

As Americans Lose Trust in Media and Government, Faith in the Bible Is Starting to Grow

Consistent polling shows trust in America continues to fade – in government, institutions, even religion. Yet one new report finds that many still turn to the Bible, even as others question its relevance in modern life.

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For more than a decade, the American Bible Society has asked Americans each year about their relationship with scripture – asking who reads it, what they believe, and why it matters. The latest findings reveal a nation deeply divided over faith and trust.



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Only 36% of Americans believe the Bible is totally accurate, while 39% say it is not. Nearly 1 in 5 people see the Bible as a tool written to control or manipulate people.

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“The majority of Americans don’t ever reach for the Bible at all,” said Dr. John Plake, researcher and Chief Innovation Officer with the American Bible Society. “They’re not what we call Bible users. And what we’ve noticed here is that trust is really built on relationship. And so, when people have a

relationship with their family, they trust their family. If they have a broken relationship with their family, trust gets broken with it.”

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That link between relationship and trust extends beyond scripture. The report shows that trust in organized religion stands at just 29%, while family remains America’s most trusted institution at 55%. In contrast, media and government rank at just 5% and 6%, respectively.

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