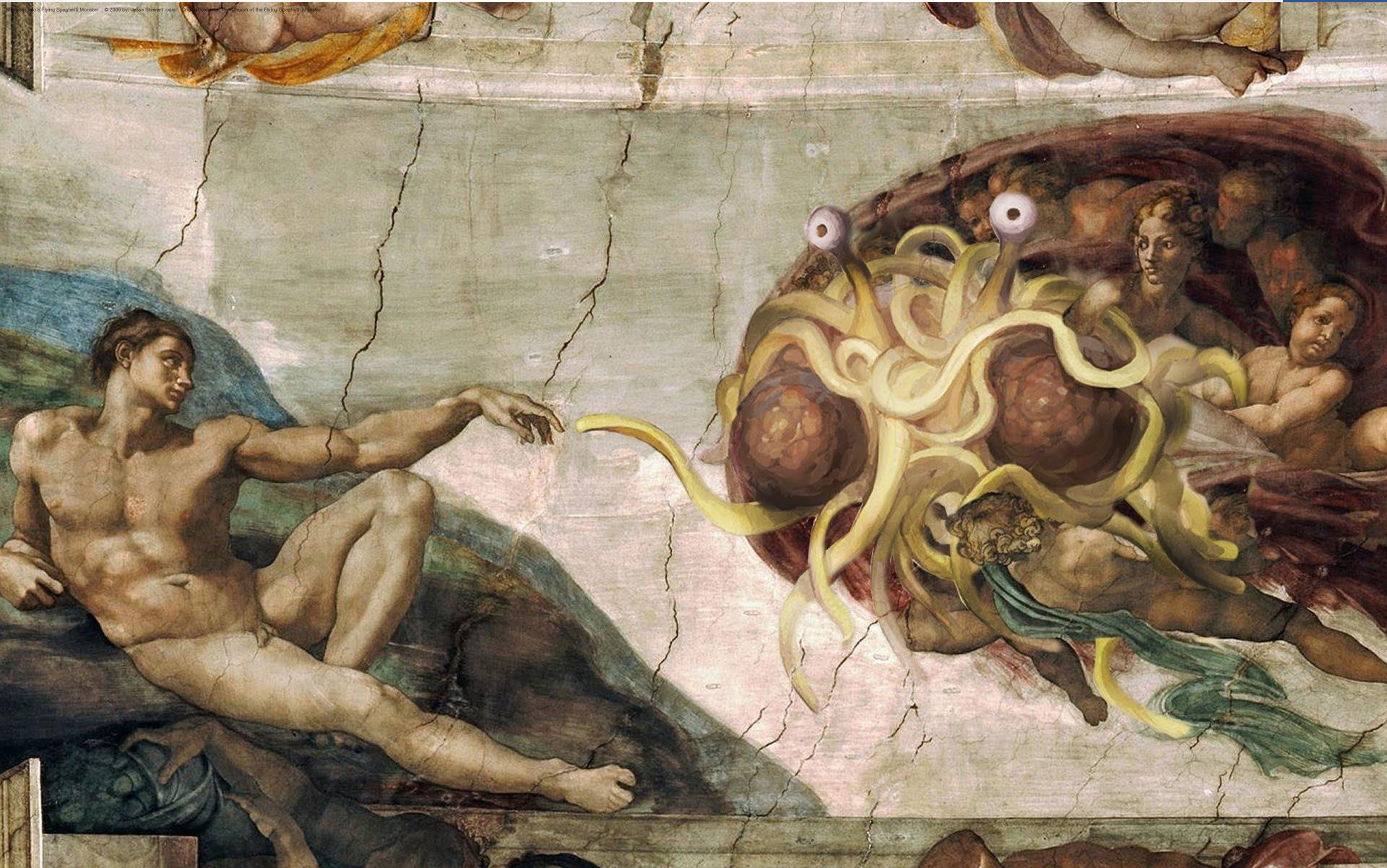


Happiness and Religion

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Introduction

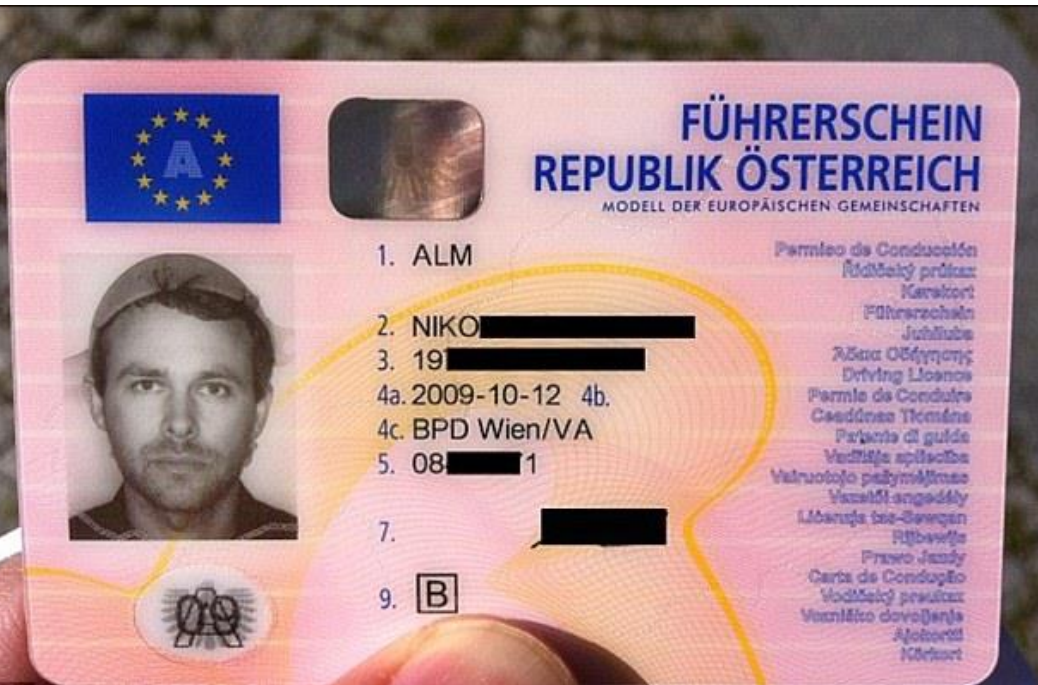
- Utility analysis of religion
- Benefits of religion
 - Social capital and social networks
 - Spiritual support and material aid in need
 - Dispute resolution
 - Supranatural deeds and miracles
 - Utility from expected afterlife consumption



Introduction (cont'd)

- Costs of religion
 - Time/effort due to worshiping and religious activities
 - Restrictions on behavior and/or consumption
 - Physical harm (eg M/F circumcision)
 - Prohibition on use of modern technology, medicine and science
- The net effects of these costs and benefits on happiness can be either positive or negative





Introduction (cont'd)

- Previous literature tends to find positive effect of religion on happiness
- This study:
 1. Different religions impose different restrictions and yield different benefits
Differences across religious denominations
 2. Costs and benefits may depend on intensity of religious beliefs and/or intensity of worshiping
Effect of religiosity and religious participation

Overview of Existing Studies

- Religiosity, and religious participation, increase happiness (many studies)
- Religious fragmentation reduces happiness (Mookerjee and Beron, 2005)
- Religion protects against happiness-reducing effects of income shocks (Dehejia et al., 2007)
- Positive spillover effects from religious to non-religious people (Clark and Lelkes, 2009)
- Religious sacrifice increases happiness: fasting (Campante and Yanagizawa-Drott, 2013)

Overview of Existing Studies (cont'd)

- Religions as clubs: club goods, behavioral restrictions to eliminate free riding (Berman, 2000)
- Modern societies provide similar benefits as religion (welfare state, legal institutions, etc) in secular setting; complying with behavioral restrictions more difficult in modern/complex societies: inverse U-shaped relationship between religiosity and development

Data and Empirical Analysis

- European Social Survey, 5 waves, 2000-08, 30 countries
- Happiness: “Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?” [0/10]
- Religious denominations: Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Other Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Eastern religious, and other
- Religiosity: 0 (not at all) to 10 (very religious)
- Praying: 1 (everyday) to 7 (never)
- Socio-economic characteristics
- Country and wave fixed effects

Variable [Scale]	Roman Catholic	Protestant	Eastern Orthodox	Other Christian	Jewish	Islamic	Eastern religions	Other	None	Religious [0-10]	Pray [1-7]	Happy [0-10]
Austria	62.1%	3.4%	0.7%	1.1%	0.1%	1.3%	0.9%	0.3%	30.1%	5.10	4.35	7.5
Belgium	39.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0.8%	0.1%	3.0%	0.3%	0.4%	55.4%	4.80	5.22	7.7
Bulgaria	0.3%	0.5%	50.3%	0.6%	0.0%	10.9%	0.0%	0.1%	37.2%	4.33	5.09	5.3
Switzerland	31.6%	30.1%	0.9%	1.1%	0.1%	2.4%	0.8%	0.4%	32.4%	5.28	4.06	8.0
Cyprus	0.5%	0.0%	69.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	30.2%	6.89	2.85	7.5
Czech Rep.	23.1%	1.9%	0.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	73.5%	2.65	6.03	6.7
Germany	22.3%	27.8%	0.6%	1.5%	0.1%	2.0%	0.4%	0.1%	45.1%	3.91	5.17	7.2
Denmark	1.0%	56.2%	0.1%	0.8%	0.1%	1.5%	0.3%	0.3%	39.6%	4.23	5.63	8.3
Estonia	0.5%	7.6%	14.1%	1.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	76.0%	3.55	5.94	6.6
Spain	68.4%	0.4%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.1%	0.2%	27.8%	4.49	4.60	7.5
Finland	0.1%	49.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	48.7%	5.32	4.56	8.0
France	26.6%	1.0%	0.1%	0.5%	0.3%	2.1%	0.1%	0.2%	69.1%	3.70	5.45	7.1
UK	5.6%	19.5%	0.1%	1.0%	0.2%	1.4%	0.9%	0.3%	71.1%	4.17	4.90	7.4
Greece	0.8%	0.3%	89.5%	0.2%	0.0%	1.9%	0.1%	0.1%	7.2%	6.87	2.78	6.5
Croatia	75.4%	0.2%	3.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	19.6%	6.14	3.29	6.7
Hungary	34.6%	12.7%	0.0%	1.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	51.2%	4.33	4.81	6.3
Ireland	76.5%	2.8%	0.2%	1.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	18.6%	5.52	2.85	7.6
Israel	2.1%	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	72.5%	14.3%	0.1%	1.0%	9.3%	4.82	4.65	7.4
Italy	78.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	20.8%	6.06	3.71	6.3
Luxembourg	51.9%	0.9%	0.5%	16.1%	0.1%	1.6%	0.4%	0.4%	28.0%	4.29	5.12	7.8
Netherlands	20.1%	16.4%	0.2%	2.9%	0.1%	2.0%	0.6%	0.3%	57.4%	4.94	4.83	7.7
Norway	1.3%	47.9%	0.3%	1.7%	0.0%	1.3%	0.4%	0.8%	46.2%	3.92	5.43	7.9
Poland	90.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	7.8%	6.43	2.68	6.9
Portugal	83.5%	0.8%	0.2%	1.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	13.2%	5.69	3.36	6.5
Russia	0.3%	0.2%	48.4%	0.2%	0.1%	5.5%	0.1%	0.0%	45.2%	4.47	4.99	6.0
Sweden	1.1%	26.1%	0.5%	1.2%	0.1%	1.4%	0.3%	0.2%	69.0%	3.54	5.78	7.9
Slovenia	50.2%	0.9%	1.3%	0.3%	0.0%	1.0%	0.1%	0.1%	46.2%	4.75	4.99	7.2
Slovakia	63.5%	7.8%	0.7%	5.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	22.4%	5.96	3.74	6.5
Turkey	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	96.1%	0.0%	1.1%	2.7%	7.07	1.79	6.0
Ukraine	8.2%	1.4%	60.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	27.8%	5.16	3.80	5.5
Average	29.6%	12.6%	10.2%	1.3%	2.3%	3.6%	0.3%	0.3%	39.8%	4.82	4.51	7.1

Results

- Men less happy than women
- Married happier than single
- Education increases happiness
- Household size (children) increases (reduces) happiness
- Income increases happiness
- Religious people happier than those not reporting any religious denomination

Variables	All	Males	Females
Male	-0.1302***		
	(0.0091)		
Age	-0.05606***	-0.06423***	-0.04977***
	(0.0016)	(0.0025)	(0.0022)
Age sqrd	0.000476***	0.000555***	0.000412***
	(0.0000)	(0.0000)	(0.0000)
Education years	0.012345***	0.007303***	0.015556***
	(0.0013)	(0.0018)	(0.0018)
Household size	0.039875***	0.039898***	0.039645***
	(0.0043)	(0.0062)	(0.0059)
Children (dummy)	-0.04542***	-0.03951**	-0.06664***
	(0.0123)	(0.0191)	(0.0163)
Married/cohabitating	0.640778***	0.730828***	0.559753***
	(0.0109)	(0.0175)	(0.0145)
Suburb of city ⁽¹⁾	-0.03134*	-0.03087	-0.03488
	(0.0161)	(0.0237)	(0.0218)
Town ⁽¹⁾	0.018864	0.017407	0.016346
	(0.0126)	(0.0189)	(0.0170)
Village ⁽¹⁾	0.061427***	0.07757***	0.046836***
	(0.0129)	(0.0192)	(0.0174)
Farm/countryside ⁽¹⁾	0.110451***	0.133829***	0.095133***
	(0.0213)	(0.0307)	(0.0299)
Income: coping ⁽²⁾	-0.47535***	-0.50669***	-0.45724***
	(0.0110)	(0.0158)	(0.0153)
Income: difficult ⁽²⁾	-1.11935***	-1.15606***	-1.09804***
	(0.0149)	(0.0223)	(0.0201)
Income: v. difficult ⁽²⁾	-1.81038***	-1.90935***	-1.74006***

Variables	All	Males	Females
Student ⁽³⁾	0.181319***	0.277164***	0.101601***
	(0.0200)	(0.0320)	(0.0267)
Unemployed ⁽³⁾	-0.38571***	-0.41158***	-0.32436***
	(0.0260)	(0.0407)	(0.0356)
Inactive ⁽³⁾	-0.27345***	-0.26756***	-0.24929***
	(0.0334)	(0.0533)	(0.0436)
Sick/disabled ⁽³⁾	-0.57207***	-0.50233***	-0.61936***
	(0.0278)	(0.0430)	(0.0372)
Retired ⁽³⁾	-0.00721	0.063356*	-0.0641***
	(0.0190)	(0.0333)	(0.0243)
Homeworker ⁽³⁾	0.073006***	0.070782***	0.083989***
	(0.0121)	(0.0221)	(0.0151)
Roman Catholic ⁽⁴⁾	0.141687***	0.181401****	0.11059***
	(0.0129)	(0.0188)	(0.0178)
Protestant ⁽⁴⁾	0.193347***	0.194028***	0.182532***
	(0.0148)	(0.0218)	(0.0201)
East Orthodox ⁽⁴⁾	-0.02894	0.040285	-0.06807**
	(0.0244)	(0.0378)	(0.0323)
Other Christian ⁽⁴⁾	0.249879***	0.321205***	0.189769***
	(0.0387)	(0.0584)	(0.0518)
Jewish ⁽⁴⁾	0.231532***	0.10846	0.326169***
	(0.0589)	(0.0862)	(0.0809)
Muslim ⁽⁴⁾	0.204344***	0.152294***	0.242279***
	(0.0385)	(0.0537)	(0.0558)
Foreign born	-0.05245***	0.002987	-0.09593***
	(0.0167)	(0.0253)	(0.0223)
Ethnic minority	-0.12348***	-0.15419***	-0.09827***
	(0.0220)	(0.0321)	(0.0302)

Results: Gender Specific

- Positive effect of education and income larger for women than for men
- Negative effect of children larger for women than for men
- Roman Catholic and Other Christian men, and Jewish and Muslim women, gain more from belonging to a religion than the other gender

Variables	All	Males	Females
Individual Controls	YES	YES	YES
Roman Catholic ⁽⁴⁾	-0.30224***	-0.2602***	-0.39136***
	(0.0260)	(0.0368)	(0.0372)
Protestant ⁽⁴⁾	-0.11753***	-0.04722	-0.18244***
	(0.0321)	(0.0443)	(0.0473)
East Orthodox ⁽⁴⁾	-0.32665***	-0.32238***	-0.38827***
	(0.0478)	(0.0705)	(0.0660)
Other Christian ⁽⁴⁾	-0.22573**	-0.10633	-0.36959**
	(0.1084)	(0.1531)	(0.1550)
Jewish ⁽⁴⁾	-0.07145	-0.16804	0.007617
	(0.0786)	(0.1172)	(0.1065)
Muslim ⁽⁴⁾	-0.67239***	-0.6822***	-0.69608***
	(0.0806)	(0.1081)	(0.1226)
Roman Catholic*R ⁽⁵⁾	0.055686***	0.061293***	0.062125***
	(0.0043)	(0.0065)	(0.0060)
Protestant*R ⁽⁵⁾	0.040733***	0.032749***	0.047246***
	(0.0055)	(0.0081)	(0.0077)
East Orthodox*R ⁽⁵⁾	0.038494***	0.054914***	0.04072***
	(0.0073)	(0.0113)	(0.0097)
Other Christian*R ⁽⁵⁾	0.045605***	0.044144**	0.054942***
	(0.0148)	(0.0218)	(0.0205)
Other Christian*R ⁽⁵⁾	0.045605***	0.044144**	0.054942***
	(0.0148)	(0.0218)	(0.0205)
Jewish*R ⁽⁵⁾	0.041646***	0.038931**	0.045242***
	(0.0112)	(0.0174)	(0.0145)
Muslim*R ⁽⁵⁾	0.113159***	0.113268***	0.118462***
	(0.0110)	(0.0152)	(0.0162)
Religiosity (R)	0.042264***	0.035709***	0.043844***

Results: Religiosity

- Reversal of sign: belonging to a religion increases unhappiness for Protestants, Roman Catholics, East Orthodox and Muslims
- Religiosity increases happiness, especially for women
- This holds also in interaction with all major religions
- Interaction effects again larger for women

Variables	All	Males	Females
Individual Controls	YES	YES	YES
Roman Catholic ⁽⁴⁾	0.052841*	0.135342***	0.049935
	(0.0291)	(0.0501)	(0.0362)
Protestant ⁽⁴⁾	0.145429***	0.125054**	0.146224***
	(0.0336)	(0.0587)	(0.0413)
East Orthodox ⁽⁴⁾	-0.17459***	-0.03507	-0.18247***
	(0.0421)	(0.0742)	(0.0524)
Other Christian ⁽⁴⁾	0.181232***	0.265262**	0.159717*
	(0.0653)	(0.1077)	(0.0827)
Jewish ⁽⁴⁾	0.480763***	0.224887	0.699911***
	(0.0933)	(0.1382)	(0.1275)
Muslim ⁽⁴⁾	0.115803*	0.086141	0.143069*
	(0.0600)	(0.0874)	(0.0842)
Roman Catholic*P ⁽⁵⁾	0.002003	-0.00867	-0.00329
	(0.0052)	(0.0084)	(0.0069)
Protestant*P ⁽⁵⁾	-0.0031	0.001271	-0.00399
	(0.0061)	(0.0100)	(0.0081)
East Orthodox*P ⁽⁵⁾	0.022463***	0.004944	0.016763
	(0.0080)	(0.0131)	(0.0107)
Other Christian*P ⁽⁵⁾	-0.01482	-0.01898	-0.02535
	(0.0167)	(0.0244)	(0.0239)
Jewish*P ⁽⁵⁾	-0.06486***	-0.04136*	-0.08691***
	(0.0151)	(0.0229)	(0.0203)
Muslim*P ⁽⁵⁾	-0.00294	-0.01566	0.008793
	(0.0128)	(0.0181)	(0.0183)
Pray (P)	-0.03853***	-0.04299***	-0.03151***

Results: Praying

- Praying increases happiness
- Mixed results: belonging to a religion increases happiness for Protestants, Roman Catholics, Jewish and Muslims and decreases happiness for Eastern Orthodox
- Most of the interaction terms insignificant; praying increases happiness for Jews and decreases happiness for Eastern Orthodox
- Little difference between genders
- It is intensity of religious beliefs that matters, not frequency of praying

Conclusions

- Overall, religion makes people happy
- Once we control for religiosity, differences emerge: all religions are not equal when it comes to happiness
- When we control for religiosity belonging to a religion increases unhappiness for Protestants, Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and Muslims
- Membership of a religion (club goods) has no (or even negative) impact on happiness
- This is compensated by religious devotion

Conclusions

- Praying often increases happiness across all religions
- Few differences for religious denominations
- Religion alone decreases happiness, religiosity increases happiness but there are differences across denominations, praying uniformly increases happiness
- Advice: join 'other Christian' religion, believe intensely, and pray often