INITIAL SURVEY QUESTIONS

*1. **Do you agree to participate in this survey?** _____ Yes _____ No

    220 total participants

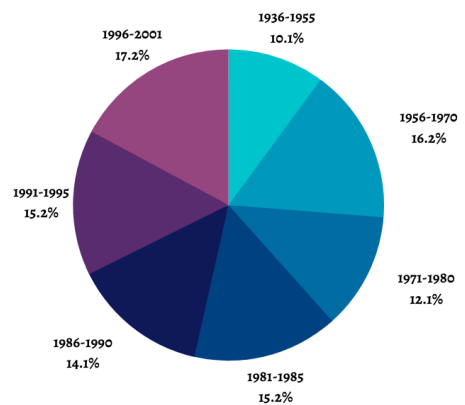*2. **What is your gender?** _____ Female _____ Male

    All participants were women.

*3. **Year you were born:** _____

    10%, 1936-1955   16%, 1956-1970   12%, 1971-1980

    15%, 1981-1985   14%, 1986-1990   15%, 1991-1995
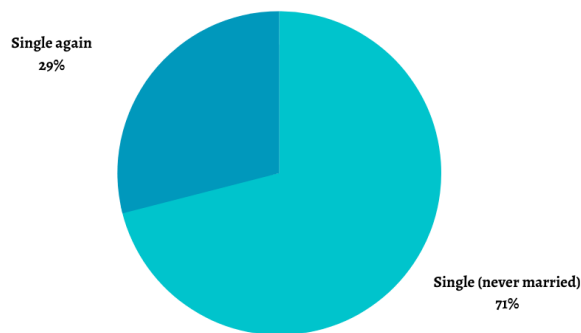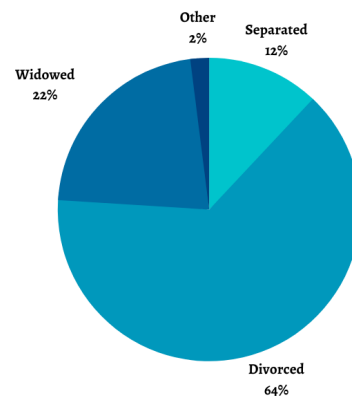
    17%, 1996-2001

*4. **Current Status (choose one):**

    71%, Single (never married)

    29%, Single-again, total of below

      [12%, Separated   64%, Divorced

      22%, Widowed   2%, Other]

Q3: What year were you born?

1936-1955 10.1%
1956-1970 16.2%
1971-1980 12.1%
1981-1985 15.2%
1986-1990 14.1%
1991-1995 15.2%
1996-2001 17.2%

Q4: Current Status

Single again 29%
Single (never married) 71%

Q4b: Status of Single-Again Women

Other 2%
Separated 12%
Widowed 22%
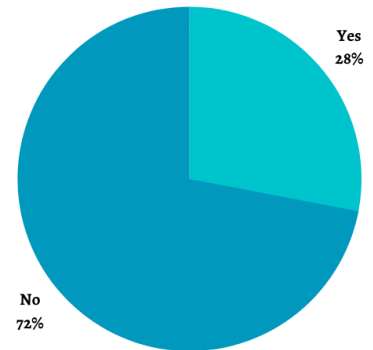Divorced 64%

*5. Are you a parent or guardian?

    28%, Yes

    72%, No

Q5: Parent or guardian?

Yes
28%

No
72%
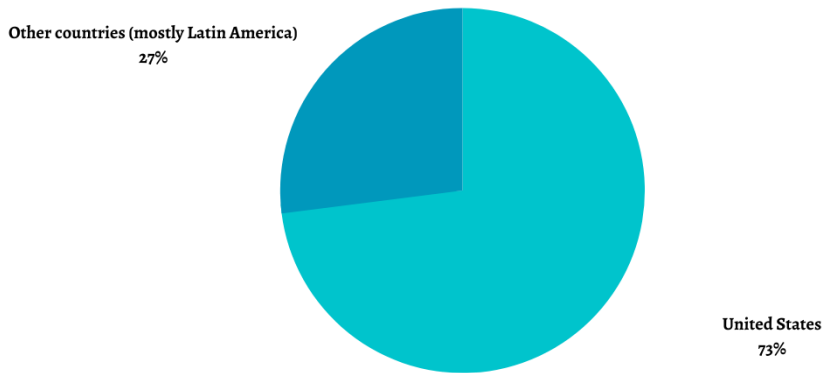
*6. Where did you grow up?

    73% in the U.S.

    27% in a country other than the U.S. (primarily Latin America)

Q6: Where did you grow up?

Other countries (mostly Latin America)
27%

United States
73%

*7. Where you reside (U.S. state or country outside the U.S.):

    This data point was only statistically significant for countries within Latin America, detailed in question 12.
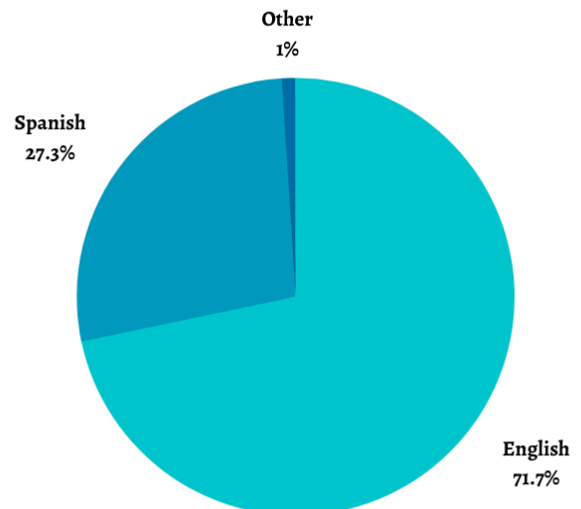
Q8: Primary language spoken in childhood home?

Other
1%

Spanish
27.3%

English
71.7%

*8. Primary language spoken in your childhood home:

    71%, English

    27%, Spanish

    1%, Other (please specify):

*9. What best describes the church in which you grew up?

66%, Non-denominational: Church of Christ

7%, Non-denominational: Not assoc. with Churches of Christ

7%, Catholic

15%, Protestant/Evangelical

2%, Other

3%, None

Q9: Church where they grew up

None
3%

Protestant/Evangelical
15%

Catholic
7%

Not Church of Christ
7%

Non-denominational: Church of Christ
66%
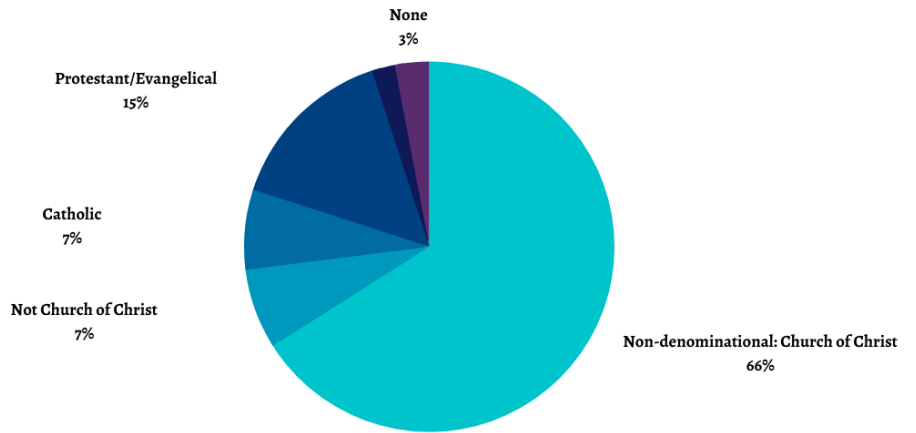
*10. What best describes the church where you currently attend?

70%, Non-denominational: Church of Christ

10%, Non-denominational: Not assoc. with Churches of Christ

1%, Catholic
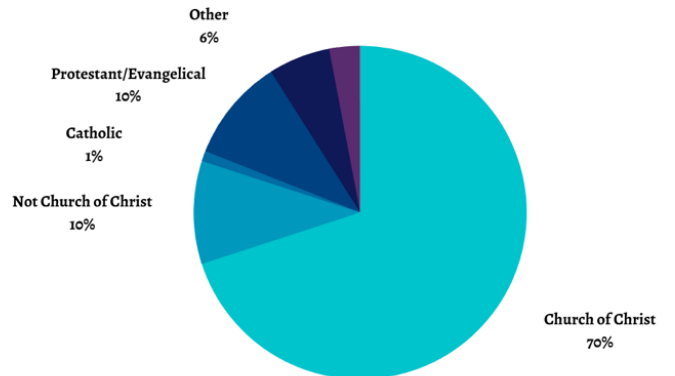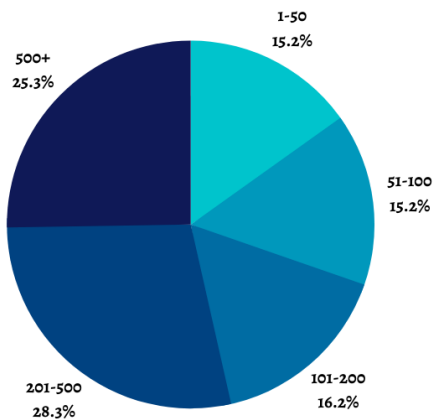
10%, Protestant/Evangelical

6%, Other

3%, None

Q10: Church you currently attend?

Other
6%

Protestant/Evangelical
10%

Catholic
1%

Not Church of Christ
10%

Church of Christ
70%

Q11: Size of current congregation?

1-50
15.2%

500+
25.3%

51-100
15.2%

201-500
28.3%

101-200
16.2%

*11. Size of the congregation where you currently attend:

15%, 1-50

15%, 51-100

16%, 101-200

28%, 201-500

25%, 500+

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

The following summary statements, listed and divided by survey question, provide an analysis of the data collected through questions 2 through 18 of the Initial Survey. Statistical tests including ANOVA, Post-Hoc, Chi-Squared, and regression analyses were performed. The results of these tests are summarized below.

Optional Initial Survey questions 19-24, in addition to the final three required questions (25-27) are listed on the final page of this handout.

## Questions 2-11 (Demographics)

- Three fourths of participants completed this survey in English, the remaining fourth completed the survey in Spanish.
- Single women in this survey are evenly dispersed across all age groups.
- Most single women in this survey were single, never married.
- Most single women in this survey do not have children.
- Most single women in this survey grew up in the United States.
- Most survey participants identified English as their home language.
- More than half of the survey participants (66%) grew up in the churches of Christ.
- An even stronger majority of participants (70%) are now members of the churches of Christ.
- Survey participants came from congregations of all sizes.

Q12: Would you like to get married?

*12. Would you like to get married?

10%, No, thanks

41%, Maybe

49%, Yes, please!
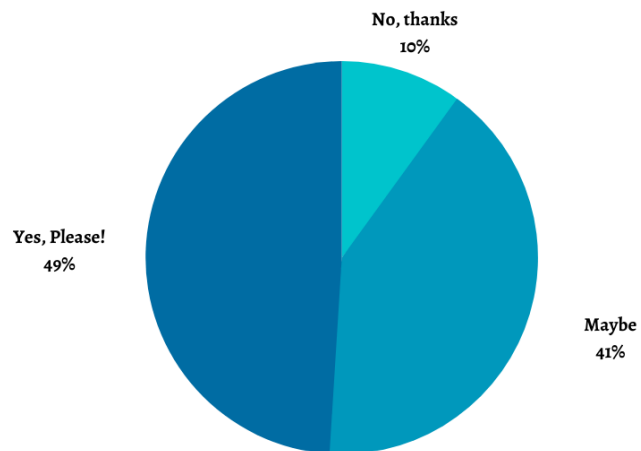
Question 12 (Expressed desire for marriage)

- Answering that they are not interested in marriage is the minority opinion of all participants.
- Most younger women say they are interested in marriage while more older women answer "Maybe," than say "Yes" or "No."
- There is a difference between the three levels of interest in marriage and a participant's contentment in singleness. Women who want marriage are the least content in their singleness. Those who answer "Maybe" are slightly more content, and those answering that they are not interested in getting married are the most content of all three groups.
- Most single women who are parents say they might want marriage while most women who are not parents say they would like to get married. (Age of the children was not collected as a data point.)
- The majority of single women want to get married, while single-again women are more likely to say "Maybe" to remarriage.
- The connection between home language and interest in marriage is also significant. The majority of native Spanish speakers want to get married while English speakers are more evenly split between "Yes" and "Maybe." "No" is the least common answer for both language groups, but a smaller percentage of Spanish speakers say, "No" than their English counterparts.
- There is also a connection between the region a population grew up in and their interest in marriage.
  - Participants raised in South America, especially the Venezuelans and Colombians, have a strong preference for marriage.
  - Central American natives still prefer marriage, but more of them answer "Maybe" than the South Americans.
  - U.S. raised participants are evenly divided between "Yes" and "Maybe."
  - Based on interviews and short-answer responses, U.S. participants grow up seeing singleness as a more viable option than participants in Central and South America.
  - This aligns with findings about interest in marriage and home language.

*13. On a scale of 'Strongly Disagree' to 'Strongly Agree', indicate how much you agree with the following statements (Circle one): *[options provided for each question]*

Strongly Disagree	*Disagree*	*Agree*	*Strongly Agree*	*Non-applicable*

- I am content in my singleness.
- My relationship with God has been strengthened through my time as a single woman.
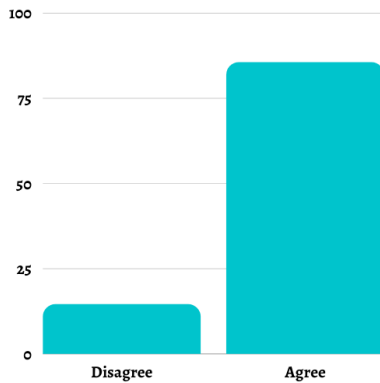- As a single woman, my relationships with other Christian women have been strengthened.

Q13a: Content in Singleness

Question 13a- Participant's Contentment in Singleness

Likert	Percent
Disagree	27
Agree	73
Total	100
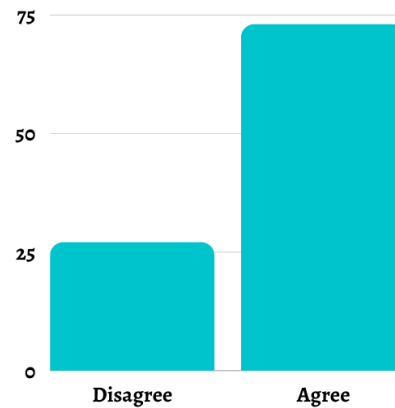
Q13b: Relationship with God strengthened through singleness

Question 13b- Participant's Relationship with God Strengthened

Likert	Percent
Disagree	14.5
Agree	85.5
Total	100

Question 13c- Participant's Relationship with Christian Women Strengthened

Likert	Percent
Disagree	29
Agree	71
Total	100

Q13c:Relationship with other Christian women strengthened through singleness
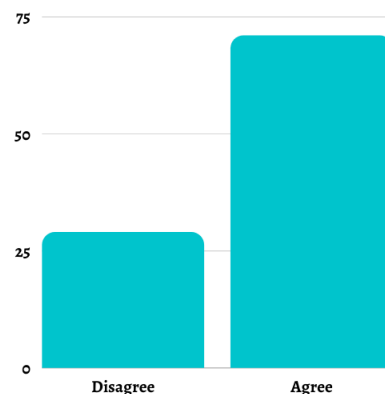
Question 13 (Contentment in Singleness and Strength of Relationships)

- If a woman's relationship with God has been strengthened through her singleness, she is more content in her singleness.
- If a woman's relationship with other Christian women has been strengthened through her singleness, she is more content in her singleness.
- If a woman's relationship with God has been strengthened through her singleness, she likely feels her relationships with other Christian women have also been strengthened through her time of singleness as well.

*14. Rank the following groups from Most Supportive to Least Supportive of you as a single Christian woman (1 = Most Supportive, 6 = Least Supportive):

____ Family
____ Friends
____ Local community (e.g. sports, book club, supper club, service organization, etc.)
____ Local congregation
____ Online community (e.g. Facebook, gaming, dating sites, etc.)
____ Work or academic community

Question 14 (Levels of Support)

- Obviously, single and single-again women experience different levels of support in different environments including family, friends, local congregation, and work/academic environments.
- Family is the most supportive of single and single-again women followed by friends and work/academia. Local congregations are less supportive of single and single-again women.
- Family and friends support are not significantly different from each other, but they are statistically different from the amount of support gained from work and church settings.
- While work and congregational support are not statistically different from each other, the mean support from work environments is slightly higher than the mean support from a participant's local congregation.
- Churches trail other groups—even work/academia—in their support of single and single-again women. Online and local communities were least supportive of all.
- Churches are not across the board a source of support for single and single-again women. No other factors (age, marital history, parental status, past or present congregational involvement) alter this stat.
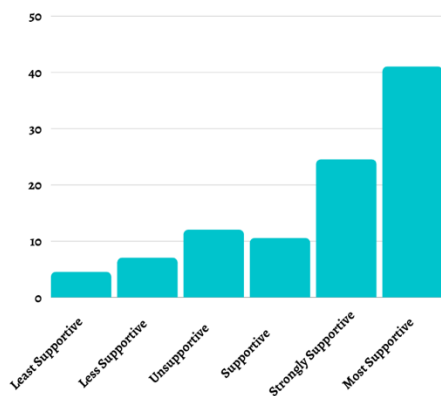
Question 14a- Participants Have Support from their *Family*

Ranking	Percent
Least Supportive	4.5
Less Supportive	7
Unsupportive	12
Supportive	10.5
Strongly Supportive	24.5
Most Supportive	41
Total	100

Q14a: Participants have the support of Family
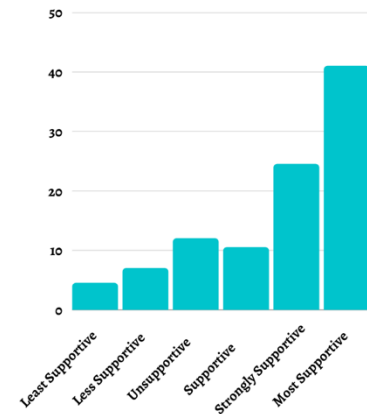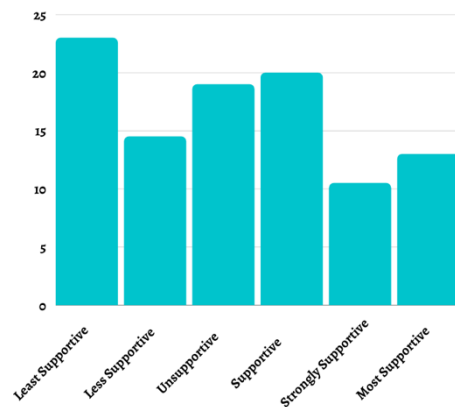

Q14b: Participants have the support of Friends

Question 14b- Participants Have Support from their *Friends*

Ranking	Percent
Least Supportive	5.5
Less Supportive	7
Unsupportive	9.5
Supportive	15.5
Strongly Supportive	35.5
Most Supportive	27
Total	100

Question 14f- Participants Have Support from their *Work or Academic Communities*

Ranking	Percent
Least Supportive	23
Less Supportive	14.5
Unsupportive	19
Supportive	19.5
Strongly Supportive	10.5
Most Supportive	13
Total	100

Q14f: Participants have the support of Work/Academic Community

Question 14d- Participants Have Support from their *Local Congregation*

Ranking	Percent
Least Supportive	20.5
Less Supportive	15.5
Unsupportive	22
Supportive	25
Strongly Supportive	12
Most Supportive	5.5
Total	100

Q14d: Participants have the support of Local Congregation
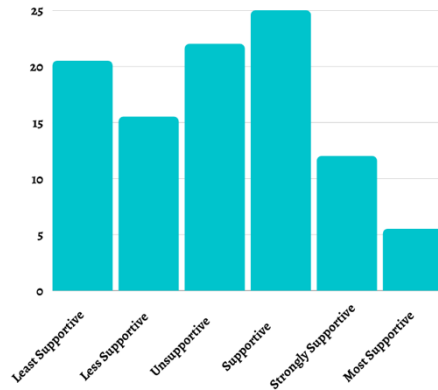
Q14c: Participants have the support of Local Community
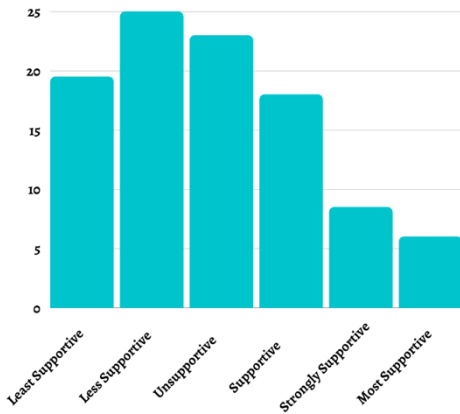
Question 14c- Participants Have Support from their *Local Community*

Ranking	Percent
Least Supportive	19.5
Less Supportive	25
Unsupportive	23
Supportive	18
Strongly Supportive	9
Most Supportive	6
Total	100

Question 14e- Participants Have Support from their *Online Community*

Ranking	Percent
Least Supportive	27
Less Supportive	31
Unsupportive	14.5
Supportive	12
Strongly Supportive	9
Most Supportive	7
Total	100

Q14e: Participants have the support of Online Community
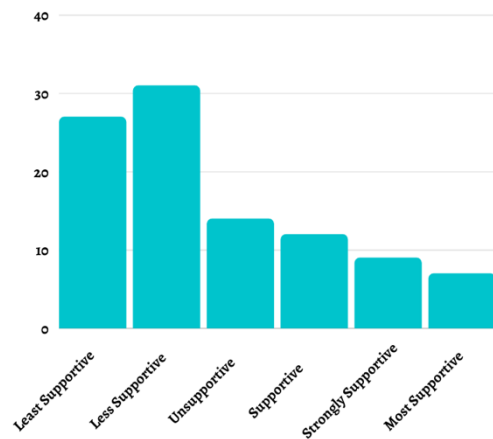
*15. On a scale from 'Highly Encouraging' to 'Highly Discouraging,' rate the following groups according to how positively or negatively their remarks affect you as a single Christian woman (Circle one): *[options provided for each question]*

| *Highly encouraging* | *Encouraging* | *Discouraging* | *Highly discouraging* | *Non-applicable* |

- Family
- Friends
- Local community (e.g. sports, book club, supper club, service organization, etc.)
- Local congregation
- Online community (e.g. Facebook, gaming, dating sites, etc.)
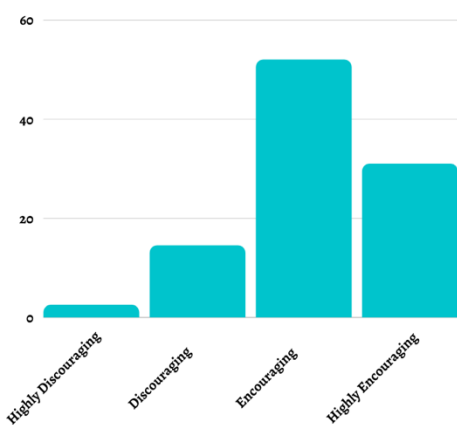- Work or academic community

Q15a: Encouragement from Family

Question 15a- Encouragement from *Family*

Encouragement	Percent
Highly Discouraging	4
Discouraging	13
Encouraging	54
Highly Encouraging	28.5
Total	100
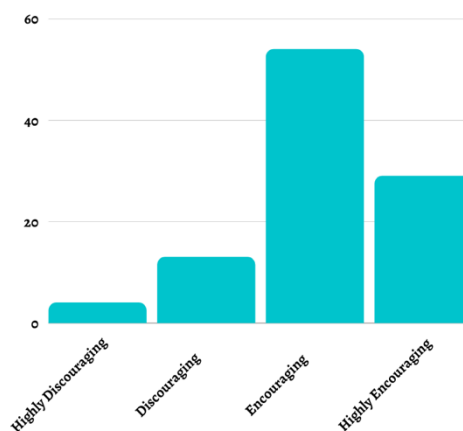
Q15b: Encouragement from Friends

Question 15b- Encouragement from *Friends*

Encouragement	Percent
Highly Discouraging	2
Discouraging	14
Encouraging	52
Highly Encouraging	31
Total	100

Q15f: Encouragement form Work or Academia
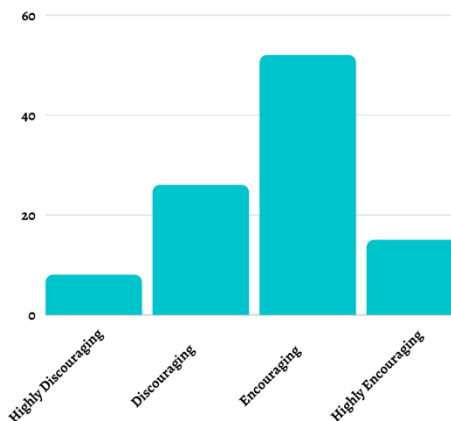
Question 15f- Encouragement from *Work or Academia*

Encouragement	Percent
Highly Discouraging	8
Discouraging	14
Encouraging	58
Highly Encouraging	20
Total	100

Question 15d- Encouragement from *Local Congregation*

Encourage	Percent
Highly Discouraging	10
Discouraging	27.5
Encouraging	50.5
Highly Encouraging	12
Total	100
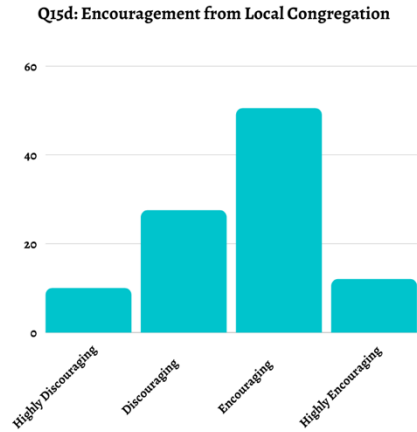
Q15c: Encouragement from Local Community
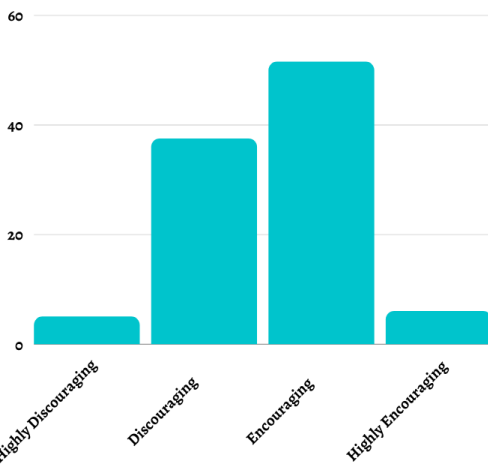
Question 15c- Encouragement from *Local Community*

Encouragement	Percent
Highly Discouraging	5
Discouraging	37
Encouraging	51
Highly Encouraging	6
Total	100

Q15e: Encouragement from Online Community

Question 15e- Encouragement from *Online Community*

Encourage	Percent
Highly Discouraging	6.5
Discouraging	26
Encouraging	52
Highly Encouraging	15
Total	100
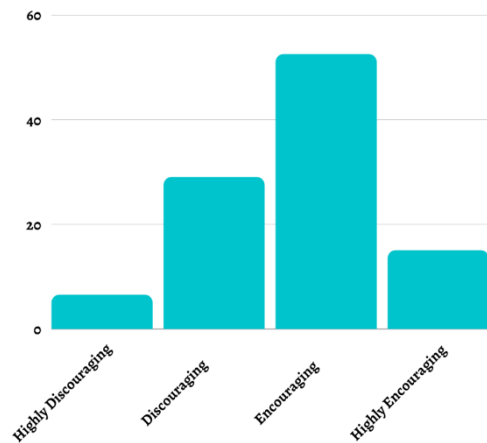
Question 15 (Levels of Encouragement)

- Friends (83%) and family (82%) are most encouraging.
- There is greater diversity in answers about church—over 60% say encouraging, but the rest say not encouraging—a significant group of dissenters (62.5%, 37.5%).
- Work environments are mostly encouraging toward single women (78%).
- Online communities are also moderately encouraging (68%).
- Congregational context encouragement is lower than encouragement from these other contexts.
- From most to least encouraging, the groups rank as follows: friends, family, work/academia, local congregation, online and local communities.
- Online and local communities were not statistically significant in their tendencies as more or less encouraging groups.

- A summary of these findings are referenced in *One Single Reason*, Section VI, Chapter 26.

*16. On a scale of 'Strongly Disagree' to 'Strongly Agree' (4 selection options), indicate how much you agree with the following statements: *[options provided for each question]*

Strongly Disagree	*Disagree*	*Agree*	*Strongly Agree*	*Non-applicable*

- As a single Christian woman, it is easy to find ways to serve within my local congregation.
- It is easier for a <u>single Christian man</u> to find a way to serve within <u>my local congregation</u> than for a single Christian woman.
- It is easier for a <u>married Christian woman</u> to find a way to serve within <u>my local congregation</u> than for a single Christian woman.

Question 16a- Single woman can easily find ways to serve in her local congregation

Likert	Percent
Strongly Disagree	13
Disagree	20
Agree	40
Strongly Agree	27
Total	100

Q16a: I have found ways to serve in my Local Congregation
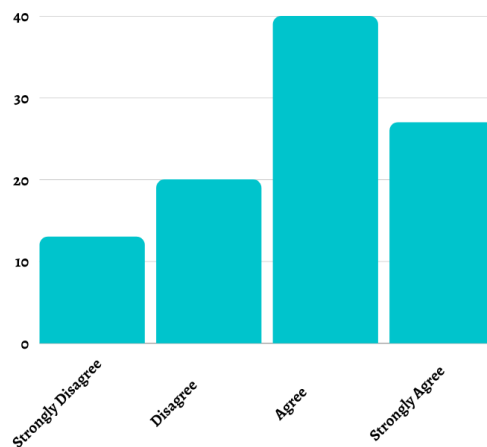
Question 16 (Inclusion in Service and Work Settings)

- Only the first of the statements demonstrated statistical significance, "As a single Christian woman, it is easy to find ways to serve within my local congregation."
- Most women (67%) agree or strongly agree that they are able to find ways to serve within their local congregations. The remaining 33% disagree (20% disagree, 13% strongly disagree).
- Summary statements regarding this question and the frequencies of responses were included in *One Single Reason*, Section III, Chapter 11.
- Comparison statements regarding opportunities for service in work settings or between single women, single men, and married women in congregational settings were not statistically significant.

Q16b: Easier for Single Men to Serve in Local Congregation

Question 16b- It is easier for a single man to serve in my congregation

Likert	Percent
Strongly Disagree	9.5
Disagree	32
Agree	27
Strongly Agree	31
Total	100

Question 16d- It is easier for a married woman to serve in my congregation

Likert	Percent
Strongly Disagree	9
Disagree	30
Agree	35
Strongly Agree	26
Total	100

Q16d: Easier for Married Woman to Serve in Congregation
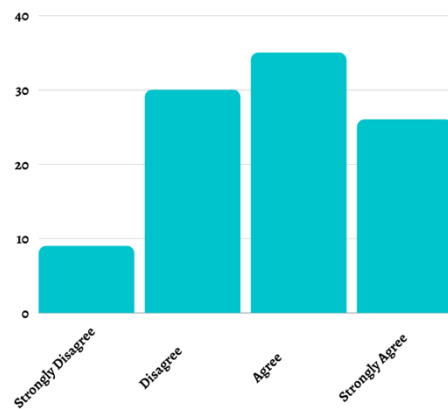
*16. On a scale of 'Strongly Disagree' to 'Strongly Agree' (4 selection options), indicate how much you agree with the following statements: *[options provided for each question]*
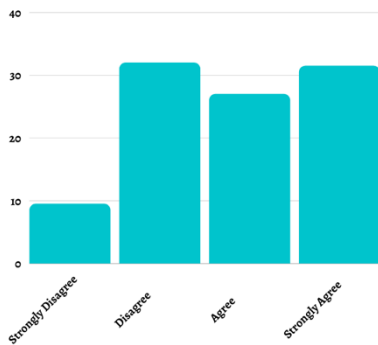
Strongly Disagree	*Disagree*	*Agree*	*Strongly Agree*	*Non-applicable*

- It is easier for a <u>single Christian man</u> to find his place in a <u>work or academic environment</u> than for a single Christian woman.
- It is easier for a <u>married Christian woman</u> to find her place in a <u>work or academic environment</u> than for a single Christian woman.

Question 16c- It is easier for a single man to find his place at work

Likert	Percent
Strongly Disagree	9
Disagree	38
Agree	30
Strongly Agree	22
Total	100

Question 16e- It is easier for a married woman to find her place at work

Likert	Percent
Strongly Disagree	13
Disagree	51
Agree	27
Strongly Agree	9
Total	100

*17. Which one(s) of the following statements are true? (Check all that apply.)

_____ My local congregation includes me as a member of its family.

_____ My local congregation accepts my status as a single woman.

_____ My local congregation is welcoming to single women.

_____ I have observed other congregations providing support for single women.

_____ None of these statements are true.

Question 17a- My local congregation includes me as a member of its family.

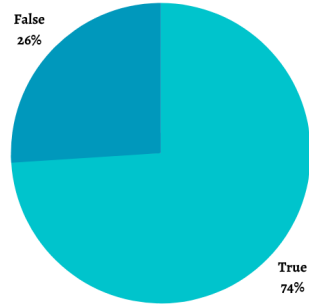| Answer	Percent
True	79
False	21
Total	100

Q17a: My local congregation includes me as a member of its family
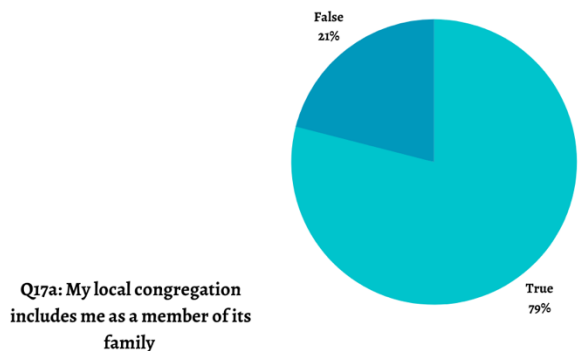
Q17b: My local congregation accepts my status as a single woman

Question 17b- My local congregation accepts my status as a single woman.
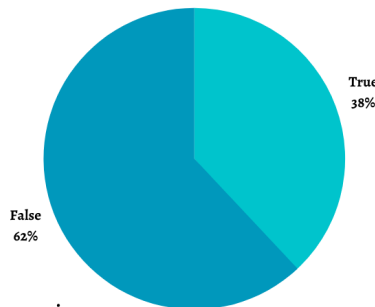
Answer	Percent
True	74
False	26
Total	100

Question 17c- My local congregation is welcoming to single women.

Answer	Percent
True	61
False	39
Total	100

Q17c: My local congregation is welcoming to single women
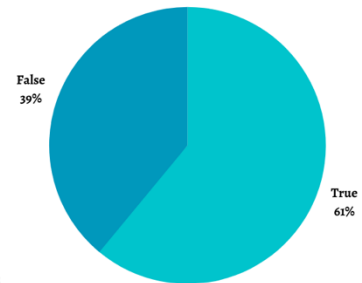
Q17d: I have observed other congregations providing support for single women

Question 17d- I have observed other congregations providing support for single women.

Answer	Percent
True	38
False	62
Total	100

Question 17 (Included, Accepted, and Welcomed)

- Most participants agree that their local congregations include them as family.
- Most participants feel accepted in their status as single women.
- Churches are not deemed to be overly welcoming (61.2%).
- Most participants don't see single women supported in congregations other than their own. This finding supports the concept that support is not something you "see," but rather it is something you experience. Feeling welcomed, accepted, or included is part of RELATIONSHIP.
- The current church denomination of a single or single-again Christian woman is connected to how they view their...
    - o Inclusion in the church family.
    - o Acceptance within the church as a single Christian woman.
    - o Congregation's ability to welcome single Christian women into their assembly.

- There are three statistically significant combinations of church denominations that influence level of inclusion, acceptance, and welcoming.
  - Highest level: Church of Christ, non-CoC Christians, & Other
  - Middle level: Protestant/Evangelical & Catholic
  - Lowest level: None
- Brief references to frequency answers were shared in *One Single Reason*, Section VI, Chapter 29.

*18. On a scale of "Always" to "Never" (4 selection options), please indicate how often you have experienced the following (Circle one): *[options provided for each question]*

| *Always* | *Frequently* | *Occasionally* | *Never* |

- How often have you been <u>negatively</u> affected by comments made by those in <u>society</u> about your singleness?
- How often have you been <u>positively</u> affected by comments made by those in <u>society</u> about your singleness?
- How often have you been <u>negatively</u> affected by comments made by those in your <u>family</u> about your singleness?
- How often have you been <u>positively</u> affected by comments made by those in your <u>family</u> about your singleness?
- How often have you been <u>negatively</u> affected by comments made by those in the <u>church</u> about your singleness?
- How often have you been <u>positively</u> affected by comments made by those in the <u>church</u> about your singleness?

Question 18a- Frequency of *Society's Negative* Comments

Answer	Percent
Never	13
Occasionally	52
Frequently	31
Always	4
Total	100

Question 18b- Frequency of *Society's Positive* Comments

Answer	Percent
Never	19
Occasionally	57
Frequently	22
Always	3
Total	100

Question 18c- Frequency of
***Family's Negative* Comments**

Answer	Percent
Never	34.5
Occasionally	49.5
Frequently	11
Always	5
Total	100

Question 18d- Frequency of
***Family's Positive* Comments**

Answer	Percent
Never	20
Occasionally	44
Frequently	27
Always	9
Total	100

Question 18e- Frequency of the
***Church's Negative* Comments**

Answer	Percent
Never	28
Occasionally	43
Frequently	23
Always	5
Total	100

Question 18f- Frequency of the
***Church's Positive* Comments**

Answer	Percent
Never	30
Occasionally	48
Frequently	15
Always	7
Total	100

Question 18 (Frequencies of Positive and Negative Comments)

- Single Christian women say they hear the most negative comments from society.
- Local congregations also make a considerable number of negative comments towards single Christian women. Family members most infrequently made negative comments.
- When it came to positive comments, family made the most frequent positive comments followed by society.
- Local congregations made the least-frequent positive comments.
- Families of single Christian women tend to have more positive than negative comments, and society's comments veered towards the extremes (both positively and negatively). Congregations more frequently made negative comments than positive ones.
- These findings were referenced in *One Single Reason*, Section VI, Chapter 26.

Tell Us More!

The following short answer questions are optional.
There are additional required questions at the end (marked by an *).

19. What is the most negative remark you have heard about "being single"?

20. What is the most positive remark you have heard about "being single"?

21. What is the greatest challenge as a single Christian woman?

22. What is the greatest blessing as a single Christian woman?

23. Please share a specific recommendation for one way in which the church can show its support for single or single-again women.

24. Is there anything else you would like to share here?

*25. How would you like to register your answers?

____ Anonymously   ____ With your name: _____

*26. Would you be willing for us to contact you about sharing more from your personal experience as a single Christian woman through follow up questions or in an interview?

____ Yes   ____ No

If you answer <u>yes</u> to being interviewed: Name _____

Email address _____

*27. Would you like to receive notification when the book, *Single and Lovin' It, Mostly* [original working title], is released? This book will include results from this survey, summaries of interviews, Biblical resources, and tips for single women, as well as for churches.

Your response to this question does not affect your decision to remain anonymous or not.

Your email will only be used for this purpose and will not be shared with any third-party.

Yes ___ No ___ Email, if yes: _____

Thank you for your participation! Your input is invaluable to this conversation.
Feel free to forward this survey to other single or single-again Christian women, inviting them to participate.