

## Overview of the development of the CLS

The Christian Life Survey (CLS) was developed in the spring of 2010 to create a new way to explore how Christians engage in their spirituality. Traditional measures of religiosity and spirituality tended to focus on theological beliefs and denominational adherence. Single questions to measure complex spiritual practices and identities were common. The CLS was developed to gain a more holistic, multivalent, set of measures. The CLS is the intellectual property of Steven Bird.

The first pilot study of potential questions was conducted in 2010. It was administered to several hundred students at a single Christian college. The actual set of index questions were administered with minor adjustments to 46 different Christian colleges in the years 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018. Some colleges only participated in one of those years, some participated in multiple years, and a few participated in all four administrations. There were 18,689 participants across those seven years.

In 2019 an automation project was begun to provide a way for anyone to use the CLS for personal spiritual assessment and reflection. This tool went live in August of 2020.

(<http://Taylor.edu/christianlifesurvey>). Participants receive an emailed pdf with their index values and recommendations for types of scripture engagement they might prefer.

Recommendations for scripture engagement techniques are based on two follow up surveys done in 2017 and 2019 that asked the prior year's participants to choose the kinds of scripture engagement they preferred. The CLS results were used to create predictions for the same peoples' engagement preferences so later participants for the CLS could receive predictions of preferred techniques.

## August 2020 to May 2021 Results

Near the beginning of August 2020, a link was provided at the Bible Gateway website's scripture engagement section. This provided access to the automated CLS. After editing the data for incomplete cases and limiting the data to just those people who indicated they were from the USA, were 18 or older, and agreed or strongly agreed that they self-identify as Christian, there were 6,909 cases in the data set. These data were weighted for sex, age, and race to match the distributions reported for Christians by the PEW Research Center.

The confirmatory factor analysis results and the Cronbach's alpha values for each index are provided below.

Index	Factor analysis loadings (principle components; varimax rotation)	Cronbach's alpha
Bible: Application	0.727	0.777
	0.706	
	0.679	

Bible: Identity	0.682	0.738
	0.673	
	0.741	
Bible: Affective	0.503	0.656
	0.673	
	0.719	
Bible: Societal Justice	0.664	0.768
	0.64	
	0.642	
Bible: Experience God	0.716	0.832
	0.722	
	0.712	
Bible: Study	0.719	0.707
	0.635	
	0.672	

Index	Factor analysis loadings (principle components; varimax rotation)	Cronbach's alpha
Center: God	0.674	0.733
	0.51	
	0.721	
Center: Others	0.589	0.736
	0.682	
	0.799	
	0.775	
Center: Bible	0.553	0.558
	0.739	
	0.713	
	0.77	

Index	Factor analysis loadings (principle components; varimax rotation)	Cronbach's alpha
Lifestyle: Connected	0.77	0.742
	0.702	
	0.813	
Lifestyle: Ascetic	0.782	0.778
	0.74	
	0.492	
	0.448	
Lifestyle: Appetite	0.65	0.893
	0.77	
	0.7	
	0.772	
	0.815	
	0.834	
Lifestyle: Reflection	0.718	0.848
	0.607	
	0.684	
	0.733	
	0.767	
Lifestyle: Evangelism	0.689	0.74
	0.67	
	0.612	
	0.652	
Lifestyle: Service	0.811	0.796
	0.643	
	0.691	
	0.793	
Lifestyle: Stewardship	0.684	0.861
	0.836	
	0.806	
	0.838	
	0.819	
	0.799	