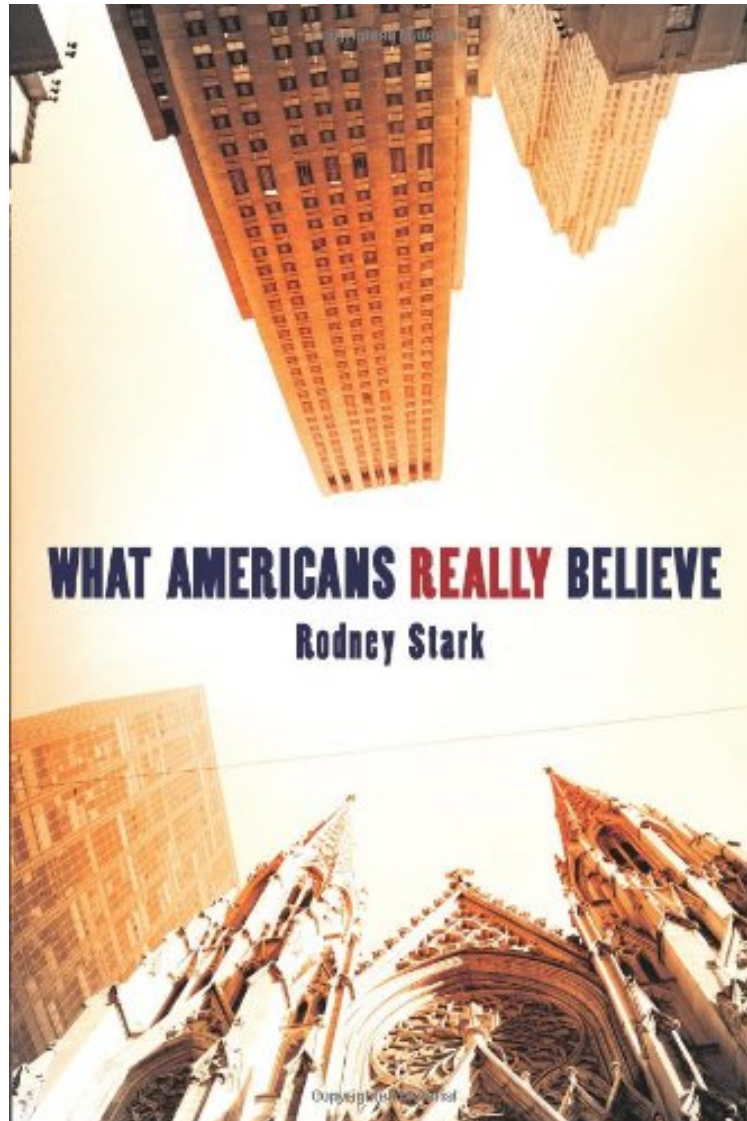


# What Americans Really Believe

Rodney Stark

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**Rodney Stark : What Americans Really Believe** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Americans Really Believe:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Worth your timeBy F. GwinI have checked out the other reviews (specifically the 2 star ones, which at time of writing consists of two reviews), and I can say that they are accurate. Stark presents great figures and research, but he does draw some of his own strange conclusions into the data with his remarks. However, this book IS worth your time. There are very interesting and thought provoking statistics that have left me intrigued and with an interesting outlook on this country.I recommend it.On a side note, I found this book

made me look at my own beliefs as a Christian as I read the questions and found out where I fit into the data. That in itself was fairly interesting and eye opening in some ways. It definitely added to the experience of reading the book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A real surprise! By Gregory A. Salyer I purchased this book to read for a class I'm taking, so I was not sure how enjoyable it would be. It was extremely readable and even pleasurable. The results of the survey were quite a surprise. Much of the information was different than what is generally shared by others. Some of the information was quite encouraging, such as the conclusions made about young people leaving the church. Every pastor in America needs to read this book, and I would encourage anyone to read it who has an interest in knowing what Americans really believe. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating information - easy read! By C. Gardner For a book that has a lot of statistics, I found this book to be an easy read. The information is important because religion affects all of our lives. He presents statistics in short, easy to read chapters, then gives you his conclusions. This could almost be considered a spiritual book in that it covers the same topics of the spiritual books out today, but instead of drawing his conclusions for principles of spirituality on his personal experiences he uses statistics to explain: why we tithe and why we don't, how religious people are hardwired for God, is the New Atheism getting anywhere?, why some people are attracted to New Age religions or the paranormal, what is the real difference between the word "spiritual" and "religious," or why we shouldn't worry that there is a secret plan by Evangelicals to take over the American government. This is a very interesting book that will open your mind.

A shocking snapshot of the most current impulses in American religion. Rodney Stark reports the surprising findings of the 2007 Baylor Surveys of Religion, a follow up to the 2005 survey revealing most Americans believe in God or a higher power. This new volume highlights even more hot-button issues of religious life in our country. A must-read for anyone interested in Americans' religious beliefs and practices.

From Publishers Weekly Sociologist Stark has been surveying and observing American religious beliefs and practices for 40 years. This broad experience is reflected in the breadth of questions used to characterize contemporary American religious attitudes; from the Bible to Bigfoot, denomination to Da Vinci Code, beliefs are measured and correlated with oodles of demographics. Stark provides evidence for his overarching theme that some fundamental American religious practices and ideas have remained both stable and diverse as a result of religious competition. The book's numbers will spark lively discussion and questions about inferences drawn from statistics and the ways in which questions were posed. Why, for example, are Catholics not considered a strict church that makes demands of members? Why is belief in miraculous physical healing considered mystical and not paranormal? Some will say that snarky snipes (calling other researchers careless and disparaging National Public Radio) have no place in data-driven sociology; others will relish a statistics-slinging fight among academics. Regardless, all who find in statistics precise food for thought, as well as articles, more surveys and books, owe Stark and his colleagues at Baylor gratitude. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "An indispensable resource for understanding the American public." George H. Gallup, Jr., American Public Opinion Statistician "All who find in statistics precise food for thought owe Stark and his colleagues at Baylor gratitude." Publisher's Weekly "A worthy addition to the burgeoning survey data literature in the sociology of religion. Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers." CHOICE From the Inside Flap...a detailed, comprehensive often surprising snapshot of the most current impulses in American religion. "-George H. Gallup Jr."