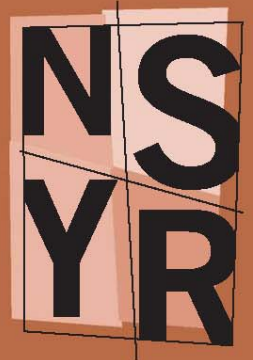


Family Religious Involvement and the Quality of Parental Relationships for Families with Early Adolescents

*A Research Report of
the National Study
of Youth and Religion*

Number 5

*by Christian Smith
and Phillip Kim*



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**NATIONAL
STUDY OF
YOUTH &
RELIGION**

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The National Study of Youth and Religion, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and under the direction of Dr. Christian Smith, professor in the Department of Sociology, is based at the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This four-year research project began in August 2001 and will con-

continue until August 2005. The purpose of the project is to research the shape and influence of religion and spirituality in the lives of U.S. adolescents; to identify effective practices in the religious, moral, and social formation of the lives of youth; to describe the extent to which youth participate in and benefit from the programs and opportunities that religious communities are offering to their youth; and to foster an informed national discussion about the influence of religion in youth's lives, in order to encourage sustained reflection about and rethinking of our cultural and institutional practices with regard to youth and religion.

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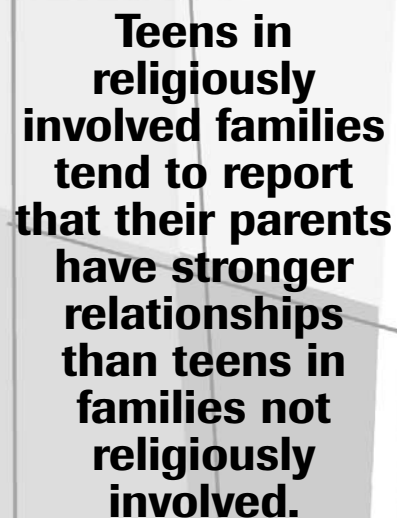
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Executive Summary

Religiously involved families of early adolescents, ages 12 to 14, living in the United States appear to have significantly stronger relationships between mothers and fathers than families that are not religiously active. This report examines associations between three dimensions of family religious involvement (the number of days per week the family does something religious, parental worship service attendance and parental prayer) and the quality of the relationship between teens' mothers and fathers. All 12 of the family relationship variables examined for this report were significantly related to some dimension of family religious involvement, after controlling for the possible effects of eight control variables.

Youth with both a mother figure and a father figure living in the household were asked a series of questions about the relationship between their parents. Teens were asked questions such as whether their mothers and fathers express love for each other, compromise with each other, insult each other, and other indicators of the quality of the parental relationship. The responses to these questions indicate that family religious involvement is strongly associated with the quality of the relationship between the mothers and fathers of the youth respondents.

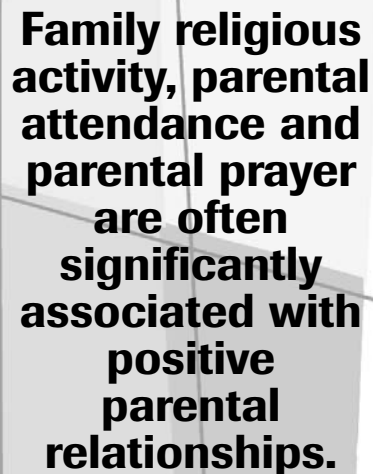


Teens in religiously involved families tend to report that their parents have stronger relationships than teens in families not religiously involved.

Eleven percent of 12- to 14-year-old youth belong to families that are heavily involved (five to seven days per week) in some form of religious activity during the week (such as attending church, praying, or reading scriptures together). These youth are significantly more likely than youth whose families do not engage in religious activities throughout the week (34 percent of all youth) to report better relationships between their mothers and fathers, according to multiple measures.

Youth from less religiously active families (8 percent for three to four days per week; 47 percent for one to two days per week) also are more likely to report many but not all of the stronger parental relationship characteristics.

The data reveal fewer significant associations between parental worship service attendance and positive parental relationship characteristics. However, the 40 percent of youth with a parent attending worship services at least once a week are significantly more likely than those with parents who do not attend to report that their mothers encourage their fathers and avoid screaming at them when angry.



Family religious activity, parental attendance and parental prayer are often significantly associated with positive parental relationships.

For the youth whose parents are less frequent attenders (12 percent for twice per month; 20 percent for once per month or less), the data also suggest evidence of stronger parental relationships than those whose parents do not attend, but with more scattered significant positive results.

The data also show that the 52 percent of youth with a parent who prays more than once a day are often more likely than youth whose parents pray daily or less to report better relationships between their mothers and fathers.

To summarize, all three dimensions of family and parental religious involvement analyzed here (family religious activity, parental worship service attendance, and parental prayer) tend to be associated significantly with positive parental relationship characteristics, after applying statistical procedures to control for the possible influence of demographic and socioeconomic factors.

Note that the cross-sectional data upon which the analyses in this report are based (data gathered at one point in

time, not over time) make it difficult to determine precisely the causal effects of religion. It might be that religion itself causally influences stronger parental relationships. It might also be that parents who are already committed to high-quality relationships choose to become more religiously involved as one strategy to pursue them. It might be that when parental relationships deteriorate, families reduce their religious practices. A combination of these or other causal influences might operate to produce the results presented in this report. What is clear in this report's findings, however, is that, for whatever reasons, early adolescents living in religiously involved families in the United States are more likely to report stronger, more positive relationships between their parents than do adolescents in families that are not religiously active. This understanding might be an important starting point of knowledge for considering ways to enhance the quality of life of U.S. adolescents.

A note on data and methods:

The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1997) (NLSY97) is a nationally representative survey, documenting the transition from school to work of youth living in the United States, ages 12 through 16 as of December 31, 1996. A total of 8,984 respondents participated in this survey. Ninety-two percent of eligible respondents were interviewed. An oversample of 2,236 black and Hispanic youth is included in the final sample (all analyses are weighted to correct for the oversample). Additionally, 7,942 parents or parent figures completed a separate parent survey, one parent per youth respondent. Round 1 data (collected during February-October of 1997 and March-May of 1998) from both the youth and parent surveys are used in this analysis. The NLSY97 survey is sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, with assistance from the Center for Human Resource Research at The Ohio State University.

While the NLSY survey contains data from adolescents ages 12 to 16 years old, this analysis focuses on younger adolescents, ages 12 to 14, due to sample structure and skip pattern limitations. Reports of religious behavior are based on the parent surveys, while the reports about parental relationships are based on the youth surveys. For ease of reading, this report uses the general terms "mother" and "father" to represent both biological parents and nonbiological parent figures that might be present in the household.

Multiple regression techniques allow control for eight other factors that also might be related to the outcome of interest. These eight control factors are age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure. The religion variables examined are number of days per week family does something religious, frequency of parental worship service attendance and frequency of parental prayer.

Each regression model was run separately for each religion variable, so a model testing the relationship between family religious activity and the quality of the parental relationships, for instance, does not control for other dimensions of religion, such as parental worship service attendance. Differences among religious variables are presented in this report in cross-tabulation form. Religious variables in the regression models that are statistically significant at the $p < .05$ level when compared to the designated nonreligious and low-religious comparison variables (in italics) have asterisks (*) next to them in the tables that follow. Regression models and results are not included in this report but are available upon request from the National Study of Youth and Religion.

Table 1: Family Religious Involvement (Percents)

Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 3,189)

“In a typical week, how many days from zero to seven do you do something religious as a family such as go to church, pray or read the scriptures together?”

5 to 7	11.4
3 to 4	7.7
1 to 2	46.7
Zero	34.3

Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,841)

“In the past 12 months, how often have you attended a worship service (like church or synagogue service or mass)?”

About Once/Week or More	40.4
About Twice/Month (24 times)	12.1
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	19.7
Once or Twice/Year	12.2
Never	15.5

Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,815)

“I pray more than once a day.”

Yes	51.8
No	48.2

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997

Mother Encourages Father

All three dimensions of family religious involvement are associated positively with mothers encouraging fathers, according to youth reports. Forty-five percent of youth from families that do something religious one to two days per week report that their mother “always” encourages or helps their father to do something important to him. This percentage increases to 59 percent for youth from families involved in religious activity five to seven days per week, compared with only 34 percent of youth from families that are not religiously active. Youth with a parent who attends worship services regularly (i.e., once a week) are more likely (48 percent) than youth with a parent who does not attend services at all (38 percent) to report that their mother “always” encourages their father. The difference is similar for youth with a parent who prays more than once a day. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 2: “Does she encourage or help him do things that are important to him?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	2.9	4.6	14.8	34.3	43.5
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,805)					
5 to 7*	1.6	2.1	7.1	30.4	58.8
3 to 4*	3.7	4.1	8.7	30.3	53.2
1 to 2*	2.8	3.8	14.8	34.0	44.6
<i>Zero</i>	3.2	6.7	18.7	37.0	34.4
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,535)					
About Once/Week or More*	2.7	3.2	11.7	34.4	48.1
About Twice/Month (24 times)	2.9	4.3	13.7	32.2	46.8
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	3.7	5.5	17.8	34.4	38.7
Once or Twice/Year	1.6	4.6	19.3	36.5	38.0
<i>Never</i>	3.2	7.9	15.7	35.4	37.9
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,514)					
Yes*	2.6	3.1	11.7	34.3	48.3
<i>No</i>	3.2	6.4	18.0	34.9	37.6

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Mother Expresses Love to Father

According to youth reports, mothers from religiously active families are significantly more likely to express affection or love to fathers as compared to families that are not religiously active. Youth from families that do something religious — even occasionally — are more likely to believe that their mother expresses affection or love to their father “always” (52 percent to 71 percent) than youth from families that are not religiously active (46 percent). Having a parent who attends worship services is not statistically associated with youth reporting that their mother expresses love for their father. However, youth with a parent who prays more than once a day are significantly more likely than youth with a parent who does not pray as often to believe that their mother “always” expresses love to their father (58 percent as opposed to 48 percent). These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 3: “Does she express affection or love for him?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	2.7	3.2	12.2	29.0	52.9
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,798)					
5 to 7*	2.3	1.1	4.7	21.0	71.0
3 to 4*	1.9	1.0	9.1	25.1	62.8
1 to 2*	2.8	2.8	12.7	29.9	51.9
<i>Zero</i>	3.0	5.1	14.8	31.7	45.5
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,531)					
About Once/Week or More	2.3	1.8	11.5	28.4	56.1
About Twice/Month (24 times)	2.3	3.4	8.1	28.7	57.5
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	2.5	4.0	13.8	32.3	47.4
Once or Twice/Year	2.5	2.5	14.3	26.7	54.0
<i>Never</i>	4.5	5.8	11.2	27.8	50.7
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,510)					
Yes*	2.3	2.6	10.2	26.6	58.3
<i>No</i>	3.0	3.6	13.6	31.5	48.4

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Mother Compromises With Father

Youth from families that are religiously active — even occasionally — are more likely to report that their mother is “always” fair and willing to compromise when disagreeing with their father. One out of three youth whose families do something religious one to two days per week report that their mother “always” is fair and willing to compromise. This number increases to 44 percent among youth whose families engage in religious activities five to seven days per week. This percentage compares with 25 percent of youth in families that are not religiously active. While parental worship service attendance is not statistically associated, youth with a parent who prays more than once a day are more likely to report that their mother “always” is fair and willing to compromise than are youth with a parent who does not pray as frequently. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 4: “Is she fair and willing to compromise when they disagree?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	2.4	4.6	18.1	42.6	32.3
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,798)					
5 to 7*	1.7	4.2	10.5	39.3	44.2
3 to 4*	2.0	4.1	14.9	39.0	40.0
1 to 2*	2.7	3.4	18.5	42.1	33.3
Zero	2.3	6.5	21.0	45.2	25.0
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,529)					
About Once/Week or More	1.5	3.3	17.0	43.7	34.6
About Twice/Month (24 times)	2.9	3.8	13.1	44.0	36.2
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	3.3	4.7	19.1	42.2	30.8
Once or Twice/Year	1.3	4.4	21.6	41.0	31.6
Never	1.3	7.8	19.1	42.4	29.3
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,508)					
Yes*	2.2	3.3	17.4	40.7	36.5
No	1.8	5.5	18.6	44.9	29.1

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Mother Blames Father

Although two out of three youth overall report that their mother “never” blames their father for her problems, youth from families that are at least moderately religiously active are more likely to report the same observation than youth in families that are not religiously active. Nearly three out of four youth from families that do something religious three to four days per week report that their mother “never” blames their father for her problems, a number that increases to 79 percent among youth whose families participate in religious activities five to seven days per week. Frequency of parental worship service attendance and frequency of parental prayer, however, are not statistically associated with youth’s reporting that their mother blames their father for her problems. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 5: “Does she blame him for her problems?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	66.7	22.9	7.6	1.8	1.0
Number of Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,802)					
5 to 7*	79.2	11.8	7.3	0.9	0.9
3 to 4*	74.1	18.6	5.4	1.3	0.7
1 to 2	65.1	24.3	8.3	1.5	0.9
Zero	62.9	26.1	7.2	2.6	1.2
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,534)					
About Once/Week or More	66.9	23.5	7.5	1.2	0.8
About Twice/Month (24 times)	72.8	19.6	4.6	2.2	0.8
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	62.2	25.2	9.4	1.9	1.3
Once or Twice/Year	67.0	24.3	6.8	1.4	0.5
Never	67.0	22.6	7.3	2.4	0.8
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,512)					
Yes	69.0	21.4	7.0	1.8	0.9
No	64.2	25.6	7.8	1.6	0.9

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Mother Insults Father

Mothers from religiously active families tend to insult or criticize fathers less frequently than mothers from families that are not religiously active, according to youth reports. Sixty-three percent of youth from families that do something religious five to seven days per week report that their mother “never” insults or criticizes their father or his ideas, compared with 44 percent of youth in families that do not engage in religious activity. Moderate involvement in religious activity (three to four days per week) also is associated positively with youth reporting that their mother does not insult their father. While parental worship service attendance is not statistically associated with such reports, youth with a parent who prays more than once a day are significantly more likely to believe their mother “never” insults or criticizes their father. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 6: “Does she insult or criticize him or his ideas?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	49.4	31.6	14.5	2.5	2.0
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,799)					
5 to 7*	63.4	23.9	10.0	1.1	1.6
3 to 4*	58.4	28.3	6.6	3.5	3.3
1 to 2	47.9	33.2	15.2	1.5	2.2
Zero	44.4	33.0	16.8	4.1	1.7
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,532)					
About Once/Week or More	50.8	33.2	12.6	1.8	1.6
About Twice/Month (24 times)	57.6	27.2	11.4	1.9	1.9
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	45.4	33.1	16.2	3.1	2.3
Once or Twice/Year	44.0	32.5	19.8	1.7	2.0
Never	49.6	30.3	14.2	4.2	1.8
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,510)					
Yes*	53.2	30.3	12.2	2.2	2.2
No	45.8	33.7	16.3	2.6	1.5

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Mother Screams at Father

Youth from religiously active families are more likely to report “never” when asked if their mother screams at their father when angry. Forty percent of youth from families doing something religious five to seven days per week report having a mother who “never” yells, compared to 29 percent of youth from families that are not religiously active. Moderate religious activity of families (3 to 4 days) also is associated positively with reports of having a mother who never yells. Youth with a parent who attends worship services about twice a month are more likely to believe that their mother “never” yells at their father when angry (38 percent), compared to 30 percent of youth with a parent who does not attend worship services. Having a parent who prays more than once a day also is associated positively with youth reporting that their mother “never” yells at their father. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 7: “Does she scream or yell at him when she is angry?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	31.0	33.9	23.5	7.8	3.8
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,799)					
5 to 7*	40.2	34.0	15.7	7.4	2.7
3 to 4*	33.3	39.2	15.7	8.4	3.5
1 to 2	29.9	34.1	25.6	6.8	3.6
Zero	28.9	32.3	25.0	9.1	4.7
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,530)					
About Once/Week or More*	32.5	35.0	22.8	6.3	3.3
About Twice/Month (24 times)*	37.6	32.3	20.6	7.0	2.6
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	23.2	36.3	27.5	7.9	5.2
Once or Twice/Year	35.2	33.3	18.3	9.3	3.9
Never	30.1	30.8	27.2	7.5	4.5
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day* (N = 2,510)					
Yes*	34.1	33.7	21.3	7.3	3.5
No	28.3	34.2	25.8	7.4	4.2

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Father Encourages Mother

Youth from families that are even occasionally religiously active are more likely to report that their father encourages their mother in matters important to her. Fifty-six percent of youth from families that do something religious five to seven days per week report that their father “always” encourages or helps their mother. Moderate (49 percent) and occasional (43 percent) levels of activity also are associated positively with this report. These percentages are significantly greater than the 37 percent of youth from families that are not religiously active who report having an encouraging father. Although parental worship service attendance is not statistically associated with encouraging fathers, youth with a parent who prays more than once a day are significantly more likely to report that their father encourages their mother than youth with a parent who does not pray as frequently. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 8: “Does he encourage or help her do things that are important to her?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	3.1	4.8	17.4	31.9	42.8
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,800)					
5 to 7*	2.8	1.3	10.1	29.4	56.4
3 to 4*	2.4	2.7	13.9	32.5	48.6
1 to 2*	2.8	4.7	17.7	31.7	43.1
Zero	3.7	6.6	20.3	32.9	36.5
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,532)					
About Once/Week or More	3.1	3.1	16.0	31.8	46.1
About Twice/Month (24 times)	3.0	3.6	14.7	31.1	47.7
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	2.9	8.3	21.2	31.7	35.9
Once or Twice/Year	4.4	6.9	17.5	29.6	41.7
Never	2.8	4.5	17.4	35.3	40.0
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,512)					
Yes*	2.8	3.6	15.3	31.7	46.6
No	3.5	6.1	19.6	32.3	38.5

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Father Expresses Love to Mother

According to youth reports, *fathers are more likely to express love or affection for mothers if a family is religiously active*. More than two out of three youth from families doing something religious five to seven days per week report that their father acts lovingly toward their mother “always,” compared with 45 percent of youth from families that are not religiously active. Moderate and occasional religious activity are also positively associated with youth reporting that their father expresses love or affection for their mother. Parental worship service attendance is not statistically associated with this report. However, youth with a parent who prays more than once a day are significantly more likely to consider their father to be loving toward their mother than youth with a parent who prays less frequently. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 9: “Does he express affection or love for her?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	2.7	4.6	13.4	27.9	51.5
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,795)					
5 to 7*	2.2	2.7	3.7	22.5	68.9
3 to 4*	2.9	0.8	8.6	27.0	60.7
1 to 2*	2.5	3.9	14.2	29.4	50.0
Zero	3.3	6.9	16.7	28.0	45.1
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,529)					
About Once/Week or More	2.7	3.8	12.8	27.7	53.0
About Twice/Month (24 times)	1.9	3.6	8.8	27.1	58.6
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	2.5	4.6	16.2	31.1	45.6
Once or Twice/Year	2.5	6.5	15.4	25.3	50.3
Never	4.0	5.2	12.8	25.1	52.8
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,509)					
Yes*	2.7	4.2	11.5	25.6	56.0
No	2.6	4.7	15.3	29.8	47.6

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Father Compromises With Mother

Youth from religiously active families are more likely to report that their father is fair and willing to compromise with their mother “always” than youth from families that are not religiously active. Forty-seven percent of youth from families that do something religious five to seven days per week believe that their father “always” is fair and willing to compromise, compared with just one out of four youth from families that are not religiously active.

Furthermore, more than moderate and occasional religious activity is associated positively with youth reporting that their father is fair and willing to compromise. Sporadic worship service attendance by a parent (once a month or less) is mildly associated negatively with youth reporting their father’s willingness to compromise with their mother. Youth with a parent who prays more than once a day are more likely to report that their father is “always” fair, compared with youth without a parent who prays as often (37 percent as opposed to 30 percent). These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 10: “Is he fair and willing to compromise when they disagree?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	3.6	6.5	19.3	37.0	33.7
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,798)					
5 to 7*	5.7	3.5	10.4	33.3	47.0
3 to 4*	3.1	6.8	14.7	38.0	37.4
1 to 2*	2.6	5.7	19.7	37.4	34.6
Zero	4.2	8.6	22.9	37.5	26.8
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,530)					
About Once/Week or More	2.9	6.1	17.0	38.7	35.4
About Twice/Month (24 times)	3.4	3.7	18.5	34.0	40.5
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)*	3.4	7.9	26.8	33.6	28.3
Once or Twice/Year	3.8	9.7	17.8	35.0	33.8
Never	3.6	7.5	18.0	38.9	32.0
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,509)					
Yes*	3.4	6.0	18.1	35.1	37.4
No	3.1	7.7	20.9	38.0	30.3

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Father Blames Mother

Fathers from religiously active families are less likely to blame mothers for their own problems than fathers from families that are not religiously active, according to youth reports. Eighty percent of youth whose families do something religious five to seven days per week and 75 percent of youth from families that are moderately religiously active (three to four days per week) report that their father “never” blames their mother for his problems, compared with 67 percent of youth from families that are not religiously active. Neither parental worship service attendance nor parental prayer is statistically associated with youth reporting that their father places blame on their mother for his own problems. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 11: “Does he blame her for his problems?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	70.2	19.9	6.4	2.2	1.4
Number of Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,797)					
5 to 7*	79.8	11.7	4.0	2.4	2.1
3 to 4*	74.8	18.0	3.9	2.7	0.7
1 to 2	69.4	21.4	6.7	1.4	1.2
Zero	66.8	21.1	7.4	3.1	1.6
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,529)					
About Once/Week or More	71.4	19.9	6.0	1.6	1.1
About Twice/Month (24 times)	72.8	19.6	5.4	1.2	1.1
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	66.2	22.4	7.2	2.3	1.9
Once or Twice/Year	71.4	15.3	7.3	4.9	1.1
Never	70.3	19.9	6.4	2.2	1.3
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,510)					
Yes	73.5	17.3	5.9	1.9	1.5
No	67.1	22.3	6.9	2.6	1.1

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Father Insults Mother

According to youth reports, *fathers from religiously active families are significantly less likely to insult mothers than fathers from families that are not religiously active.* Just more than seven out of 10 youth from families that do something religious five to seven days per week and 63 percent of youth from moderately religiously active families (three to four days per week) report that their father “never” insults or criticizes their mother or her ideas. This percentage contrasts with 53 percent of youth from families not involved in religious activity at all. Parental worship service attendance is not statistically associated with youth reports their father insulting their mother. However, youth with a parent who prays more than once a day are more likely to report that their father “never” insults or criticizes their mother (62 percent as opposed to 53 percent). These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 12: “Does he insult or criticize her or her ideas?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	57.1	28.3	10.8	2.7	1.0
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,800)					
5 to 7*	71.0	20.8	5.8	1.0	1.4
3 to 4*	63.2	24.7	6.7	3.9	1.4
1 to 2	55.5	29.7	11.6	2.4	0.8
Zero	53.1	29.8	12.5	3.5	1.1
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,532)					
About Once/Week or More	58.8	27.6	10.3	2.3	1.0
About Twice/Month (24 times)	62.9	24.7	8.3	2.3	1.7
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)	52.2	32.1	13.1	2.5	0.2
Once or Twice/Year	55.6	30.9	10.0	2.7	0.8
Never	57.8	25.0	12.3	3.1	1.7
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,512)					
Yes*	62.0	25.0	9.8	2.3	1.0
No	53.0	31.3	12.2	2.7	0.8

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Father Screams at Mother

Youth who come from families that are religiously active are less likely than youth from families that are not religiously active to report that their father screams or yells at their mother when angry. Fifty-three percent of youth from families that do something religious five to seven days per week and 47 percent of youth from moderately religiously active families (three to four days per week) report that their father “never” screams or yells at their mother when he is angry. This percentage compares with just less than the four out of 10 youth from families not involved in religious activity at all that report their father “never” screams. Parental prayer is not statistically associated with the youth’s perception of their father’s tendency to scream at their mother. These relationships are statistically significant, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

Table 13: “Does he scream or yell at her when he is angry?” (Percents)

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Overall	42.2	31.9	16.1	6.1	3.7
Days Per Week Family Does Something Religious (N = 2,797)					
5 to 7*	53.2	29.3	10.0	4.0	3.5
3 to 4*	47.2	32.9	13.6	2.1	4.1
1 to 2	41.5	32.2	16.8	6.2	3.3
Zero	38.2	32.4	17.9	7.5	4.0
Parental Worship Service Attendance (N = 2,529)					
About Once/Week or More	45.6	31.5	13.9	5.6	3.5
About Twice/Month (24 times)	47.0	31.9	14.8	3.5	2.8
Once/Month or Less (3-12 times)*	33.4	33.8	21.8	7.5	3.5
Once or Twice/Year	40.4	35.2	12.5	7.8	4.1
Never	42.3	31.2	15.3	7.0	4.2
Parent Prays More Than Once Per Day (N = 2,509)					
Yes	45.3	31.5	13.8	5.8	3.6
No	39.5	33.2	17.1	6.6	3.6

Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1997. An * means a statistically significant difference ($p < .05$) between this variable category and the reference category (which is marked by italics) in a regression analysis, controlling for age, race, presence of both biological parents in the household, income, rural/urban residence, region, sex and education of residential mother or mother figure.

