Conservative Christian Attitudes and Beliefs about Homosexuality

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Abstract

We explore the sentiments toward gay men, lesbians and bisexuals (LGBs) of the American members of one conservative Christian denomination, Seventh Day Adventists. Of 991 adults who were invited to take our survey, 441 (48%) completed one. Our instrument included the short form of the Attitudes Toward Gay Men, and Attitudes Toward Lesbians survey and additional items assessing other attitudes and beliefs. Exploratory regression analysis suggested that six variables explained 33% of the variance in the attitude measure (adjusted R² = .334, F(6,434) = 37.73, p < .001): Ideology, acquaintance with gay men, age; acquaintance with lesbians; black ethnic identity; and gender. While as expected large majorities did agree with negative attitudes about LGBs, agreed that homosexuality was a sin and that LGBs should not be allowed to hold leadership positions in local churches, there was also evidence of more nuance in the sentiments of this group than might be commonly assumed.