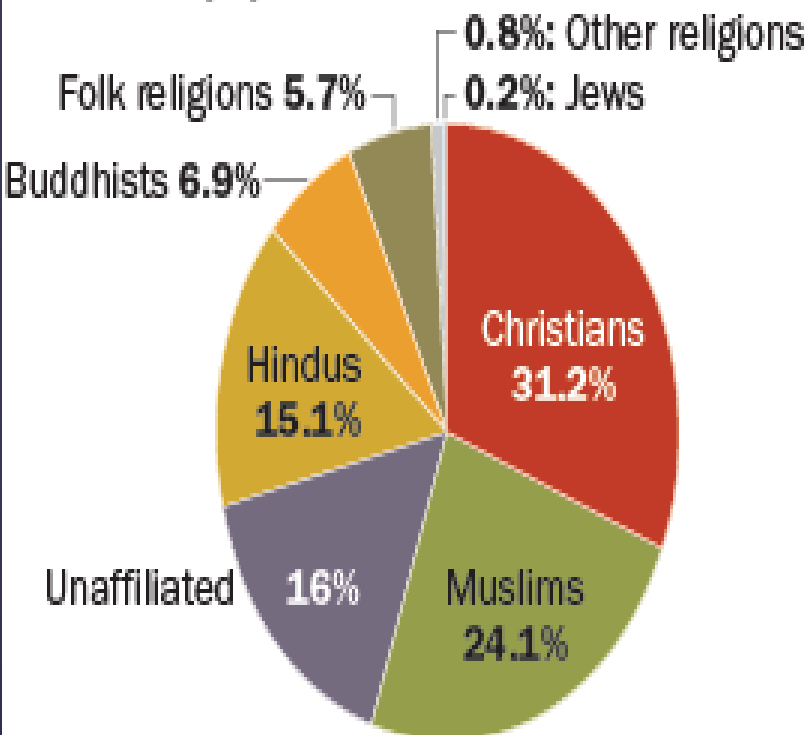


# World Religions and the Christian Distinction

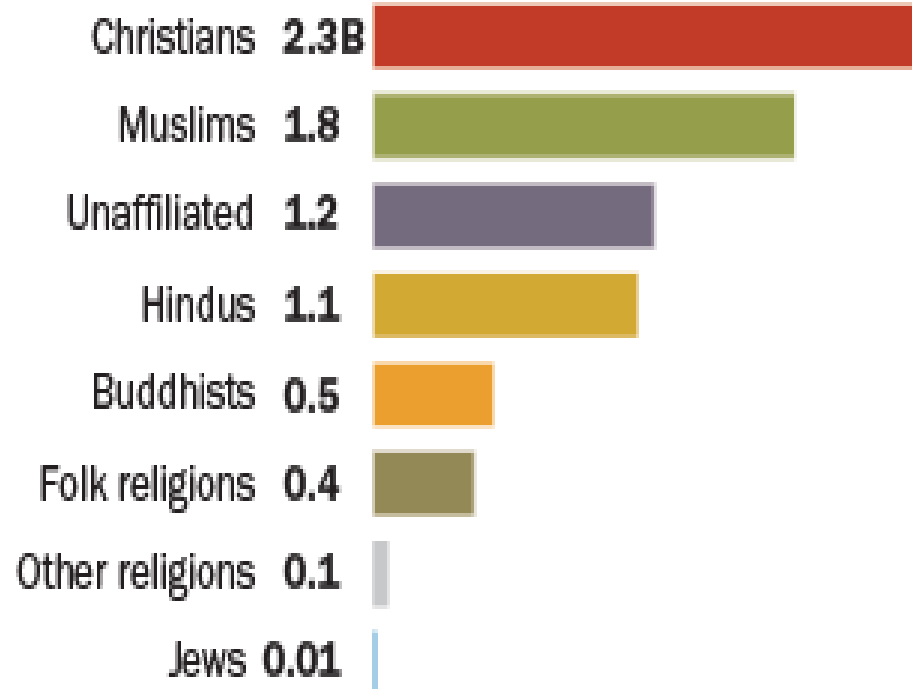
{ Summer Series Session #2

# Christians are the largest religious group in 2015

**% of world population**



**Number of people in 2015, in billions**



Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections. See Methodology for details.

"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

## Christians in Europe dying faster than they are being born

*Among Europe's aging Christian population, estimated deaths outnumbered births between 2010 and 2015. Among all other groups, births outnumbered deaths.*

**Estimated natural increase (births minus deaths) 2010-2015, in millions**

	Europe	Middle East- N. Africa	North America	Asia- Pacific	Latin America	Sub-Saharan Africa
Christians	-5.6M	+0.9M	+5.8M	+17.7M	+32.6M	+64.5M
Muslims	+2.3	+32.1	+0.3	+79.5	*	+38.2
Unaffiliated	+1.4	+0.2	+2.4	+16.8	+3.1	+2.2
Hindus	*	+0.1	+0.2	+66.5	*	*
Buddhists	*	*	+0.2	+11.7	*	*
Folk	*	+0.1	*	+9.6	+0.3	+3.3
Other	*	*	+0.1	+1.0	*	+0.2
Jews	*	+0.4	*	*	*	*

\*Indicates absolute value of natural increase during period was less than 100,000 people

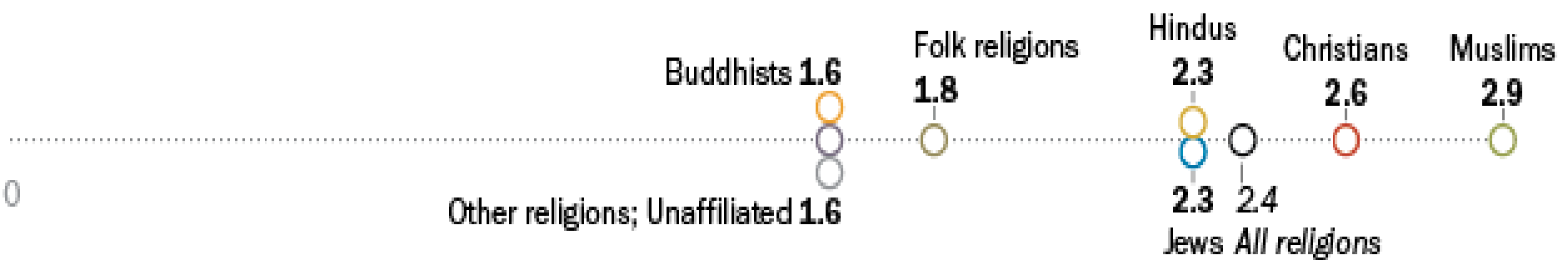
Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections.

See Methodology for details.

"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

# Muslims, Christians have more children per woman than any other religious group

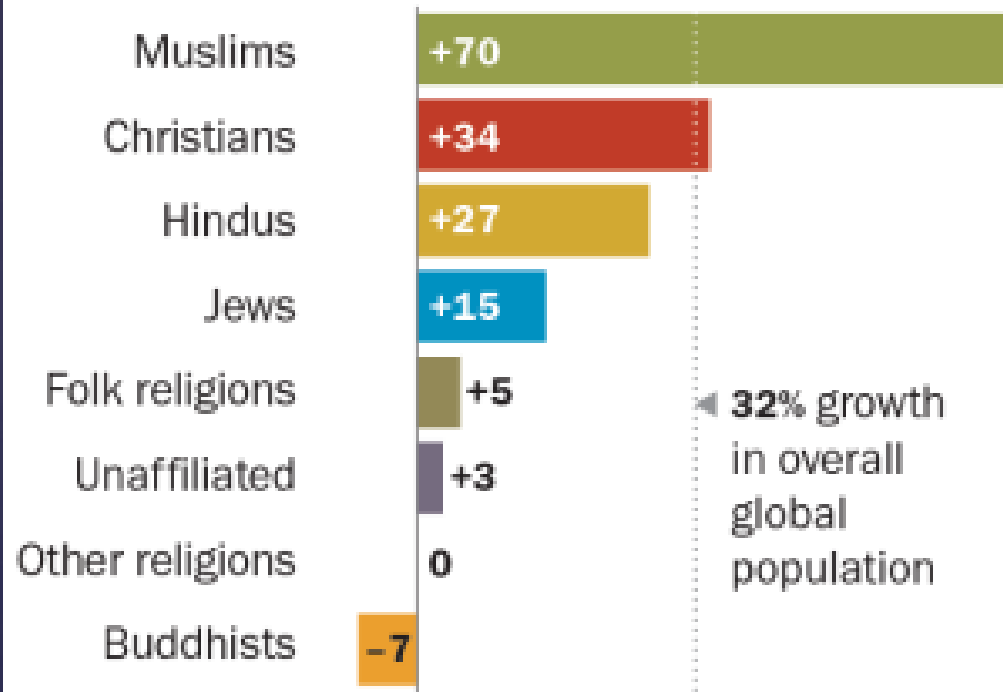
Total fertility rate, by religion, 2015-2020



Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections. See Methodology for details.  
"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

## Muslims projected to be fastest-growing major religious group

*Estimated percent change in population size, 2015-2060*



Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections. See Methodology for details.

"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

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# The Christian Distinction

- God does not need creation, he was before it and would be were it to cease to exist
  - God's generosity and his choice
  - In pagan and many spiritualist religions the gods and everything else make up the "whole"
  - We understand the "world" as something that may not have been
- God is distinct from the world
  - Yet he holds creation in being
  - Only a God like this can then come into the world
  - INCARNATION (Eucharist, miracles, etc)
- New relationship between creation and God in the Incarnation