

Calvinism and SBC Church Leadership: Key Findings and Evangelistic Implications

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Calvinism and SBC Church Leadership

Part I: Calvinism and SBC Church Leadership

Part II: Calvinism Trends in SBC Church Leadership

Part III: Evangelistic Implications

2006 LifeWay Calvinism Study

- 413 randomly selected Southern Baptist pastors from a variety of church sizes were interviewed regarding their beliefs regarding Calvinism during July and August 2006
- The sample has a margin of error of ± 4.8 percent at the 95 percent confidence interval.

2006 LifeWay Calvinism Study Questions

Do you consider yourself a 5-point Calvinist?

Yes, No, Don't Know

How frequently do you address Calvinism from the pulpit?

Would you say you address it more than once a month, once a month, less than once a month but several times a year, or once a year or less?

The NAMB study

2007 NAMB New Ministers Study

- All 1998-2004 Masters level seminary graduates from Golden Gate, New Orleans, Midwestern, Southeastern, Southwestern and the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary were invited to complete the survey late 2006. A limited subset of Southern graduates was available for the study.
- The total number of survey respondents was 2149, of those 2134 were usable. By seminary: Golden Gate (N=270), New Orleans (N=287), Midwestern (N=148), Southeastern (N=403), Southwestern (N=978), Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary (N=11), Southern Seminary (N=52).
- 1,234 respondents serving as pastors or staff members at a Southern Baptist church. Within this group, 527 serve as senior or solo pastor of congregation.

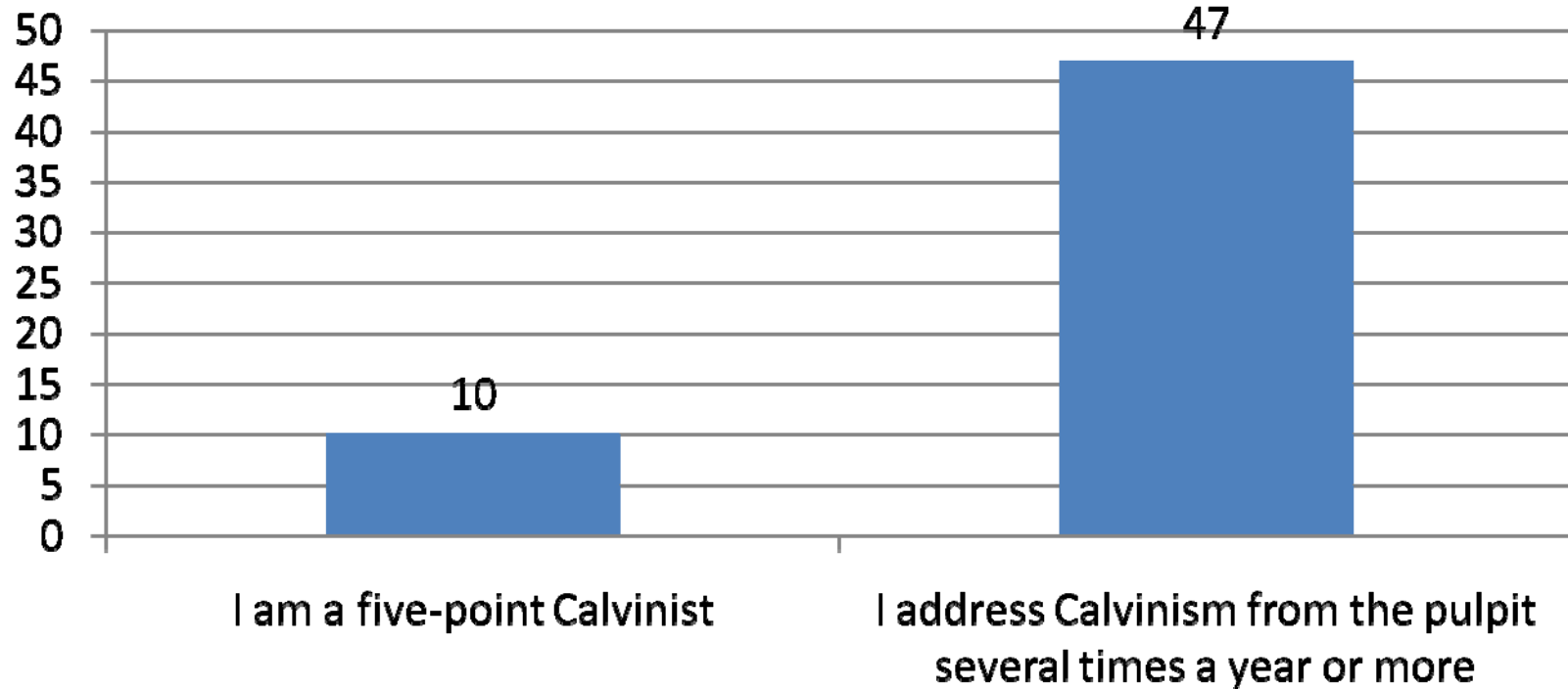
2007 NAMB New Minister's Study Questions

*Strongly agree, Somewhat agree,
Somewhat disagree, Strongly disagree, Don't know*

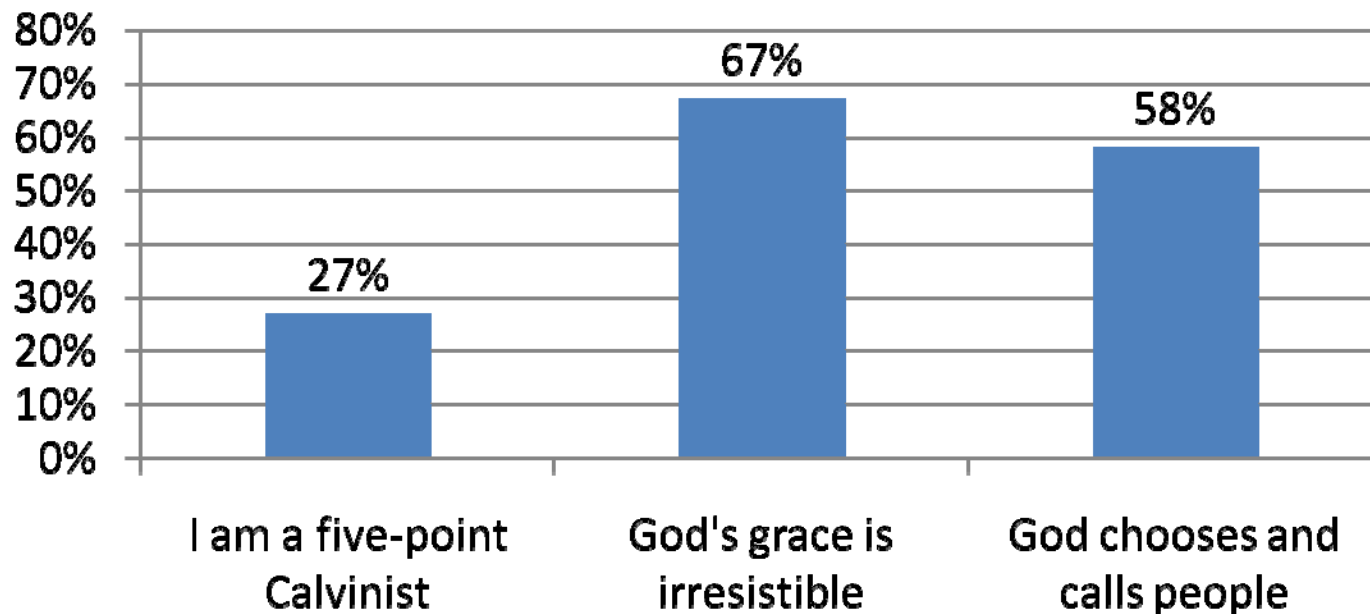
- I am a five-point Calvinist.
- God is the true evangelist and when He calls someone to himself, his grace is irresistible.
- People do not choose to become Christians; God chooses and calls people who then respond to him.
- I give a verbal presentation of the gospel (outside of church) at least once a week.

Percent Five-Point Calvinist and Preaching of Calvinism

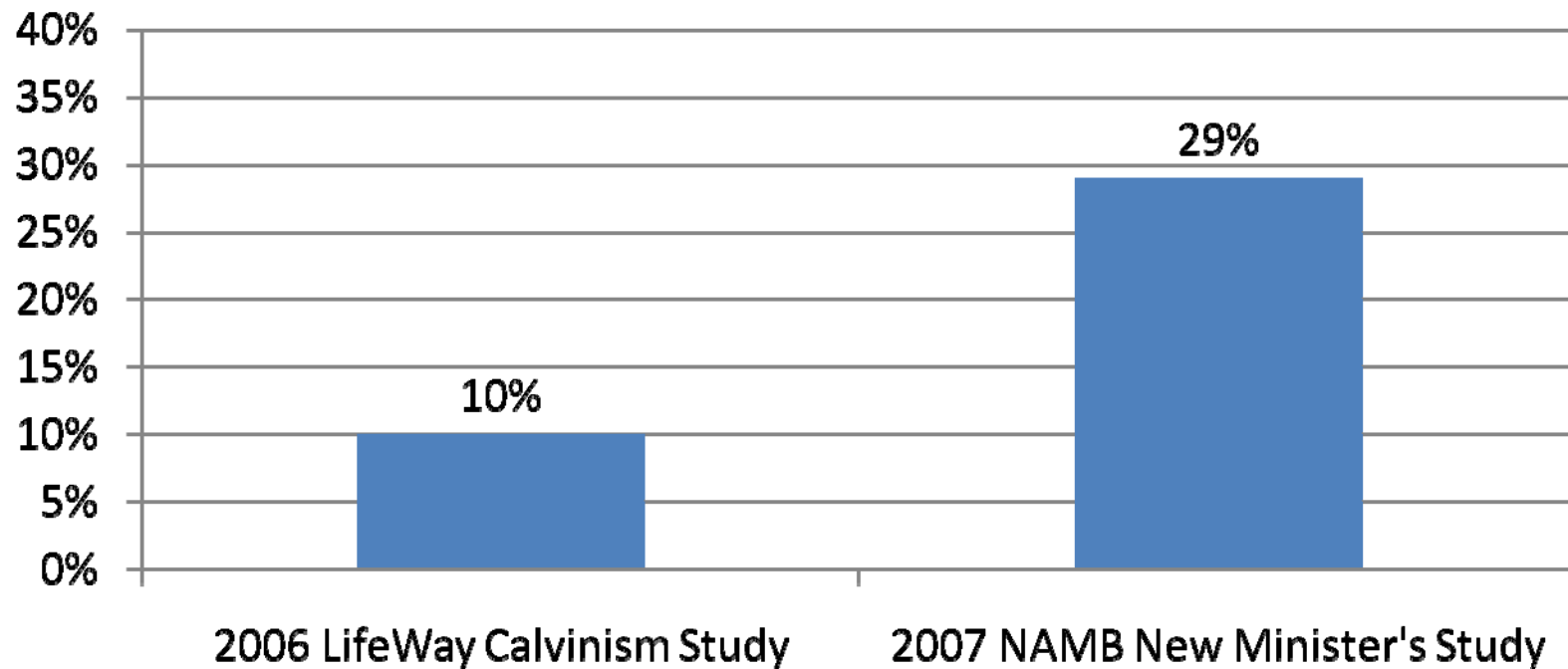
2006 LifeWay Calvinism Study



**SBC Seminary Graduates (1998-2004)
in SBC Church Leadership
Percent Strongly Agree or Somewhat Agree
2007 NAMB New Ministers Study**

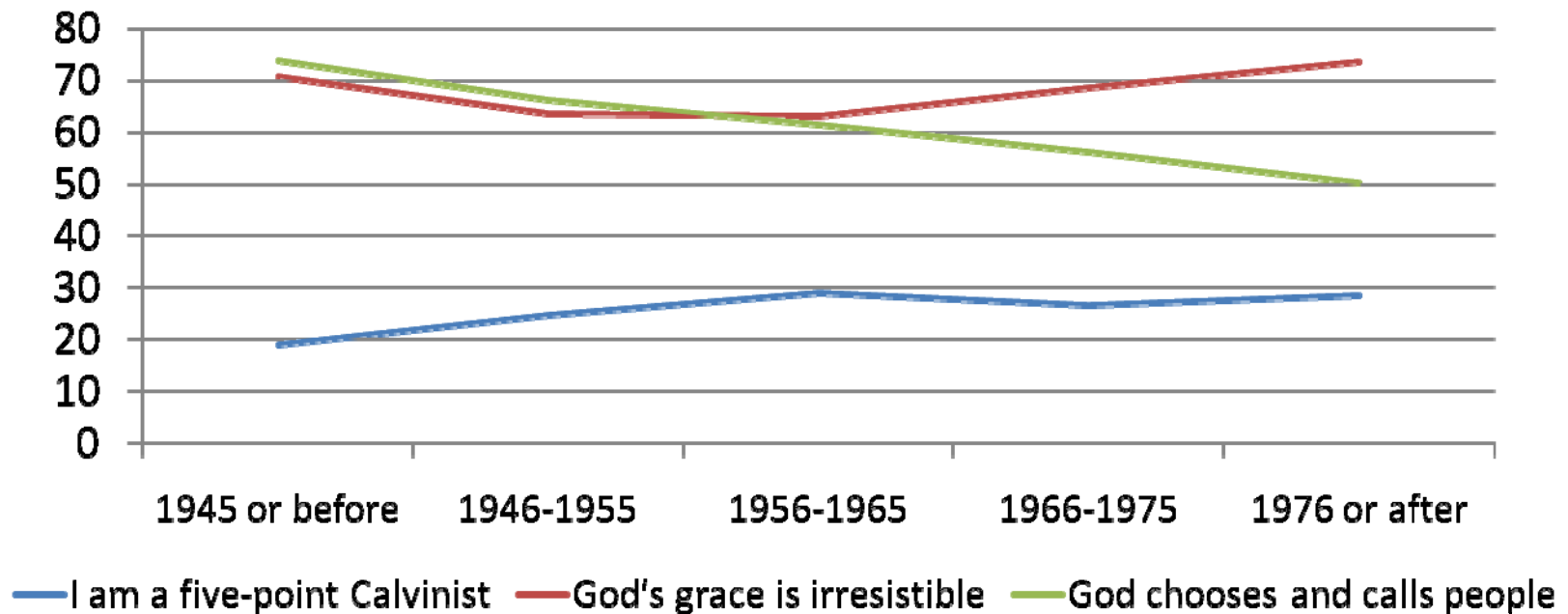


Percent Five-Point Calvinist Among SBC Pastors



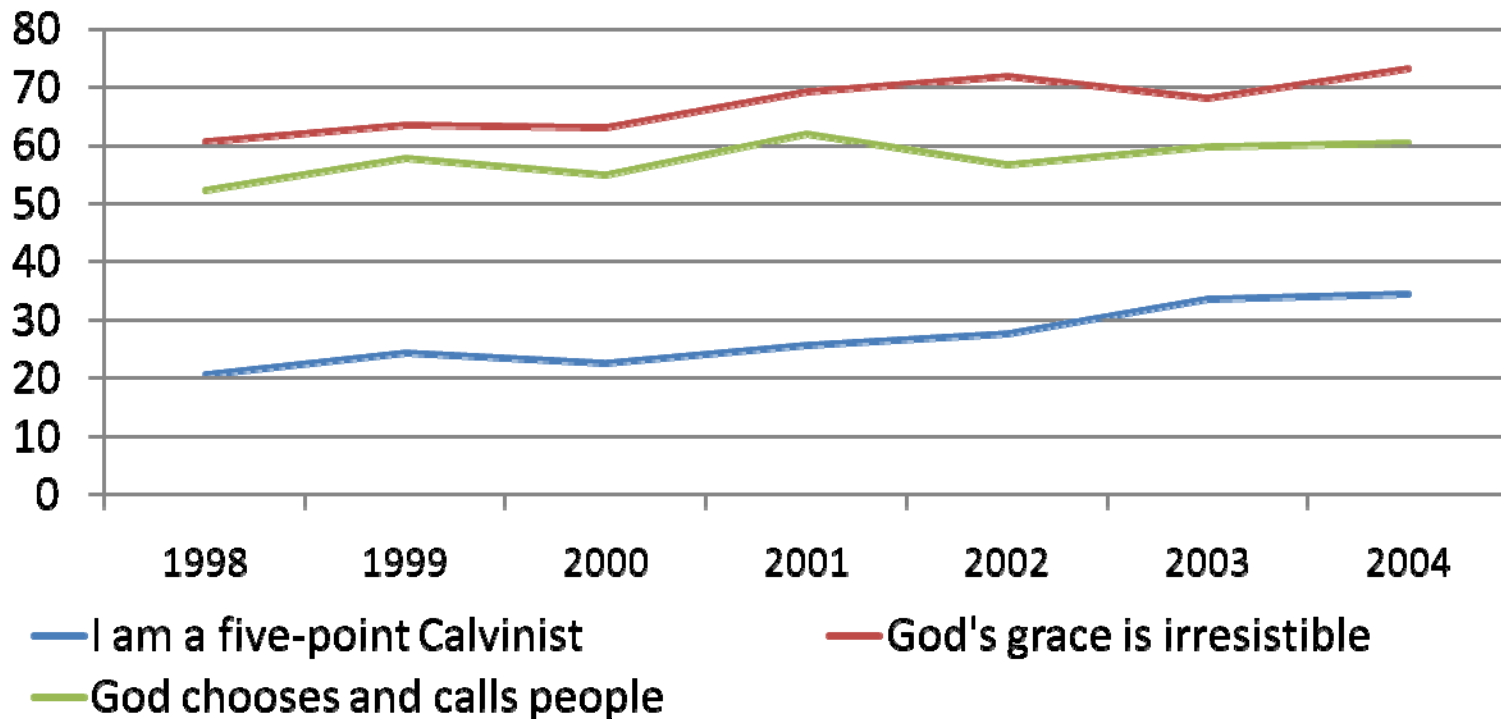
Calvinism Trends in SBC Church Leadership

SBC Seminary Graduates (1998-2004) in SBC Church Leadership
Percent Strongly Agree or Somewhat Agree
by Year of Birth
2007 NAMB New Ministers Study



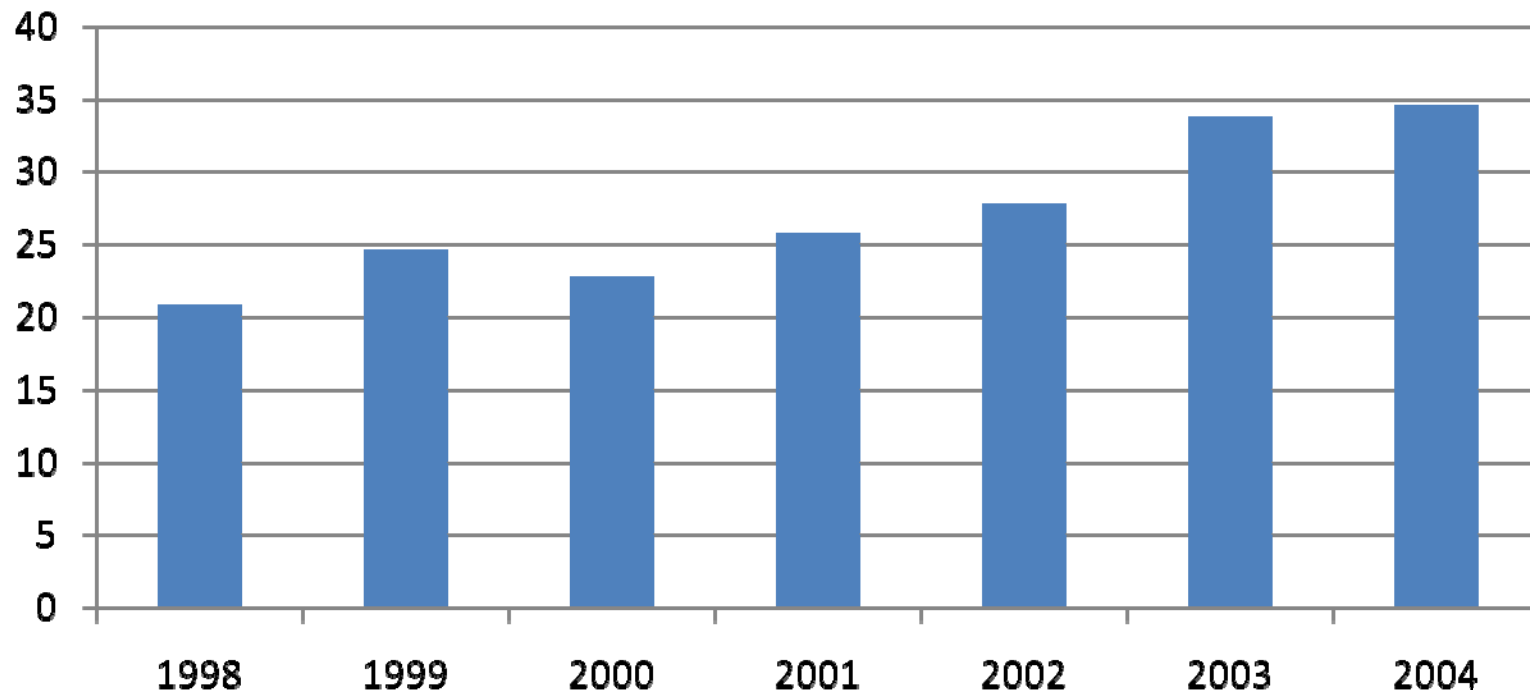
Calvinism Trends in SBC Church Leadership

SBC Seminary Graduates (1998-2004) in SBC Church Leadership
Percent Strongly Agree or Somewhat Agree
by Graduation Year
2007 NAMB New Ministers Study



Calvinism Trends in SBC Church Leadership

**SBC Seminary Graduates (1998-2004)
in SBC Church Leadership
Percent Strongly Agree or Somewhat Agree
by Graduation Year
2007 NAMB New Ministers Study**



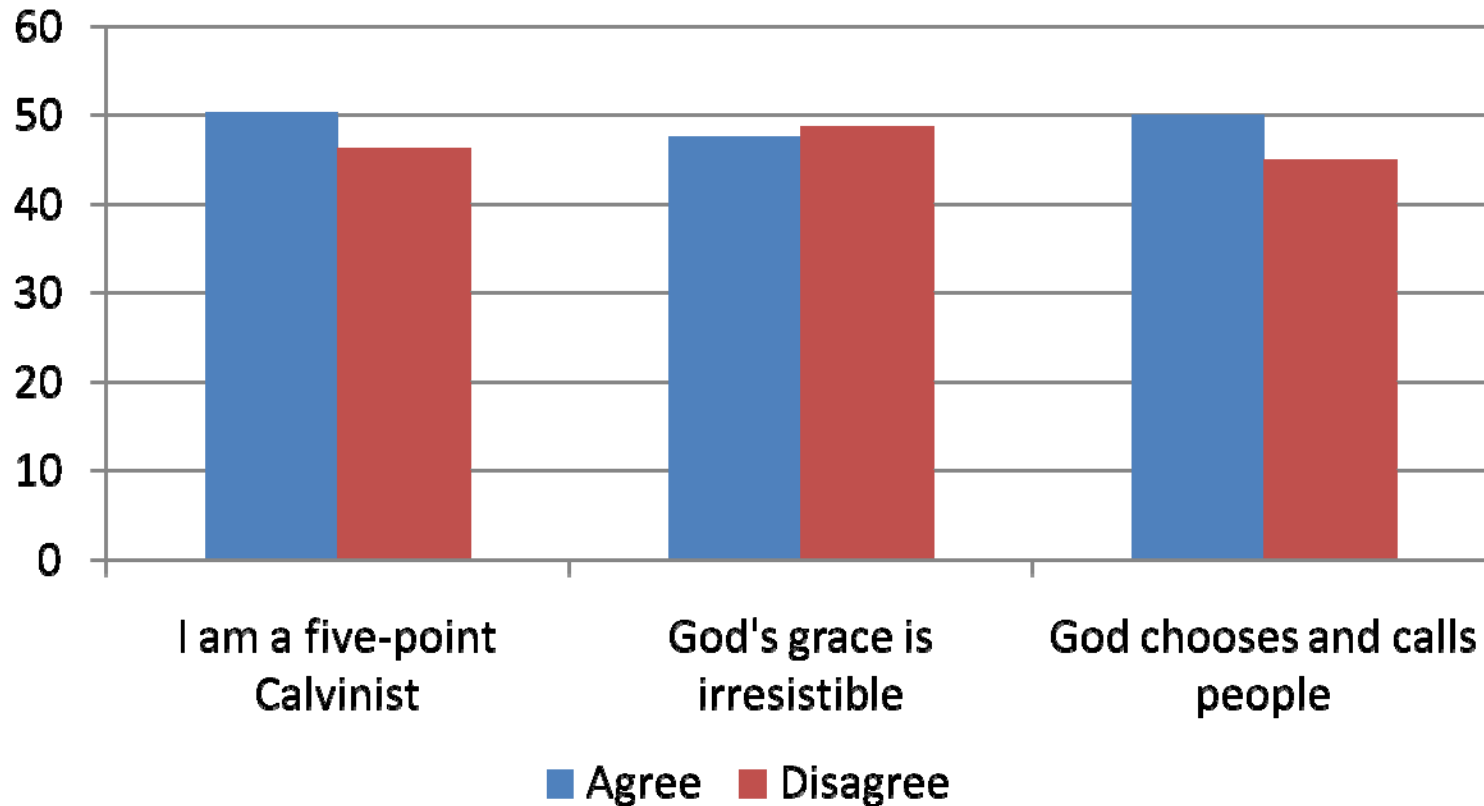
Calvinism Trends in SBC Church Leadership

SBC Seminaries and their proportion of graduates who are Calvinist in descending order.

2007 NAMB New Ministers	2006 LifeWay Calvinism
Southern	Golden Gate
Midwestern	Southeastern
Golden Gate	New Orleans
Southwestern	Southwestern
New Orleans	Midwestern
Southeastern	Southern

Evangelistic Implications

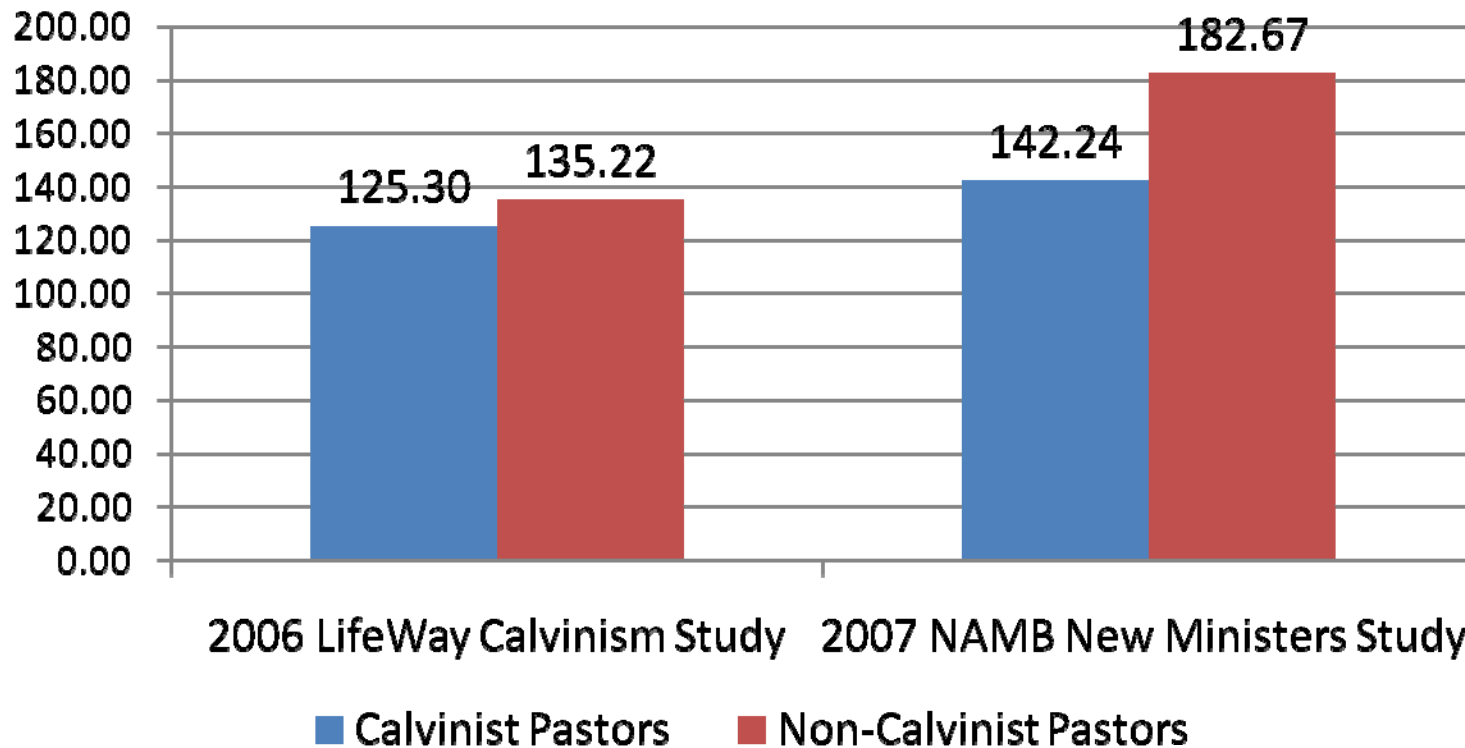
SBC Seminary Graduates (1998-2004) in SBC Church Leadership
Percent Share Gospel Once a Week
2007 NAMB New Ministers Study



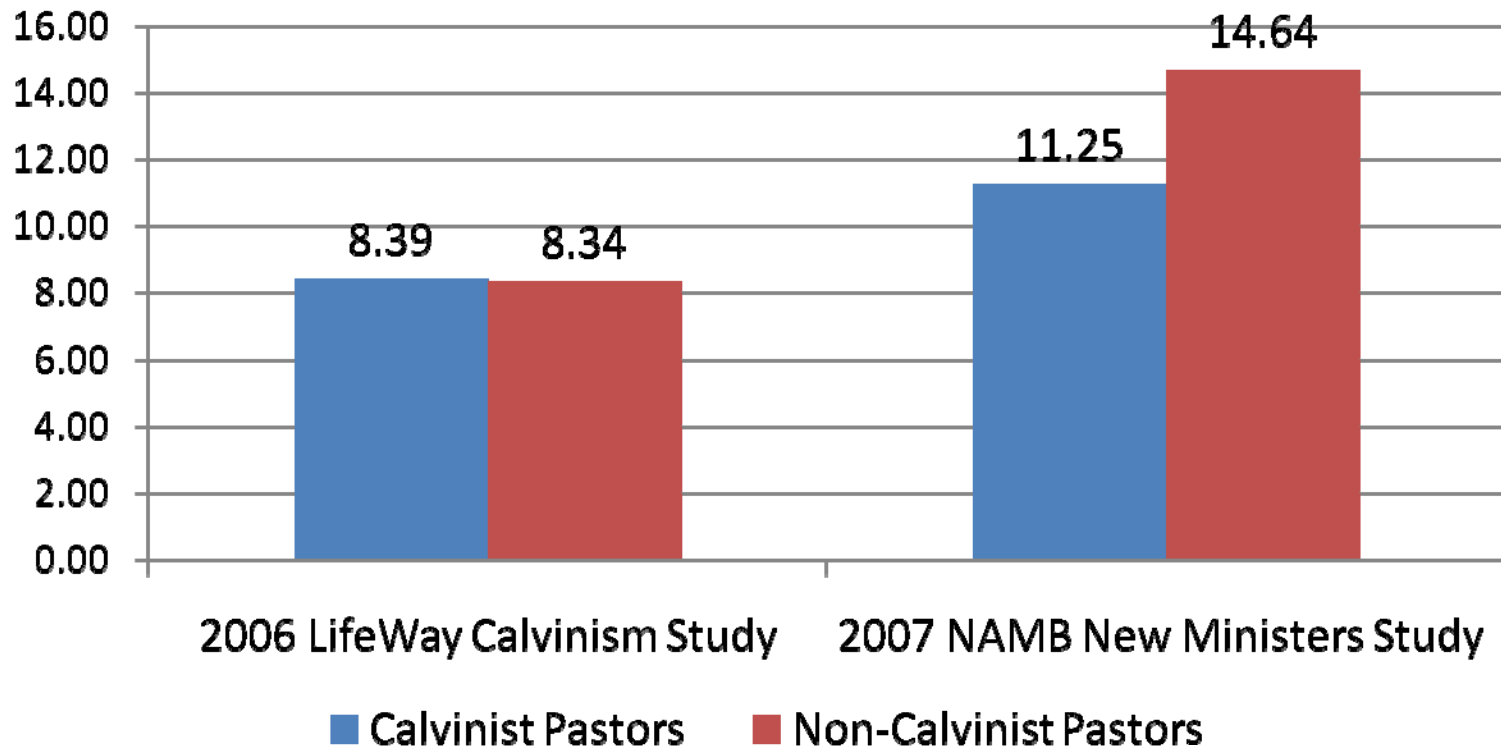
Evangelistic Implications

- In the 2007 NAMB New Ministers Survey, an equally high proportion (approximately 95%) of SBC pastors who claim to be and claim not to be five-point Calvinists believe churches should be involved in sponsoring missions and new church plants.

Mean Weekly Worship Attendance by Calvinist Led Churches

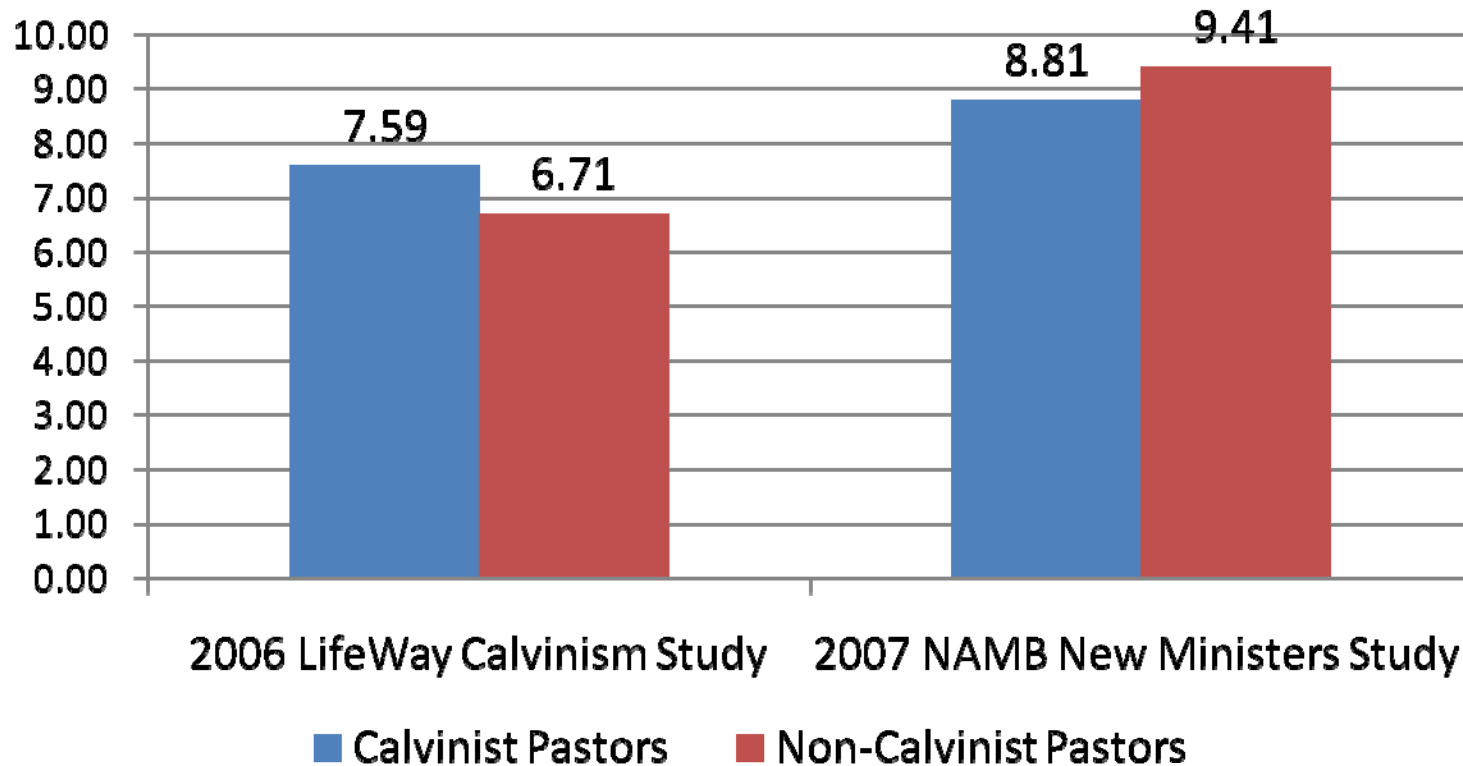


Mean Annual Baptisms by Calvinist Led Churches



Mean Baptism Rates by Calvinist Leadership

Baptism Rates = (Baptisms/Attendance)*100



Conclusions

There are several important items this report has found related to Calvinism among SBC church leadership.

- First, Calvinist led churches are in the minority—though the number is increasing.
- Second, Calvinism is on the rise among most recent seminary graduates. If present trends continue, Calvinism will continue to grow as an influence in our convention; however, these trends will take years to create a critical point of equality with non-Calvinist led congregations.

Conclusions

- Third, Calvinist led churches, pastored by recent seminary graduates, are generally smaller in worship attendance and annual baptisms than non-Calvinist churches led by recent seminary graduates.
- Fourth, church growth statistics in terms of annual baptism rates indicates that there is little difference between Calvinist and non-Calvinist led churches.

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