

# NEWSBYTES

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"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him." Tozer

## New Survey: More Young Evangelicals Turning Their Backs On Israel.



Wed May 26, 2021 - 7:32 pm EST

A new survey suggests that support of Israel by young evangelicals has dropped to less than half of previous levels. Some of the insights offered by the researchers are particularly disturbing, painting a grim picture of the future relationship between Israel and its most ardent supporters in the US.

The survey, commissioned by University for North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) researchers, carried out by Barna Group, is going to be the basis for a book on the subject. The researchers surveyed 700 evangelical Christians between the ages of 18 and 29 in the poll that was conducted between March and April, asking respondents where they place their support in the "Israeli-Palestinian dispute." 33.6 percent said they placed their support with Israel, 24.3% said with the "Palestinians", and 42.2 percent said with neither side.

In a similar survey conducted by the UNCP professors, Motti Inbari and Kirill Bumin in 2018, 69% of young evangelicals said they sided with Israel, 5.6% said they sided with the "Palestinians", and 25.7% said they didn't take either side. In that survey, the overall results of 1000 evangelicals of all ages, 75% percent sided with Israel, 2.8% expressed some degree of support for the Palestinians, and 22% preferred not to take a side in the dispute.

"This raises questions about the sustainability of the strong evangelical support for Israel that the Israeli right has cultivated for years and that proved reliable during the Trump administration," the Brookings Institution wrote in response to the survey.

Though the two tests add slightly different parameters, Shibley Telhami of the Brookings Institution noted that not only was there a significant drop in support for Israel, but young evangelical support for the Palestinians went up even more significantly.

"This shift cannot be explained by reference to typical differences among younger and older Americans alone," Telhami noted. "It is more substantial than shifts among non-evangelicals."

"It is possible that the Trump factor magnified the generational divide among evangelicals," Telhami wrote. "There is some evidence suggesting young evangelicals may have been more appalled by Trump and wanted their leaders to be more distant from him; whether or not Trump's embrace of Israel could have impacted their views could be further probed. In our polls, we have found that evangelicals, most of whom supported Israel, still said Trump leaned toward Israel more than they did."

"Another factor that could be probed is whether the work of progressive evangelical organizations, which focus on social justice, has been more effective among young evangelicals...For those interested in social justice, the plight of Palestinians has been increasingly viewed through that prism with the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement."

It should be noted that BLM is strongly anti-Israel.

The Times of Israel reported that in the recent poll, "almost 45% of respondents now support the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, 35.1% said they are neutral on the issue, and only 20.5% oppose the idea of Palestinian statehood," TOI reported. "In 2018, the question on the topic was slightly different, but 29% percent of respondents said they opposed territorial concessions by Israel for peace with the Palestinians."

"Over 22% responded that Israel does not treat Palestinians fairly, 35.7% were neutral on the issue, while a plurality (41.5%) responded that Israel treats Palestinians fairly, the latest poll found."

The online UNCP survey of young evangelicals had a 3.7 percentage point margin of error with a 95% level of confidence.

## CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND ISRAEL

The researchers found that the most significant ideological statements that were found in the research were that the "State of Israel is proof of the fulfillment of prophecy regarding the nearing of Jesus' Second Coming" and that "Jews are God's chosen people." To investigate this possibility, they went on to ask the young evangelicals if this was indeed the basis for their support of Israel.

Over 44% of respondents said that their religious beliefs do not influence their assessment of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Over 38% said their religious beliefs lead them to view Israel more favorably, and 17.4% said that their religious beliefs lead them to be more supportive of the Palestinians.

28.4% of respondents said that East Jerusalem should be the capital of a future Palestinian state, while 71.6% said that the city in its entirety should forever remain Israel's capital.

The young evangelical respondents were asked what they considered the basis was for differing from their elders. 34% of respondents said it had to do with "generational difference," 22.5% said it had to do with younger evangelicals being less knowledgeable about the conflict than the older generations, and 29.8% said they did not know.

**Nearly half of respondents admitted to having very limited or no knowledge of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.**

## ECONOMY

# Deutsche Bank warns of global 'time bomb' coming due to rising inflation

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JEFF COX

CNBC.COM

- In an out-of-consensus forecast, Deutsche Bank is warning of a potential crisis coming from inflation.
- “The effects could be devastating, particularly for the most vulnerable in society,” the firm’s economists said.
- Most on Wall Street and at the Fed see inflation is a temporary problem that will ebb as special factors fade away.

Inflation may look like a problem that will go away, but is more likely to persist and lead to a crisis in the years ahead, according to a warning from Deutsche Bank economists.

In a forecast that is well outside the consensus from policymakers and Wall Street, Deutsche issued a dire warning that focusing on stimulus while dismissing inflation fears will prove to be a mistake if not in the near term then in 2023 and beyond.

The analysis especially points the finger at the Federal Reserve and its new framework in which it will tolerate higher inflation for the sake of a full and inclusive recovery. The firm contends that the Fed’s intention not to tighten policy until inflation shows a sustained rise will have dire impacts.

“The consequence of delay will be greater disruption of economic and financial activity than would be otherwise be the case when the Fed does finally act,” Deutsche’s chief economist, David Folkerts-Landau, and others wrote. “In turn, this could create a significant recession and set off a chain of financial distress around the world, particularly in emerging markets.”

As part of its approach to inflation, the Fed won’t raise interest rates or curtail its asset purchase program until it sees “substantial further progress” toward its inclusive goals. Multiple central bank officials have said they are not near those objectives.

In the meantime, indicators such as the consumer price and personal consumption expenditures price indices are well above the Fed’s 2% inflation goal. Policymakers say the current rise in inflation is temporary and will abate once supply disruptions and base effects from the early months of the coronavirus pandemic crisis wear off.

The Deutsche team disagrees, saying that aggressive stimulus and fundamental economic changes will present inflation ahead that the Fed will be ill-prepared to address.

“It may take a year longer until 2023 but inflation will re-emerge. And while it is admirable that this patience is due to the fact that the Fed’s priorities are shifting towards social goals, neglecting inflation leaves global economies sitting on a time bomb,” Folkerts-Landau said. “The effects could be devastating, particularly for the most vulnerable in society.”

To be sure, the Deutsche position is not widely held by economists.

Most on Wall Street agree with the Fed's view that current inflation pressures are transitory, and they doubt there will be any policy changes soon.

Jan Hatzius, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, said there are "strong reasons" to support the position. One he cites is the likelihood that the expiration of enhanced unemployment benefits will send workers back to their jobs in the coming months, easing wage pressures.

On price pressures in general, Hatzius said that much of current spike is being driven by "the unprecedented role of outliers" that will ebb and bring levels back closer to normal.

"All this suggests that Fed officials can stick with their plan to exit only very gradually from the easy current policy stance," Hatzius wrote.

That will be a mistake, according to the Deutsche view.

Congress has approved more than \$5 trillion in pandemic-related stimulus so far, and the Fed has nearly doubled its balance sheet, through monthly asset purchases, to just shy of \$8 trillion. The stimulus continues to come through even with an economy that is expected to grow at about a 10% pace in the second quarter and an employment picture that has added an average 478,000 jobs a month in 2021.

"Never before have we seen such coordinated expansionary fiscal and monetary policy. This will continue as output moves above potential," Folkers-Landau said. "This is why this time is different for inflation."

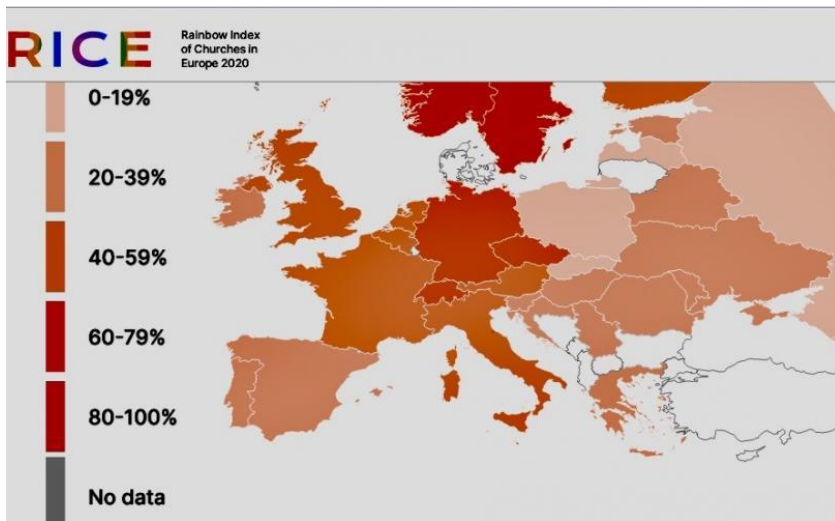
The Deutsche team said the coming inflation could resemble the 1970s experience, a decade during which inflation averaged nearly 7% and was well into double digits at various times. Soaring food and energy prices along with the end of price controls helped push that era's soaring inflation.

Then-Fed Chairman Paul Volcker led the effort to squash inflation then, but needed to use dramatic interest rate hikes that triggered a recession. The Deutsche team worries that such a scenario could play out again.

"Already, many sources of rising prices are filtering through into the US economy. Even if they are transitory on paper, they may feed into expectations just as they did in the 1970s," they said. "The risk then, is that even if they are only embedded for a few months they may be difficult to contain, especially with stimulus so high."

The firm said interest rate hikes could "cause havoc in a debt-heavy world," with financial crises likely particularly in emerging economies where growth won't be able to overcome higher financing costs.

# New ‘Rainbow Index of Churches in Europe’ measures LGBT Inclusivity of Christian Denominations



May 26, 2021 (LifeSiteNews) —The first “Rainbow Index of Churches in Europe in 2020” (RICE 2020) that ranks Christian church groups in Europe by their “LGBTI inclusivity” was released in April.

“As theologians researching inclusivity, we started with the argument that Jesus’ practice of radical hospitality and commensality sets the rule for churches on diversity, equality, and the affirmation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities,” states the RICE research report, which was researched

by the European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups (EF).

The report continues, “What are the implications of Jesus’ words and practices for inclusion in the sacraments and the ordination of clergy; the representation in leadership and decision-making in the church; the inclusivity of liturgical language; the acknowledgement of the church’s role in the discrimination toward LGBTI people?”

The Rainbow Index of Churches in Europe uses 47 indicators of LGBTI “inclusivity,” including the following:

- The Bible is not used as a normative instrument for defining gender roles and is not interpreted as a condemnation of LGBTI people or of LGBTI lived desires, sexualities, and identities. The church officiates ‘same-sex marriages’ and/or holds a blessing ceremony for same-sex couples.
- Transgender persons receive a special blessing when they present their new name and/or identity in church.
- Cis-hetero women and openly LGBTI people are admitted in seminary (institute for ministerial education and formation).
- The church supports the adoption and raising of children by LGBTI couples.
- The liturgical language in prayer or worship books is sensitive to gender issues and sexual orientation.

These indicators were measured by a questionnaire used to assess the LGBTI “inclusivity” of a variety of Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches, which were then ranked according to their index score. The church groups can score half a point to a full point per indicator.

An interactive map displays the average “inclusivity” index scores of each European country, and can be filtered by church group as well.

Leading the list of churches for their “inclusivity” scores are the Metropolitan Community Church in Finland (the majority of whose members are LGBT), the Church of Sweden, and the Protestant Church in Switzerland.

Notably, despite Catholic Church teaching acknowledging the grave immorality of homosexual acts, the Roman Catholic Church in Germany ranks fairly high on the church ranking list, with an index score of 25 out of 47.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity (Cf. Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:10), tradition has always declared that “homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered.” (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Persona humana*, 8). They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.” (CCC 2357)

It is, therefore, impossible for homosexuals to enter into a marriage, since the Church teaches that “it is necessary that each and every marriage act remain ordered per se to the procreation of human life,” a doctrine “based on the inseparable connection, established by God, which man on his own initiative may not break, between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act.” (CCC 2366)

The Catholic Church in Germany earned half a point for “ordination of female/LGBTI clergy,” half a point for “celibacy not required for LGBTI,” and another half a point for “no support of ‘traditional’ family associations.”

It remains to be seen whether their index score will be “upgraded” after taking into account the recent widespread offering of public blessings to homosexual couples by Catholic priests in Germany, who are enabled by their bishops.

The so-called “Synodal Path” of the German Episcopal Conference, which promotes the heretical practices of female “ordination” and intercommunion, besides the blessing of homosexual couples, has been strongly rebuked by orthodox German clergy.

Communio veritatis, a priestly group in Germany, issued a statement on May 13 accusing the head of the German Bishops Conference of “carrying out the work of the wolves” and “tearing apart the Body of Christ by disregarding the Word of God and falsifying the teachings of His Church.”

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò considered the German “Synodal Path” to be so serious that it prompted him to make his first public appearance since he went into hiding to join other prominent Catholics in Munich in prayer and protest against the German Episcopal Conference and its president, Cardinal Reinhard Marx. The German bishops’ defiance of Catholic Church teaching is one of the main reasons clergy like Cardinal Raymond Burke consider Germany to be in schism “that is real if not declared.”

The blessings of homosexual couples by German priests were carried out in open defiance of Church doctrine and the Vatican’s recent ban on same-sex blessings. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith stated that it is “not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage (i.e., outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself to the transmission of life), as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex.”

The Code of Canon law defines schism as “the refusal of submission to the Supreme Pontiff or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him.”

The Roman Catholic Church in Malta, Austria, France, and Italy all rank after Germany, respectively, with moderately high “inclusivity” scores. The Roman Catholic Church in Poland falls at the bottom of both the Roman Catholic Church list and the overall church list, with an index score of 1 out of 47.

In response to the strong pro-family stances of “some EU countries, notably Poland and Hungary,” the European Parliament declared the European Union an “LGBTIQ Freedom Zone” on March 11, the European Parliament News reported.

The RICE 2020 project began in spring 2019, when “the EF invited researchers from the Protestant Theological University (PThU) in Amsterdam to research the inclusivity of churches in Europe and to construct an index for ranking European churches according to their inclusivity, analogous with the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association’s (ILGA) Rainbow Europe equality index.”

The EF began RICE 2020 because, in their words, they “saw the need for ‘hard facts’ on European churches’ inclusivity to provide churches with an incentive” to become more inclusive, motivating their creation of RICE 2020.

EF explains that ILGA-Europe’s Rainbow benchmarking tool “serves as a model” for their project but “does not highlight the term ‘inclusivity.’” ILGA Rainbow Europe (funded by the European Union), by contrast, focuses not on churches but on country policies concerning “non-discrimination,” the family, “hate crime and hate speech,” and “legal gender recognition.”

Among “ways forward,” the report suggests that churches “provide a blessing ritual for trans people,” “allow openly LGBTI persons admission to the seminary,” “get rid of the distinction in liturgical terms for blessing (same-sex) married couples,” and “support explicitly LGBTI couples when they adopt and raise children.” In November, the European Commission announced that it wants to make “hate speech” and “hate crimes” EU crimes in 2021 and impose mutual recognition of “rainbow families” across the European Union by 2022.

