

Should the Churches

PLAN *for* **PEACE ?**



NATIONAL OPINION RESEARCH CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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Why this Report.....

The Church has been criticized in some quarters for not dealing more squarely with controversial war issues. Some people feel dissatisfied with the Church as a vital, dynamic, contemporary minded organism.

Other people, however, insist that they "want to get away from the war" when they go to church. They disapprove of religious leaders who discuss economic, political, or diplomatic questions, even if these have a direct bearing upon the final peace settlement.

Still others believe that civilization is doomed unless a religious revival takes place throughout the world.

With these widely divergent public attitudes regarding religious leadership in mind, the National Opinion Research Center presented to a national cross-section three questions designed to discover what Americans think the Church should do, and what they think it will do concerning peace plans after the war.

S U M M A R Y

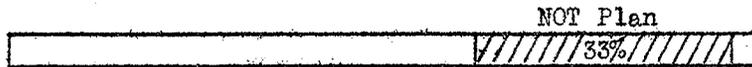
Two out of three Americans (63%) believe that planning for peace is a legitimate function of the church. Almost all these -- 87 per cent of the entire cross-section -- also believe that Catholics, Jews, and Protestants should unite on a single peace plan. But only half as many (29%) think these religious groups actually will get together and agree on a united peace plan.

IS PLANNING FOR PEACE A LEGITIMATE CHURCH FUNCTION?

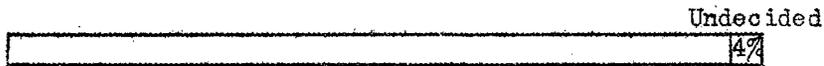
Almost two-thirds of the total cross-section think the churches should make plans for the peace following the war.



One-third believe that planning for peace is not the work of the church.



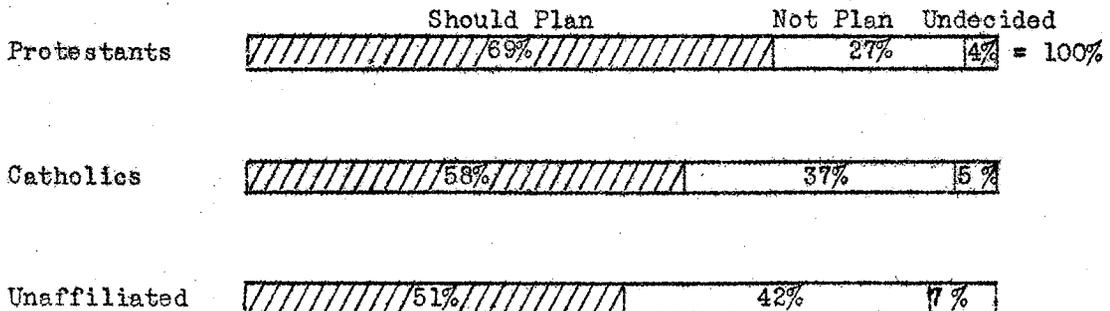
Only a very small minority are undecided on this question.



Among the many divergent groups included in the survey, who often differ on other issues, there are surprisingly few significant differences in opinions.

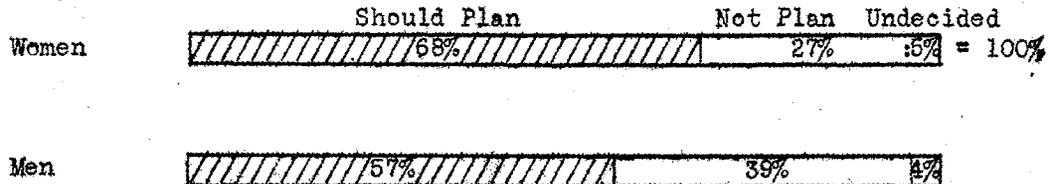
BUT....

PROTESTANTS TEND TO BELIEVE THAT PEACE ACTION IS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH MORE THAN CATHOLICS AND MORE THAN THOSE UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY DENOMINATION.



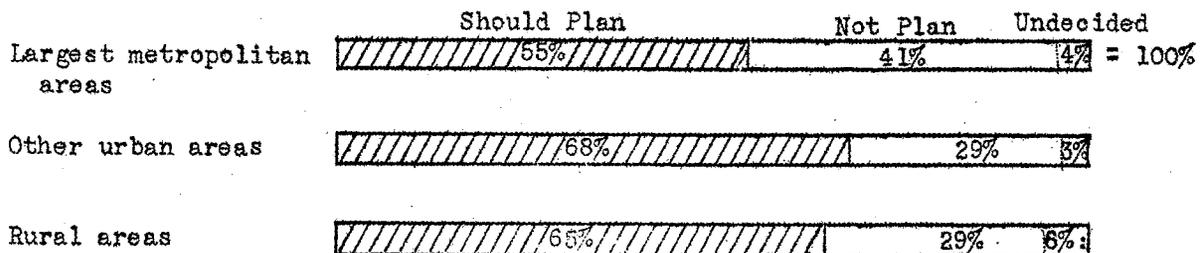
ALSO....

Women more than men tend to believe that planning for peace is a proper church function.



AND....

People in metropolitan areas of more than a million population are least convinced that peace planning should concern the church.



FURTHERMORE....

More people in the upper economic and educational groups believe that "peace planning is not the work of the church" than do less privileged persons. Sectionally, the South is most convinced that planning for peace is a church function. Least convinced are residents of the New England and Middle Atlantic states and the Pacific and Mountain states.

SHOULD THE CHURCHES COOPERATE IN FORMULATING PEACE PLANS?

The 63 per cent who said they feel that planning for peace is a legitimate function of the church were asked if they thought Catholics, Jews, and Protestants should have their own separate peace plans or if they should all get together and agree on one plan.

Almost all -- 57 per cent -- think these religious groups should unite on a single plan.



A small minority prefer separate plans.



Only a handful are undecided 1%



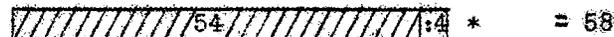
AGAIN....

Among the various population groups there is relatively consistent agreement. The differences in opinion among members of various religions and the unaffiliated are consistent with their responses to the previous question.

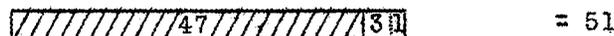
Protestants The 69 out of each 100 who think churches should plan for peace divide as follows:



Catholics The 58 out of each 100 who think churches should plan for peace divide:



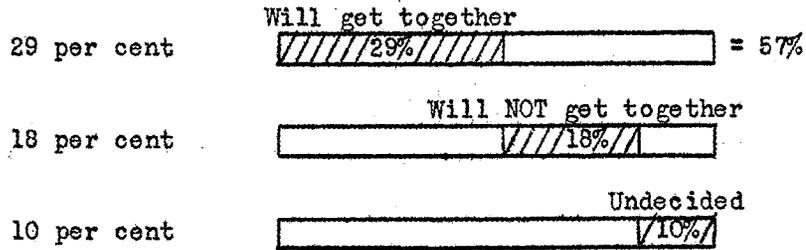
Unaffiliated The 51 out of each 100 who think churches should plan for peace divide:



* Catholics record fewer than 0.5% "Undecided" votes on this question.

WILL THE CHURCHES GET TOGETHER ON A SINGLE PEACE PLAN?

The 57 per cent who thought the churches should unite on a peace plan, when asked if they thought the churches would do so, answered as follows:

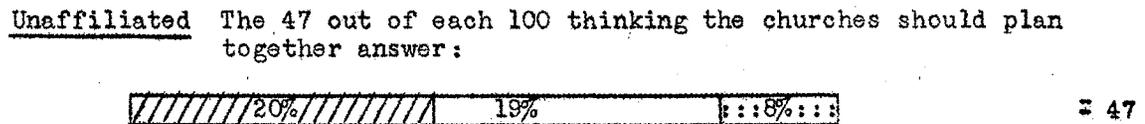
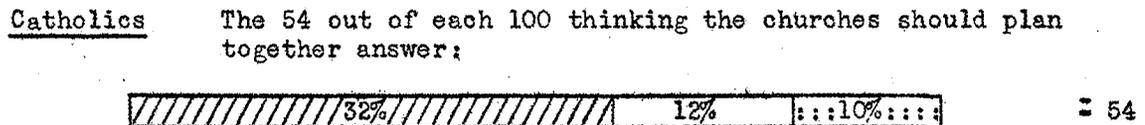
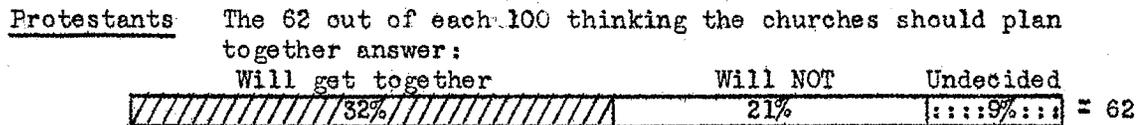


THUS.....

About half those who think the churches SHOULD get together on a single peace plan believe they actually WILL do so.

HOWEVER....

The religious groups and the unaffiliated divide somewhat differently.



THEREFORE....

Among all persons unaffiliated with any denomination about ONE IN FIVE thinks the churches will get together. Among Catholics, Jews, and Protestants the proportion is ONE IN THREE. *

*Included in the survey is the correct percentage of Jews in proportion to the total population. The actual number is small, however, and it is questionable whether the group is truly representative of the total Jewish population of the United States. Therefore the Center hesitates to quote percentages liable to so high a degree of error.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The exact wording of the survey questions and some of the individual comments follow:

Question: "Do you think that the churches should make plans for the kind of peace which should be established after the war, or don't you think this is part of their work?"

Should make plans	63%
Not their work	33
Undecided	4
	<u>100%</u>

Question: (If "Make plans") "Do you think it would be better for Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant churches to have their own separate plans for world peace, or do you think it would be better if they would all get together and agree on one plan?"

Should make separate plans	5%
Should get together	57
Undecided	1
	<u>63%</u>

Comments by those who think the churches should get together on one plan:

"For peace they would do anything."

"Well, if we are to have a Union of Nations, that would include unity of churches in some form of agreement."

"That the church should be the starting place for peace plans."

"Since religion has suffered from this war, the churches should have their say."

"If they can't unite in this country, how could we expect to further peace in other countries?"

"We've grown away from being prejudiced toward each other's religions. We all have the same goal."

Comments by those who think Catholics, Jews, and Protestants should have separate plans:

"I don't believe they could ever agree -- they tried it in the Middle Ages, and Catholics and Protestants have been fighting ever since."

"There would be more wisdom in a multitude of councils."

Question: (If "Get together") "Do you think it is likely that they will get together and agree on one plan, or not?"

Yes, will get together	29%
Qualified answer	1
No, won't get together	18
Undecided	9
	<u>57%</u>

Comments by those who think the churches are LIKELY to get together:

"It will take much sacrifice on all sides of thinking, but it can be done."

"They will if the war lasts long enough."

"Yes, as they are already working toward that goal."

"We have already started it here. We have a congress of churches that is ironing out post-war problems."

"All faiths are being drawn closer together than ever before."

Comments by those who think the churches are UNLIKELY to get together:

"The Protestants will object."

"The Catholics will object."

"I don't think the Jewish people will."

"There is too much bigotry and boast in all denominations."

"The churches have to learn about brotherly love first."

"They have never agreed before."

"That's what makes wars -- differences of opinion."

Comments by those who Qualify their Answers:

"They should, but they will only if we have better leaders."

"Well, I think the President can get them together if he wants to."

"If the countries can get together, maybe the churches can."

Comments by those who are Undecided:

"It is contingent on the intelligence of the people working to that end."

"If Catholics and Protestants can forget their differences."

FACTUAL INFORMATION

The sample population upon which this study was made is representative, within a small degree of error, of the national population 21 years of age and over. Interviews were properly apportioned among the adult civilian population of each of the nine Census Divisions of the United States. Within each division the interviews were correctly apportioned among metropolitan districts, towns in various size groups, and the rural population; by age, race, and four standard-of-living groupings.

The survey reported here is based upon 2,546 interviews. According to a statistical table copyrighted by the President and Fellows of Harvard College, this number of interviews should give results within 3 per cent correct 997 times in 1,000.

PUBLICATIONS

- The most recent publications of the National Opinion Research Center are
- Distorted Map E: Distribution of World Population. Map of the world showing countries of over 100,000 population as they would appear if their areas were proportional to their population. (11 by 15 inches -- 25 cents; 22 by 34 inches, bond paper - one dollar.)
- Report #8: War and Peace -- 1943 Edition. Report of a nation-wide survey largely devoted to a study of what sacrifices the American people may be willing to make to help establish a world union. March 1943. (40 pages -- 10 cents.)
- Report #9: The Reconversion Period from War to Peace. Report of a nation-wide survey on opinion regarding employment, social security, and other economic issues involved in the reconversion from a wartime to a peacetime economy in America. June 1943. (24 pages with 12 charts -- 15 cents.)
- Report #10: Should the Churches Plan for Peace? (Additional copies -- 10 cents.)

For a complete list of publications and for information regarding memberships, write:

THE NATIONAL OPINION RESEARCH CENTER
University of Denver
Denver 10, Colorado