

# **a·pol·o·get·ics**

Noun

reasoned arguments or writings in justification of something, typically a theory or religious doctrine



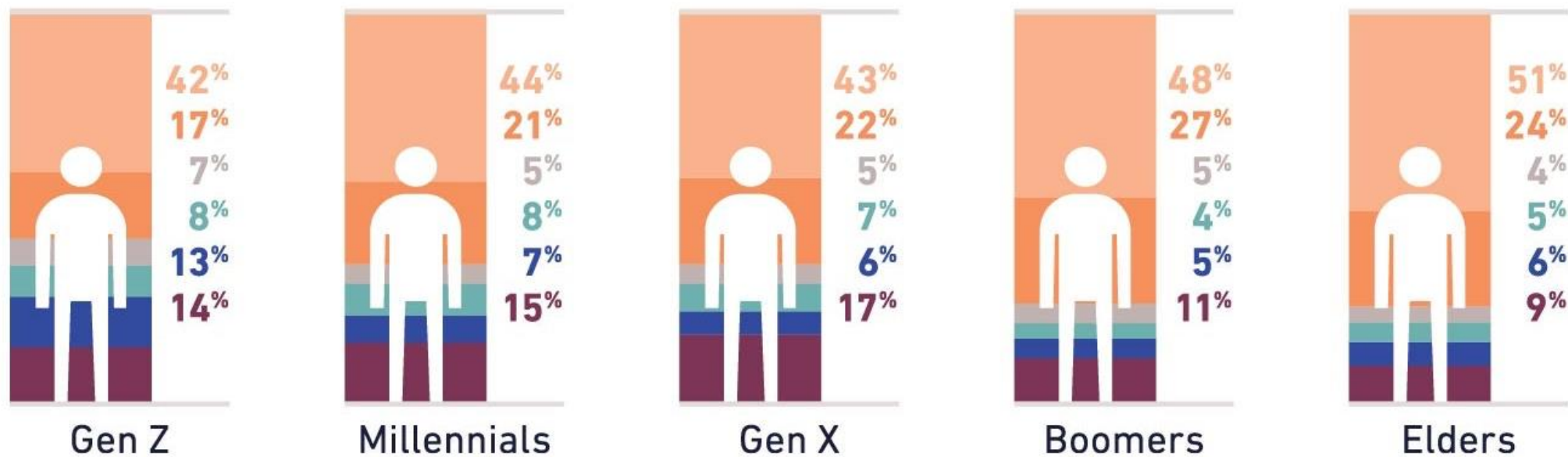




# U.S. Religious Identity 2018

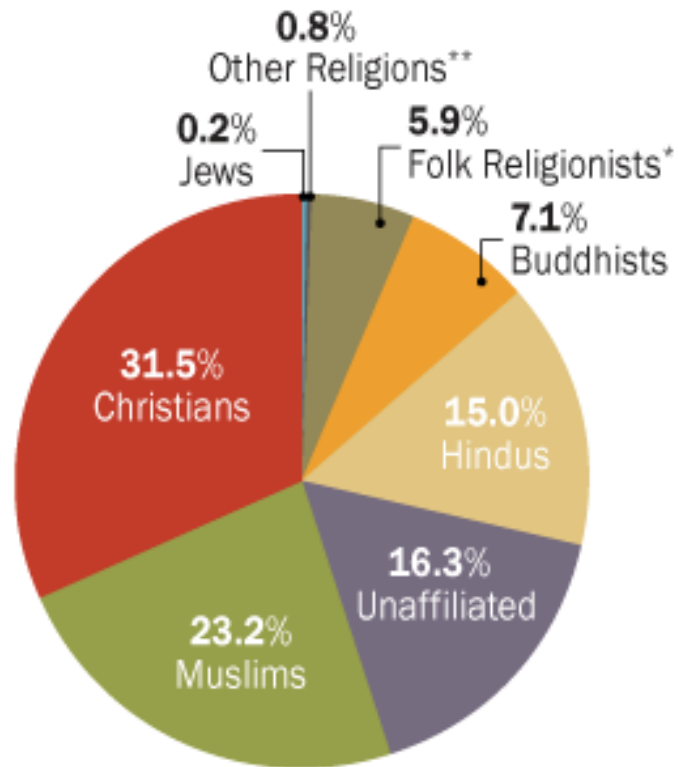
Which of the following best describes your religious faith?

- Christian (non-Catholic)
- Agnostic
- Catholic
- Atheist
- Other faith
- None of these



## Size of Major Religious Groups, 2010

Percentage of the global population



\*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

\*\*Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life •  
Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

# RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

- **Literally “more than one”, variety**
  - Freedom of religion in this country
  - Modernization
  - Large-scale immigration
- **For many pluralism is preferred**
  - “it is **good** there is more than one” has become a new American ideologue
- **Pluralism often leads to relativism**
  - “there is more than one”
    - “it is good there is more than one”
      - “everyone is good”
- **Relativism means all spiritual paths are valid**

**Do you believe in God?**



**Which god or gods do  
you believe in?**



# Why do we have pluralism?





**1. We've redefined the term "good" in religion.**



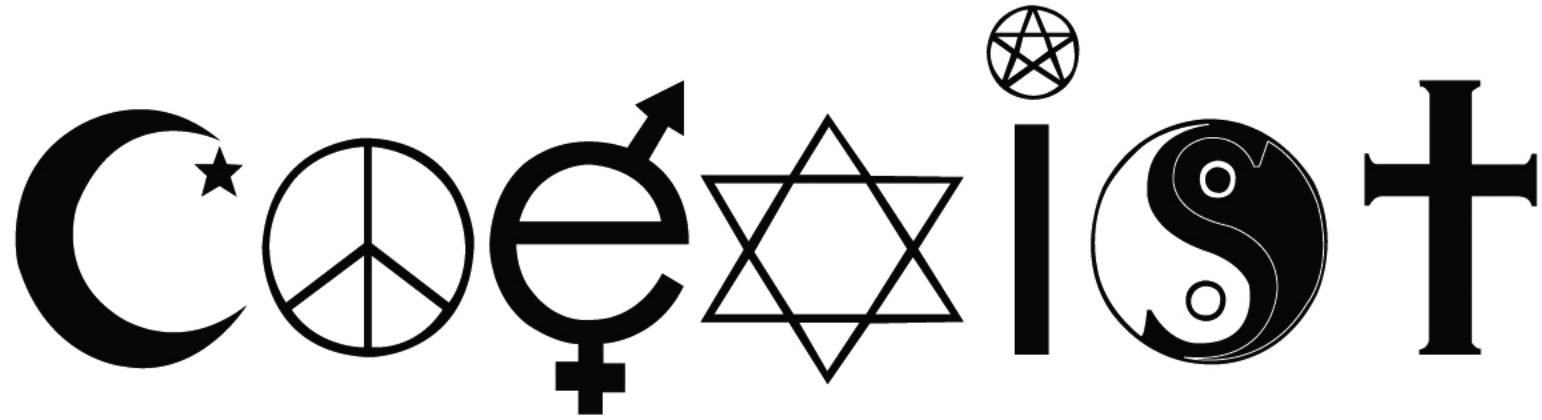




**2. Internal criteria is now valued higher than external criteria**



C O E I S T



**3. We teach that we are the most enlightened people in history**

C O N Q U E R

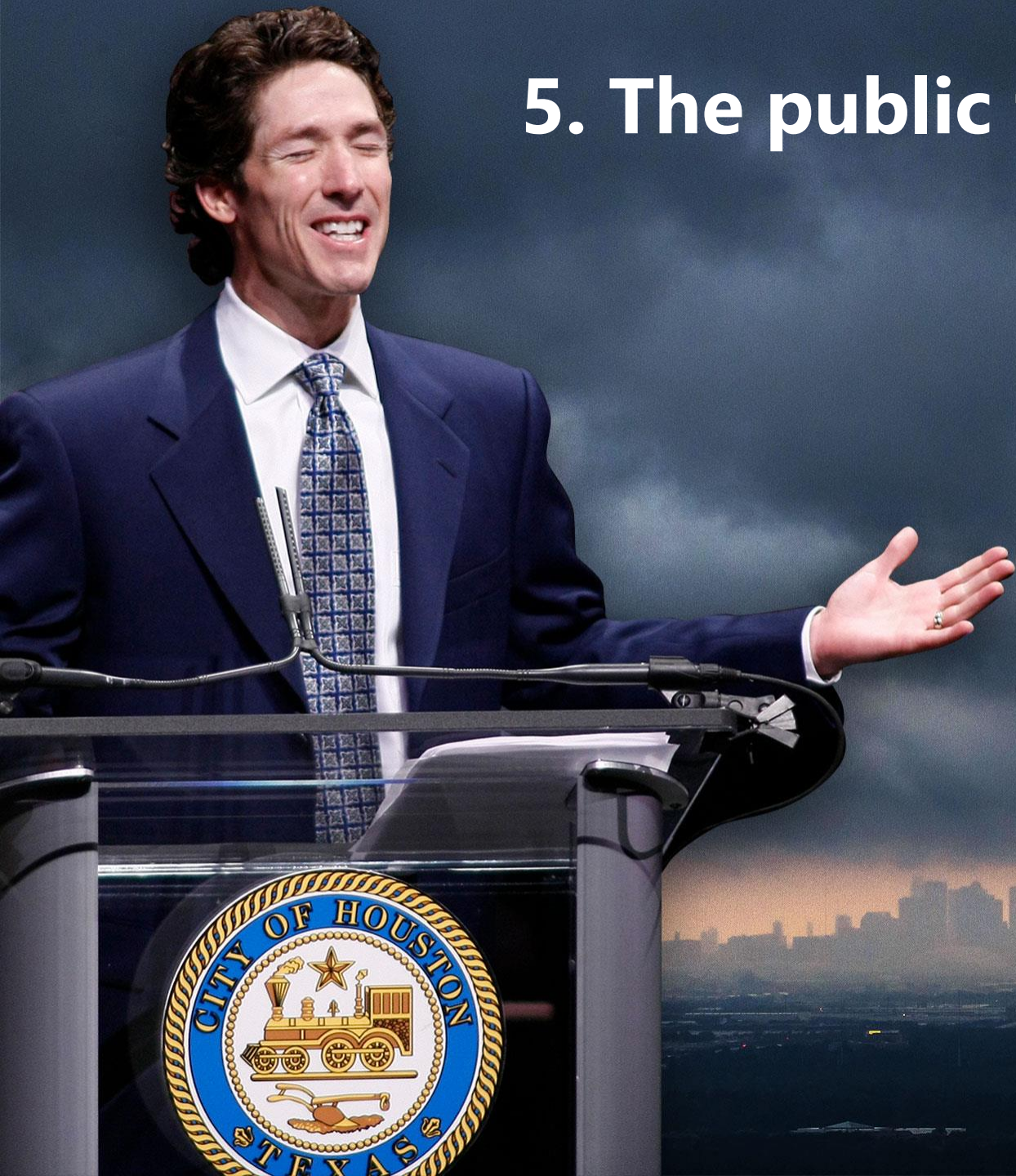


# 4. Postmodern skepticism





# 5. The public failure of American religion







**6. Multiculturalism has replaced diversity**



# Why do we have pluralism?

1. We've redefined the term "good" in religion

2. Internal criteria is now valued higher than external criteria

3. We believe that we are the most enlightened people in history

4. Postmodern skepticism

5. The public failure of American religion

6. Multiculturalism has replaced diversity

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone."  
(Mk 10:18)

And they said one to another, "Was not our heart burning within us, while He spoke to us in the way, while He opened to us the scriptures?" (Lk 24:32)

**Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. (Lk 11:47)**

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." (Matt 12:24...)

## The woes of Matthew 23

The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?"  
(John 4:9)