

Peters ETI Religious Crisis Survey of 2008

Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaires

1.1 Paper Survey

Peters ETI Religious Crisis Survey

Ted Peters, a researcher in the field of science and religion, is conducting a survey. The central question is this: **Would contact with extraterrestrial intelligent life affect religion on earth?** Would you be willing to participate? The questionnaire is very brief and would take only 5 minutes to fill out. Thank you. Ted Peters (PI) & Julie Froehlig (Research Assistant).

1. What is your religious affiliation?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic | <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodox Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protestants: evangelical | <input type="checkbox"/> Mormon | <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protestants: mainline | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim | <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu | |

2. Which of the following most applies to you?

- Clergy (including students in training) Lay Religious Other

Please indicate how you feel about each of the following statements: Strongly Agree (**SA**), Agree (**A**), Neither Agree Nor Disagree (**NN**), Disagree (**D**), Strongly Disagree (**SD**) to the left of the statement.

3. Official confirmation of the discovery of a civilization of intelligent beings living on another planet would so undercut my beliefs that *my beliefs would face a crisis*.
4. Official confirmation of the discovery of a civilization of intelligent beings living on another planet would so undercut the beliefs of my particular religious tradition that *my religious tradition would face a crisis*.
5. Even though my religious (or non-religious) viewpoint would remain unaffected, contact with extraterrestrials would so undercut traditional beliefs, that the world's religions would face a crisis.
6. If contact with extraterrestrial intelligent beings occurs, we can expect that they will come from a civilization that is more highly evolved than what we have on earth; they will have progressed further in technology, politics, and morality.
7. If contact with extraterrestrial intelligent beings occurs, we can expect that they will have no religion; they will rely solely on scientific knowledge to the exclusion of religious beliefs.
8. Extraterrestrial beings are likely to have religious beliefs and practices which will conflict sharply with established beliefs and practices as we know them on earth.

Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaires

9. If extraterrestrial intelligent beings exist and live in a more advanced civilization than ours, we can expect they will be willing to come to earth to help us achieve world peace and ecological health.

10. Within the next generation it is more likely than not that we will learn of one or more extraterrestrial civilizations through the scientific efforts of SETI (the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life) or through contact made by UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects).

IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS, PLEASE INCLUDE THEM ON THE BACK.

Would you like to recommend anyone else to take this survey? What is their email address?

Mail paper surveys to: Prof. Ted Peters, PLTS, 2770 Marin Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708 or put in his box

1.2 Web Survey (Using SurveyMonkey.com):

Ted Peters, a researcher in the field of science and religion and author of SCIENCE, THEOLOGY, AND ETHICS (Ashgate 2003), is conducting a survey. The central question is this: Would contact with extraterrestrial intelligent life affect religion on earth? Would you be willing to participate? The questionnaire is very brief and would take only 5 minutes to fill out. Although we will tabulate the data anonymously and will take every step to maintain confidentiality, please note we cannot guarantee full confidentiality when receiving email responses. Thank you. Ted Peters, Principle Investigator, is professor of systematic theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, the Graduate Union, and the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences. Julie Froehlig, Research Assistant, is a student at PLTS.

1. What is your religious affiliation?

- What is your religious affiliation?
 - Orthodox Christian
 - Mormon
 - Hindu
 - Jewish
 - Muslim
 - Buddhist
 - Non-religious
- Roman Catholic
- Protestants: evangelical
- Protestants: mainline
- Other

Other (please specify)

2. Which of the following most applies to you?

Which of the following most applies to you? Clergy (even in training)

Lay

Religious (monk, nun...)

None of the above

3. Official confirmation of the discovery of a civilization of intelligent beings living on another planet would so undercut my beliefs that my beliefs would face a crisis.

Official confirmation of the discovery of a civilization of intelligent beings living on another planet would so undercut my beliefs that my beliefs would face a crisis. Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

4. Official confirmation of the discovery of a civilization of intelligent beings living on another planet would so undercut the beliefs of my particular religious tradition that my religious tradition would face a crisis.

Official confirmation of the discovery of a civilization of intelligent beings living on another planet would so undercut the beliefs of my particular religious tradition that my religious tradition would face a crisis. Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

5. Even though my religious (or non-religious) viewpoint would remain unaffected, contact with extraterrestrials would so undercut traditional beliefs, that the world's religions would face a crisis.

Even though my religious (or non-religious) viewpoint would remain unaffected, contact with extraterrestrials would so undercut traditional beliefs, that the world's religions would face a crisis. Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

6. If contact with extraterrestrial intelligent beings occurs, I expect that they will come from a civilization that is more highly evolved than what we have on earth; they will have progressed further in technology, politics, and morality.

If contact with extraterrestrial intelligent beings occurs, I expect that they will come from a civilization that is more highly evolved than what we have on earth; they will have progressed further in technology, politics, and morality. Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

7. If contact with extraterrestrial intelligent beings occurs, I expect that they will have no religion, that they will rely solely on scientific knowledge to the exclusion of religious beliefs.

If contact with extraterrestrial intelligent beings occurs, I expect that they will have no religion, that they will rely solely on scientific knowledge to the exclusion of religious beliefs. Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

8. Extraterrestrial beings are likely to have religious beliefs and practices which will conflict sharply with established beliefs and practices as we know them on earth.

Extraterrestrial beings are likely to have religious beliefs and practices which will conflict sharply with established beliefs and practices as we know them on earth. Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

9. If extraterrestrial intelligent beings exist and live in a more advanced civilization than ours, we can expect they will be willing to come to earth to help us achieve world peace and ecological health.

Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaires

If extraterrestrial intelligent beings exist and live in a more advanced civilization than ours, we can expect they will be willing to come to earth to help us achieve world peace and ecological health. Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

10. Within the next generation it is more likely than not that we will learn of one or more extraterrestrial civilizations through the scientific efforts of SETI (the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life) or through contact made by UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects).

Within the next generation it is more likely than not that we will learn of one or more extraterrestrial civilizations through the scientific efforts of SETI (the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life) or through contact made by UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects). Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Any Other Comments?

