

ValueGenesis IV

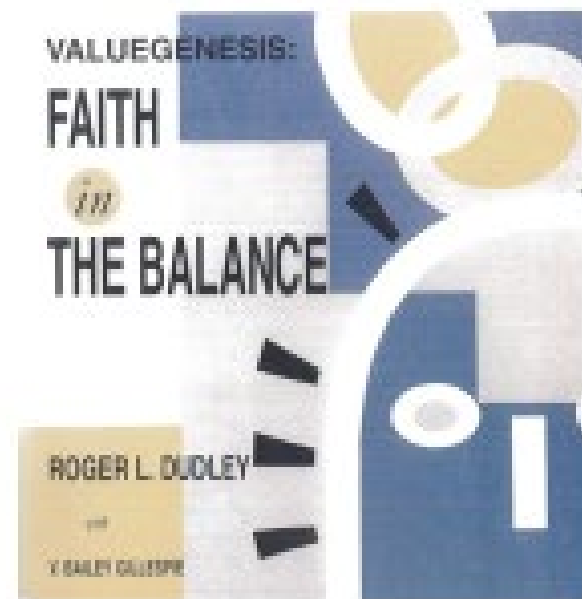
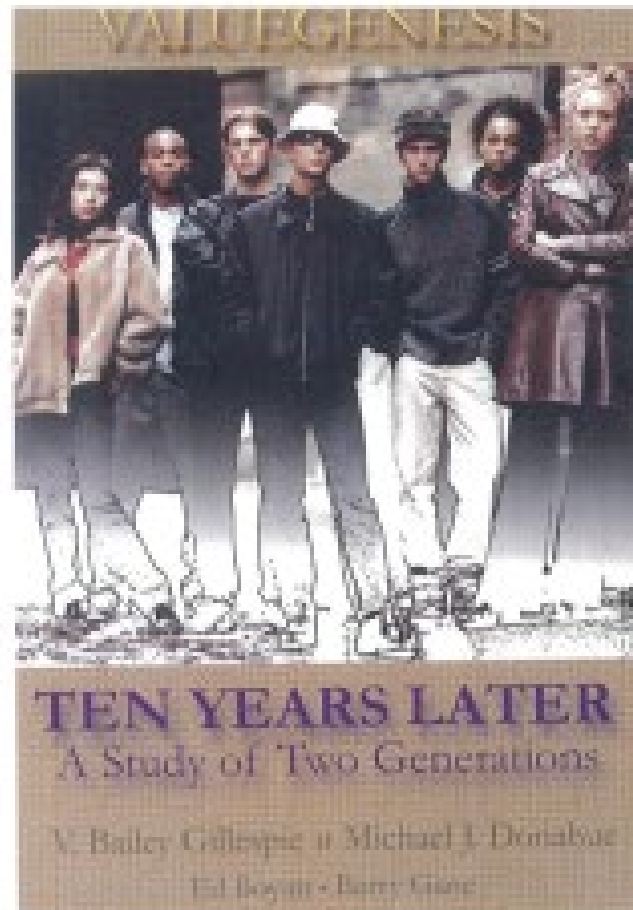
Faith and Church

NAD

December 2022

A Study of Multiple Generations....

VG1 (1991), VG2 (2001), VG3 (2011), VG4 (2021)



Valuegenesis³
A Study of the Influence of Family, Church, and School on the Formation of Faith in Seventh-Day Adventists

VALUEGENESIS 4 Faith, Values, Merit, & Commitment

A Study of the Influence of Family, Church, and School on the Formation of Faith in Seventh-Day Adventists

This project will help church leaders and teachers gain insight into adolescent education and better understand spiritual issues among young people. The role of these researchers takes part, and your help is very important. We appreciate your help in this survey.

- What you say in this survey is anonymous and confidential. No one will ever be able to connect your answers to your name. We do not ask for your name, and there are no special codes that can identify you by name.
- When you have finished the survey, it will be placed in a box and sealed. It will be opened only at the Office of Educational Research and the Research Center for Faith and Family, and your answers will be combined with those of many others. After that, the survey will be destroyed. No one at your church, school, or family will ever see your answers.
- Please answer ALL questions as honestly as possible. Do not let anyone else see how they think you should answer. We admit that YOUR feelings, YOUR beliefs, YOUR opinions.
- Do not spend much time on any one question. Answer each question as it seems best, then move quickly to the next one.
- And we really thank you for helping us!

Use a soft-ball point or ballpoint pen only.
Answer all of the questions by filling in the circle or crossing it .
Do not use any other marks (e.g., ticks).



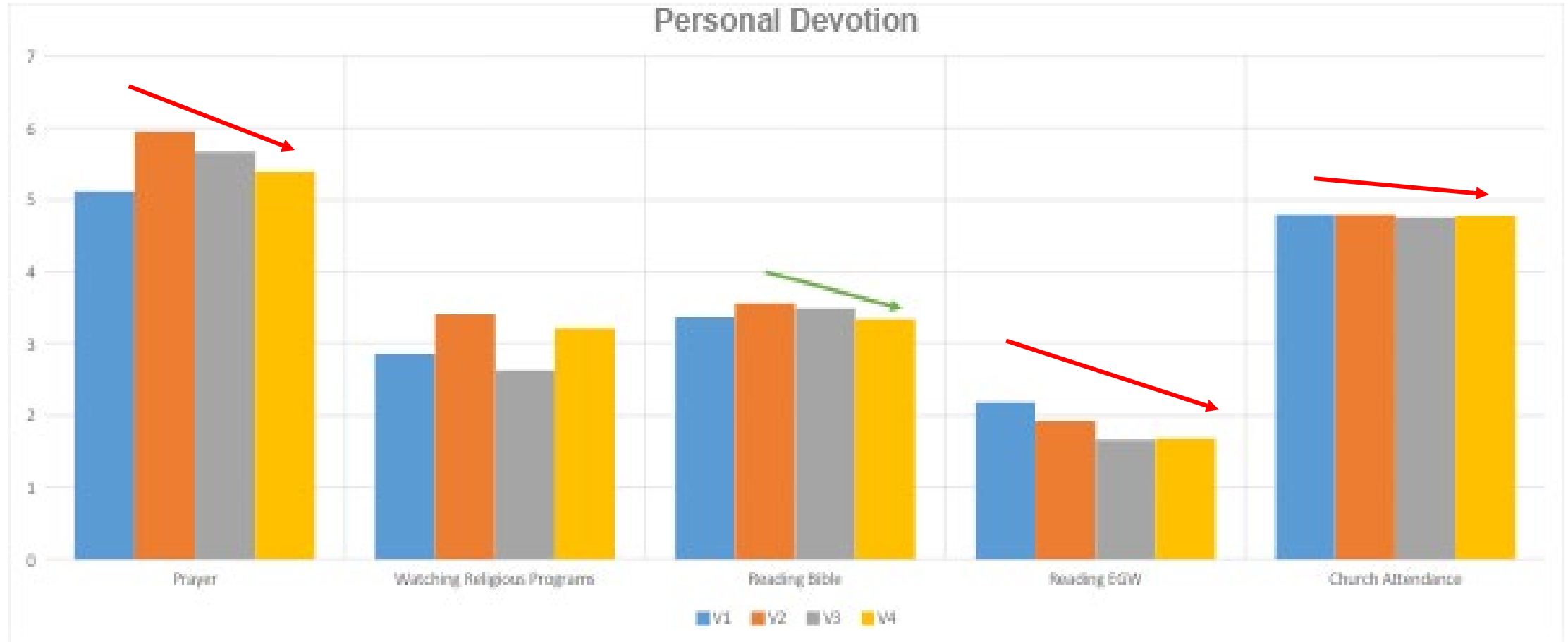
Personal Devotion

	V1	V2	V3	V4
Prayer	5.11	5.95	5.67	5.39
Watching Religious Programs	2.86	3.41	2.62	3.22
Reading Bible	3.37	3.56	3.49	3.34
Reading EGW	2.19	1.92	1.66	1.68
Church Attendance	4.80	4.80	4.75	4.78

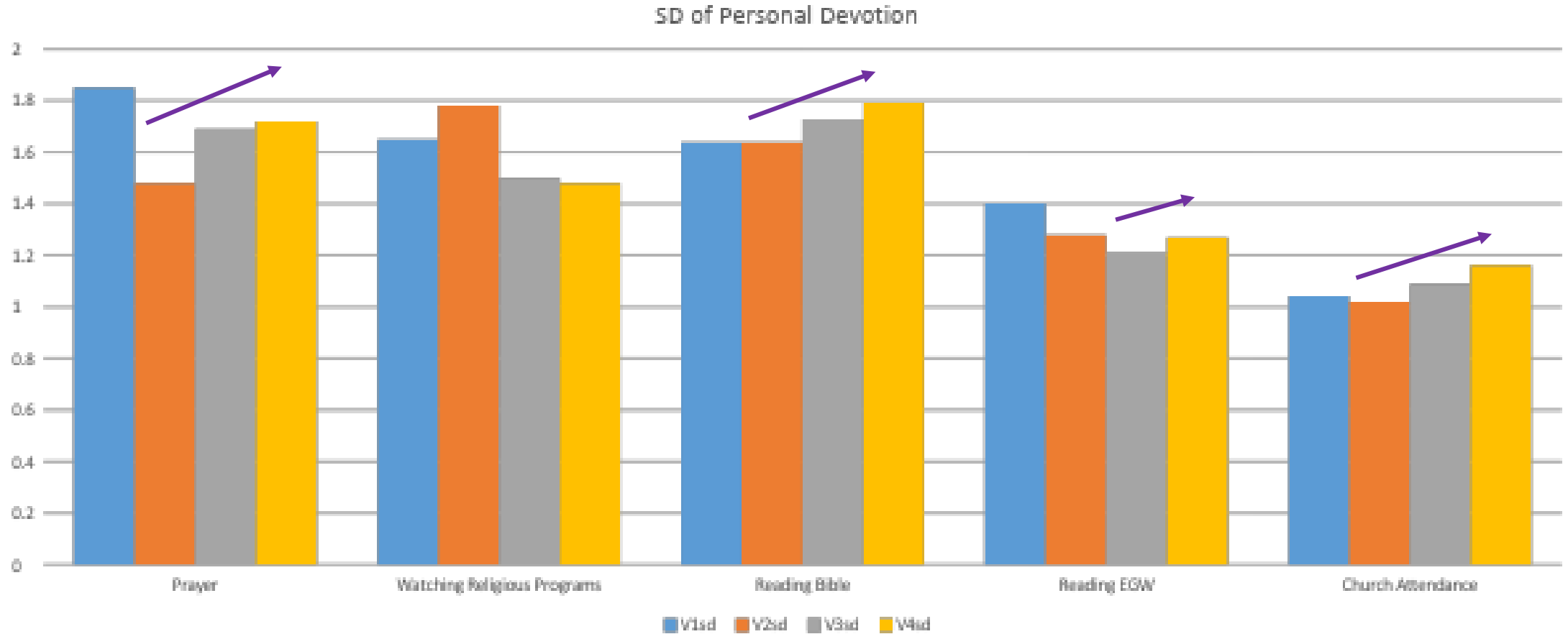
Adventist youth...

- **Pray** several times a week.
- Watch **religious programs** 1-3 times a month.
- Read **the Bible** 1-3 times a month.
- Read the writings of **E.G. White** about once a month.
- Go to **church** about once a week.

Personal Devotion Change (Mean Score)



Personal Devotion Change (Variance)



Thumbnail

- **Adventist youth...**

- **Still Religious as were**
- **Less prayers and reading**
- **Regression to 1990s for prayers and Bible reading**
- **Church attendance, more or less constant**

Thumbnail

- Adventist youth...

- Still religious as before
- Less prayers and reading
- Regression to 1990s for prayers and Bible reading
- Church attendance, more or less constant

- **Adventist youth...**

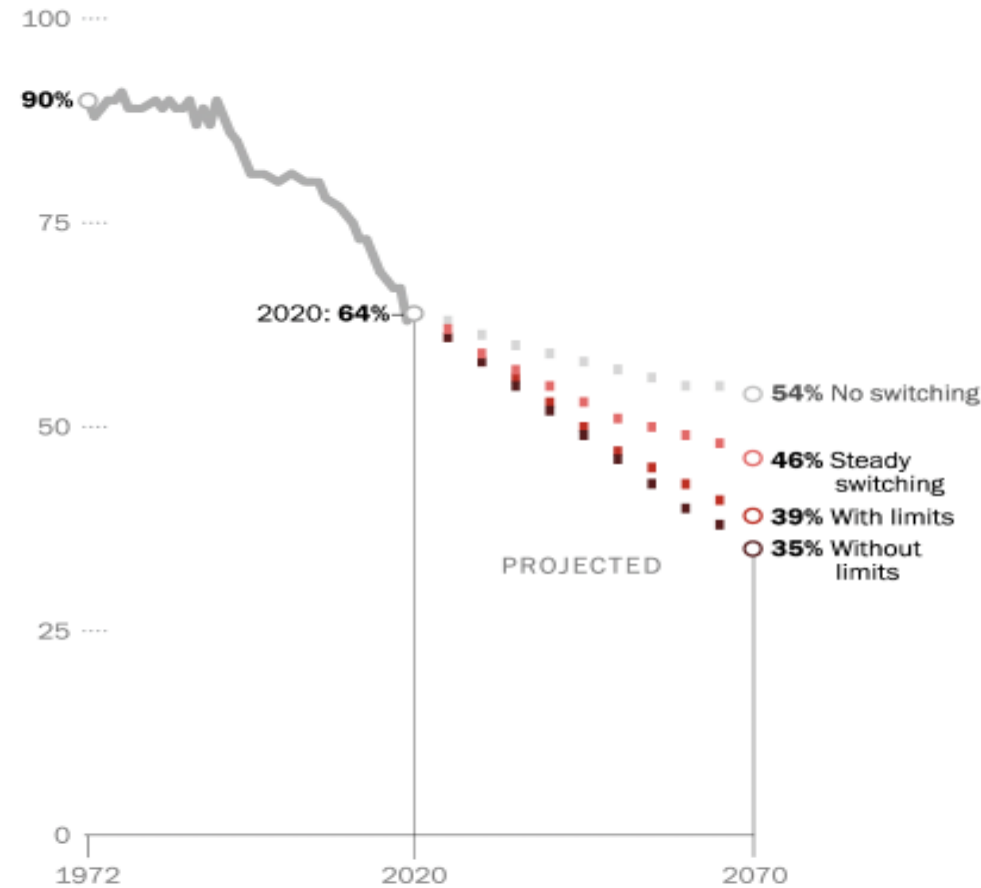
- **Becoming less uniform in personal devotion**

PEW Research Center

- **Christian share of the US population is declining.**
 - **Christians has dropped by 8% from 78.4% in 2007 to 70.6% in 2014.**
 - **Growth of the “nones”**
- **The drop in Christian affiliation is particularly pronounced among young adults, even though it is occurring among Americans of all ages and ethnic groups.**

U.S. Christians projected to fall below 50% of population if recent trends continue

% of Americans who are Christian



Scenarios

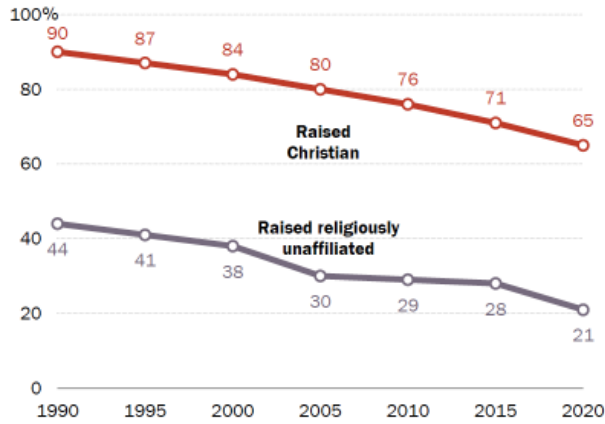
- No switching**
This scenario imagines no person in America has changed or will change their religion after 2020.
- Steady switching**
Movement into and out of Christianity remains stable at recently observed rates. That is, in each new generation, 31% of Christians become religiously unaffiliated before they turn 30, and 21% of unaffiliated people become Christian.
- Rising disaffiliation with limits**
In each new generation, a growing share of Christians switch out before they turn 30, while a shrinking share of 'nones' switch in. But the switching rate is capped to prevent the share of Christians who leave the faith from rising above 50%.
- Rising disaffiliation without limits**
In each new generation, a growing share of Christians switch out before they turn 30, while a shrinking share of 'nones' switch in. No cap is imposed on switching rates.

Note: Historical data describes trends among U.S. adults based on surveys of adults. The 2020 estimate and subsequent projections show Americans of all ages. In 2020, we estimate that the religious composition of people of all ages roughly matches the adult composition. Sources: General Social Survey (1972-2006); Pew Research Center surveys (2007-2021); Pew Research Center projections (2020-2070). "Modeling the Future of Religion in America"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

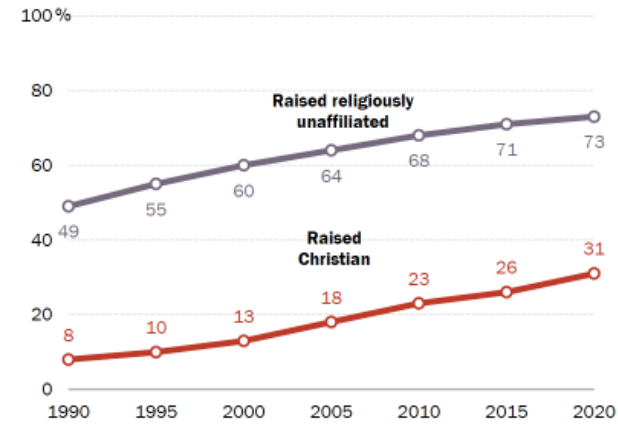
Young Americans are now less likely to become or remain Christian ...

% of U.S. adults ____ who are Christian at ages 30 to 34



... and more likely to become or remain unaffiliated

% of U.S. adults ____ who are religiously unaffiliated at ages 30 to 34



Note: Estimates are based on aggregated and smoothed data from General Social Survey and Pew Research Center data.

Sources: General Social Survey (1990-2018) and Pew Research Center survey (2019).

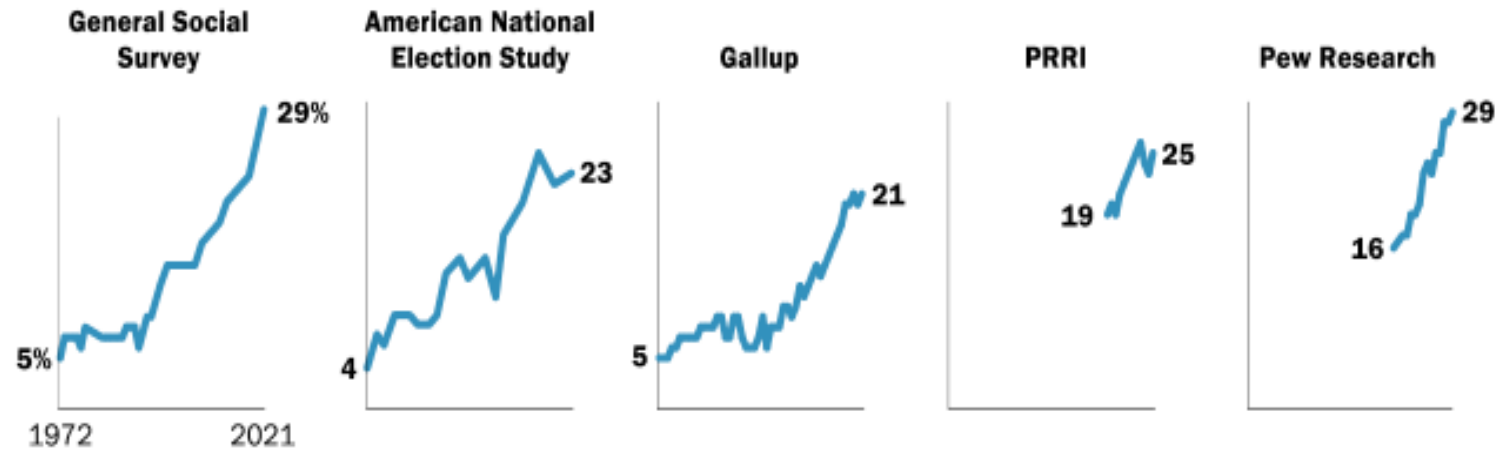
"Modeling the Future of Religion in America"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/09/13/modeling-the-future-of-religion-in-america/>

Surveys show similar trajectories for the religiously unaffiliated

% of religiously unaffiliated adults in the U.S.



Source: General Social Survey, American National Election Survey, Gallup, Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) and Pew Research Center surveys.

"Modeling the Future of Religion in America"

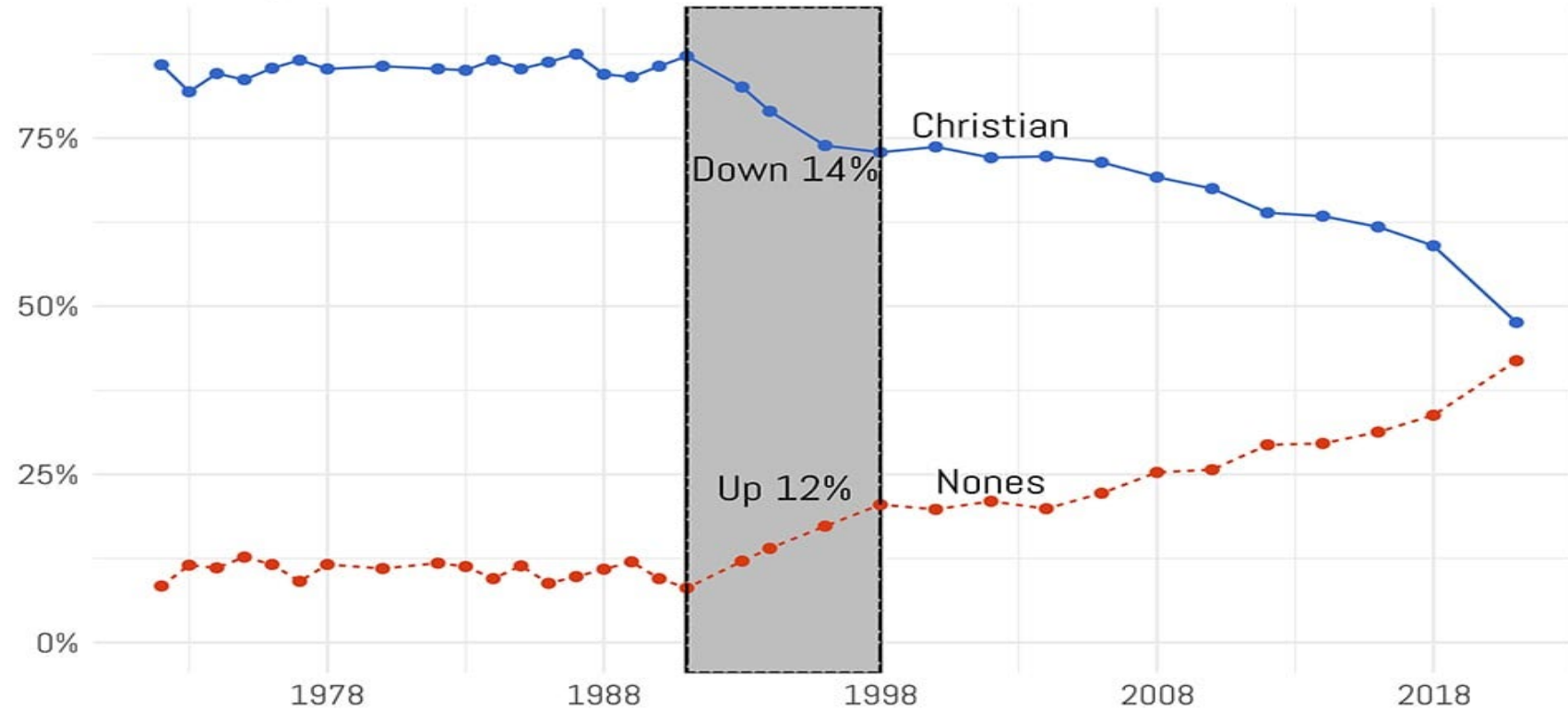
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/09/13/modeling-the-future-of-religion-in-america/>

Loss in 1990s

- Using data from the [General Social Survey](#), which has been fielded consistently from 1972 through 2021, and restricting the sample to adults between the ages of 18 and 35, a single decade comes into sharp focus: the 1990s. It's a moment when young Americans seemed to lose religion virtually overnight.

The Religious Affiliation of 18 to 35 Year Olds



@ryanburge
Data: GSS 1972-2021

<https://religionnews.com/2022/04/13/how-americas-youth-lost-its-religion-in-1990s/>

Generation Names

Baby Boomer Generation - born 1946-1964

Generation X - born 1965-1979

Millennials - born 1980-1994

Generation Z - born 1995-2012

Generation Alpha - born 2013-2025

Generation Z Characteristics

- They are our first “digital natives” ...
- They live slowly. ...
- They are pragmatic and financially-minded. ...
- Many factors contribute to their mental health challenges. ...
- They are shrewd consumers. ...
- They are politically progressive —even those on the right.
- Diversity is their norm. ...

Generation Z Religion

Least religious generation

More than a third of Gen Z religiously **unaffiliated**

Far more likely to be identified as atheist or agnostic

About 50% Protestant, 20% Catholic in USDA

Doctrinal Beliefs

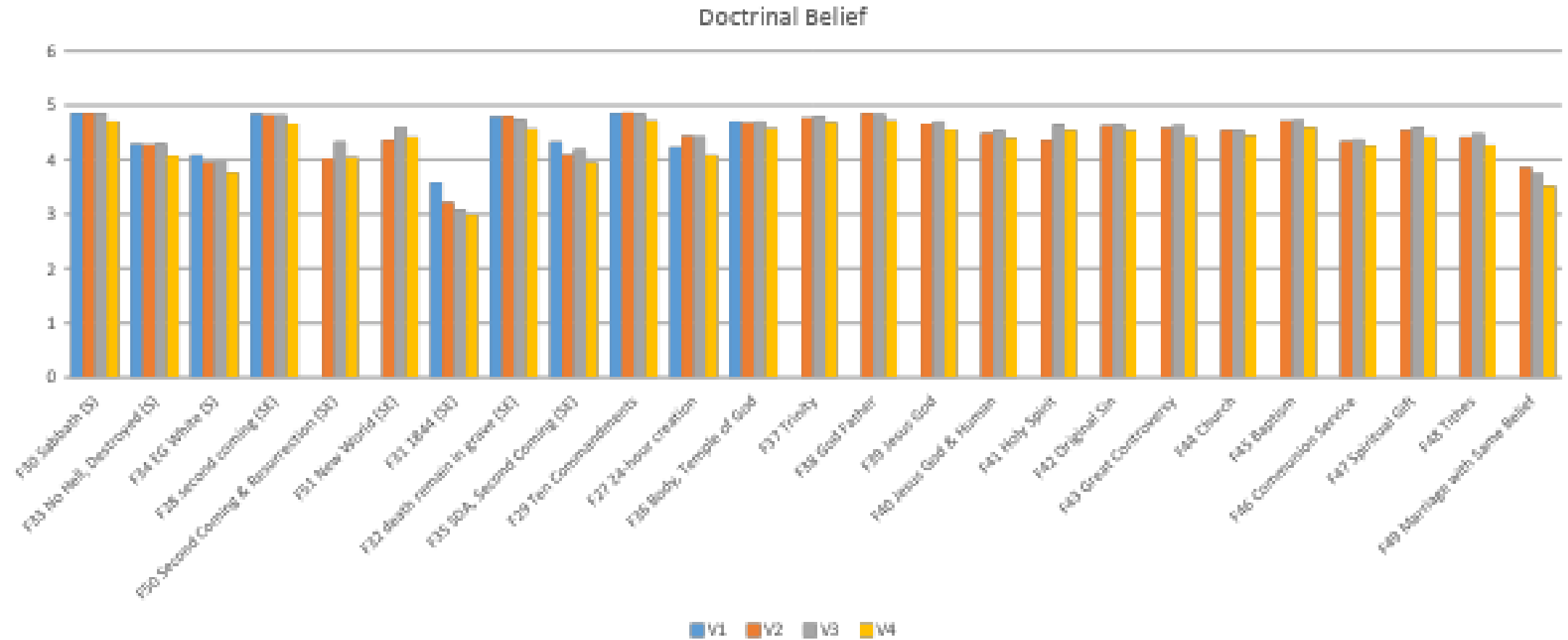
- **How strongly do you believe each of the following statements?**

Doctrinal Beliefs

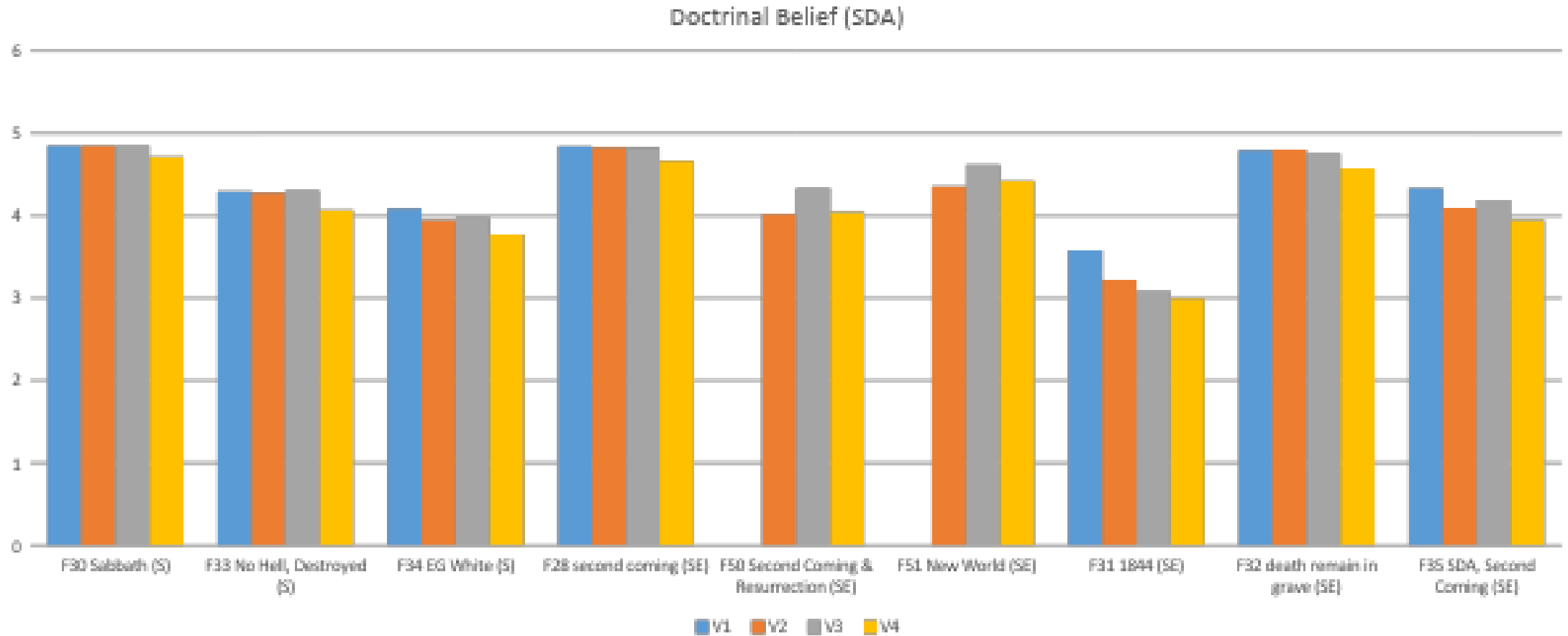
- How strongly do you believe each of the following statements?
- **25 Items**
 - **SDA Specific**
 - “The investigative or pre-advent judgment in heaven began in 1844.”
 - **General Christian**
 - “There is one God; Father, Son, and Spirit, a unity of three eternal Persons.”
- **5-point scale**

	V1	V2	V3	V4
F30 Sabbath (S)	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.71
F33 No Hell, Destroyed (S)	4.29	4.28	4.3	4.07
F34 EG White (S)	4.08	3.95	3.98	3.77
F28 second coming (SE)	4.84	4.82	4.82	4.66
F50 Second Coming & Resurrection (SE)		4.02	4.33	4.04
F51 New World (SE)		4.36	4.61	4.42
F31 1844 (SE)	3.58	3.22	3.08	2.99
F32 death remain in grave (SE)	4.79	4.8	4.75	4.57
F35 SDA, Second Coming (SE)	4.33	4.09	4.19	3.95
F29 Ten Commandments	4.85	4.86	4.84	4.72
F27 24-hour creation	4.23	4.44	4.43	4.08
F36 Body, Temple of God	4.71	4.68	4.71	4.58
F37 Trinity		4.77	4.8	4.69
F38 God Father		4.85	4.83	4.72
F39 Jesus God		4.66	4.71	4.56
F40 Jesus God & Human		4.49	4.55	4.4
F41 Holy Spirit		4.36	4.65	4.55
F42 Original Sin		4.63	4.64	4.54
F43 Great Controversy		4.59	4.63	4.43
F44 Church		4.55	4.55	4.45
F45 Baptism		4.72	4.73	4.6
F46 Communion Service		4.34	4.37	4.26
F47 Spiritual Gift		4.55	4.6	4.42
F48 Tithes		4.42	4.48	4.27
F49 Marriage with Same Belief		3.86	3.75	3.52

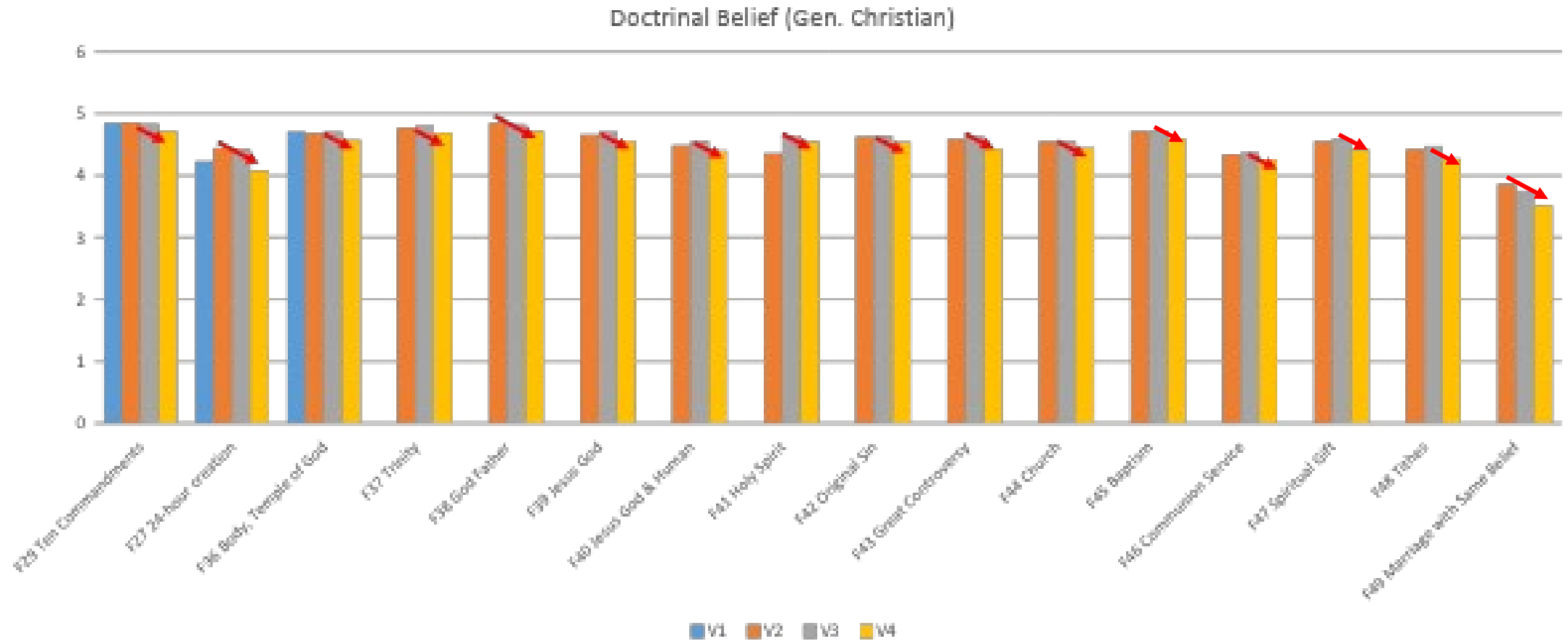
Doctrinal Beliefs: Change (Mean)



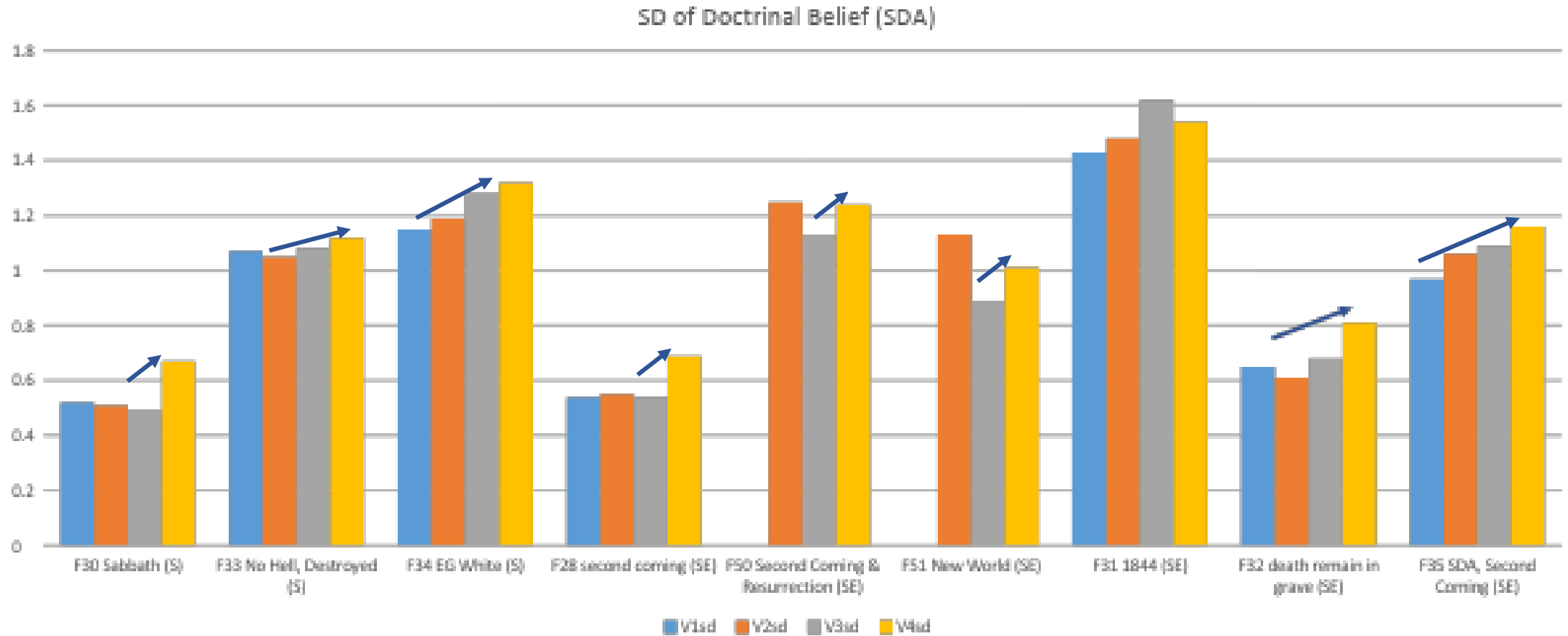
SDA Doctrinal Belief Change (Mean)



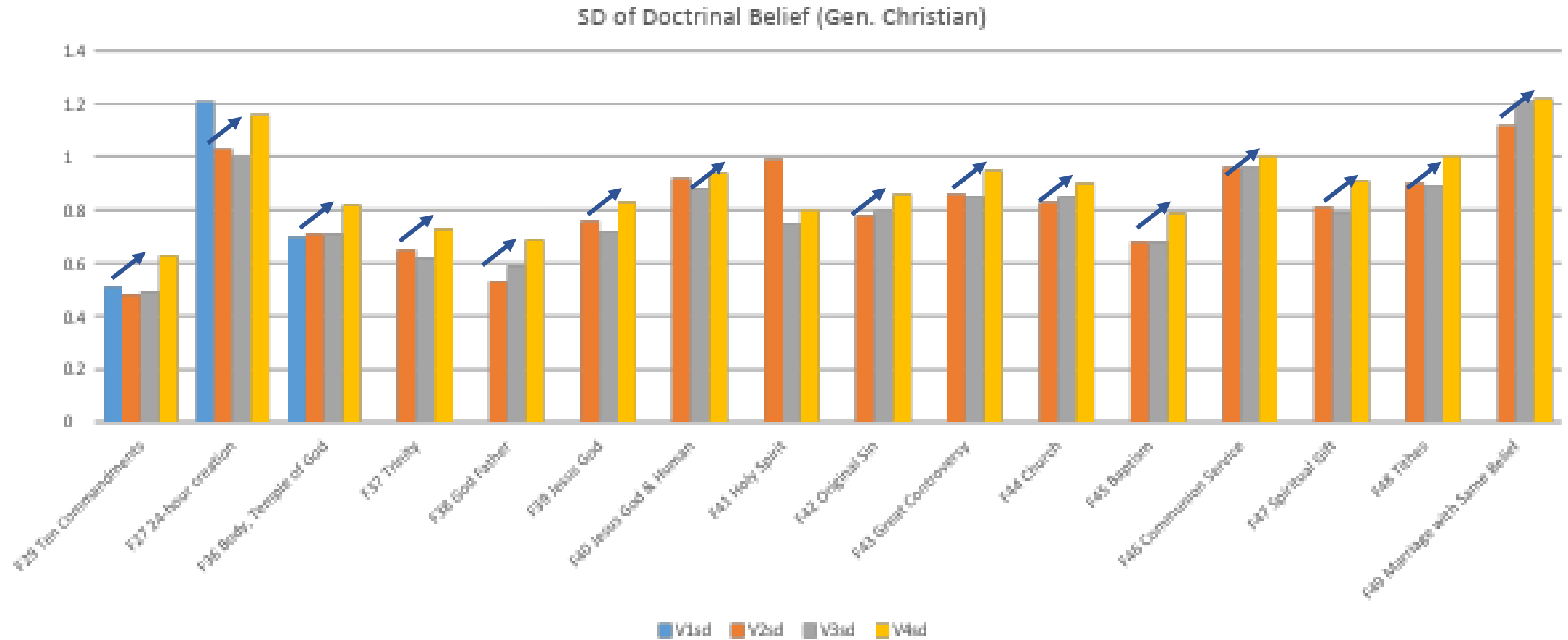
Gen. Christian Doctrinal Belief Change (Mean)



SDA Doctrinal Belief Change (Variance)



Gen. Christian Doctrinal Belief Change (Variance)



Doctrinal Belief with Mean of 4.50 or Above (90% of Max)

	V2	V4	Change
Ten Commandments	4.86	4.72	-3%
Sabbath	4.85	4.71	-3%
God, Father	4.85	4.72	-3%
Second Coming	4.82	4.66	-4%
Dead, Remains in Grave	4.80	4.57	-5%
Trinity	4.77	4.69	-2%
Baptism	4.72	4.60	-3%
Body, Temple of God	4.68	4.58	-2%
Jesus God	4.66	4.56	-2%
Original Sin	4.63	4.54	-2%
Great Controversy	4.59	(4.43)	-4%
Church	4.55	(4.45)	-2%
Spiritual Gift	4.55	(4.42)	-3%
Holy Sprit	(4.36)	4.55	+4%

Doctrinal Belief with Mean Score of 4 or Less (80% of Max)

	V2	V4	Change
1844 Pre-Advent Judgement	3.22	2.99	-7%
Marriage with SDA	3.86	3.52	-9%
E.G. White	3.95	3.77	-5%
SDA, the Last Church	(4.09)	3.95	-4%

Thumbnail

- **Adventist youth doctrinal beliefs...**
 - **On the slippery slope**
 - **Across both SDA and General Christian doctrines**

Thumbnail

- Adventist youth doctrinal beliefs...
 - On the slippery slope
 - Across both SDA and General Christian doctrines
- **Particularly distinctive in...**
 - **Marriage with an Adventist**
 - **1844, Pre-Advent Judgment**
 - **E. G. White & Status of the Dead**

Thumbnail

- Adventist youth doctrinal beliefs...
 - On the slippery slope
 - Across both SDA and General Christian doctrines
- Particularly distinctive in...
 - Marriage with an Adventist
 - 1844, Pre-Advent Judgment
 - E. G. White & Status of the Dead
- **Adventist youth are less uniform than before...**
 - **Across both SDA and General Christian doctrines**
 - **Particularly when compared to 10 years ago**

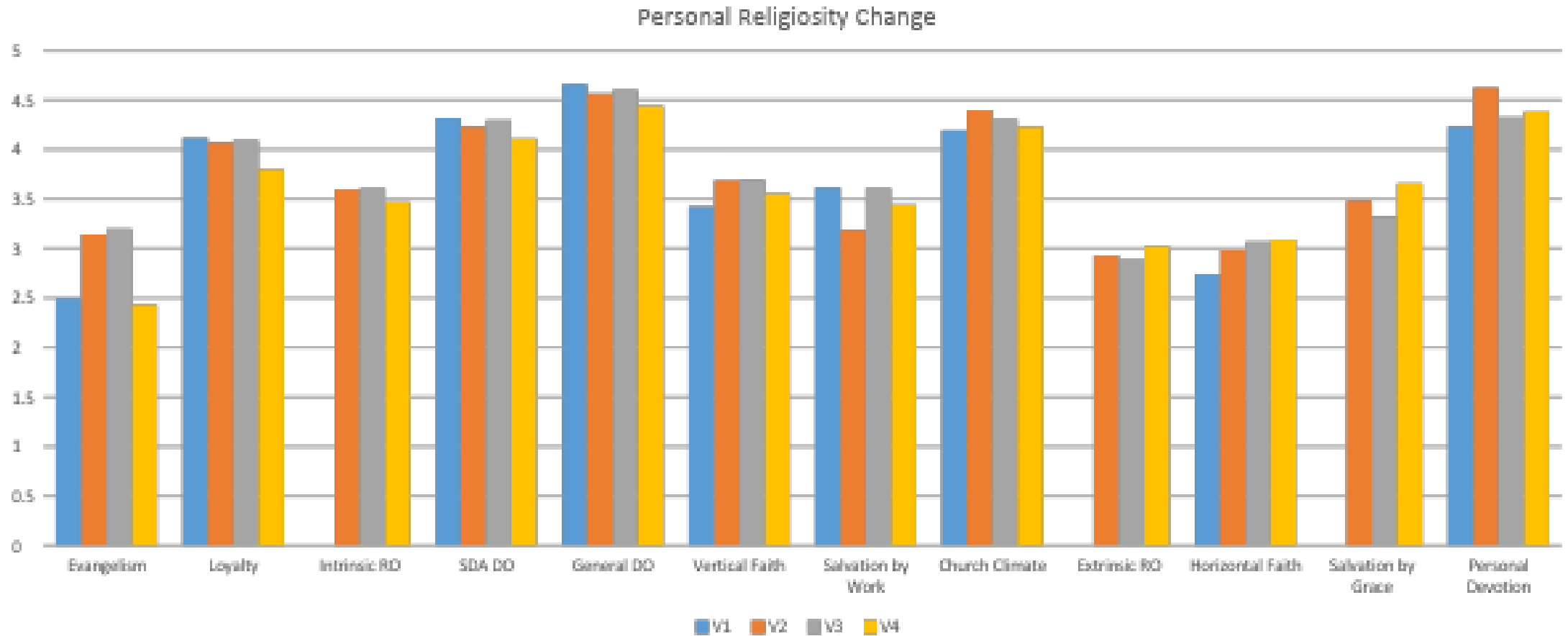
Faith Traits (Attributes)

- Disguising quality or characteristic
- Comprised of multiple small elements

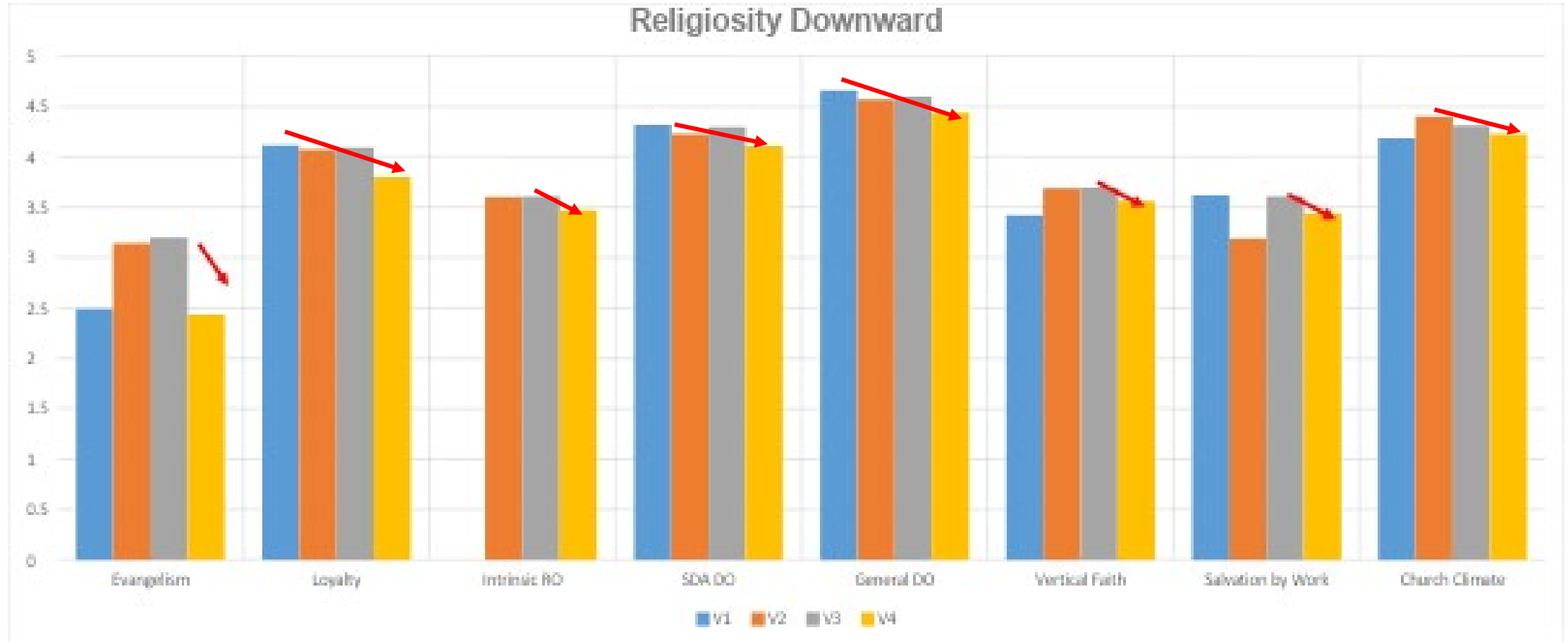
Religious Trait Mean Score

	V1	V2	V3	V4
Evangelism	2.49	3.14	3.2	2.43
Loyalty	4.12	4.07	4.09	3.8
Intrinsic RO		3.6	3.61	3.47
SDA DO	4.32	4.23	4.3	4.11
General DO	4.66	4.57	4.6	4.44
Vertical Faith	3.42	3.69	3.7	3.56
Salvation by Work	3.62	3.19	3.61	3.44
Extrinsic RO		2.93	2.89	3.02
Horizontal Faith	2.74	2.98	3.07	3.09
Salvation by Grace		3.48	3.32	3.66
Personal Devotion	4.23	4.63	4.33	4.38
Church Climate	4.19	4.4	4.31	4.23

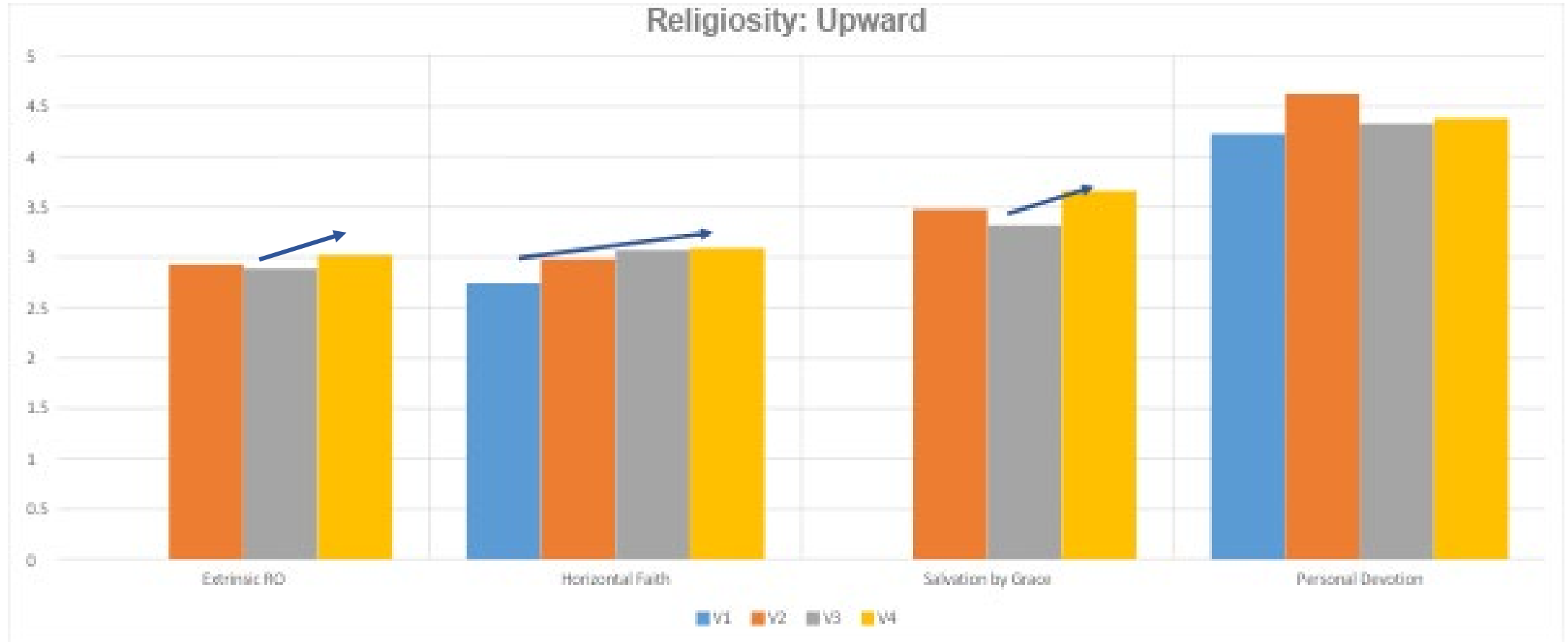
Personal Religiosity Change (Traits)



Religiosity Change: Downward



Religiosity Change: Upward



Thumbnail

- **Adventist youth are less religious in traditional religiosity.**

- Internalizing faith (intrinsic religious orientation)
- Relationship with God (vertical faith)
- Doctrinal faith
- Evangelism
- Church climate

Thumbnail

- Adventist youth are less religious in traditional religiosity.
 - Internalizing faith (intrinsic religious orientation)
 - Relationship with God (vertical faith)
 - Doctrinal faith
 - Evangelism
 - Church climate
- Adventist youth have become
 - More **diverse**
 - More **utilitarian** (extrinsic religious orientation)
 - Connecting **religion and world.**

Influence Factor

- How much has each of the following helped you develop your religious faith?

Influence Factor

- How much has each of the following helped you develop your religious faith?
- **26 Factors**
 - School-related (week of prayer at school)
 - Church-related (my pastor)
 - Family or personal (mother's faith & friend)
- **5-point scale**

Most Important & Least Important

Factors	V2	V4
Five Most Important	Family (3.97) SDA School (3.93) Mother (3.76) School Week of Prayers (3.73) Church Service (3.70)	
Five Least Important		

Most Important & Least Important

Factors	V2	V4
Five Most Important	Family (3.97) SDA School (3.93) Mother (3.76) School Week of Prayers (3.73) Church Service (3.70)	Family (4.24) SDA School (4.24) Mother (4.06) School Bible Class (3.97) School Week of Prayers (3.92) Church Service (3.92)
Five Least Important		

Most Important & Least Important

Factors	V2	V4
Five Most Important	Family (3.97) SDA School (3.93) Mother (3.76) School Week of Prayers (3.73) Church Service (3.70)	Family (4.24) SDA School (4.24) Mother (4.06) School Bible Class (3.97) School Week of Prayers (3.92) Church Service (3.92)
Five Least Important	Youth Organization (2.47) Pathfinders (2.51) Mission Project (2.67) Evangelism (2.77) School Bible Camp (2.83) School Community Outreach (2.83)	

Most Important & Least Important

Factors	V2	V4
Five Most Important	Family (3.97) SDA School (3.93) Mother (3.76) School Week of Prayers (3.73) Church Service (3.70)	Family (4.24) SDA School (4.24) Mother (4.06) School Bible Class (3.97) School Week of Prayers (3.92) Church Service (3.92)
Five Least Important	Youth Organization (2.47) Pathfinders (2.51) Mission Project (2.67) Evangelism (2.77) School Bible Camp (2.83) School Community Outreach (2.83)	Evangelism (2.81) Mission Project (2.85) Campus Chaplain (2.97) Sabbath (3.07) Conference Youth Camp (3.07)

Increase and Decrease Areas

	Factor	Change	Scores
Five Largest Increases	Youth Organization (e.g. AY)	1.33	2.47 to 3.29
	School Chapel	1.24	3.08 to 3.82
	Pathfinders	1.22	2.51 to 3.06
	School Worship	1.19	3.11 to 3.70
	School Bible Camp	1.16	2.83 to 3.29
Decrease Areas			

Increase and Decrease Areas

	Factor	Change	Scores
Five Largest Increases	Youth Organization (e.g. AY)	1.33	2.47 to 3.29
	School Chapel	1.24	3.08 to 3.82
	Pathfinders	1.22	2.51 to 3.06
	School Worship	1.19	3.11 to 3.70
	School Bible Camp	1.16	2.83 to 3.29
Decrease Areas	Sabbath	.85	3.63 to 3.07
	Personal Devotion	.96	3.68 to 3.54
	Friend	1.00	3.45 to 3.45

Thumbnail

- **Adventist youth say...**
 - **“Family” and “School” more important.**
 - **“Church” or “events” are less important.**

Thumbnail

- Adventist youth say...
 - “Family” and “School” more important.
 - “Church” or “events” are less influential.
- **Influence increases in...**
 - **Youth activities**
 - **School religion programs**

Thumbnail

- Adventist youth say...
 - “Family” and “School” more important.
 - “Church” or “events” are less important.
- Influence increases in...
 - Youth activities
 - School religion programs
- **Personal devotion & Sabbath doctrine**
 - **Less influential than before**

Thumbnail

- Adventist youth say...
 - “Family” and “School” more important.
 - “Church” or “events” are less important.
- Influence increases in...
 - Youth activities
 - School religion programs
- Personal devotion & Sabbath doctrine
 - Less influential than before
- **The School is important and becomes even more important.**

Will they remain in the church?

Church Satisfaction and Loyalty

	V1	V2	V3	V4
Church Satisfaction	3.97	3.83	3.88	3.75
Attend the SDA Church when Move	4.52	4.45	4.39	4.07
Remain Active in SDA at 40	3.86	3.95	3.99	3.58

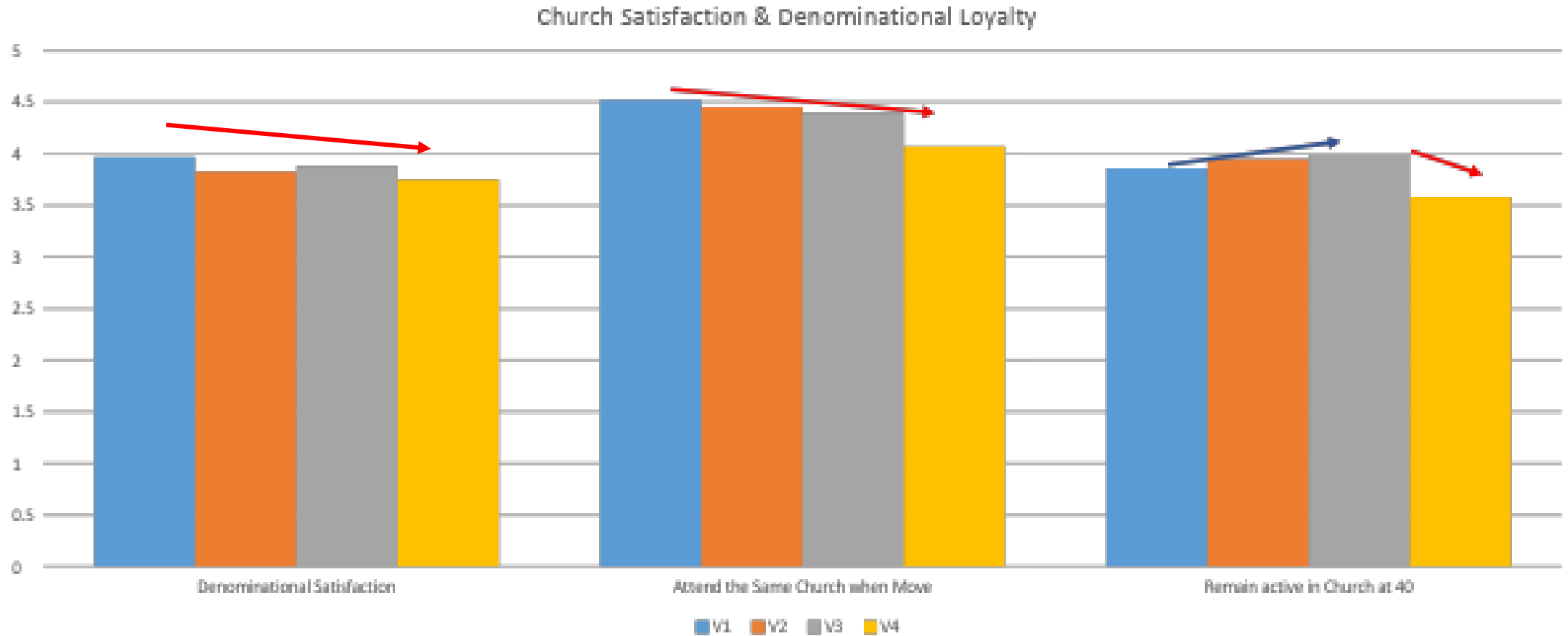
Church Satisfaction and Loyalty

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Church Satisfaction	3.97 (79%)	3.83	3.88	3.75
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Remain Active in SDA at 40	3.86 (77%)	3.95	3.99	3.58

Church Satisfaction and Loyalty

	V1	V2	V3	V4
Church Satisfaction	3.97 (79%)	3.83	3.88	3.75 (75%) (-4)
Attend the SDA Church when Move	4.52 (90%)	4.45	4.39	4.07 (81%) (-9)
Remain Active in SDA at 40	3.86 (77%)	3.95	3.99	3.58 (72%) (-5)

Change in Church Satisfaction and Loyalty



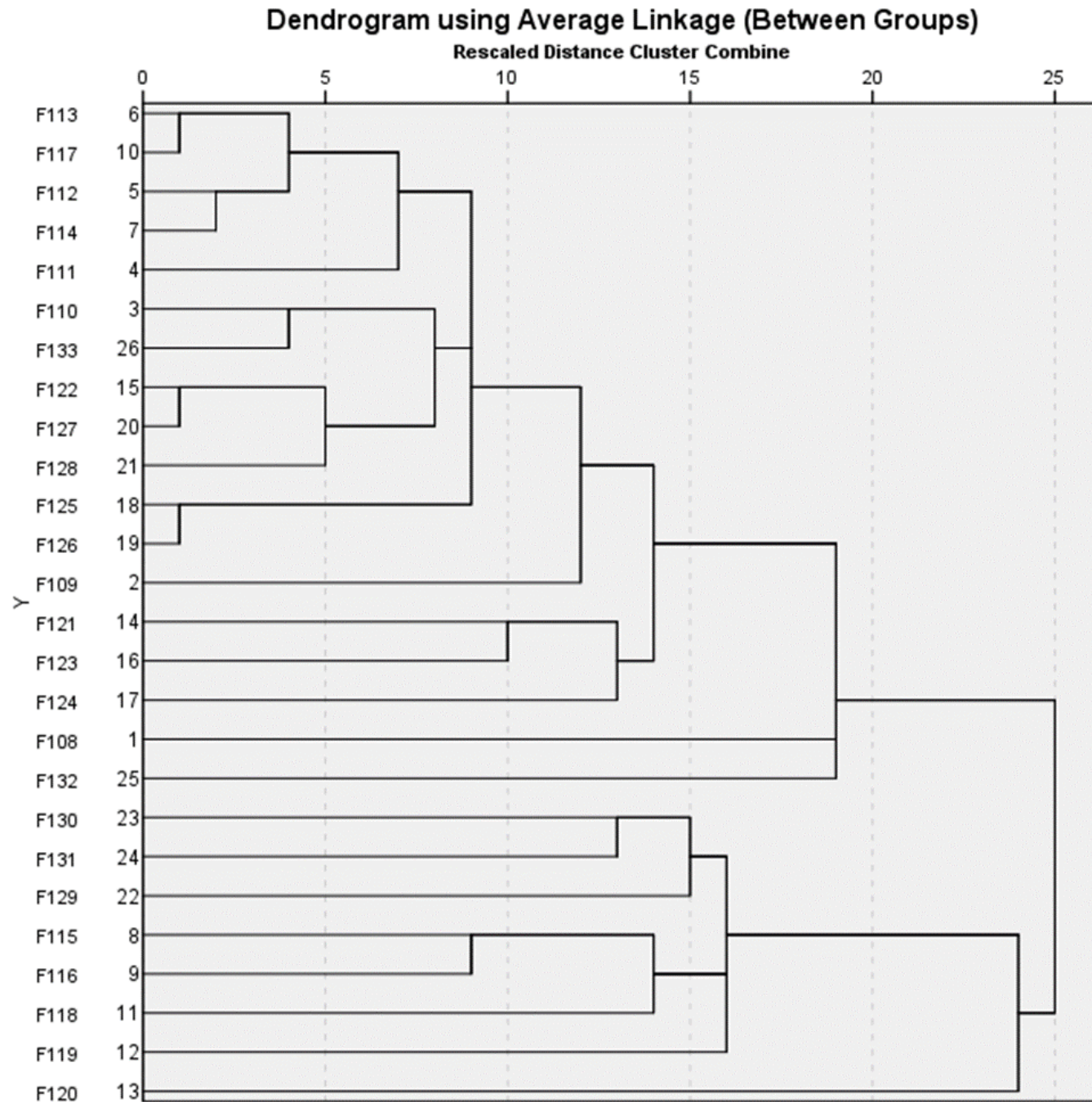
Key Traits for Loyalty

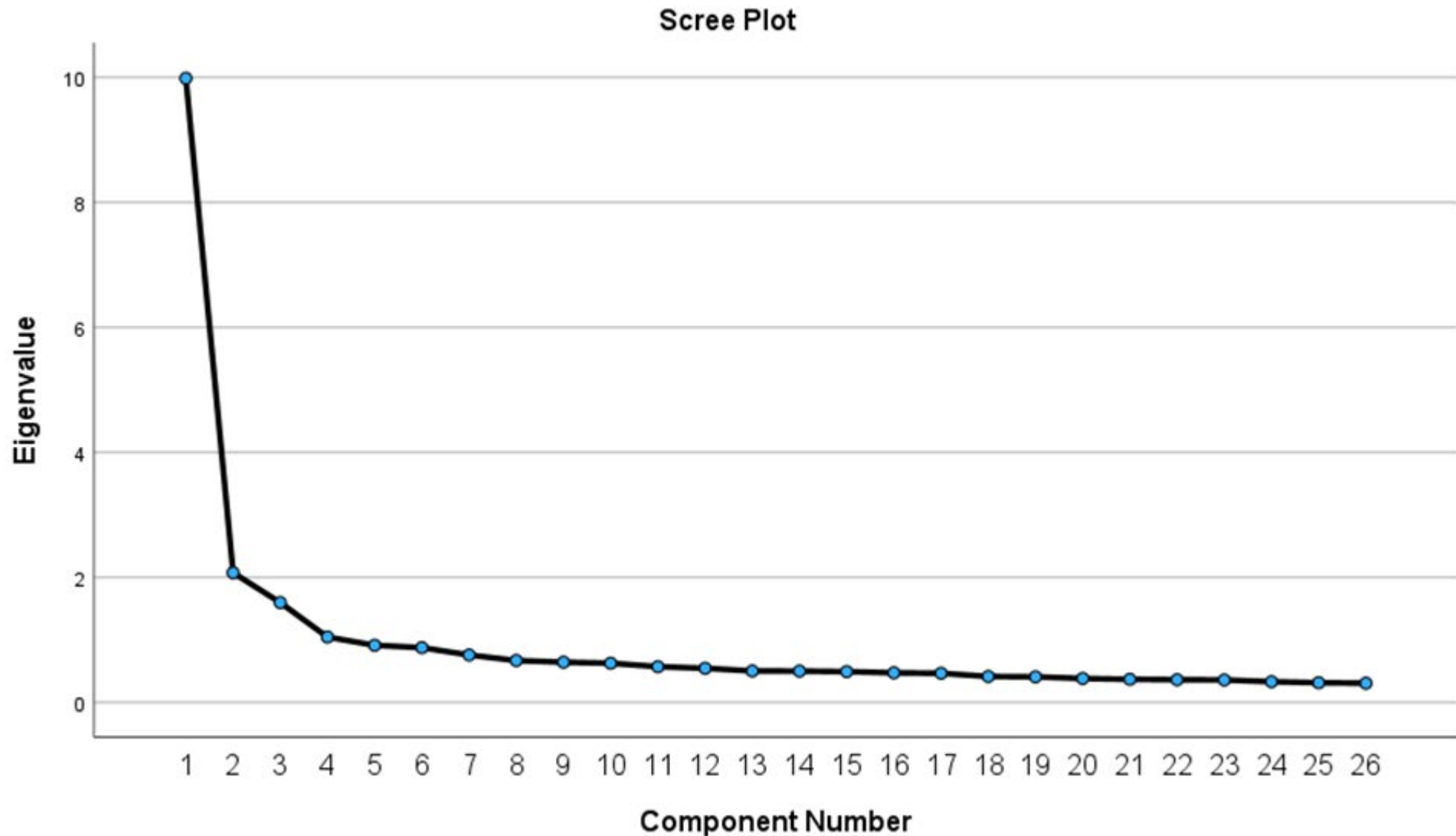
Intrinsic Religiosity	.159
Church Climate	.151
Personal Devotion	.139
Adventist Identity	.128
Extrinsic Religiosity	-.121

Key Predictors of Denominational Loyalty

- Personal Prayers (PO; .25)
- Religion answers questions about the meaning of life (IR;.12)
- I enjoy reading about my religion (IR; .11)
- Spending time in private thought and prayer (IR; .11)
- I look for opportunity to grow spiritually (VF; .10).
- Influence factor
 - Church service (.16)
 - Attending SDA schools (.12)
 - Personal devotion (.13)
- It doesn't matter what I believe so long as I am good (ER; -.13)

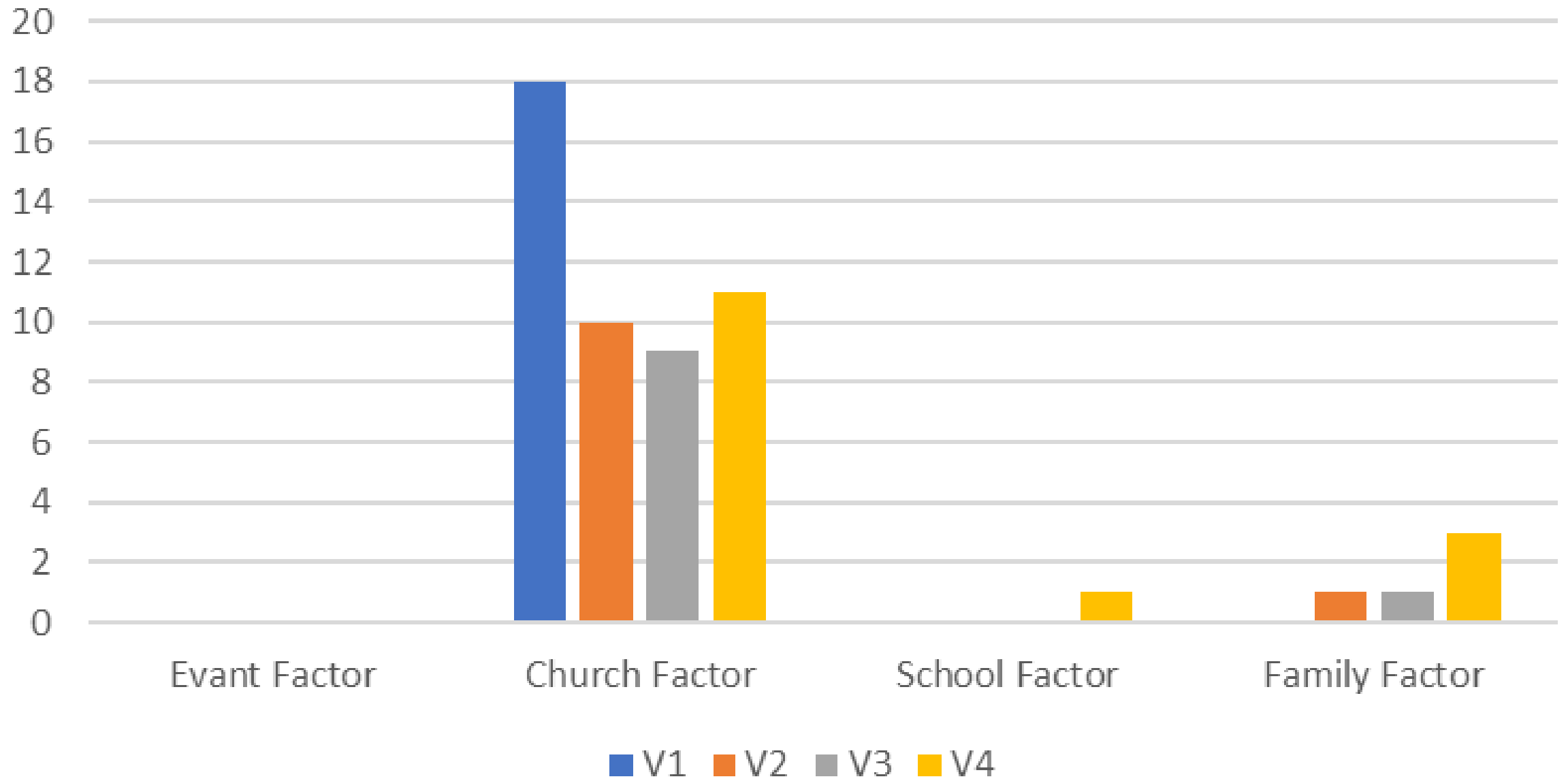
Influence Factors (25) Clustering



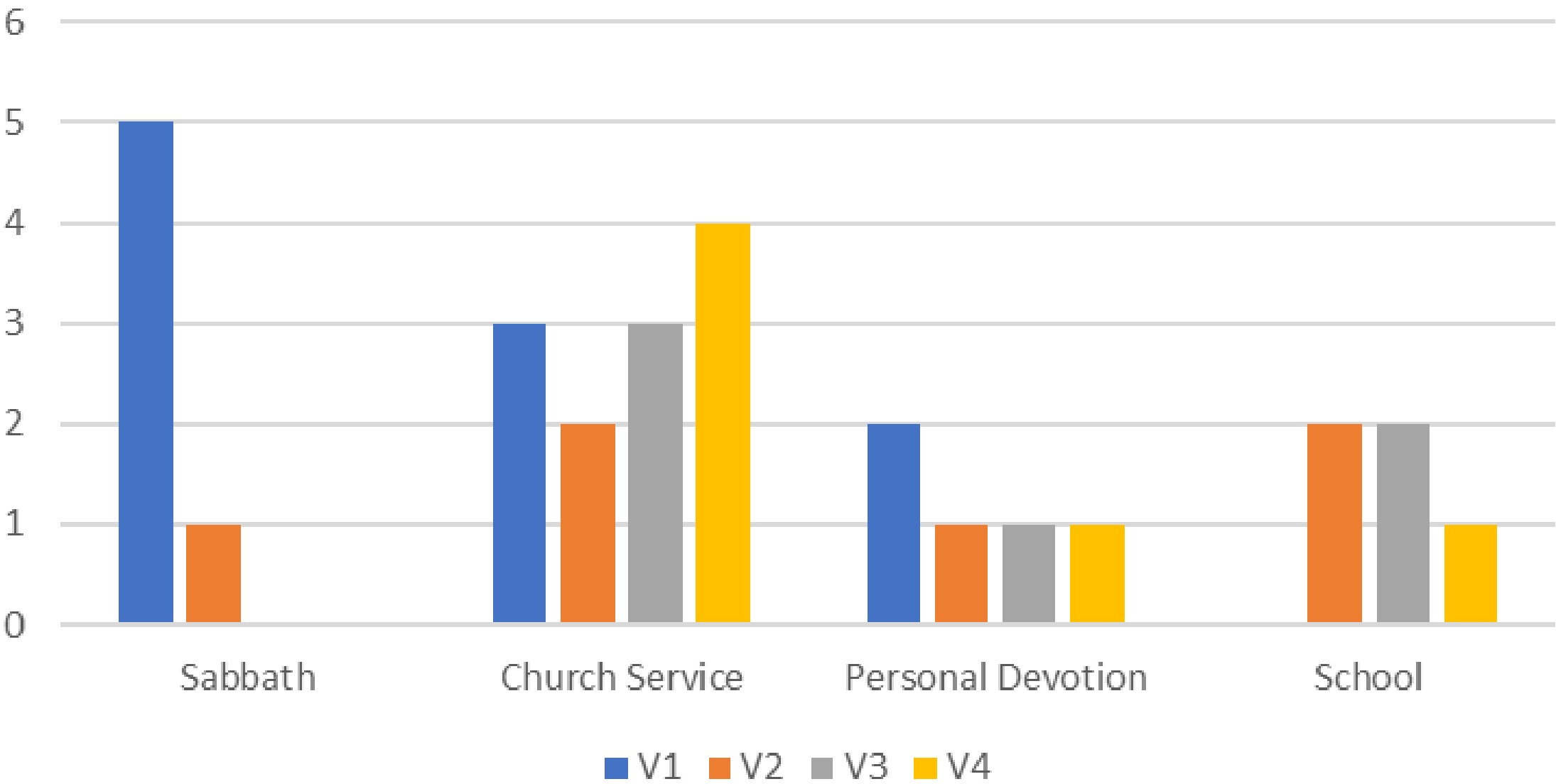


**Influence
Factors (25)
PCA**

Explained Variance of Loyalty by Group



Explained Variance of Loyalty (Item)



Experienced more than seen...

- Watch newspapers. ...
- Listen to a magazine. ...
- See a phone call. ...
- Take a classroom anywhere. ...
- Hold an entire bookstore. ...
- Touch stars. ...

Interpretation

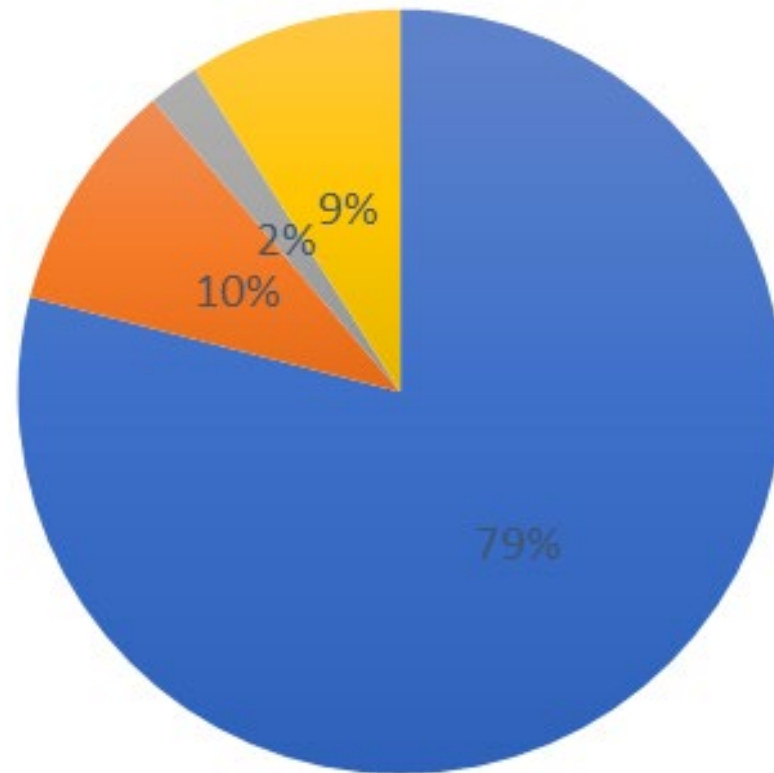
- Personal prayers and thoughts
 - More than church climate and culture
 - Keys to intrinsic religion and devotion.
- Deep and explorative religion?
 - Religion seeking answers about **life**, poverty, and **world**.
 - Seeking opportunity to grow spiritually.
- Attending
 - Church service
 - Adventist School

Generation Alpha

- They're focused on their family and the future. ...
- They're climate advocates. ...
- They're passionate about inclusivity. ...
- They're spending more time online. ...
- They love a trip to the movies.

Non-SDA Students in SDA Schools

Students by Religion (V4)

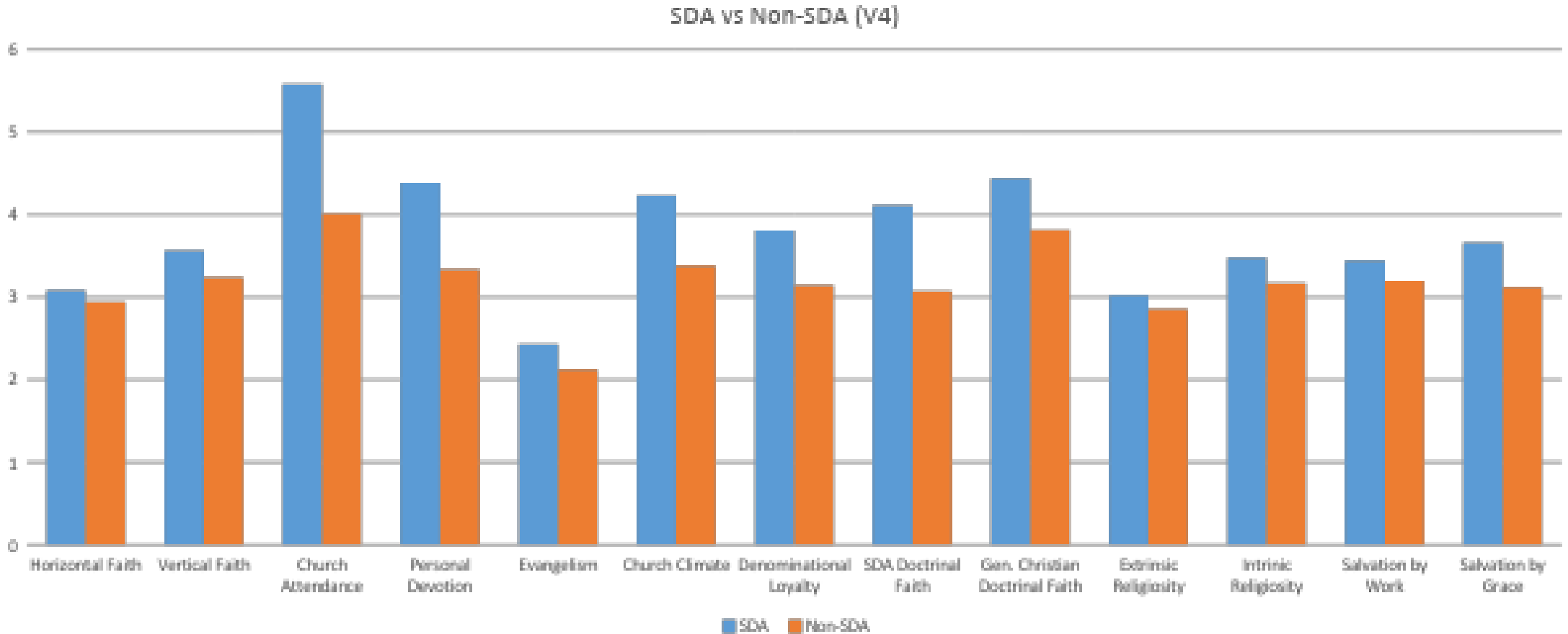


■ SDA ■ Protestant ■ Catholic ■ No Religion

SDA vs Non-SDA Students (VG4)

	SDA	Non-SDA
Horizontal Faith	3.08	2.94
Vertical Faith	3.56	3.24
Church Attendance	5.58	4.01
Personal Devotion	4.38	3.34
Evangelism	2.43	2.12
Church Climate	4.23	3.38
Denominational Loyalty	3.8	3.14
SDA Doctrinal Faith	4.11	3.07
Gen. Christian Doctrinal Faith	4.44	3.81
Extrinsic Religiosity	3.02	2.85
Intrinsic Religiosity	3.47	3.17
Salvation by Work	3.44	3.19
Salvation by Grace	3.66	3.12

SDA vs Non-SDA (VG4)



ValueGenesis IV Report/Book

- Seven contributors
- Reference-type book organization
 - 40 different traits
 - Introduction & methodology
 - Personal religion & faith section (15)
 - Family, school, and lifestyle section (15)
 - Perspective & positive psychology section (10)
 - Summary & suggestion

Section	Chapter/Trait
Faith & Religiosity	Faith Maturity, Personal Devotion, Biblical Literalism, Spiritual Orientation, Evangelism, Salvation, Doctrinal Faith, Church Climate, Adventist Identity, SDA Legalism, Religious Orientation, Adventist Self-esteem, Denominational Loyalty, Religious Faith Formation, Religious Trust
Family, School, and Lifestyle	Family Climate, SDA Lifestyle Enforcement, SDA Lifestyle Endorsement, Family Worship, Abuse & Mental Health, Sexuality, Substance Abuse, Bullying, Internet Use and Addiction, LGBTQ, Altruism, School Climate, School Diversity, School Satisfaction, Educational Aspiration, School Choice
Personal Perspectives & Positive Psychology	Well-being, Gratitude, Resilience, Self-efficacy, Optimism, Compassion, Growth Mindset, Worldview, Work Ethic, Life Goal

ValueGenesis IV Report/Book

- Each chapter (trait) includes...
 - 10-20 pages without tables and references
 - Hybrid writing style
 - Conceptualization
 - Importance
 - Comparison to V1-V3 or non-Adventist statistics
 - ValueGenesis data and analysis
 - Discussion, suggestions, and conclusion

ValueGenesis IV Report/Book

● Timeline

- Data collection closed late in January 2023
- 8-month data clean-up, review, and alignment
- Author assignment in November-December 2022
- Manuscript submission by September 30, 2023
- Review and revision by December 31, 2023
- Publication in 2024

End