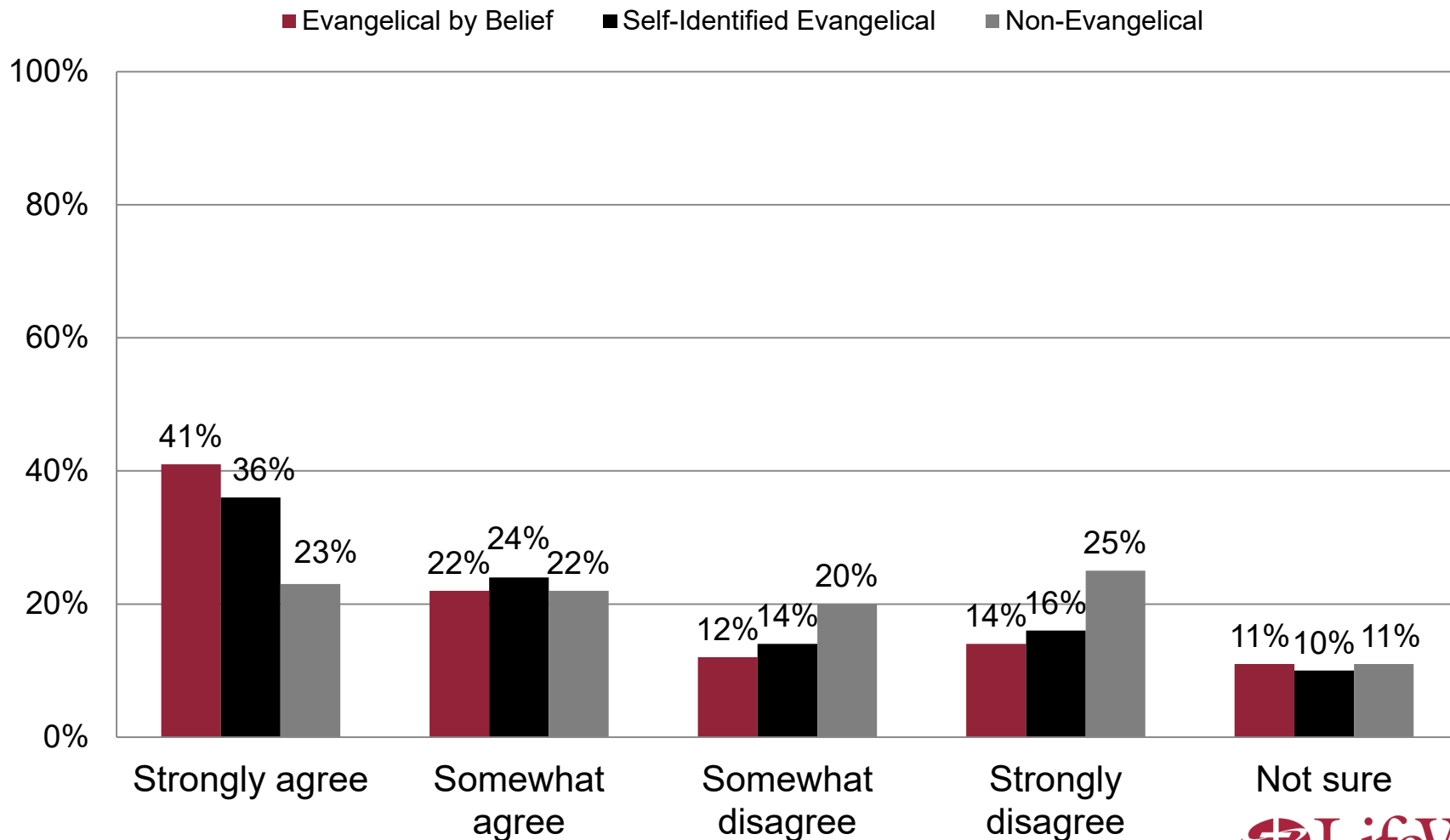
Among Those Who Are Pro-Life



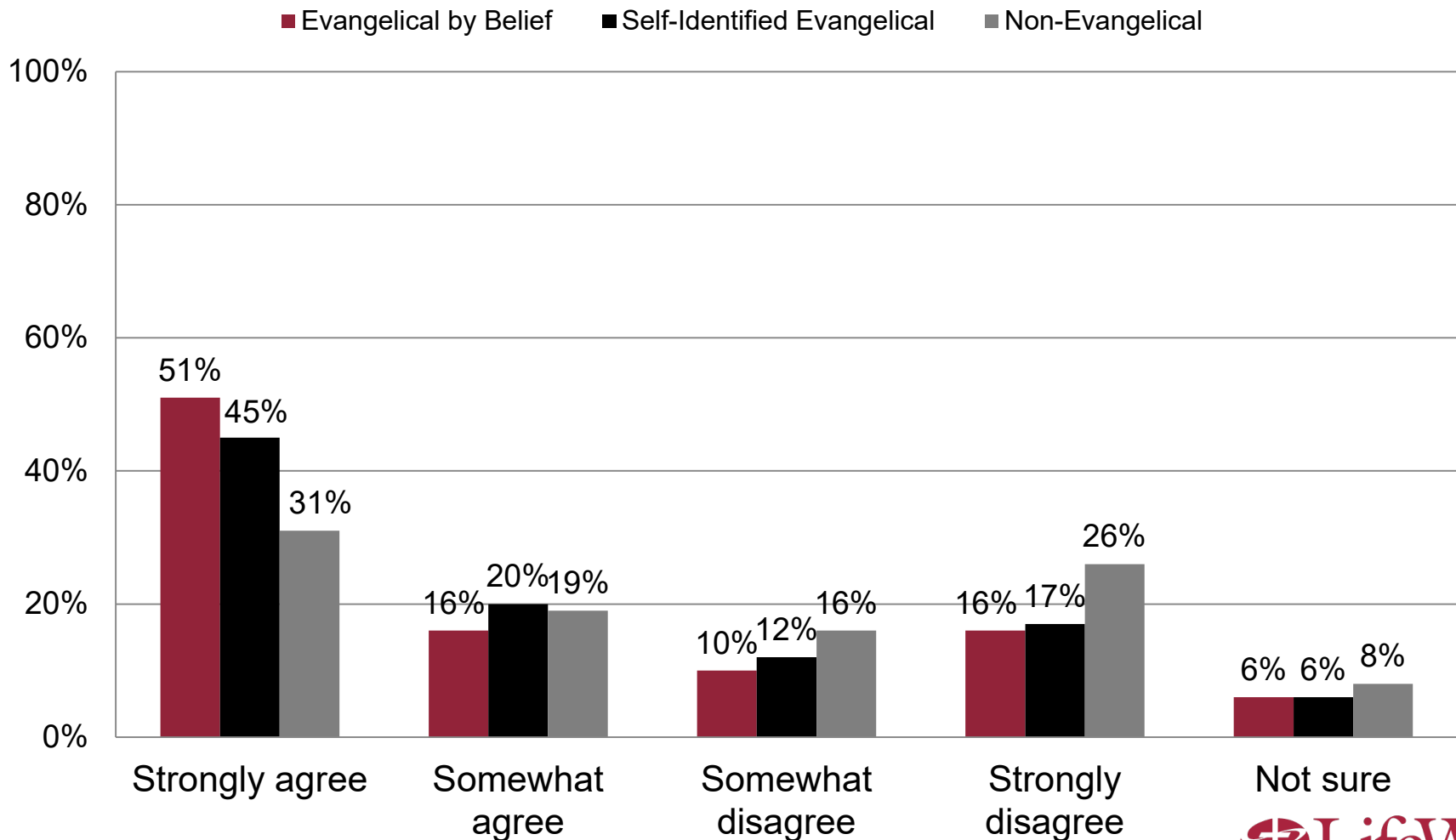
55% of evangelicals by belief and 60% of self-identified evangelicals are disturbed by Trump's comments about minorities



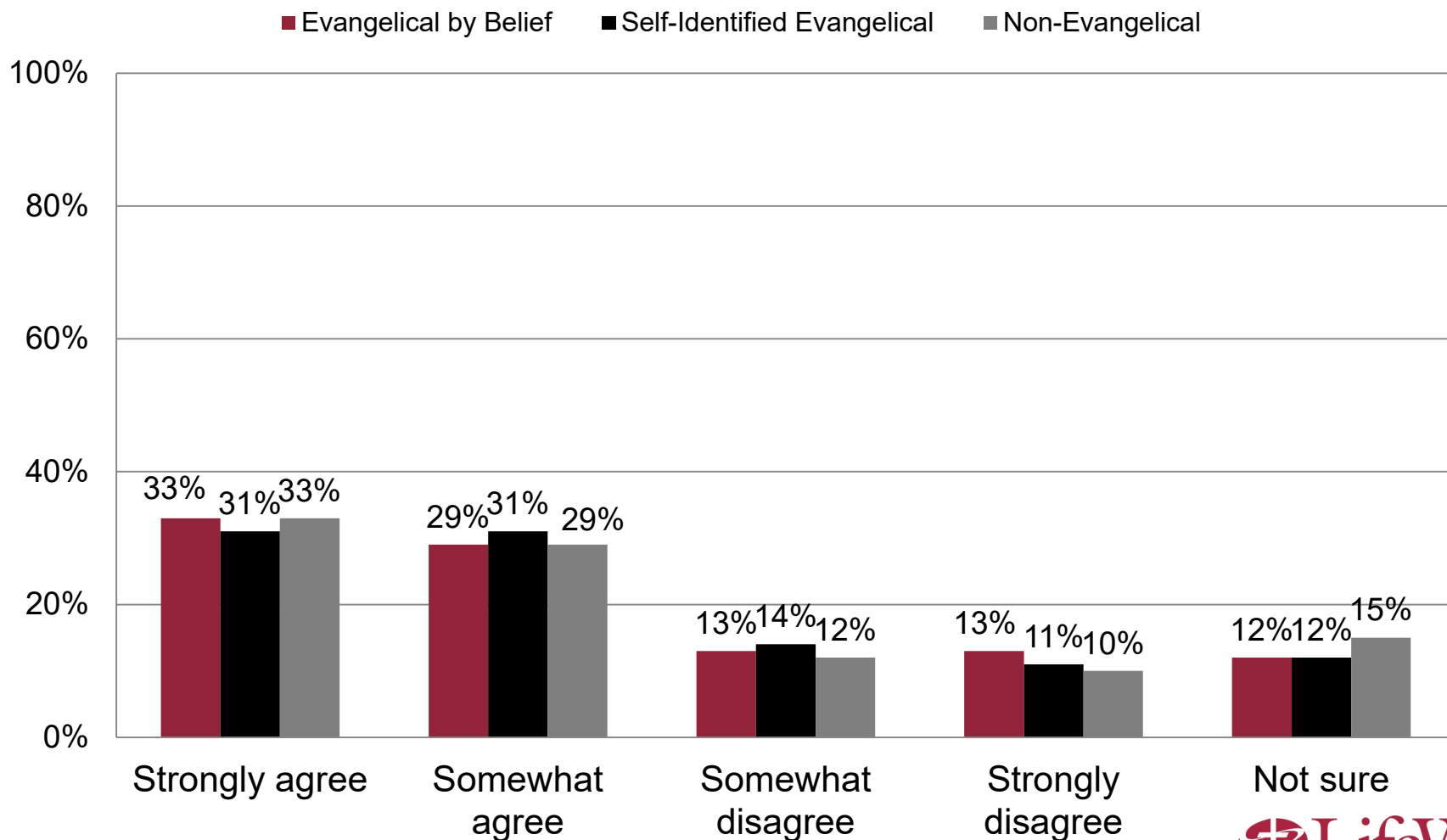
63% of evangelicals by belief and 60% of self-identified evangelicals support reductions in the number of *legal* immigrants



Half of evangelicals by belief strongly support the Trump administration's efforts to reduce *illegal* immigration

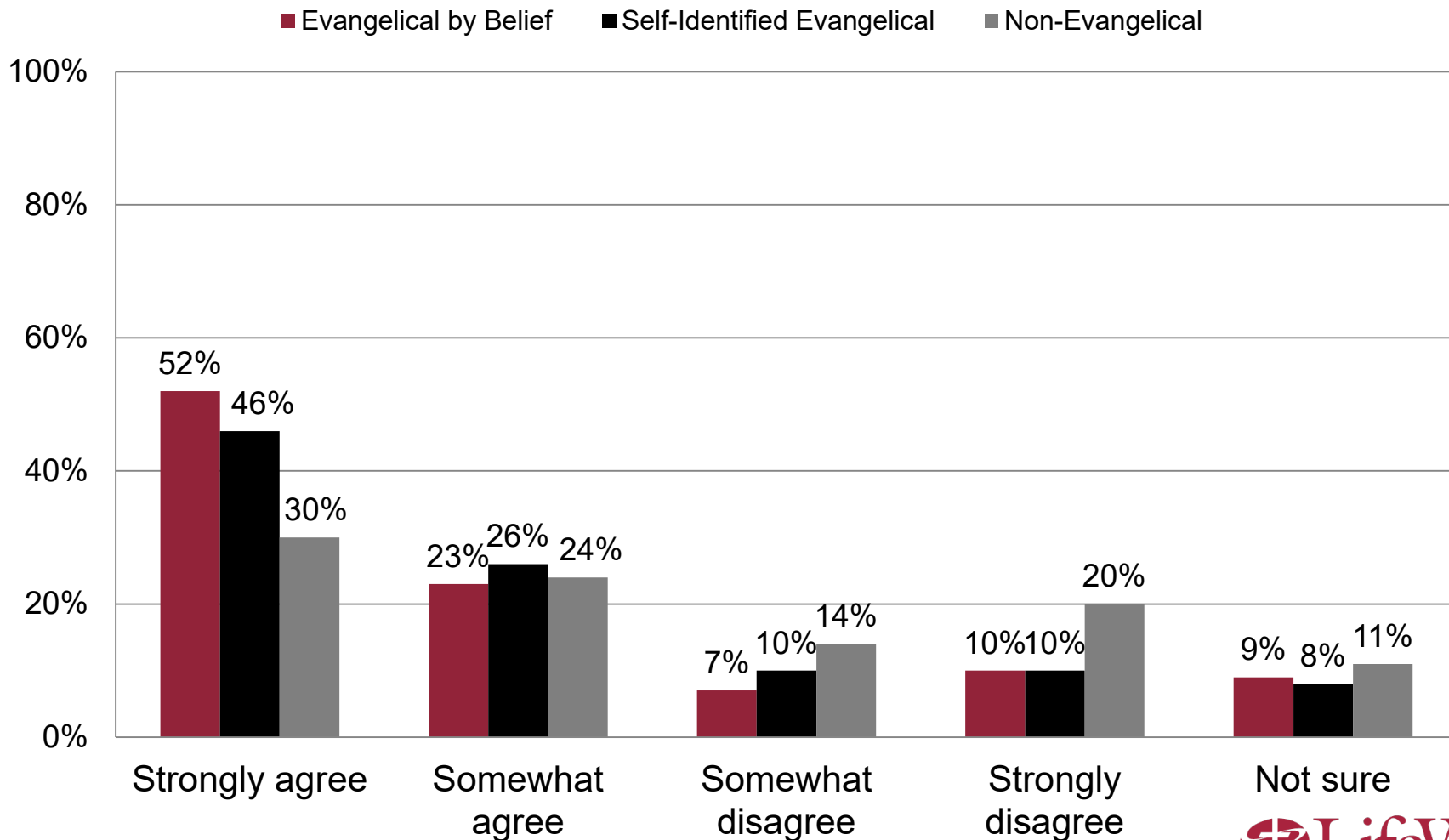


A majority agree the Trump administration should do more to resolve the lack of legal status of immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children



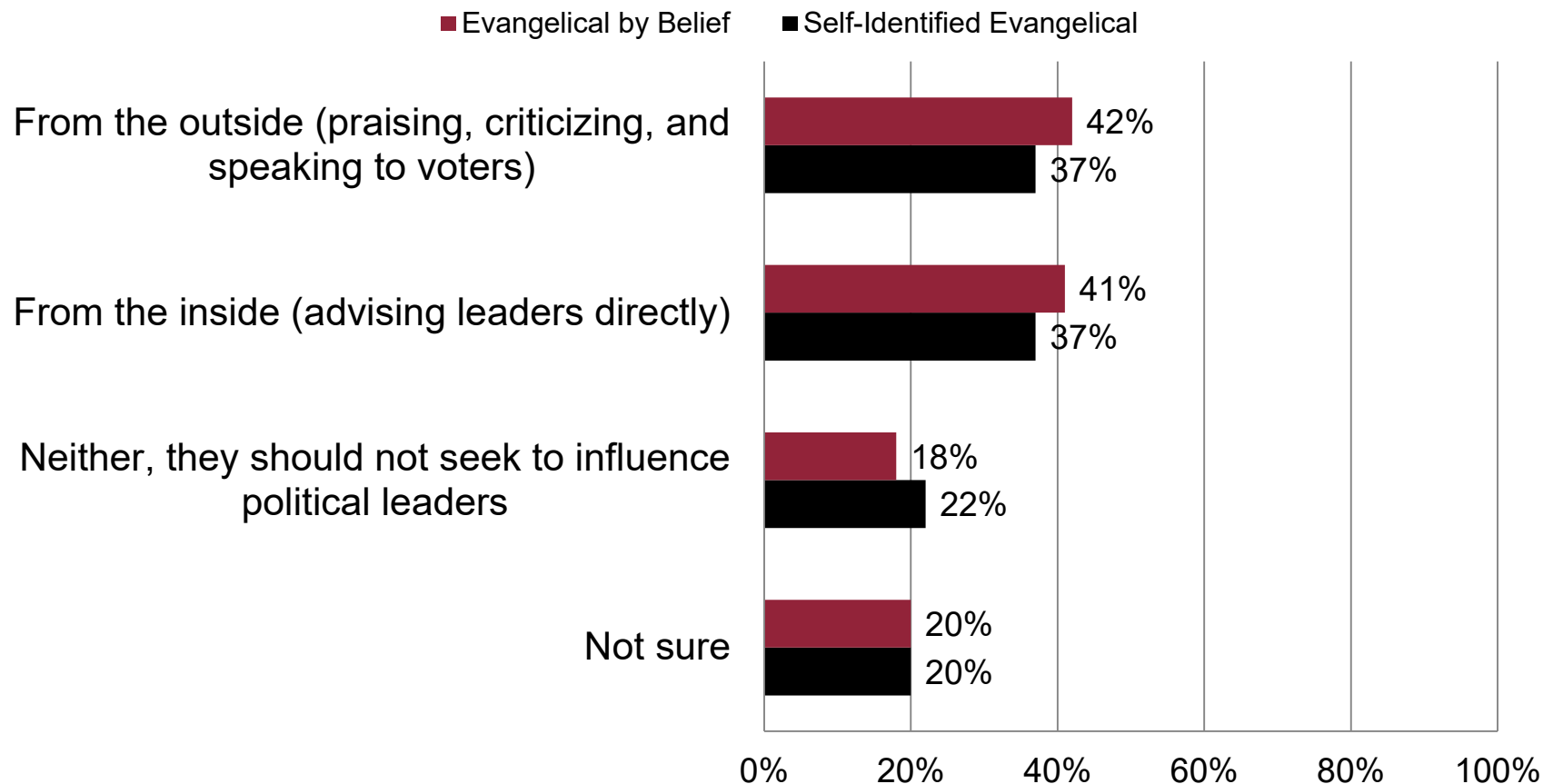
Q49 "The Trump administration should do more to resolve the lack of legal status of immigrants whose parents brought them to the United States illegally as children."

52% of evangelicals by belief and 46% of self-identified evangelicals strongly agree that the mainstream media produces fake news, compared to 30% of non-evangelicals



“How should Bible-believing Christians seek to influence political leaders?”

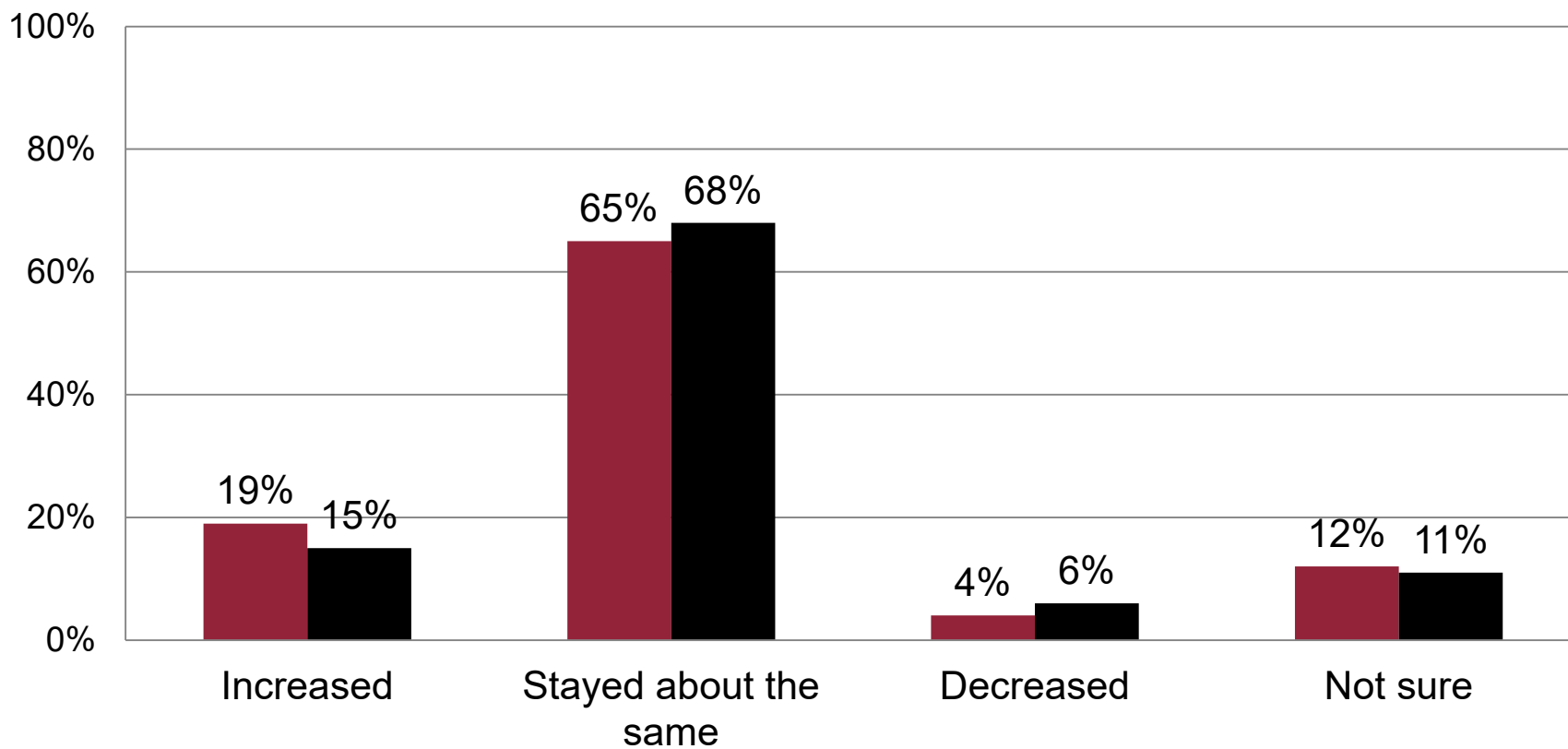
Among Evangelicals



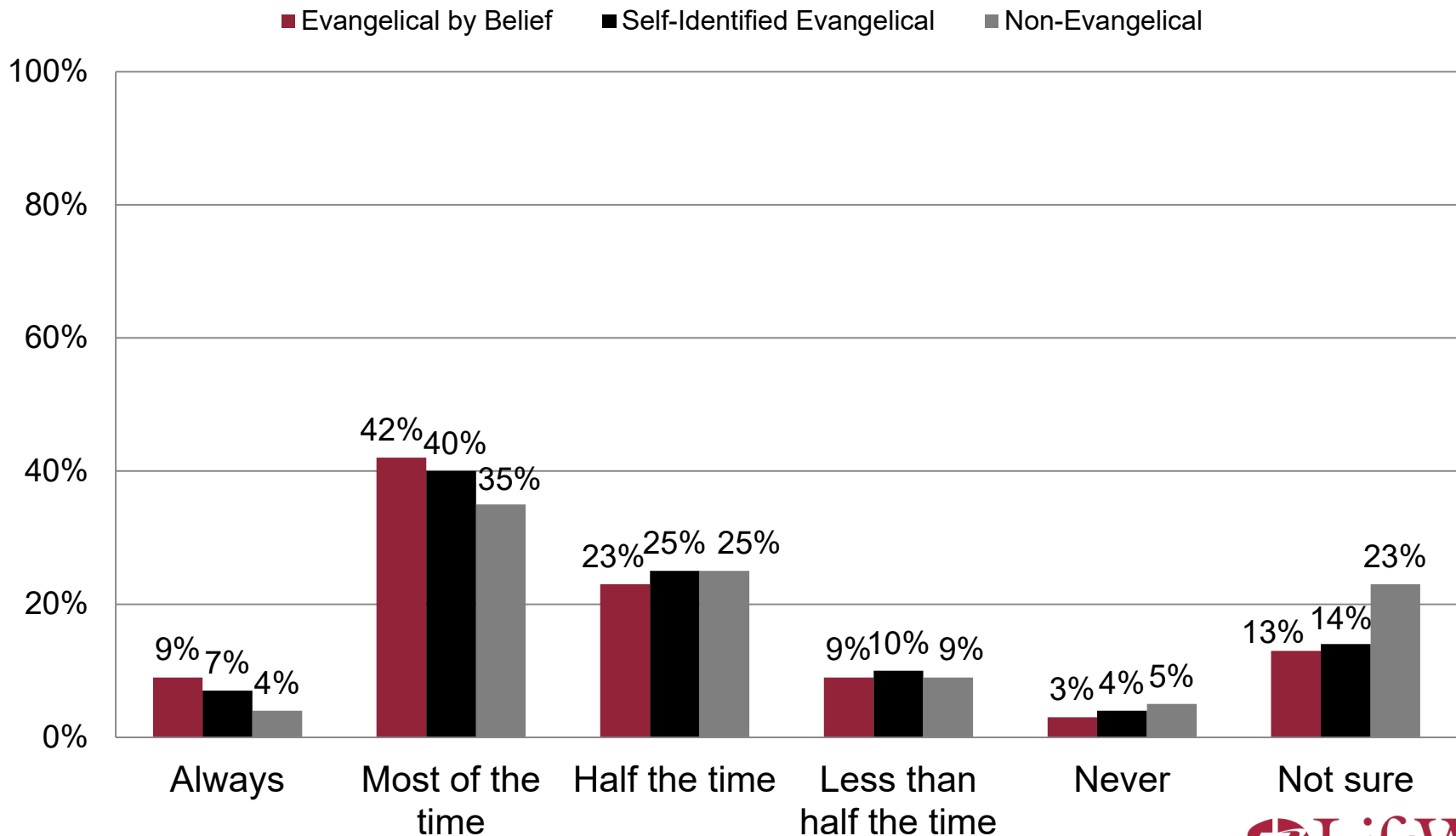
“Since the 2016 presidential election, my willingness to identify myself as an evangelical in interactions with others has...”

Among Evangelicals

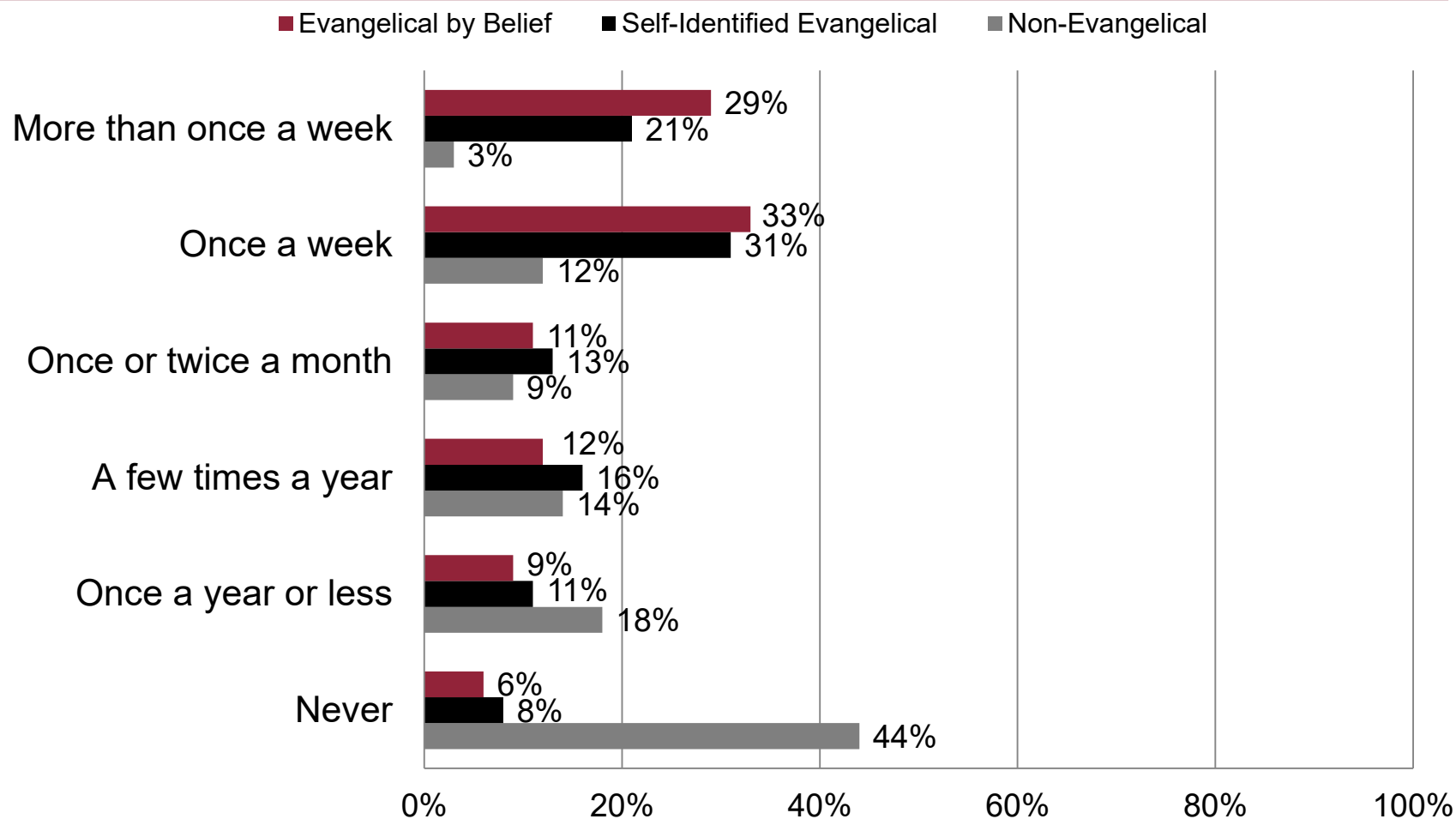
■ Evangelical by Belief ■ Self-Identified Evangelical



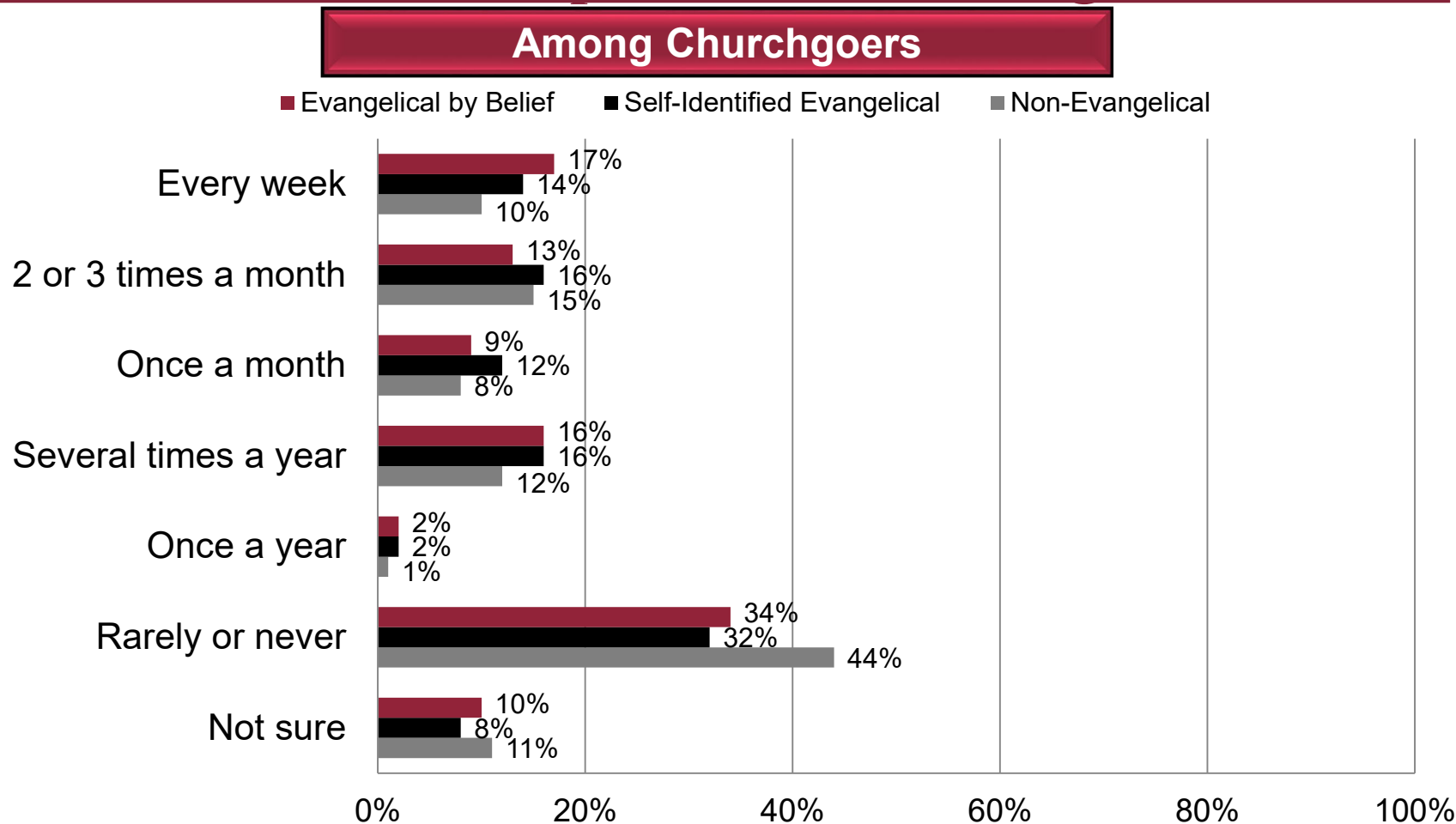
“How often do your friends and family agree with your political views?”



“How often do you attend religious services at a Christian church?”



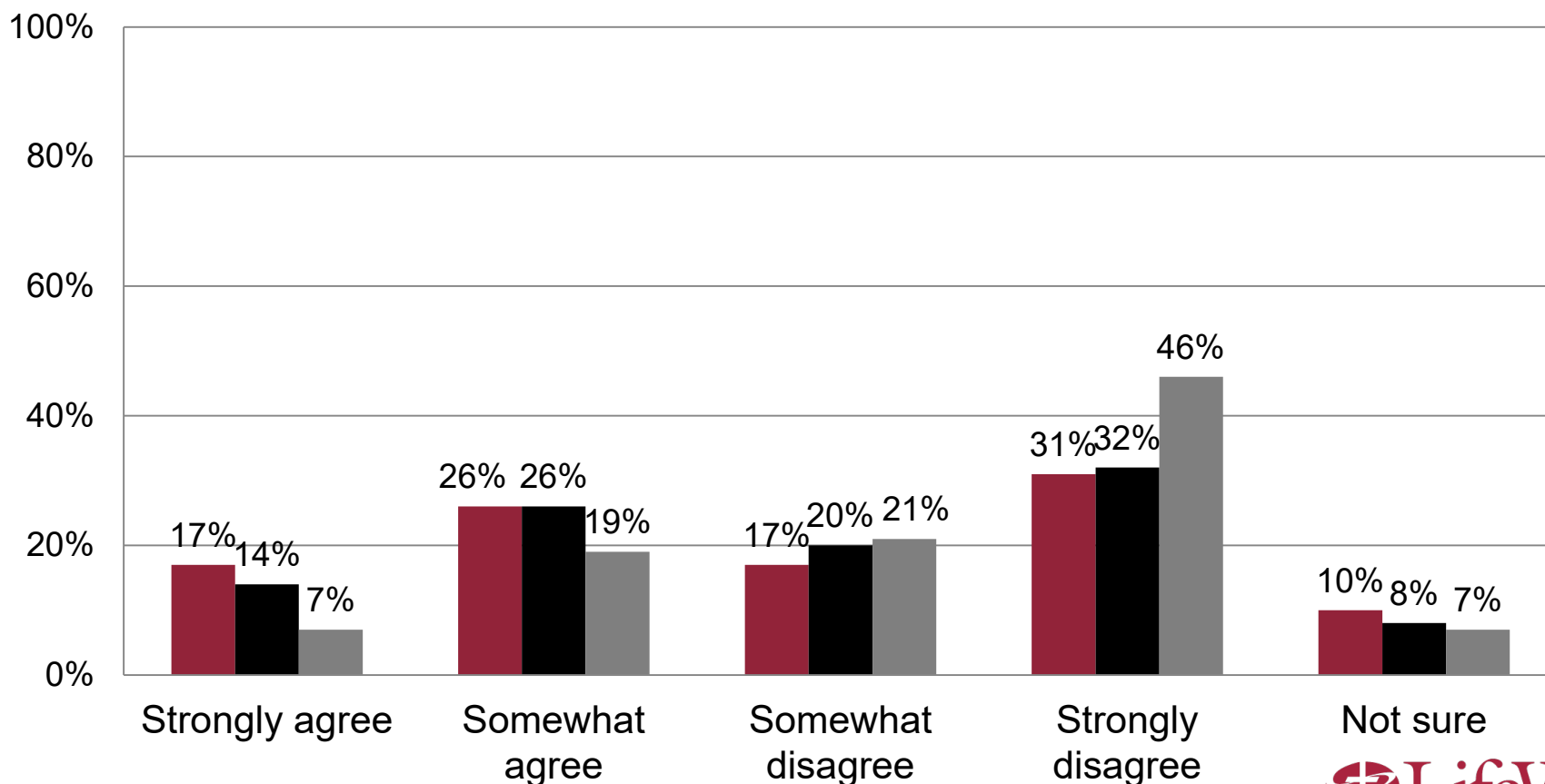
39% of evangelicals by belief and 42% of self-identified evangelicals say their pastor uses Scripture to address political topics at least once a month or more, compared to non-evangelicals 32%



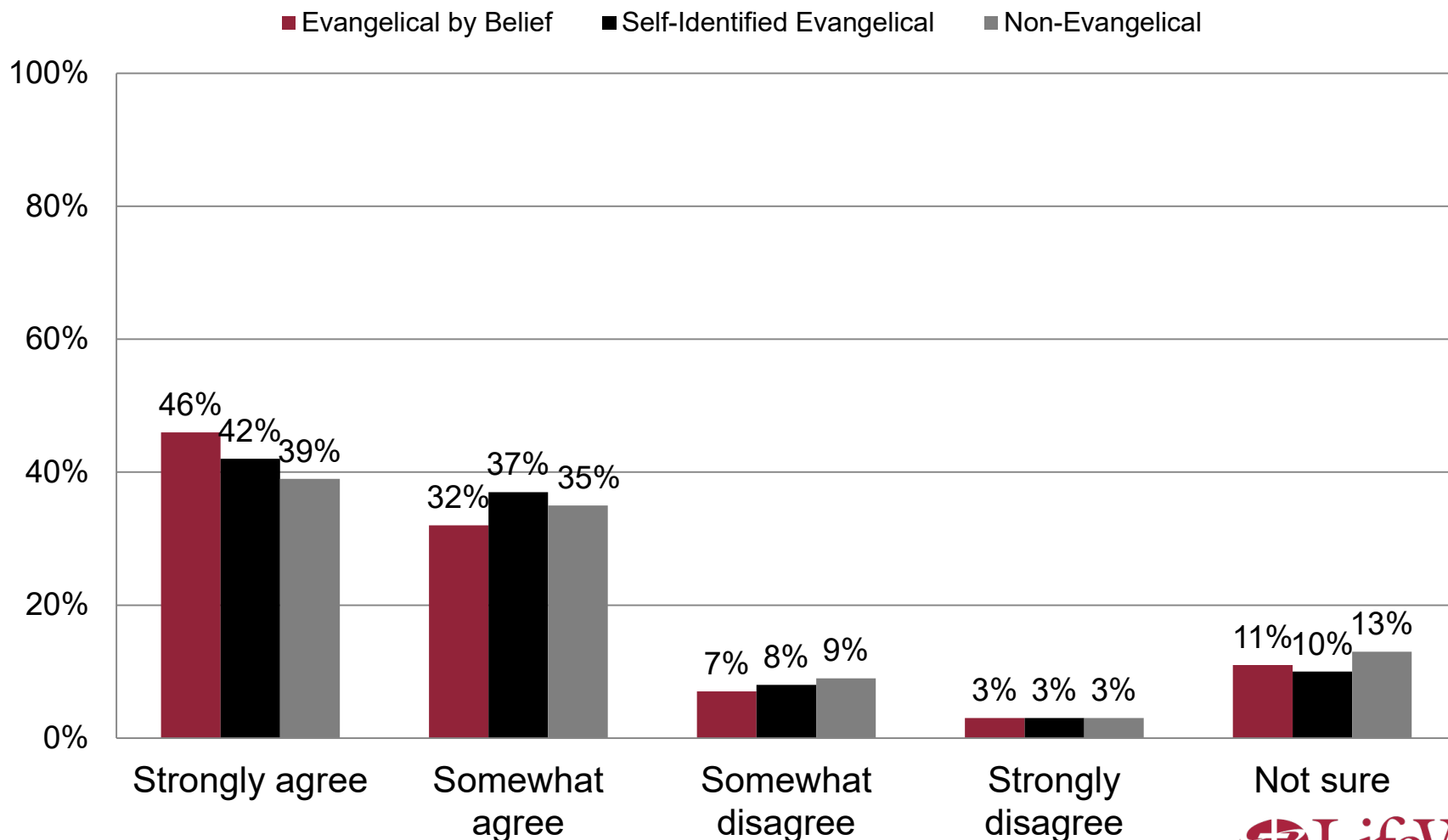
67% of non-evangelicals do not desire advice from their pastor on political issues, compared to 48% of evangelicals by belief and 52% of self-identified evangelicals

Among Churchgoers

■ Evangelical by Belief ■ Self-Identified Evangelical ■ Non-Evangelical

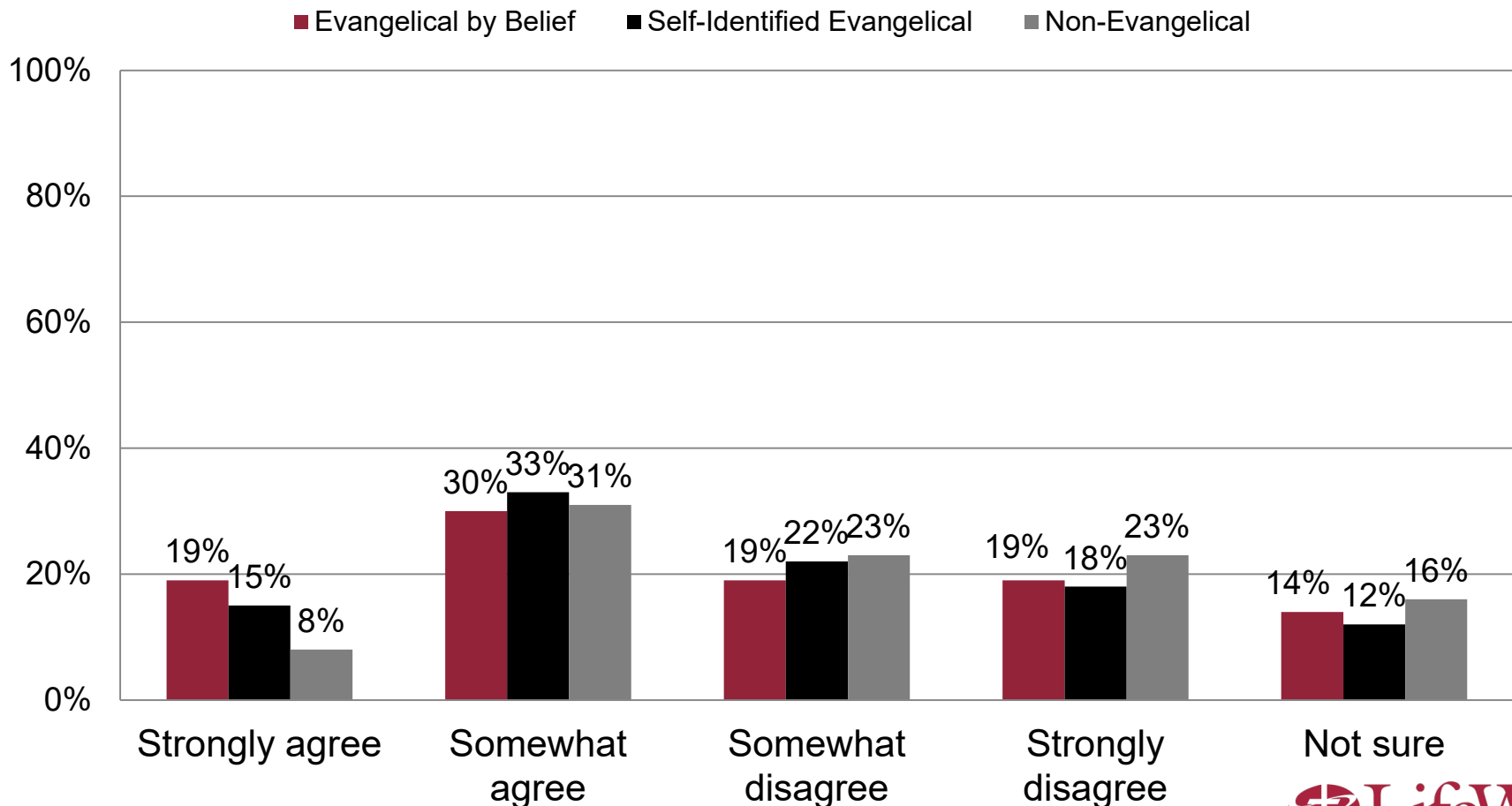


Three-fourths are very concerned about the lack of civility in today's public discussions of social issues

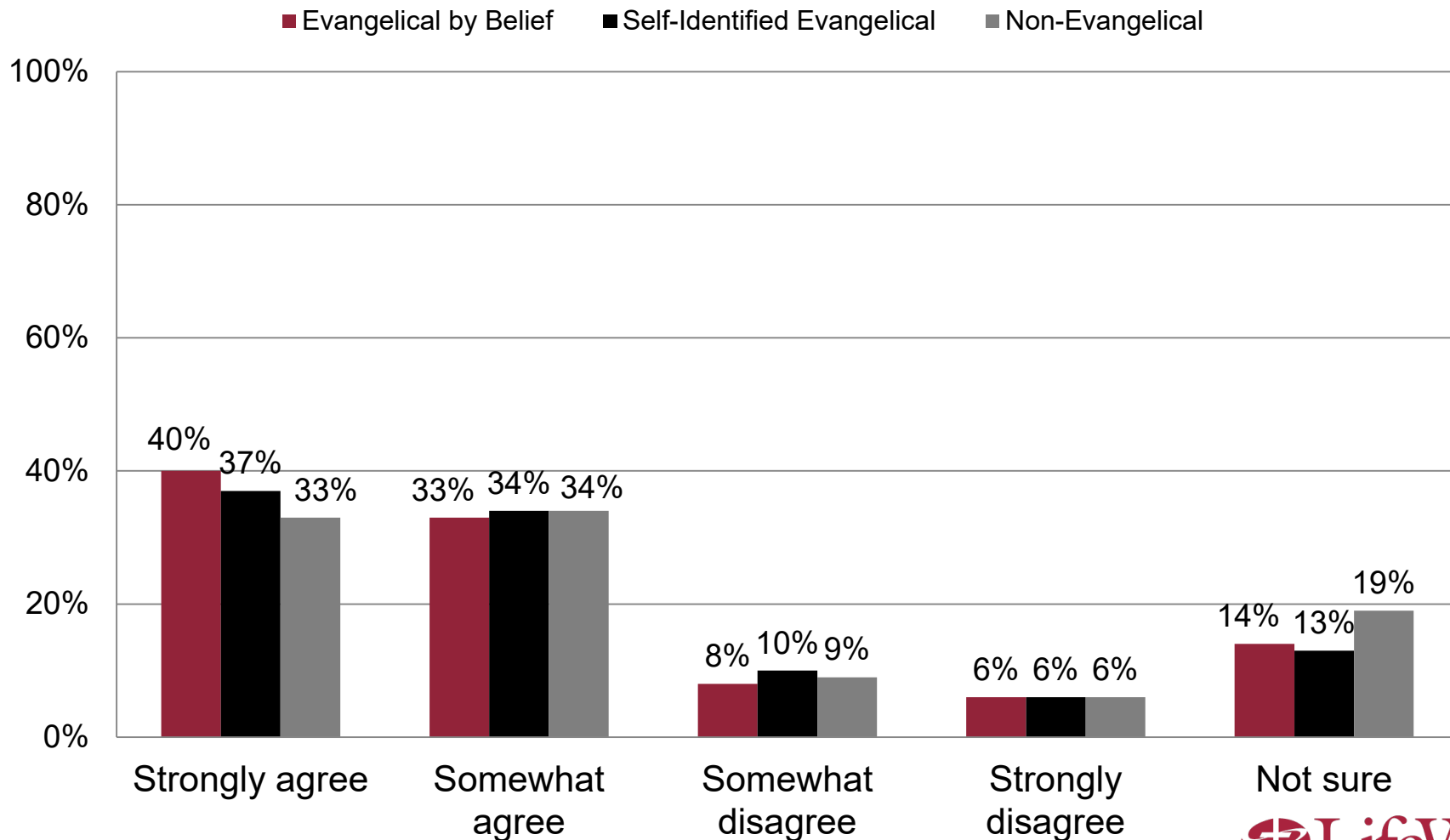


49% of evangelicals by belief and 48% of self-identified evangelicals follow or befriend people with similar thoughts, compared to 38% of non-evangelicals

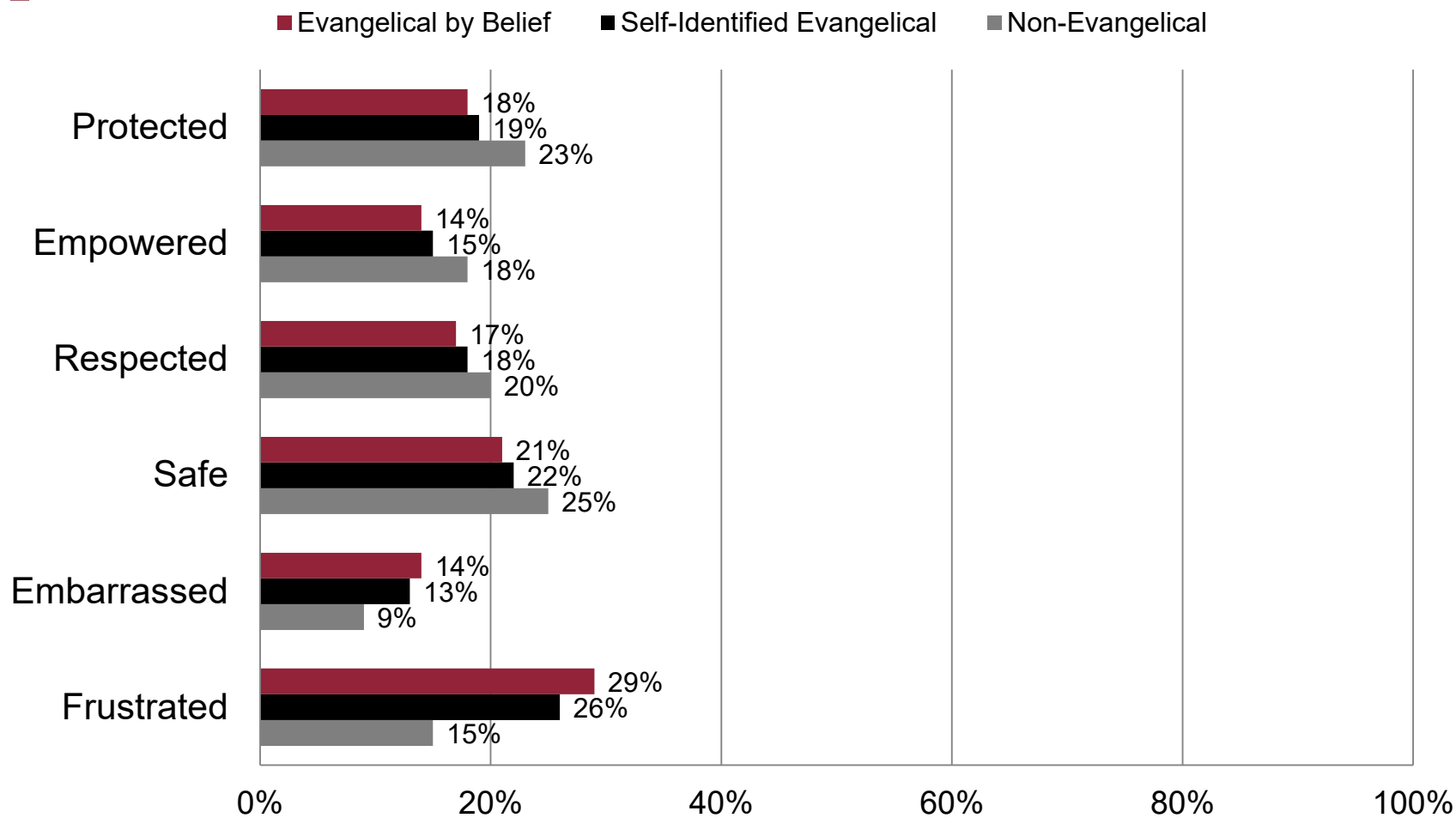
Among Those Who Use Social Media



Over two thirds agree that interactions on social media have increased the divisive political climate in America

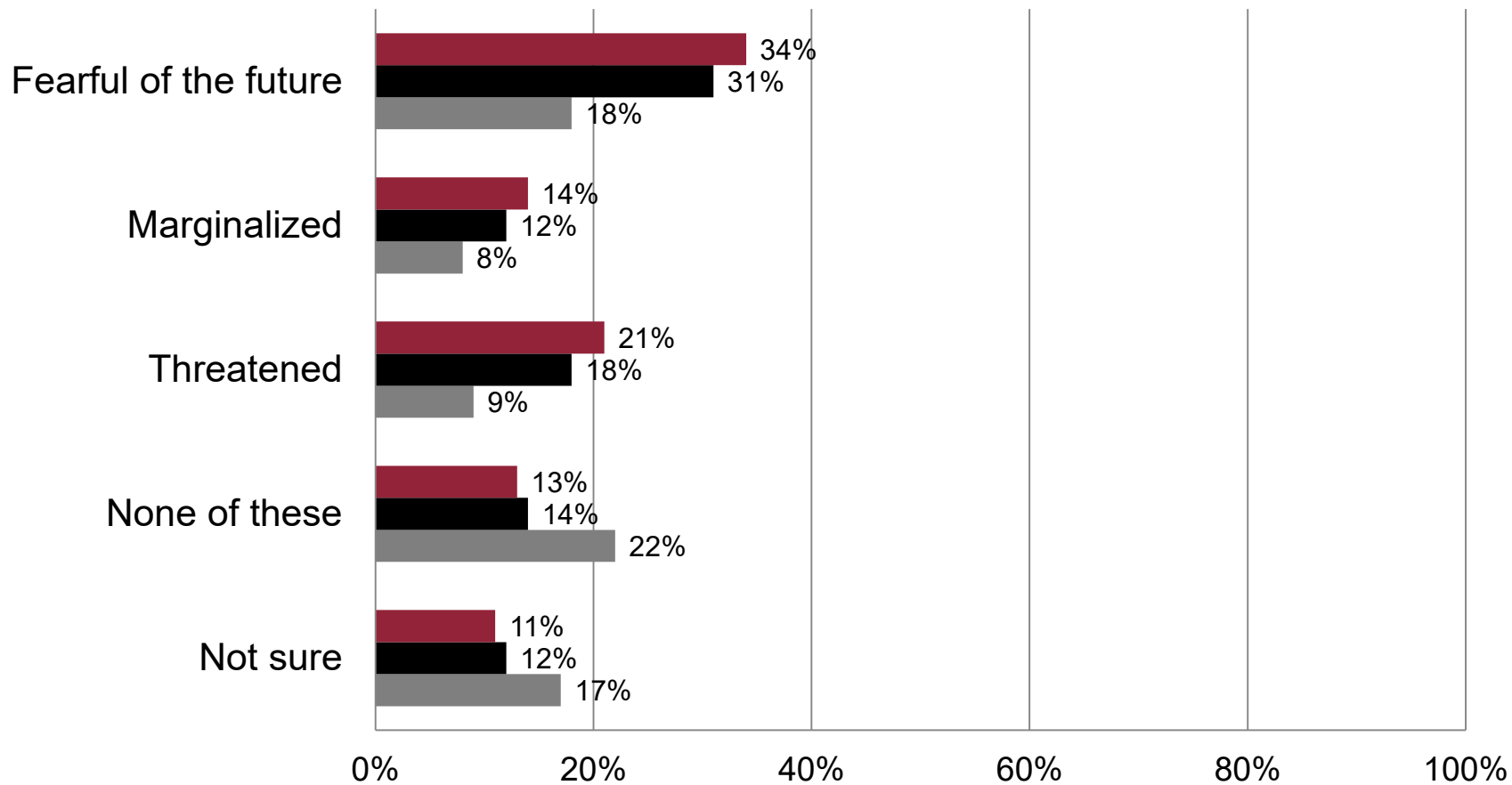


“Typically, when the U.S. has a Democratic president, I feel...”

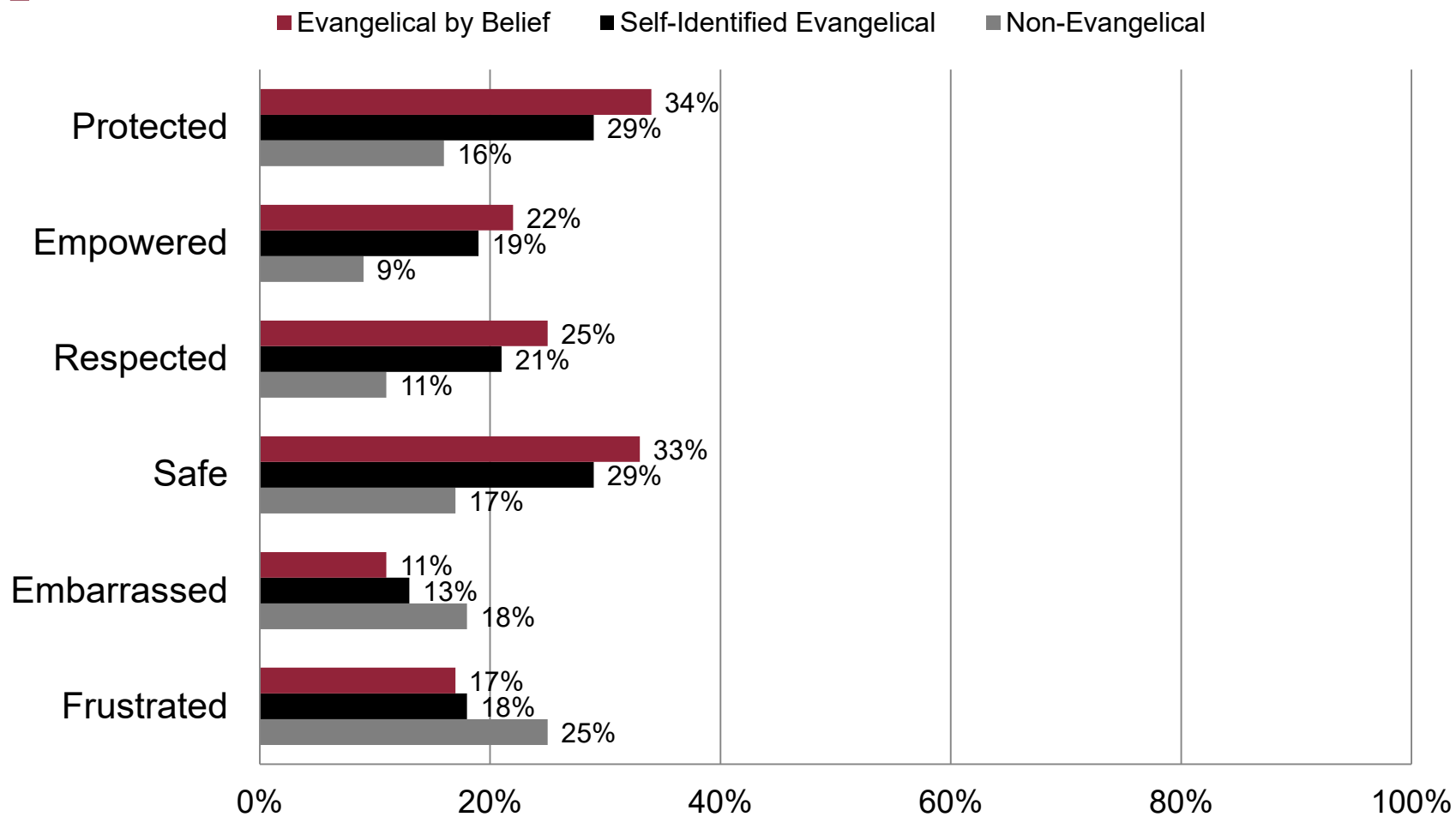


“Typically, when the U.S. has a Democratic president, I feel...” (continued)

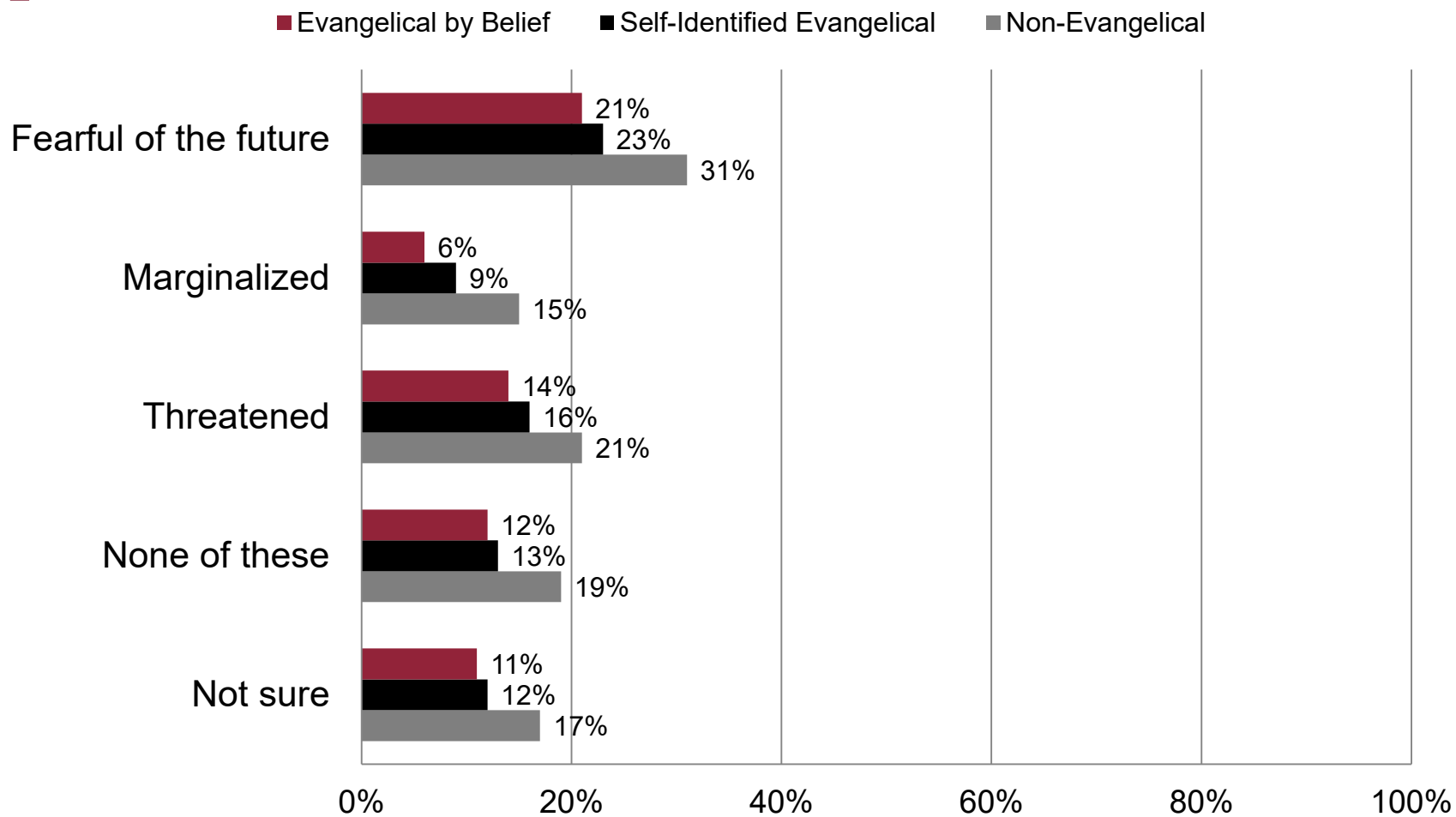
■ Evangelical by Belief ■ Self-Identified Evangelical ■ Non-Evangelical



“Typically, when the U.S. has a Republican president, I feel...”

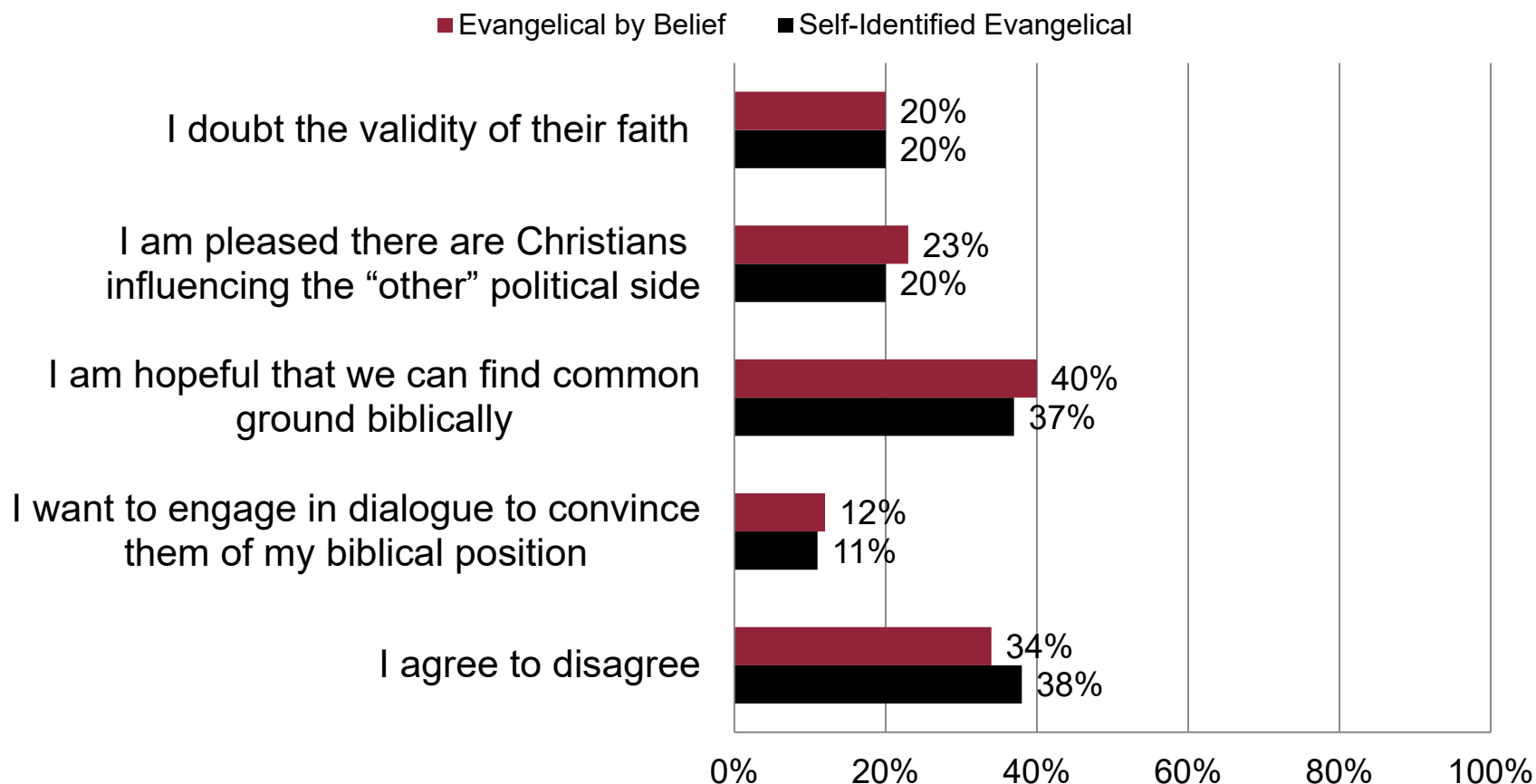


“Typically, when the U.S. has a Republican president, I feel...” (continued)



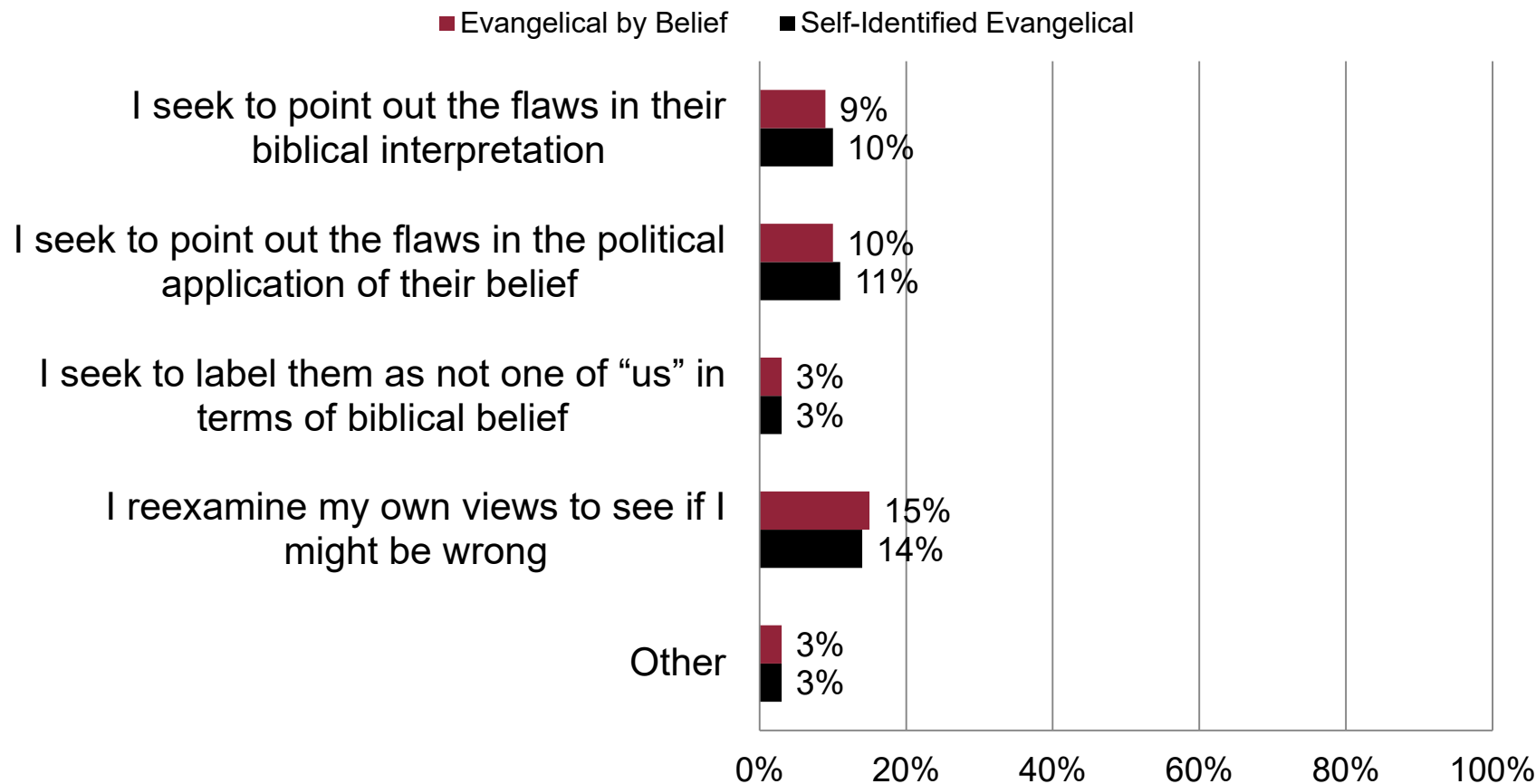
“Typically, what is your opinion of people who use their biblical beliefs to justify political views that are the opposite of yours?”

Among Evangelicals



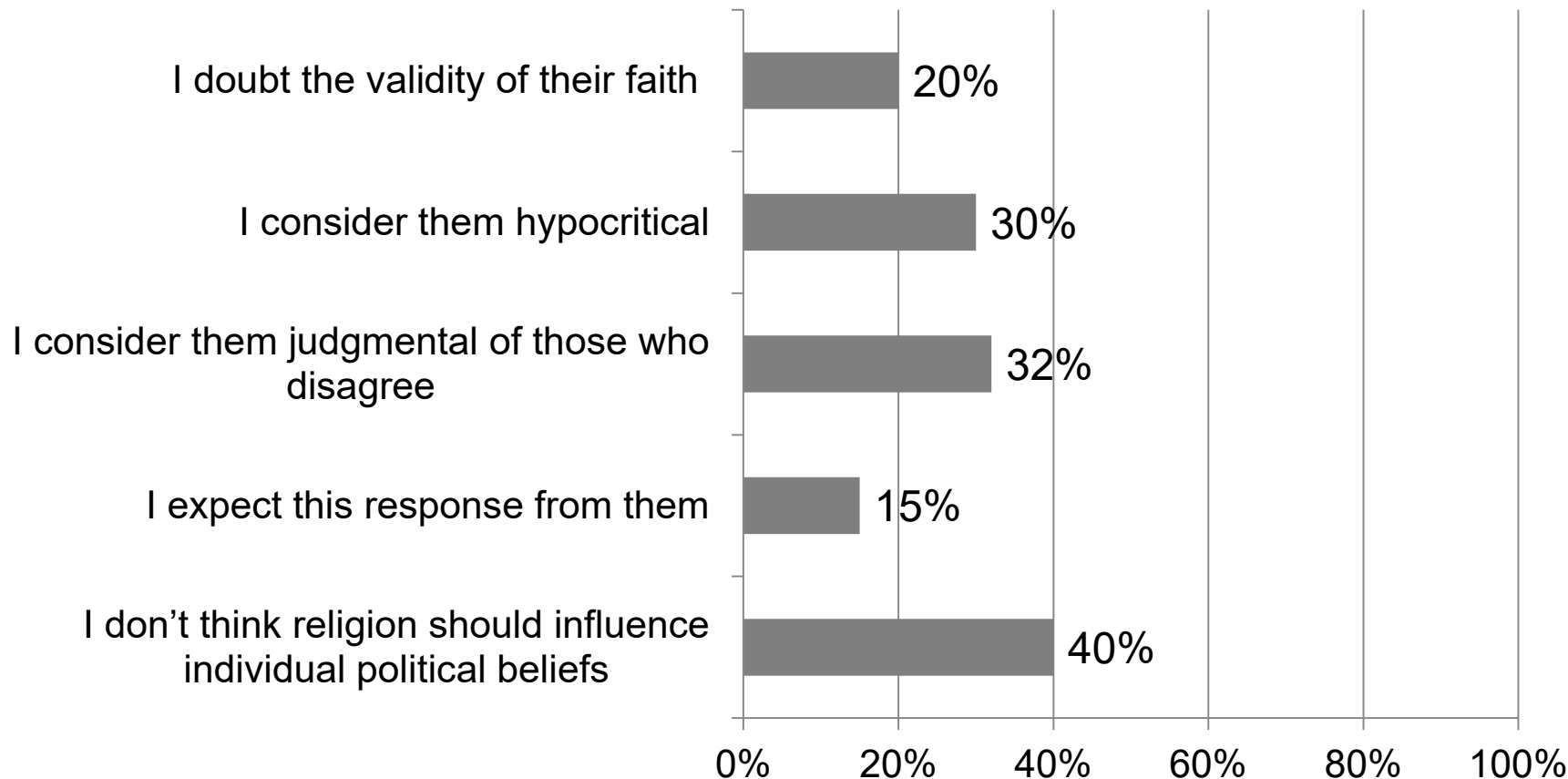
“Typically, what is your opinion of people who use their biblical beliefs to justify political views that are the opposite of yours?” (continued)

Among Evangelicals



“Typically, what is your opinion of people who use beliefs they say are from the Bible to justify political views that are the opposite of yours?”

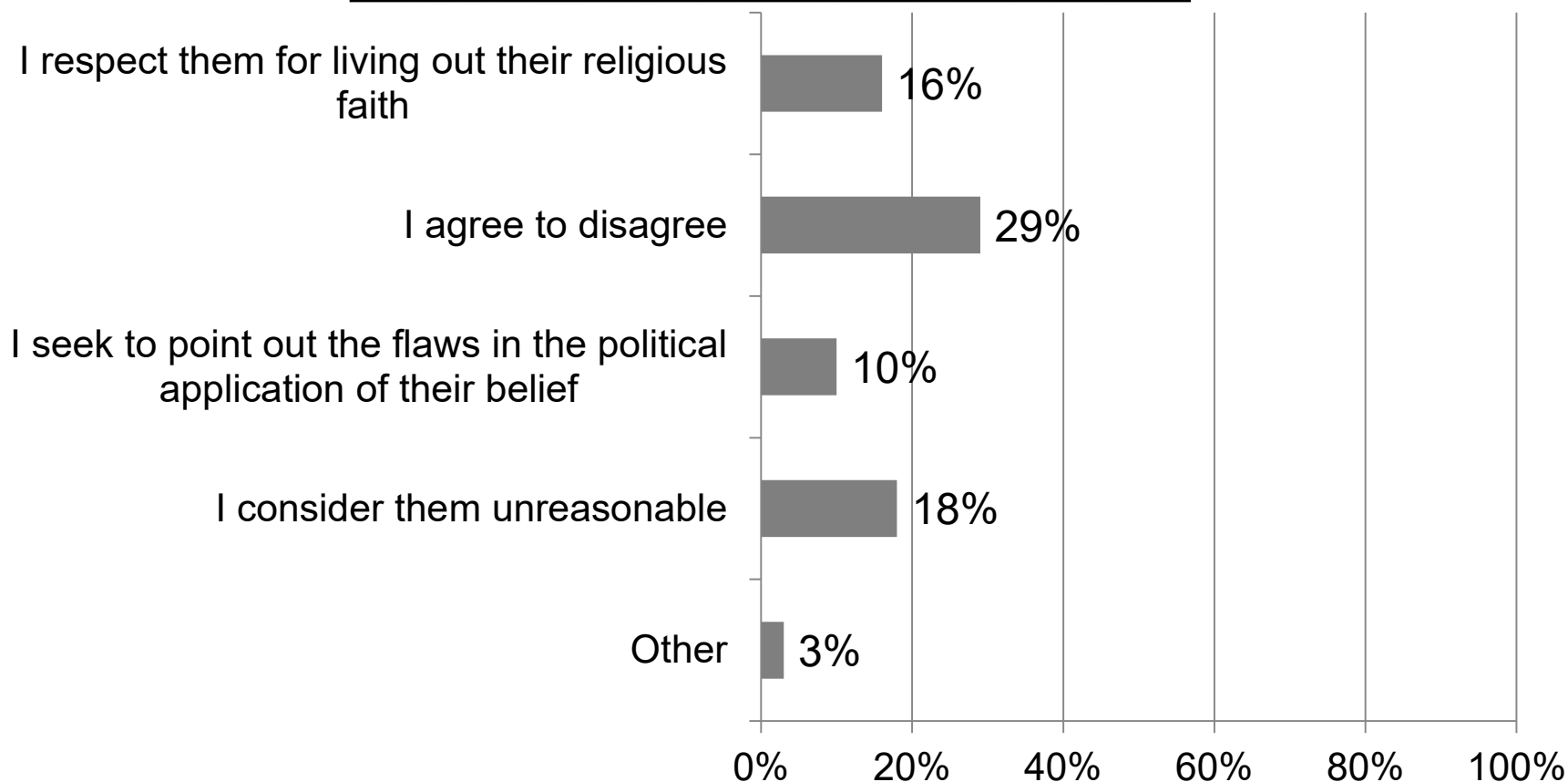
Among Non-Evangelicals



“Typically, what is your opinion of people who use beliefs they say are from the Bible to justify political views that are the opposite of yours?”

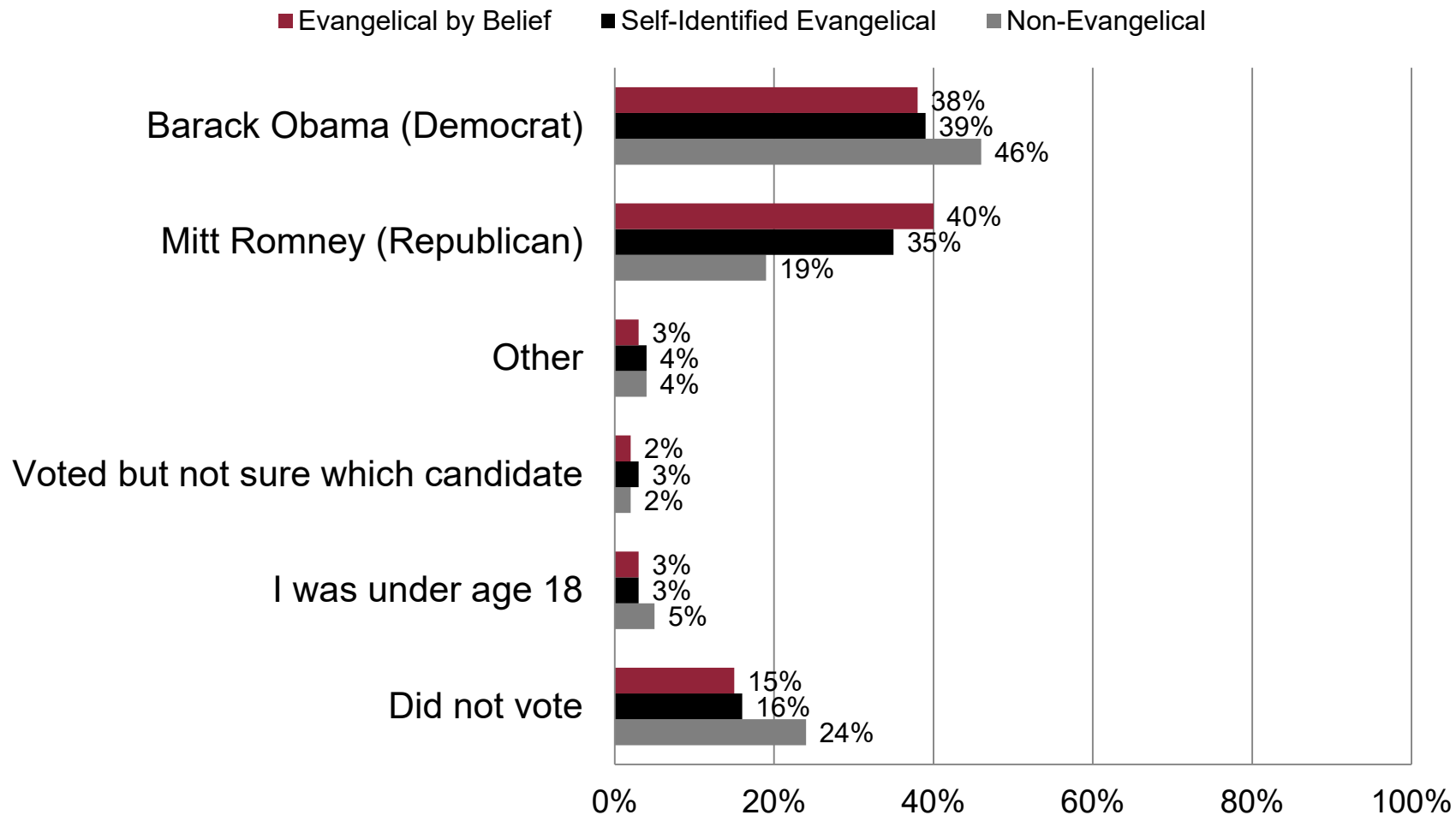
(continued)

Among Non-Evangelicals

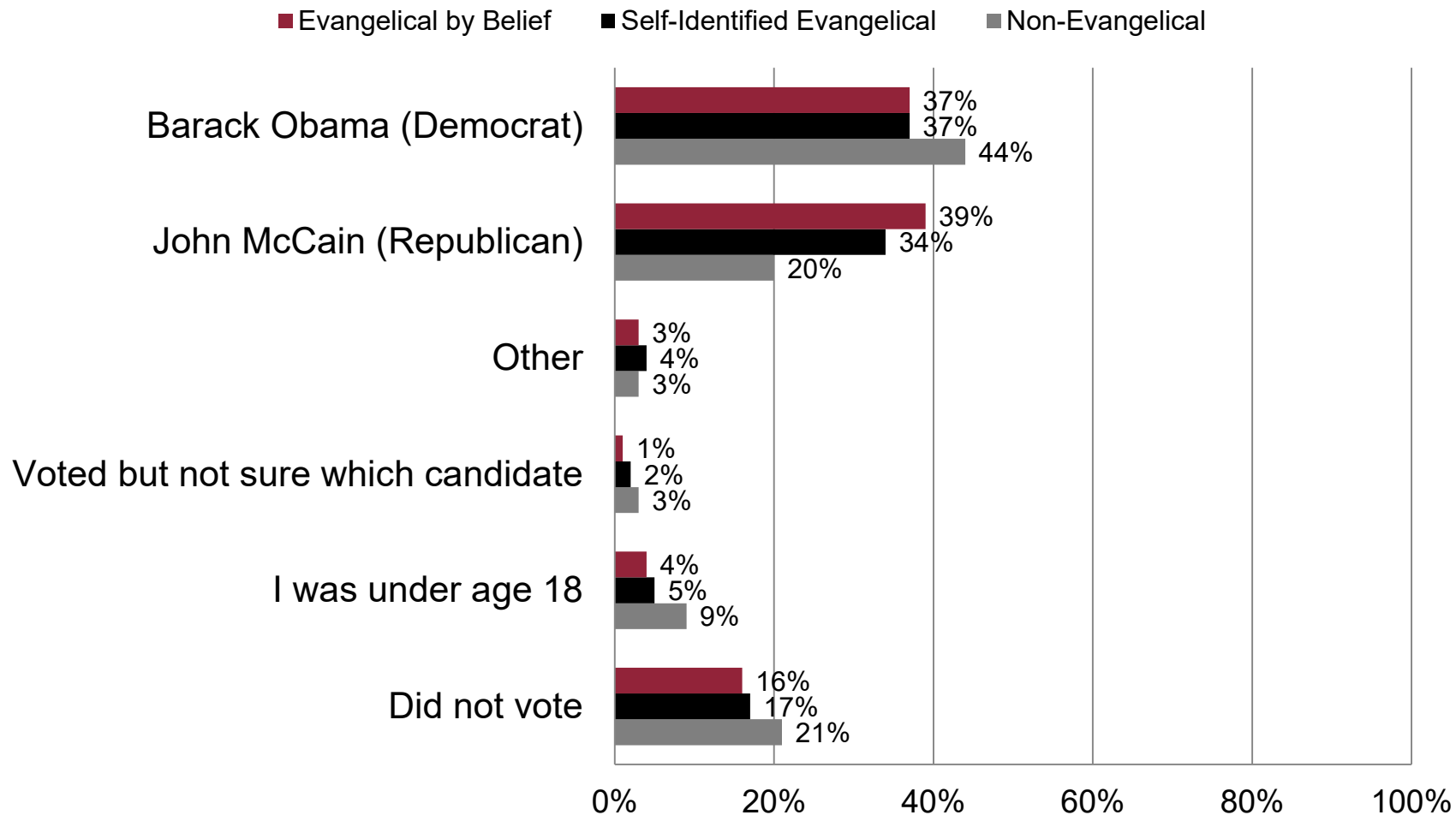


Q63 “Typically, what is your opinion of people who use beliefs they say are from the Bible to justify political views that are the opposite of yours? (Select all that apply)”

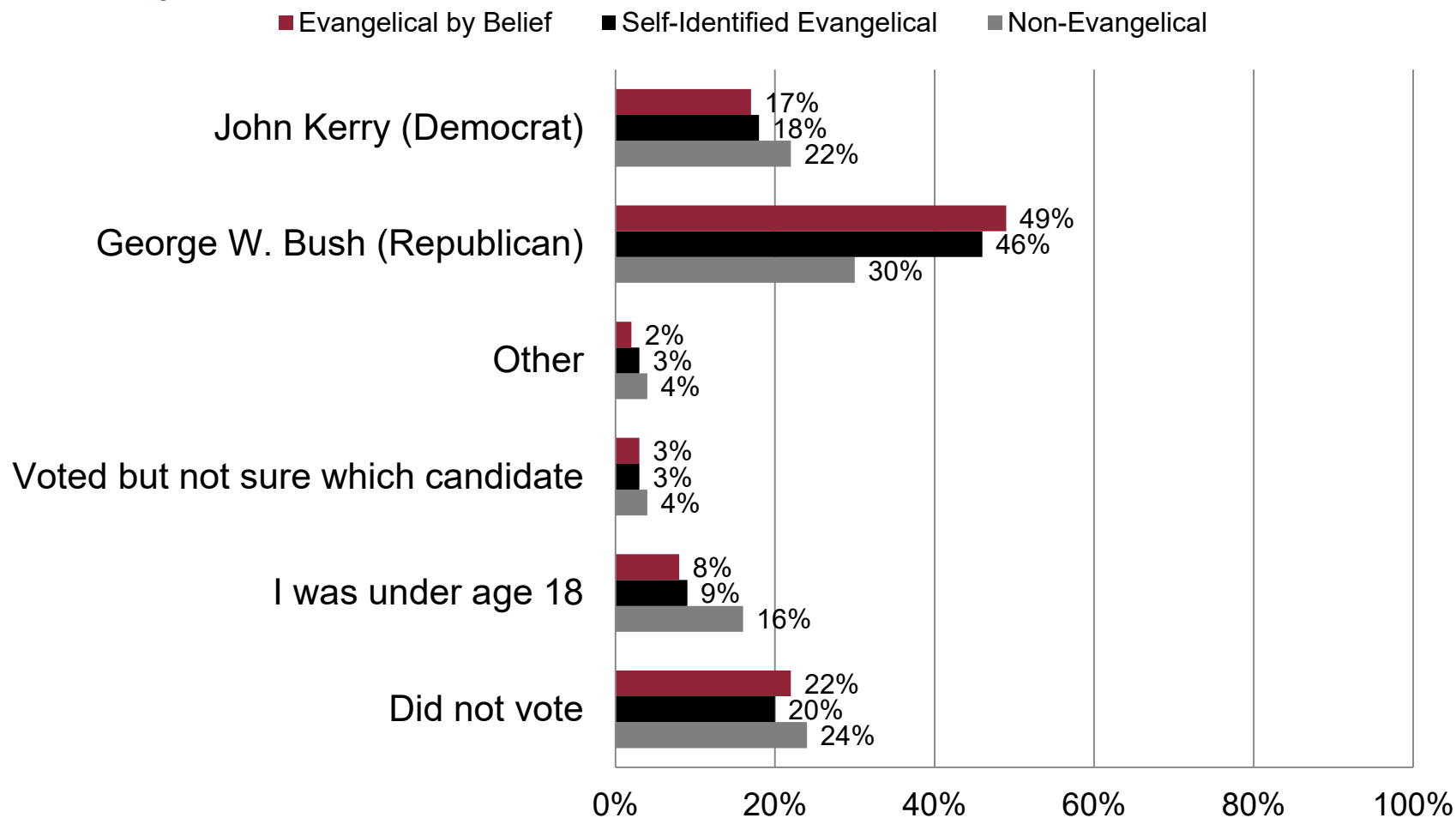
2012: Evangelicals by belief (38% Obama v. 40% Romney) and self-identified evangelicals (39% for Obama v. 35% for Romney)



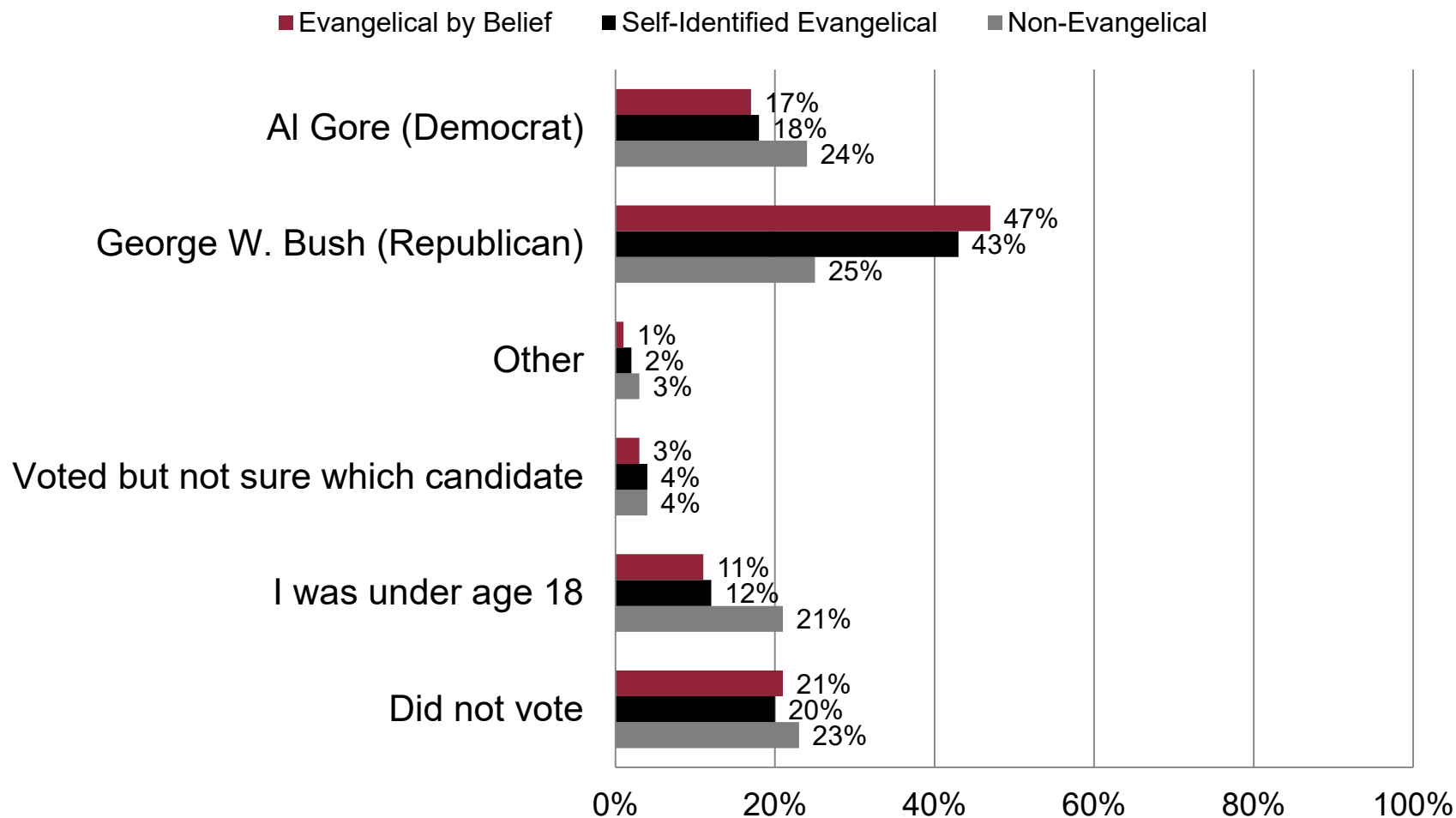
2008: Evangelicals by belief (37% Obama v. 39% McCain) and self-identified evangelicals (37% for Obama v. 34% for McCain)



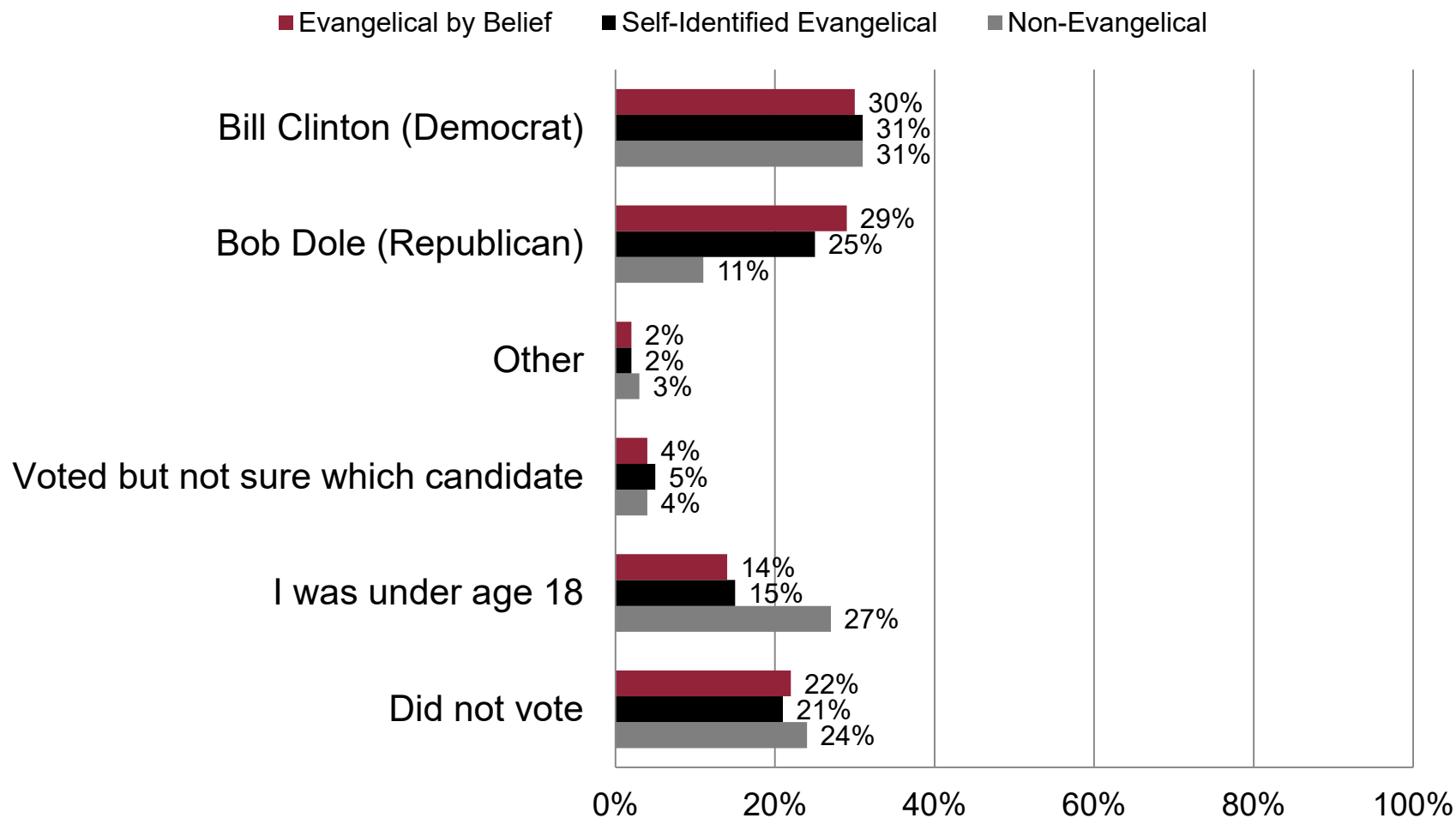
2004: Evangelicals by belief (17% Kerry v. 49% Bush) and self-identified evangelicals (18% for Kerry v. 46% for Bush)



2000: Evangelicals by belief (17% Gore v. 47% Bush) and self-identified evangelicals (18% for Gore v. 43% for Bush) and self-identified evangelicals (18% for Gore v. 43% for Bush)



1996: Evangelicals by belief (30% Clinton v. 29% Dole) and self-identified evangelicals (31% for Clinton v. 25% for Dole)

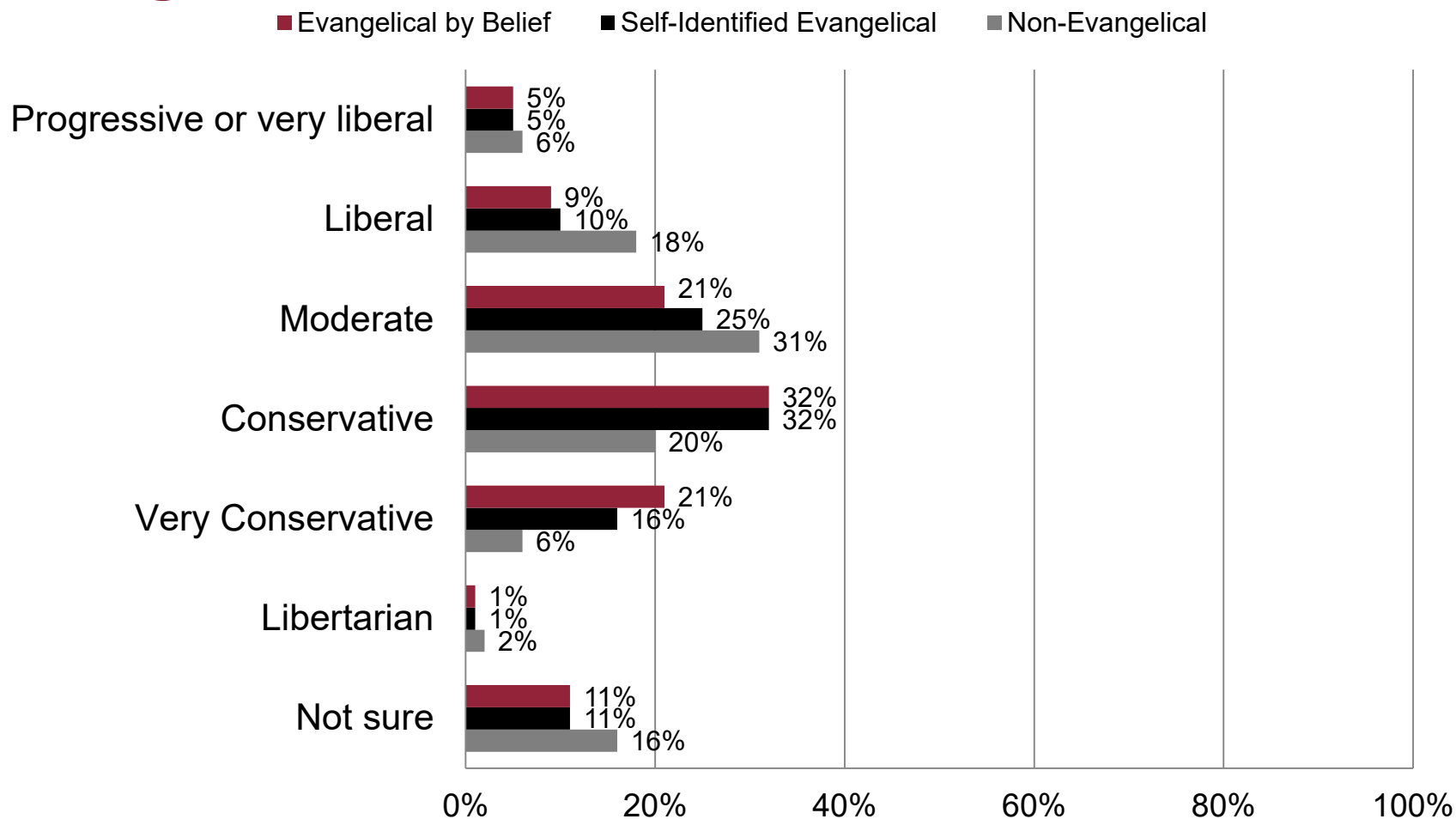


The percentage of Evangelicals reporting they voted for Trump in 2016 is neither the highest nor lowest for a recent Republican candidate

Among Those Who Voted

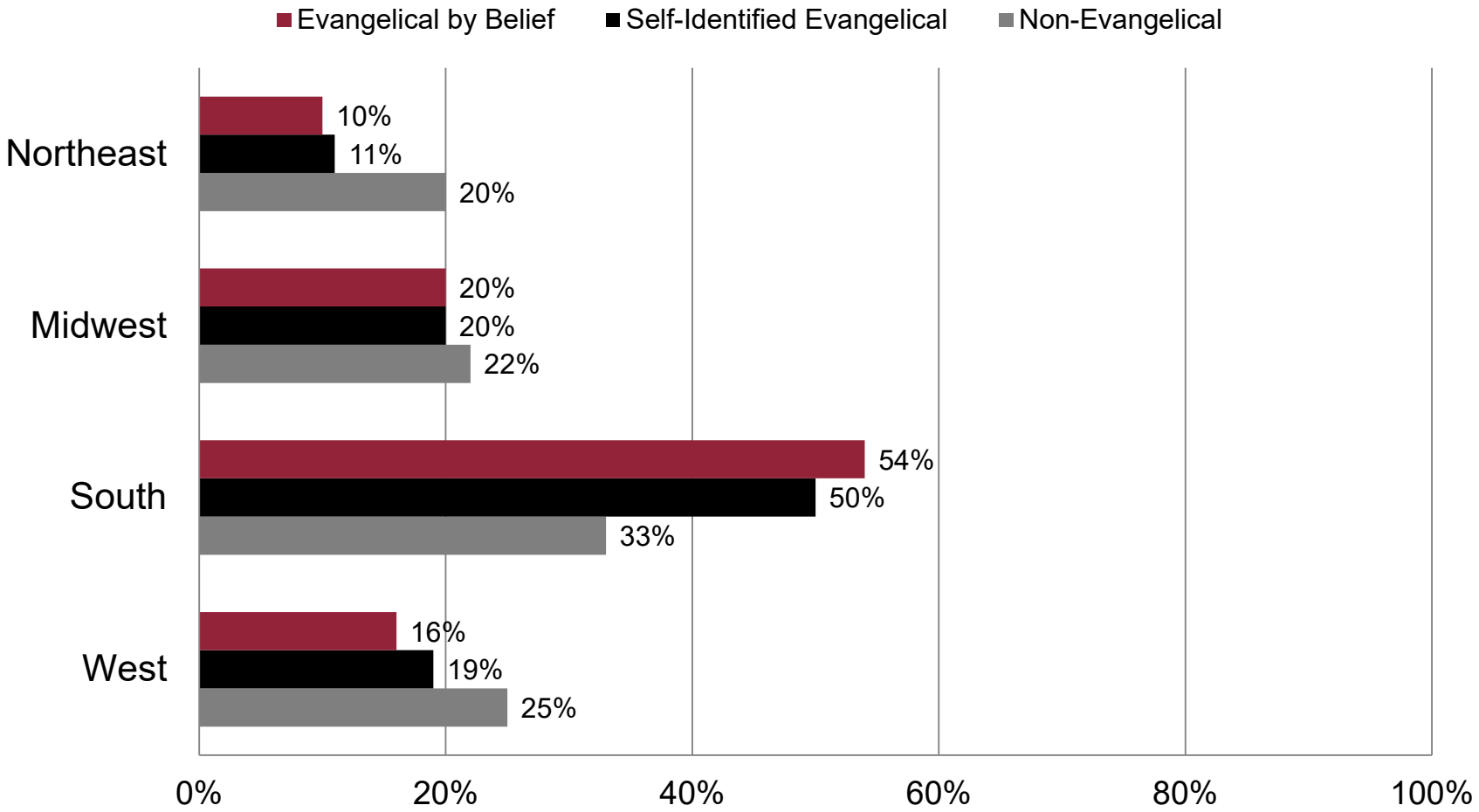
	2016	2012	2008	2004	2000	1996
Evangelical by Belief	36% Clinton 58% Trump 5% Other 1% Not sure	46% Obama 49% Romney 3% Other 2% Not sure	46% Obama 49% McCain 3% Other 2% Not sure	24% Kerry 69% Bush 2% Other 4% Not sure	26% Gore 68% Bush 2% Other 4% Not sure	46% Clinton 45% Dole 3% Other 6% Not sure
Self Identified	38% Clinton 53% Trump 7% Other 2% Not sure	49% Obama 43% Romney 5% Other 3% Not sure	47% Obama 45% McCain 5% Other 3% Not sure	26% Kerry 65% Bush 5% Other 5% Not sure	27% Gore 64% Bush 3% Other 5% Not sure	50% Clinton 39% Dole 4% Other 7% Not sure
Non-Evangelical	53% Clinton 36% Trump 9% Other 2% Not sure	65% Obama 26% Romney 6% Other 3% Not sure	63% Obama 29% McCain 5% Other 4% Not sure	37% Kerry 50% Bush 6% Other 7% Not sure	43% Gore 45% Bush 6% Other 7% Not sure	64% Clinton 23% Dole 6% Other 7% Not sure

53% of evangelicals by belief, 48% of self-identified evangelicals, and 25% of non-evangelicals consider themselves conservative



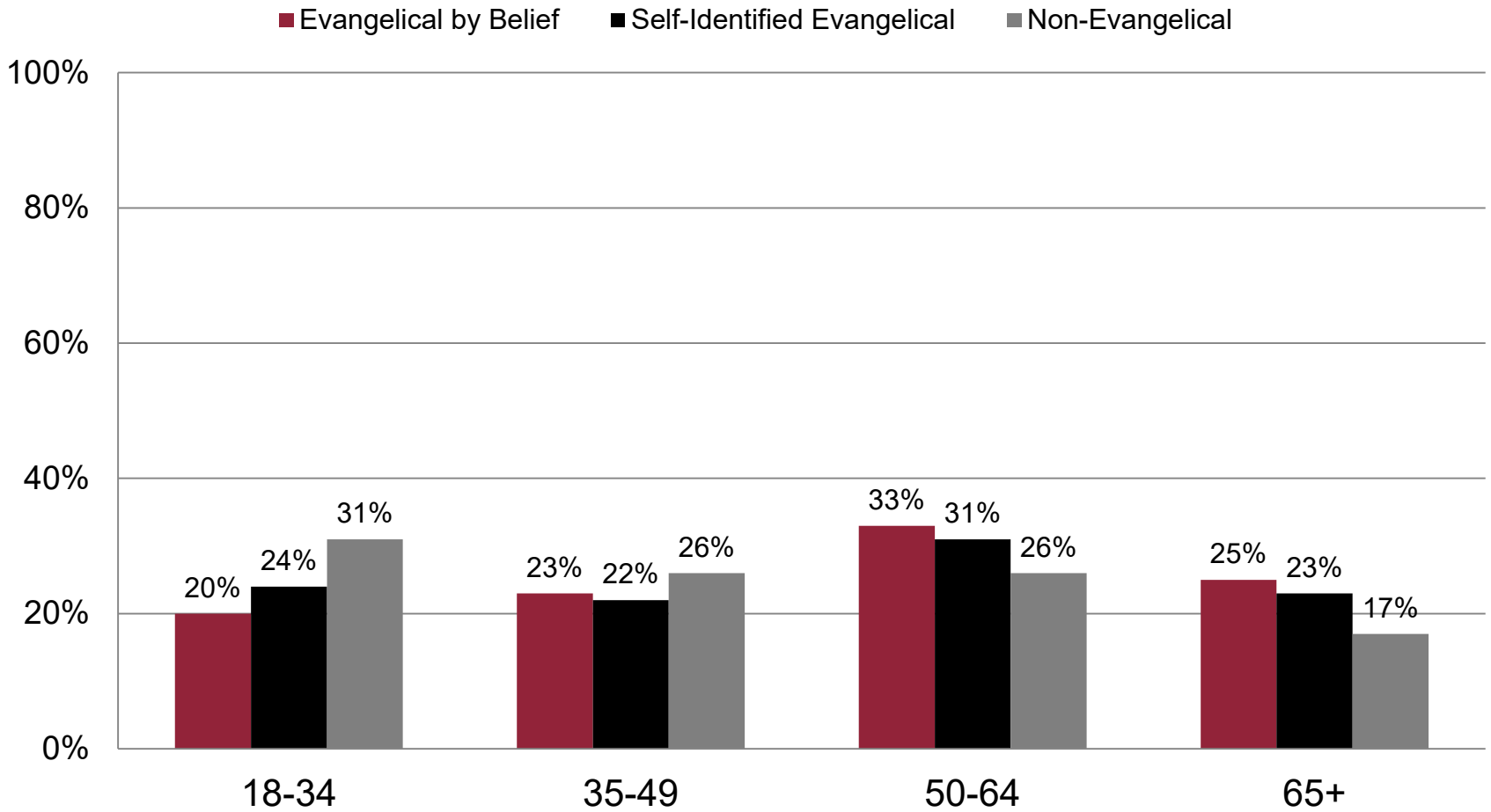
Demographics of Participants

Region of Participants



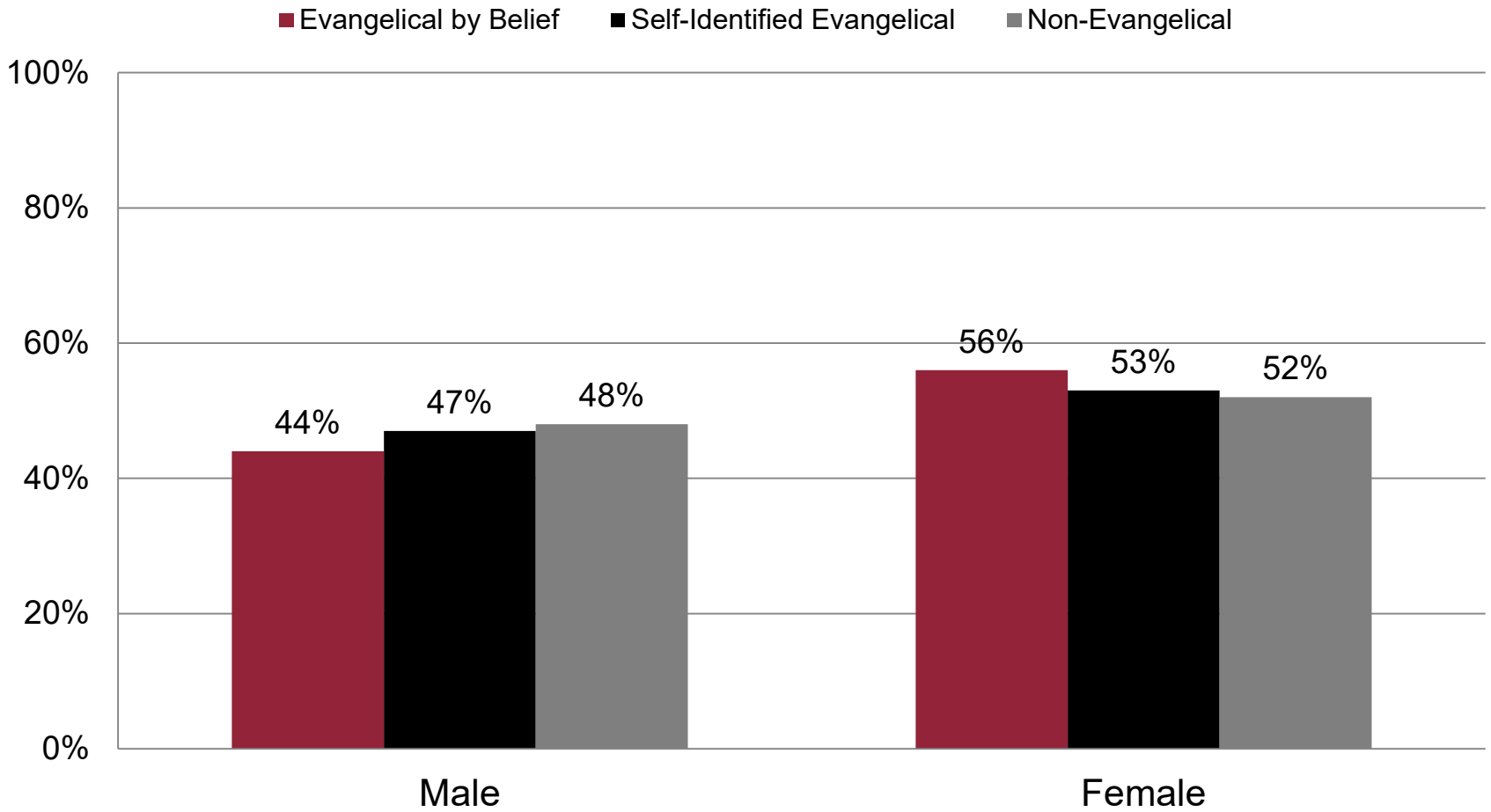
Q1: "What state do you live in?"

Age of Participants



Q2 "What is your age?"

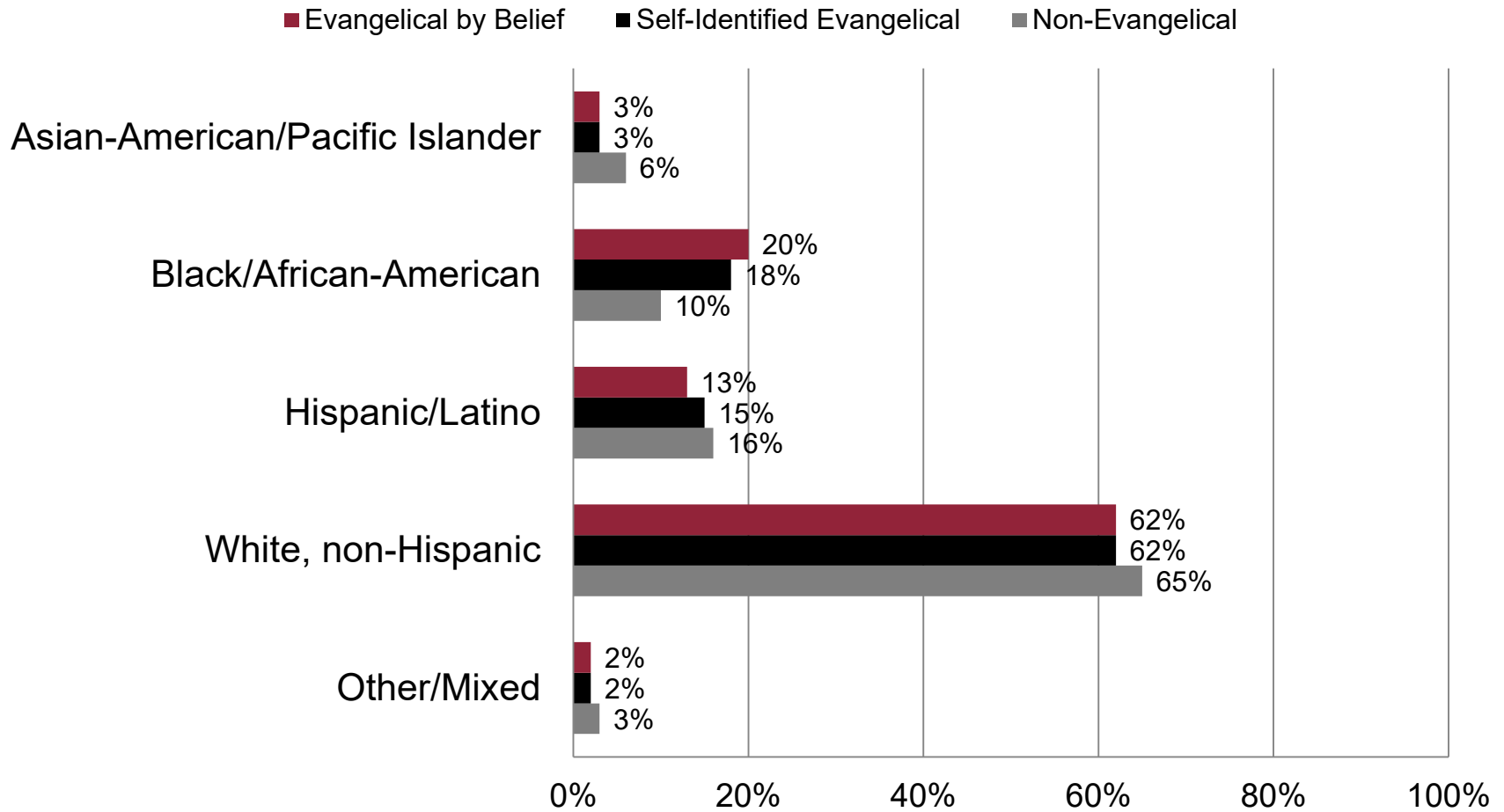
Gender of Participants



Q3 "Are you male or female?"

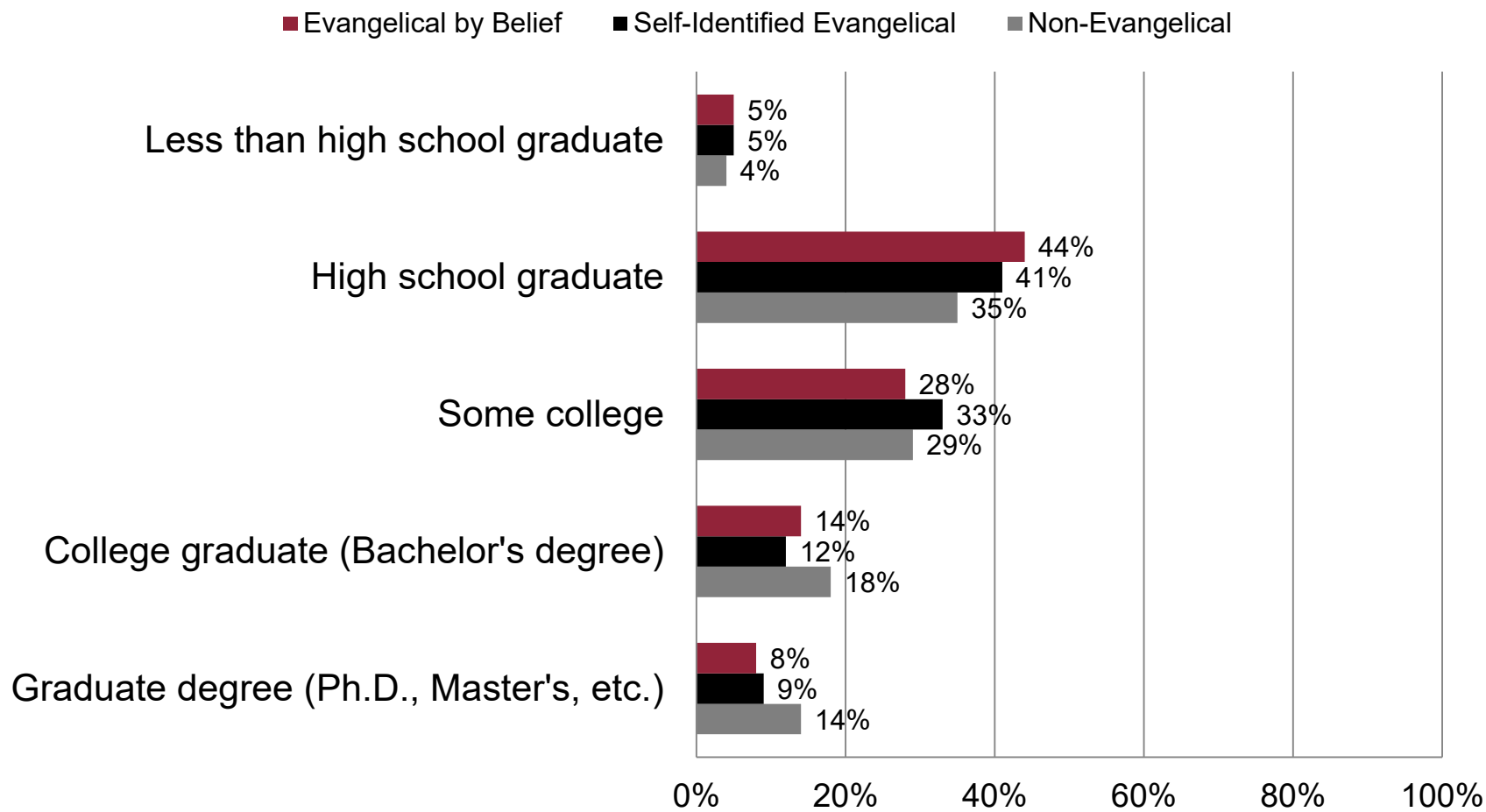


Ethnicity of Participants



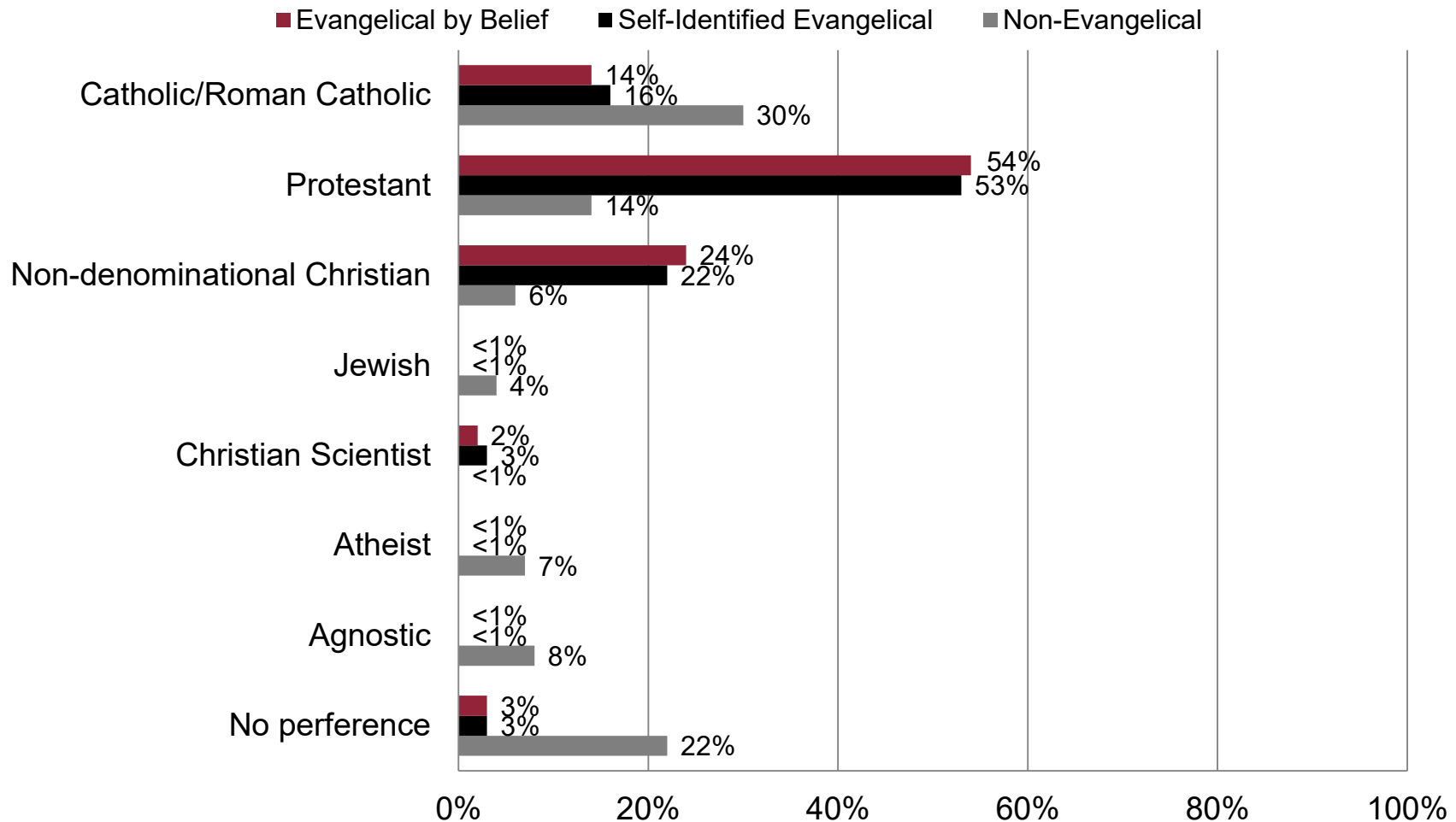
Q4 "Which of the following best represents your race or ethnic group?"

Education Level of Participants



Q5 "Which of the following best describes your highest level of education?"

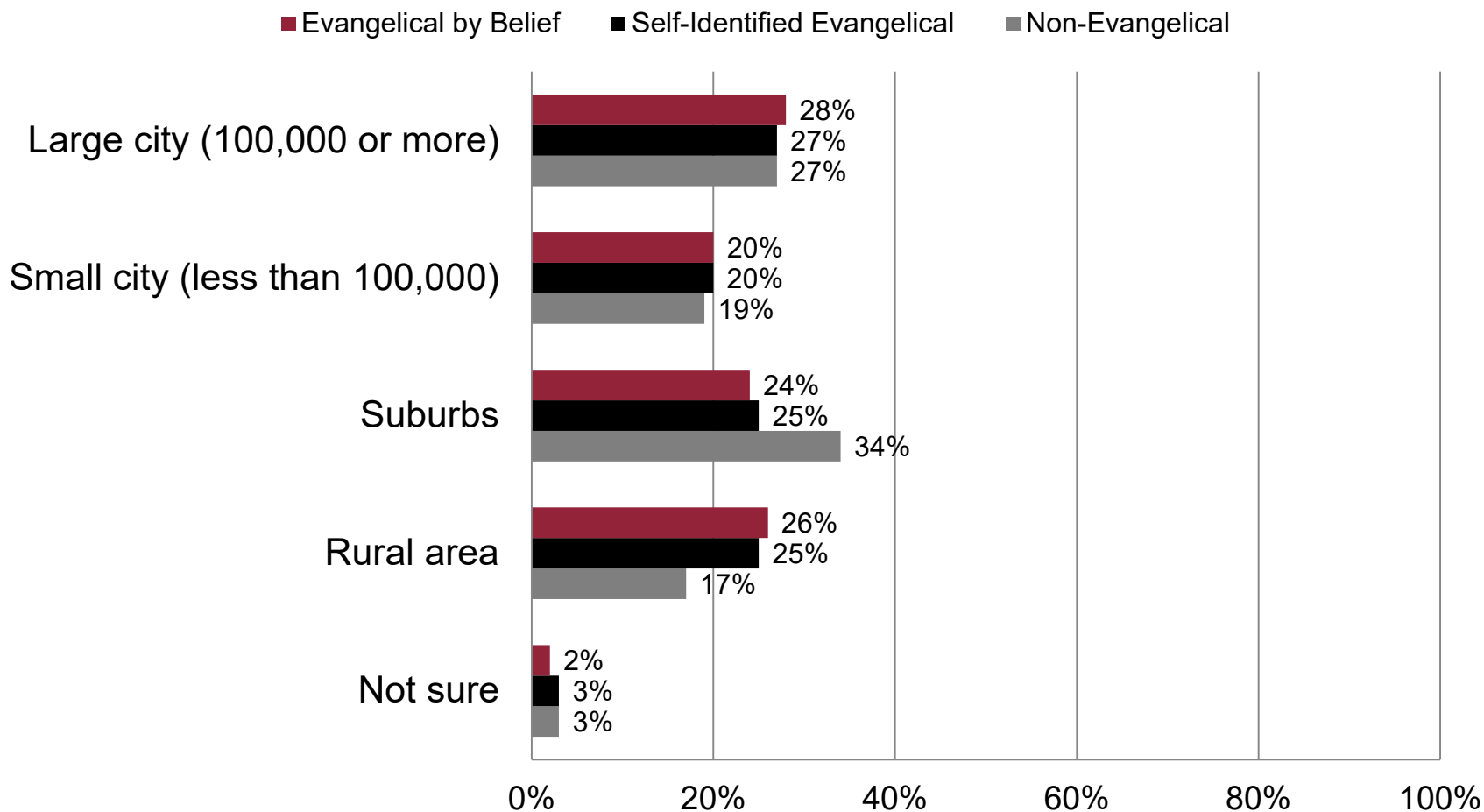
Faith Preference of Participants



Receiving 2% or less: Orthodox Christian, Mormon/Later Day Saints, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unitarian, Unity/Unity Church, Other

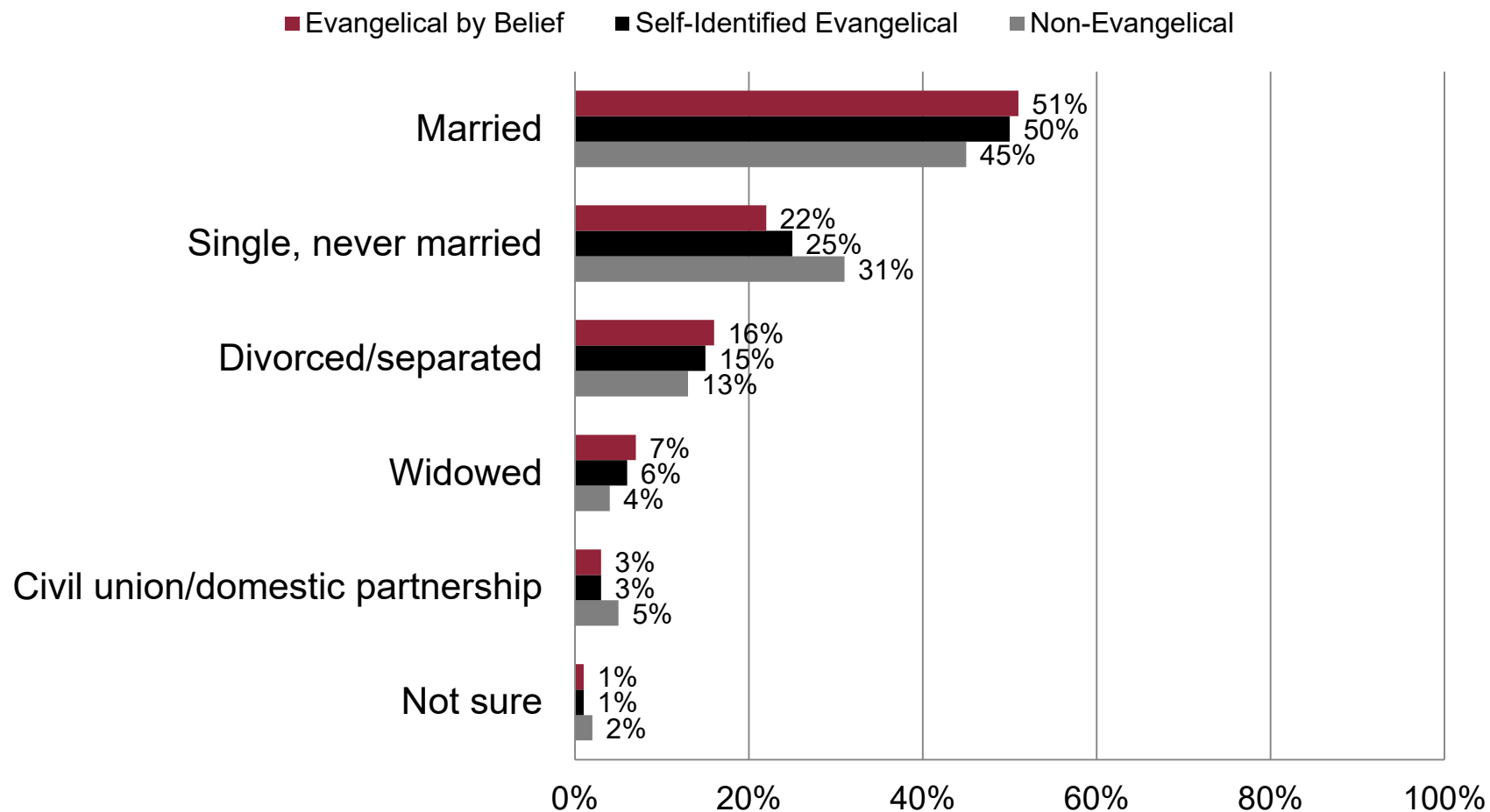
Q6 "Which of the following best describes your overall faith preference? (Select one)"

Location of Participants



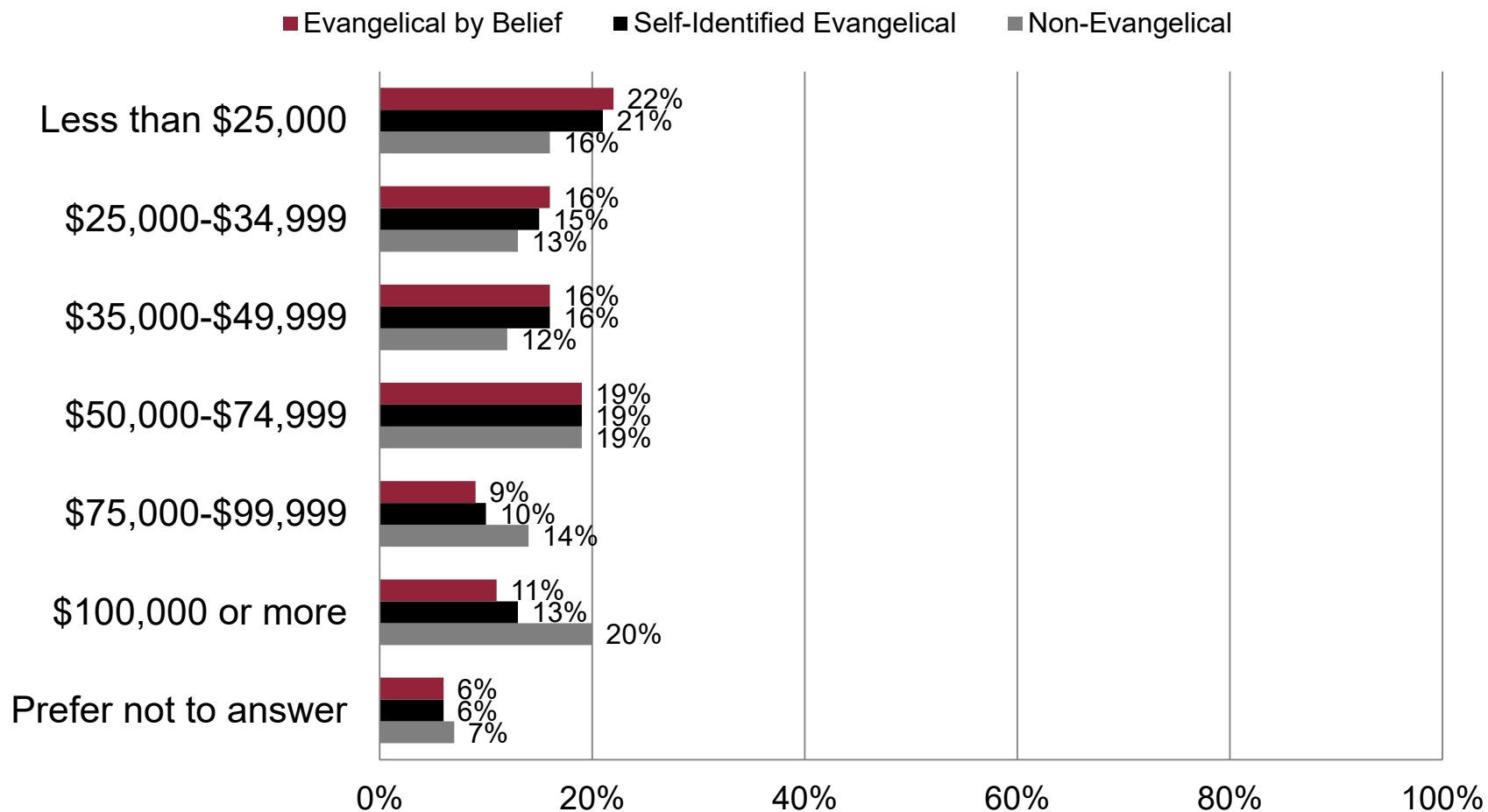
Q71 "Which of the following best represents where you live?"

Marital Status of Participants



Q72 "Which of the following best describes your marital status?"

Household Income of Participants



Q73 "Which of the following best represents your household income last year before taxes? (Select One)"

Evangelical and Non-evangelical Voting & Views of Politics in America

Survey of 3,000 Americans



For the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College