

## Hating Organized Religion

A few weeks ago, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life reported that for the first time in its history, the United States does not have a Protestant majority. One of the major reasons is that the number of Americans with no religious affiliation is on the rise. The percentage of Protestant adults in the U.S. has reached a low of 48%, and that is the first time that Pew has reported that the number has fallen below 50%. The drop has long been anticipated and comes at a time when no Protestants are on the U.S. Supreme Court and Republicans have their first presidential ticket with no Protestant nominees.

Among the reasons for the change are the growth in “nondenominational Christians” who can no longer be categorized as Protestant, and a spike in the number of American adults who say they have no religion -- a number approaching 20%, again the highest the Pew Forum has ever recorded. These are people who consider themselves “spiritual” but not “religious.” The researchers also noted that young adults today are much more likely to be unaffiliated than previous generations were at a similar stage in life.

I have met several people who despise what has come to be referred to as “organized religion.” Jesus built His church (Matthew 16:18), but man has changed it into something barely recognizable in the U.S. today. A relief for people who want to be “spiritual” is to understand that “*pure and undefiled religion*” is possible today (James 1:27). You can have a true, unadulterated relationship with God and Christ by simply going back to the Bible -- an endeavor to which we at the Loop 287 Church of Christ have given our greatest attention and devotion. Please join us for true and proper worship (cf. John 4:24).

Kyle Campbell