



PIELC | PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON LAW SCHOOL - 2018

WOULD JESUS FLY?

Hugo Séguin, Fellow at the Center for International Research and Study of
the Université de Montréal

Christopher P. Borick, Director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public
Opinion

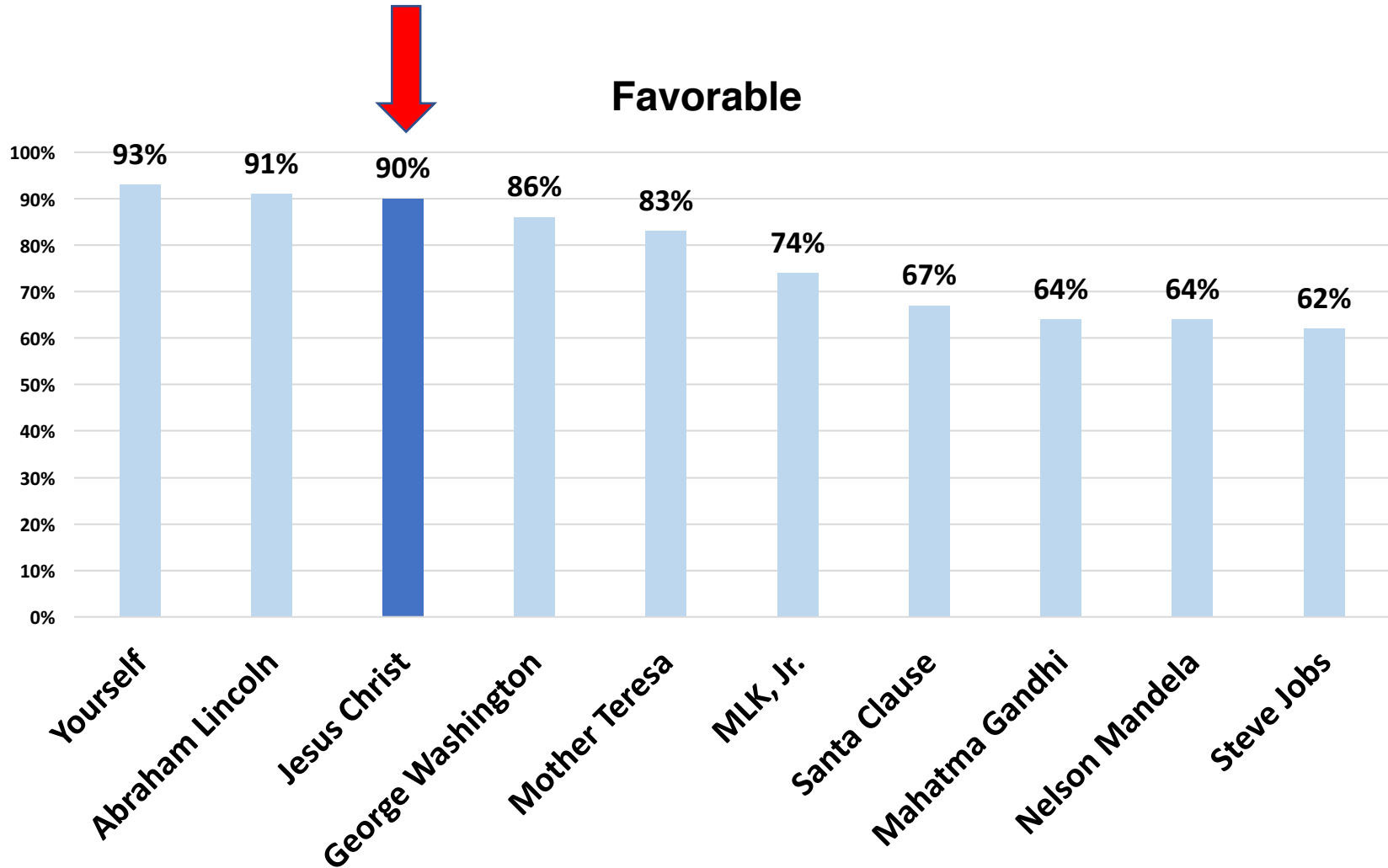
Robin L. Quirke, Associate Researcher at PolicyInteractive

Courtney Johnson, Staff Attorney at Crag Law Center

“Americans love Jesus, Lincoln, and themselves”

Public Opinion Polling (N = 800)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of...



Hugo Séguin

Fellow at the Center for International Research and Study of the
Université de Montréal

American Perceptions of Climate Change: Religious and Moral Dimensions

Christopher Borick
Muhlenberg College

2018 PIELC CONFERENCE



Robin Quirke

Is it morally sound to use air travel?

Moral Beliefs Survey

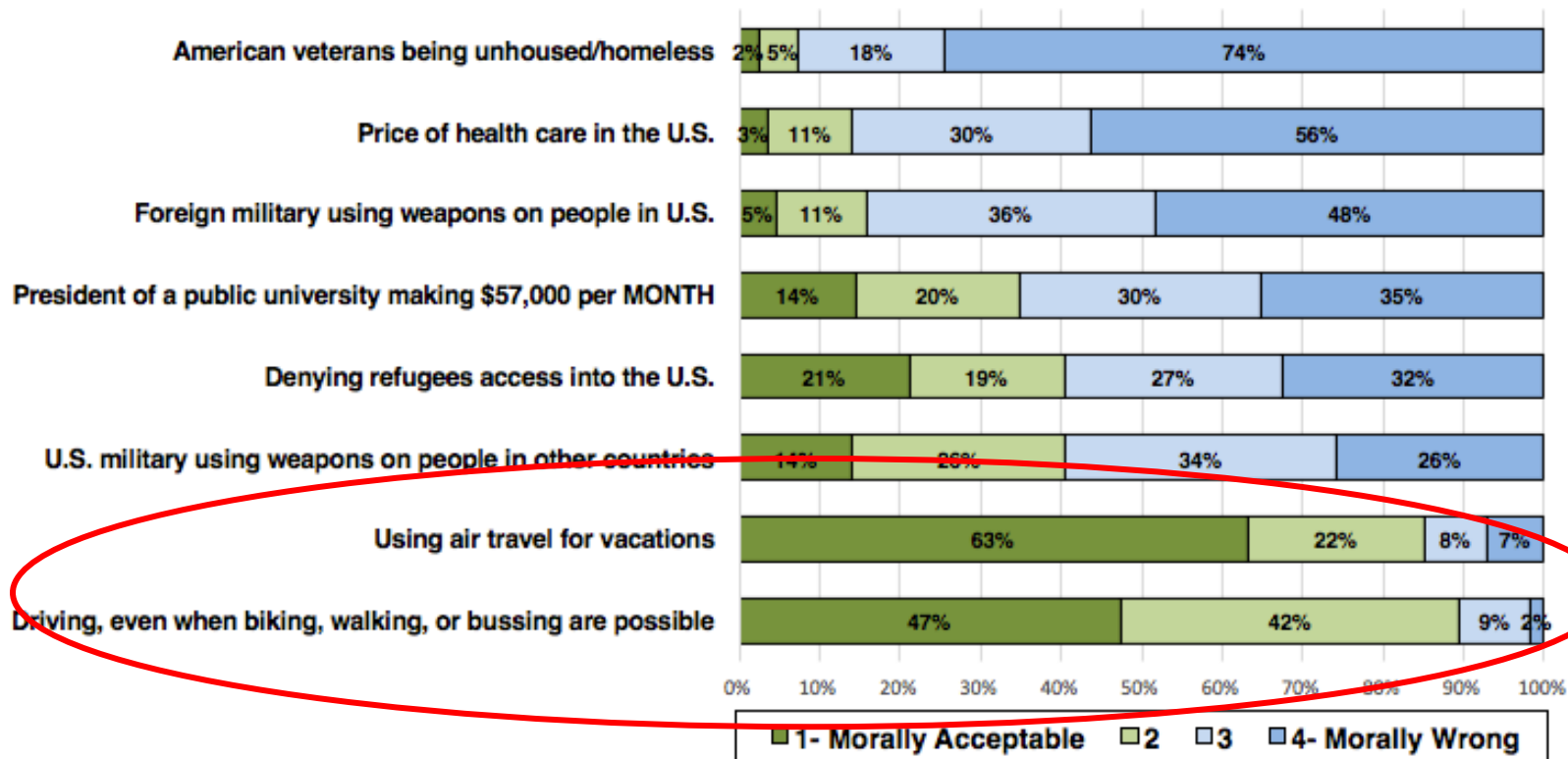
Sample size = 545 American English-speakers

Political Party
Republican: 38% (<i>n</i> = 207)
Democrat: 41.3% (<i>n</i> = 225)

All participants were exposed to the following definition:

Moral values refer to a set of principles that guide an individual on how to evaluate right versus wrong. An individual with high moral values typically displays characteristics of integrity, courage, respect, fairness, honesty and compassion.

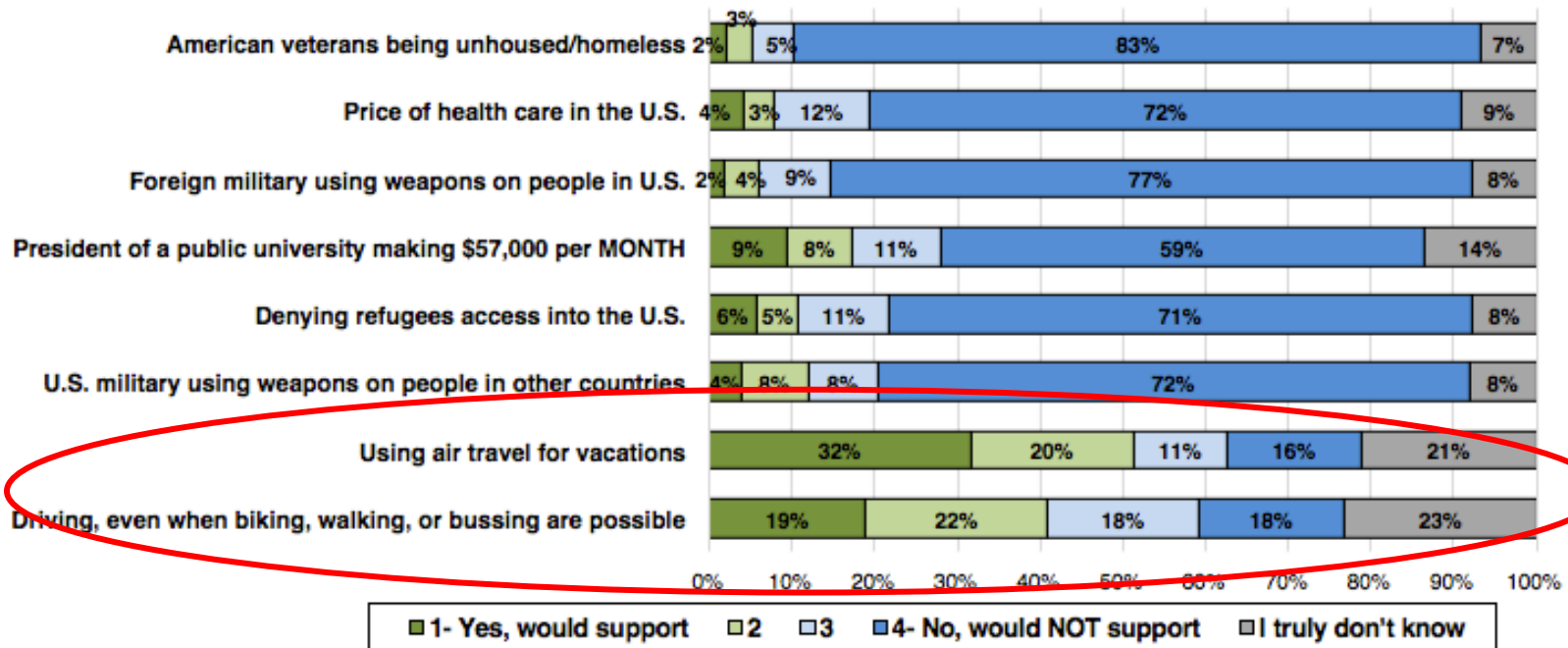
What do you think: Morally acceptable?



All participants were also exposed to the following language:

Thinking about what you know of the teachings of Jesus as an example of moral guidelines, regardless of your beliefs, which of the following do you think Jesus would support if he were living among us today?

...which of the following do you think Jesus would support if he were living among us today?



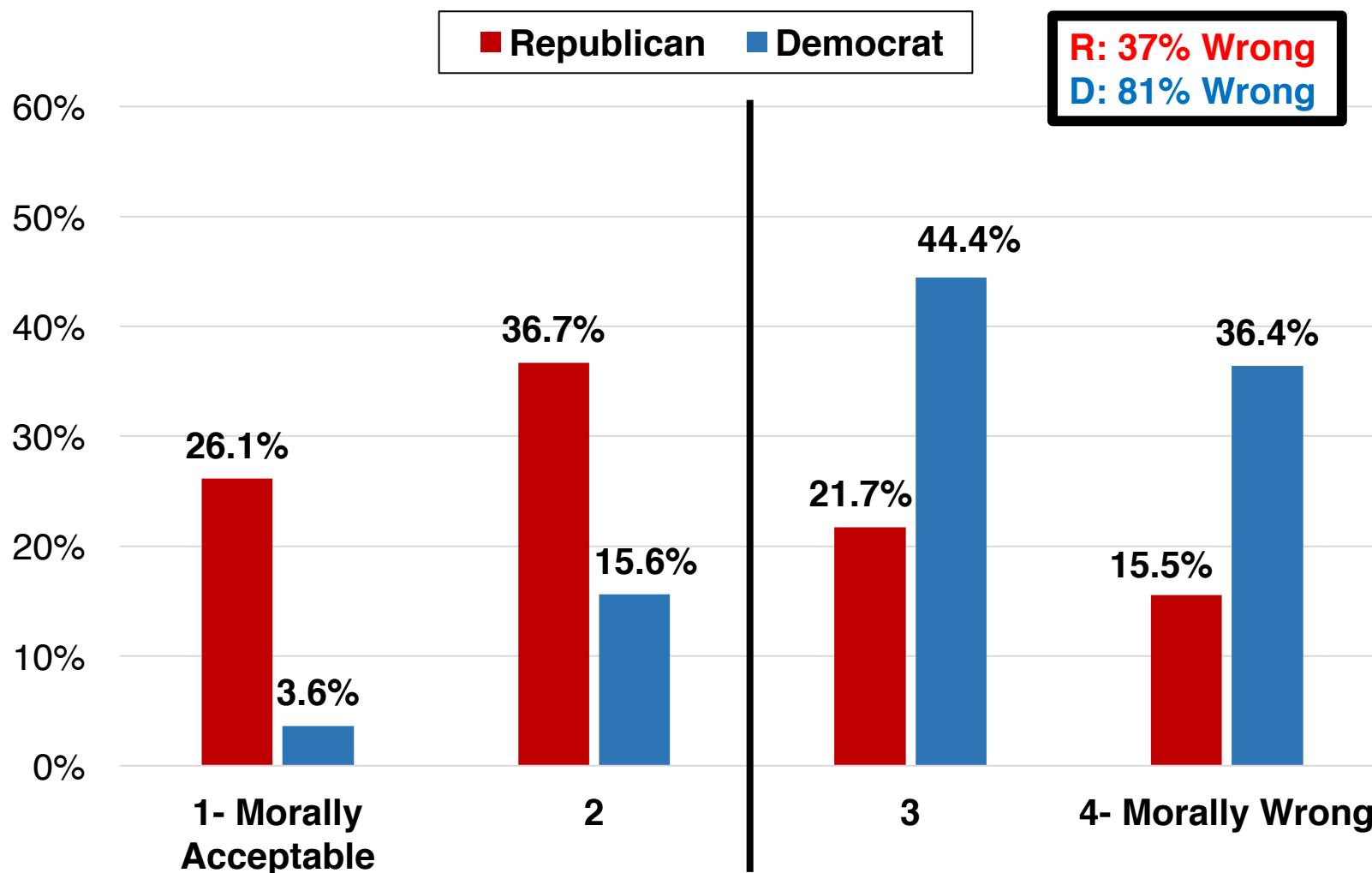
Comparing Republicans and Democrats

Morally acceptable or
morally wrong?

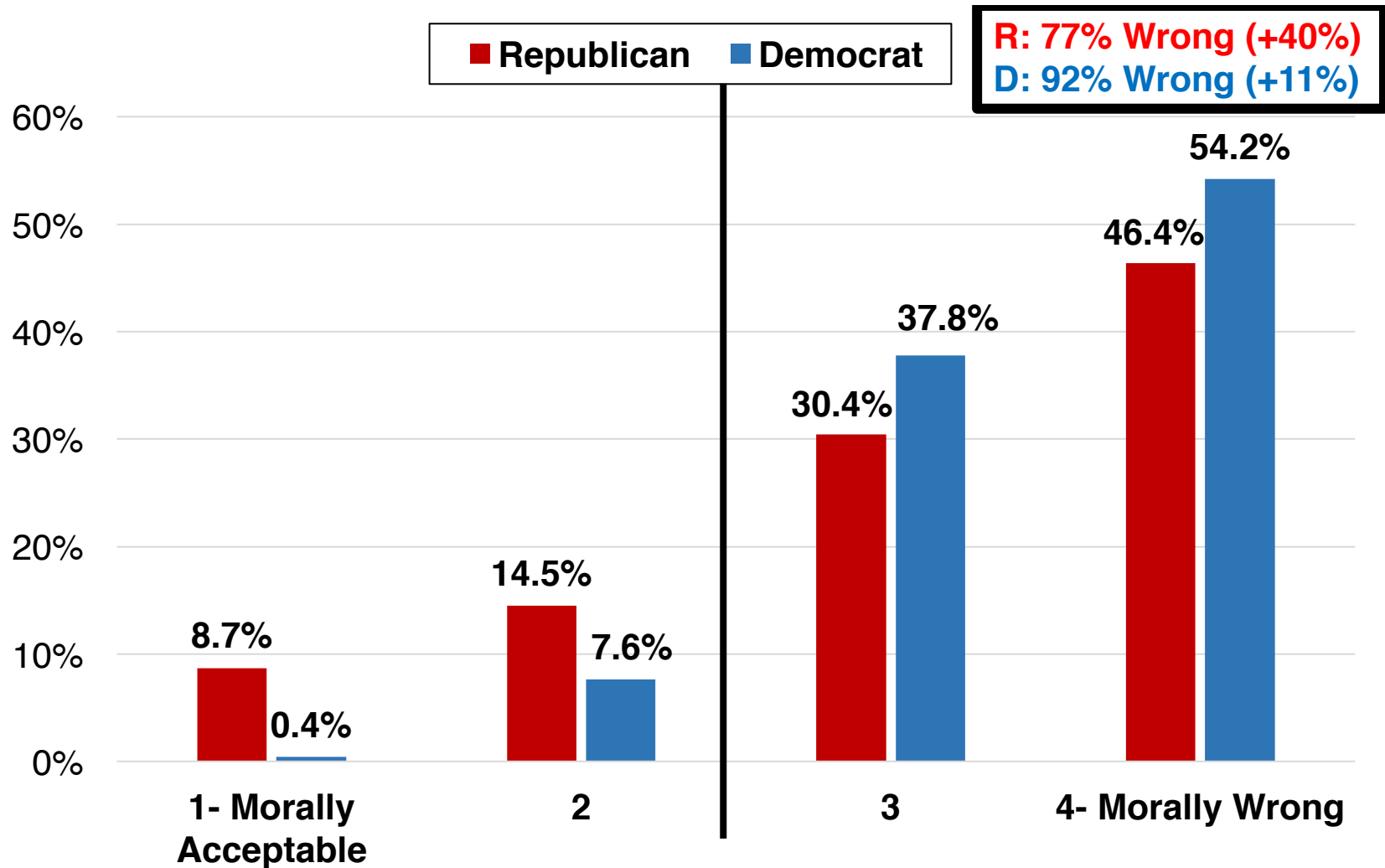
What do
you think?



U.S. military using weapons on people in other countries (Republican $n = 207$; Democrat $n = 225$)



Foreign military using weapons on people in U.S. (Republican $n = 207$; Democrat $n = 225$)

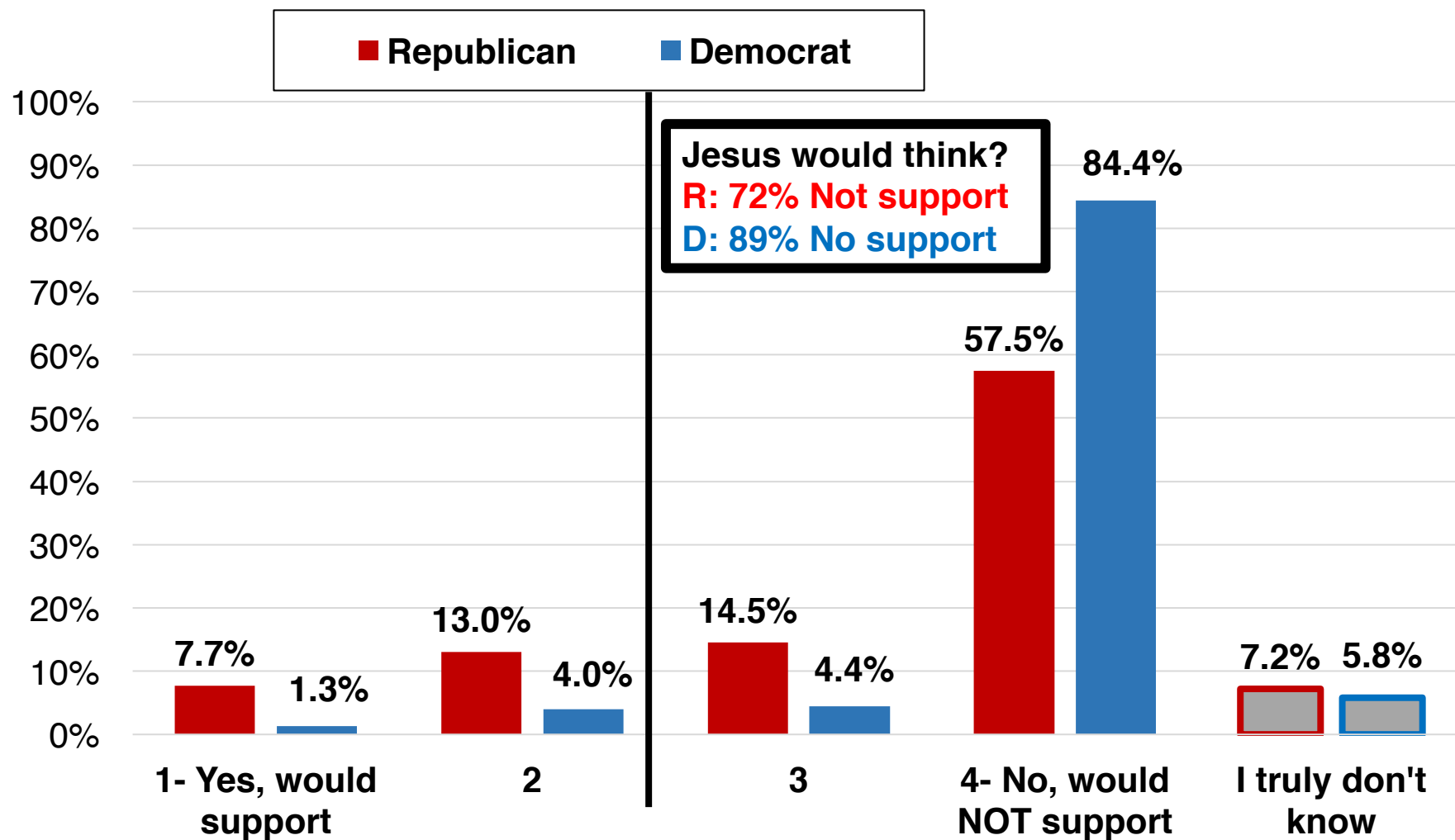


Morally acceptable or
morally wrong?

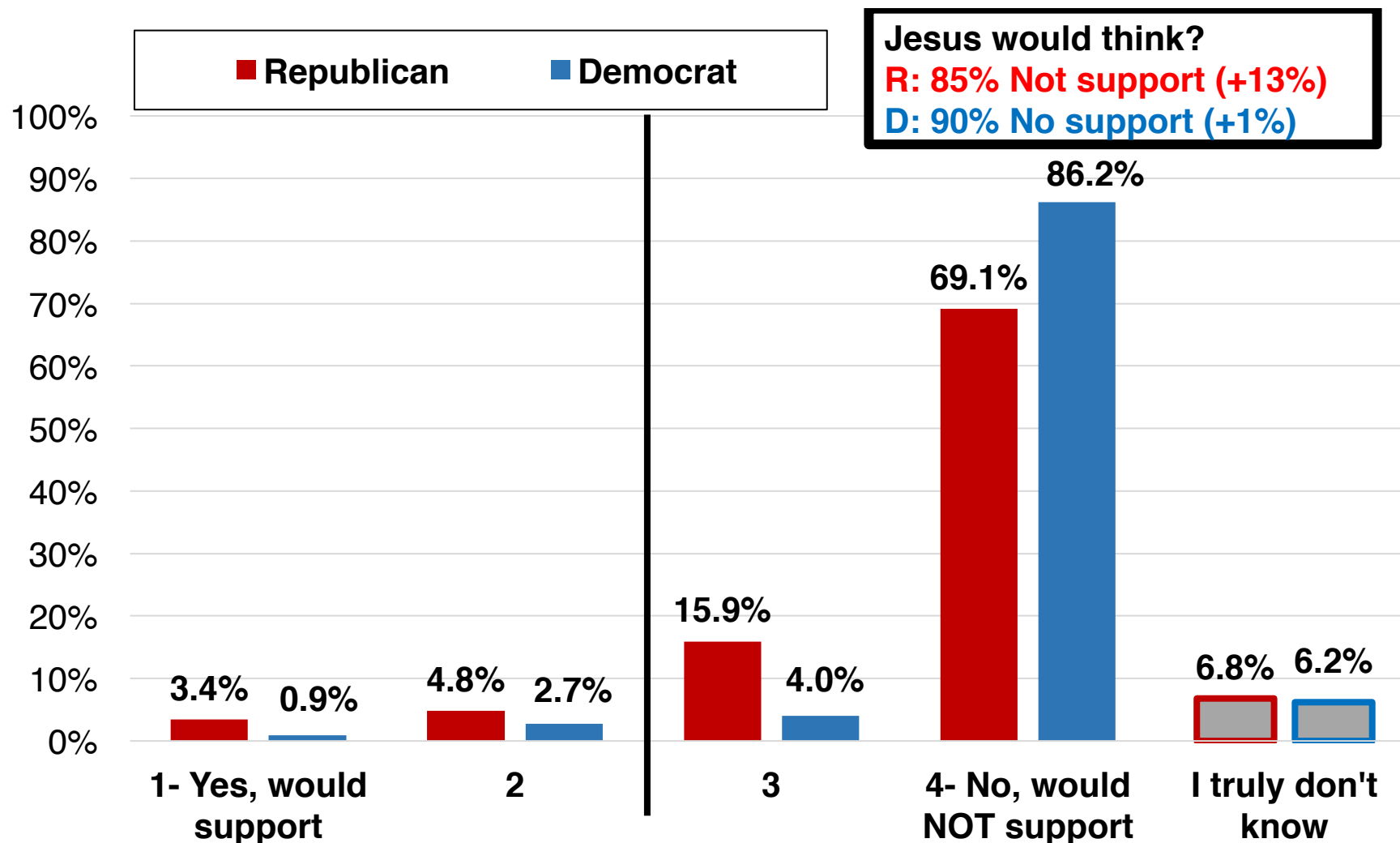
What would
Jesus think?



Would Jesus support: U.S. military using weapons on people in other countries (Republican $n = 207$; Democrat $n = 225$)



Would Jesus support: Foreign military using weapons on people in U.S. (Republican $n = 207$; Democrat $n = 225$)



Morally acceptable or
morally wrong?

What do
you think?

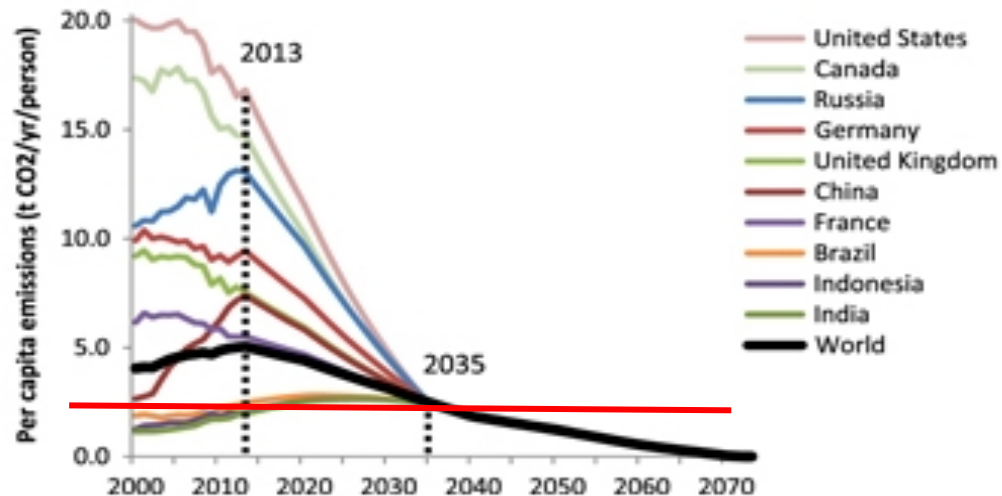


Why ask about air travel?

Carbon Budget (1000 gigatons CO₂)

If everyone were allotted 2 Mt/yr = 66 years left

If everyone were allotted 16.5 Mt/yr = 8 years left



“Allocating a 2 ° C cumulative carbon budget to countries”

Renaud Gignac and H Damon Matthews 2015 Environ. Res. Lett. 10 075004 doi:10.1088/1748-9326/10/7/075004

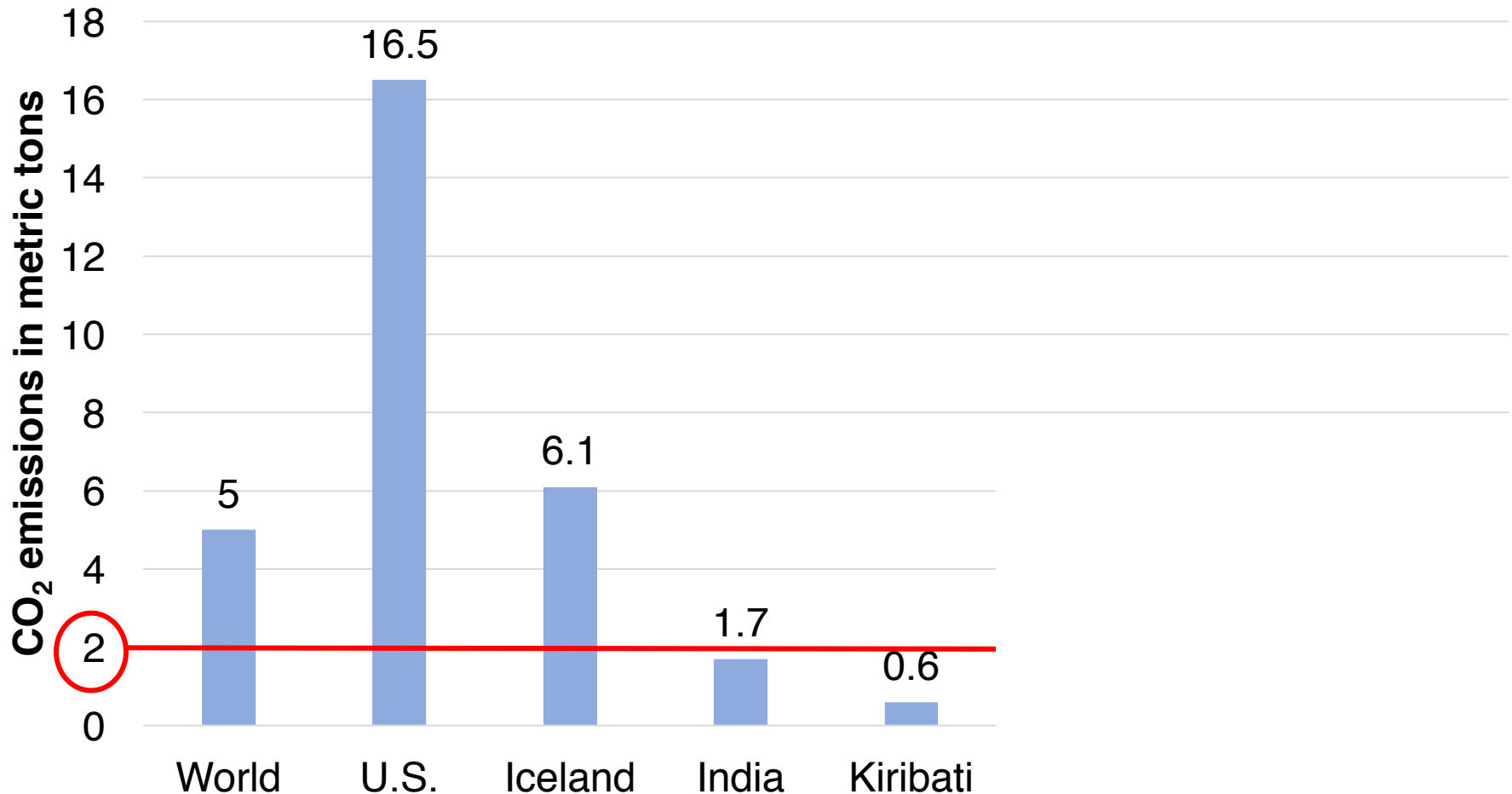
If emissions had been shared equally from the beginning, the U.S. used up their share in 1944.

(calculated by ClimateInteractive.org)

Is air travel a significant contributor
of GHG emissions?

Global CO₂ emissions (per capita; annual)

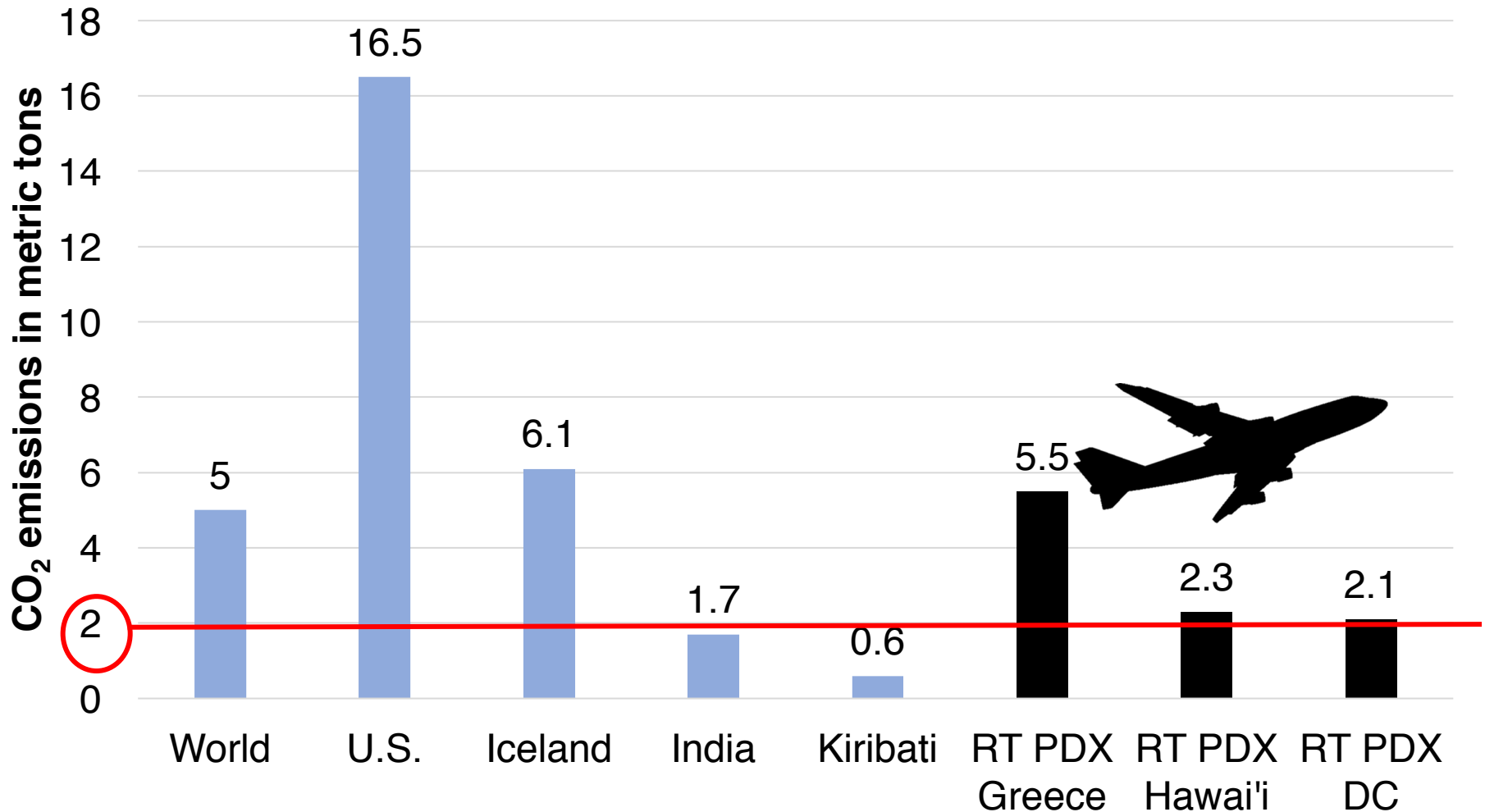
World Bank, 2014



Global CO₂ emissions (per capita; annual)

World Bank, 2014

Cool Climate Calculator, 2017



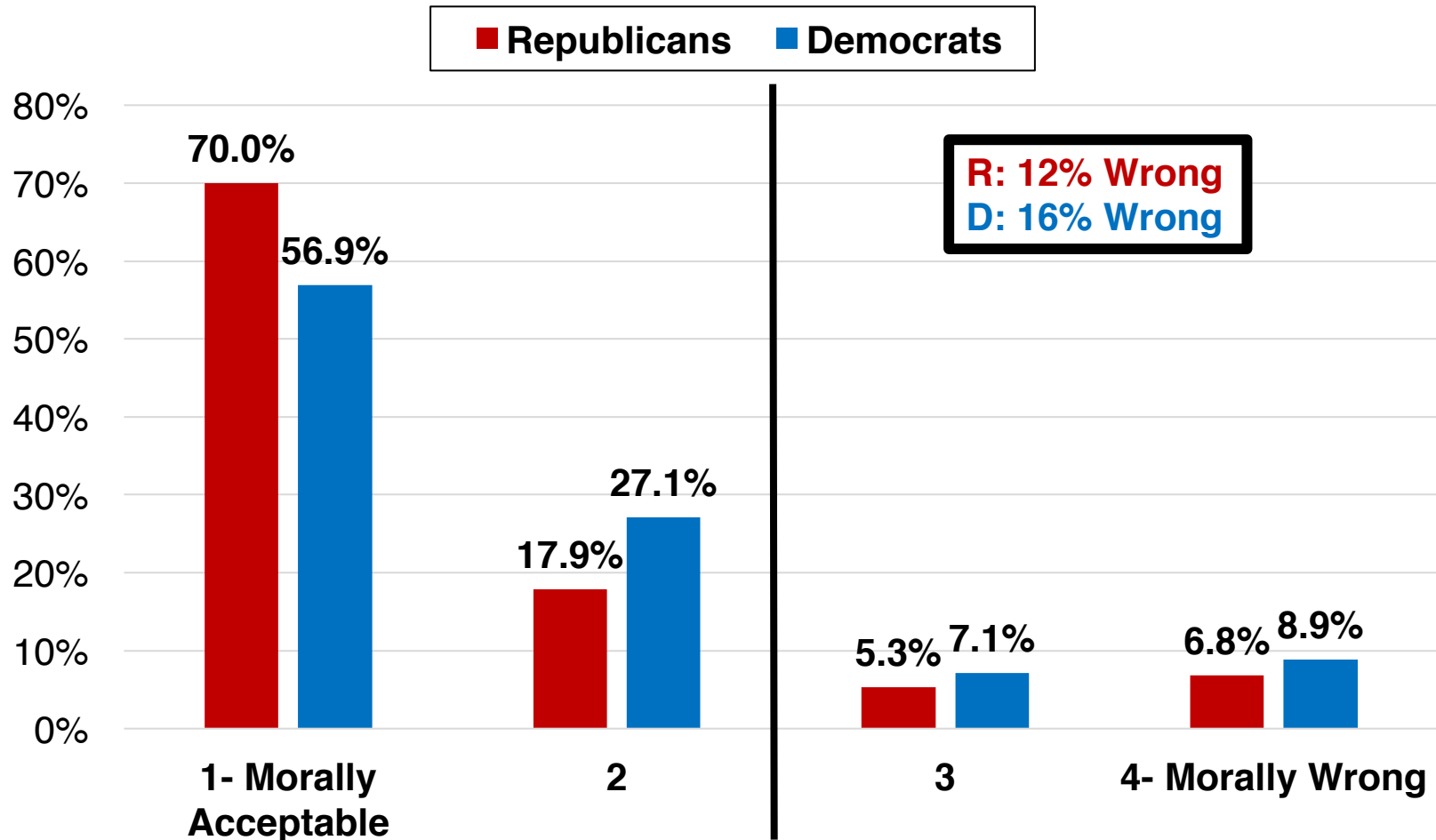
Morally acceptable or
morally wrong?

What do
you think?



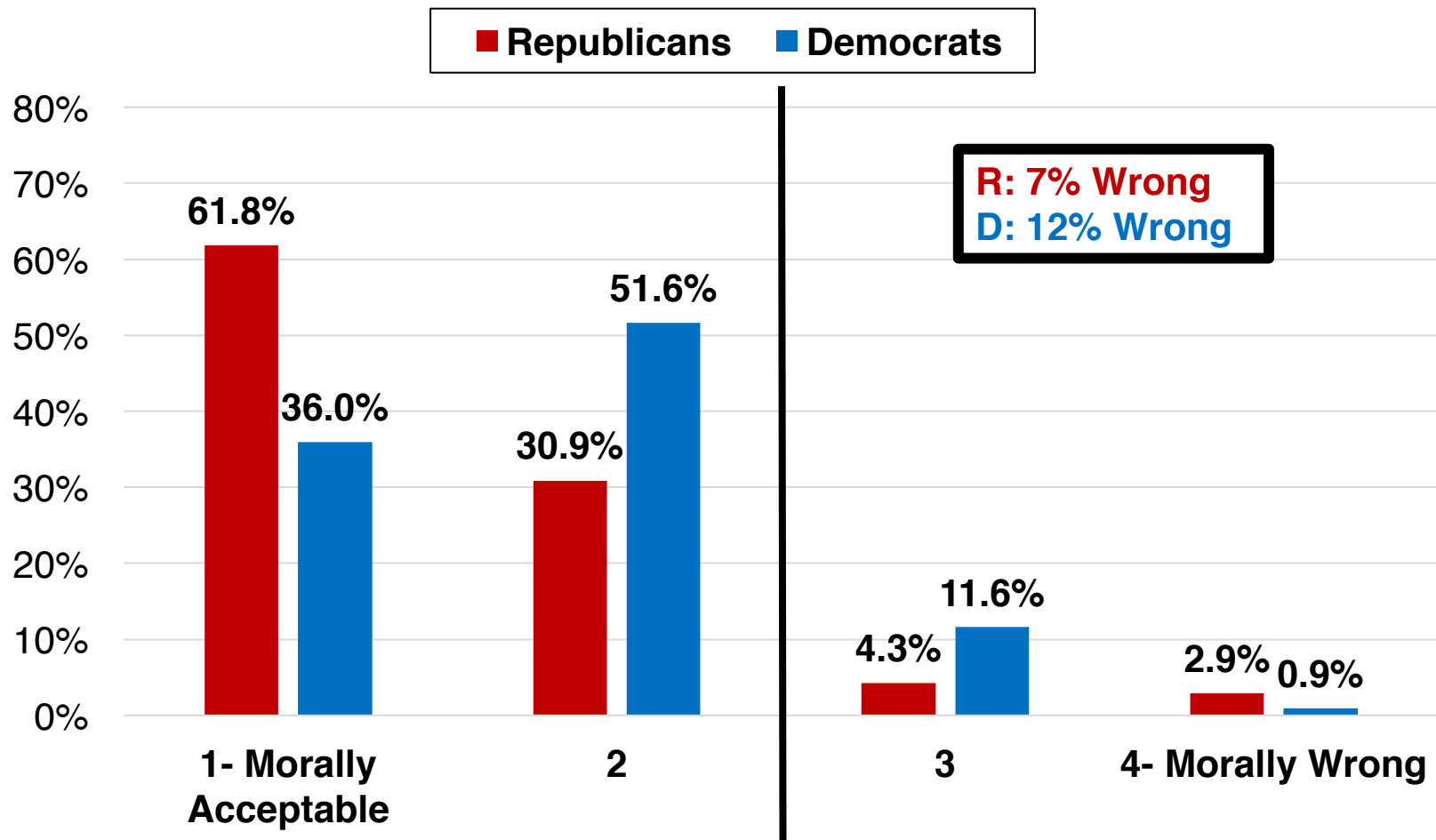
Using air travel for vacations

(N = 545)

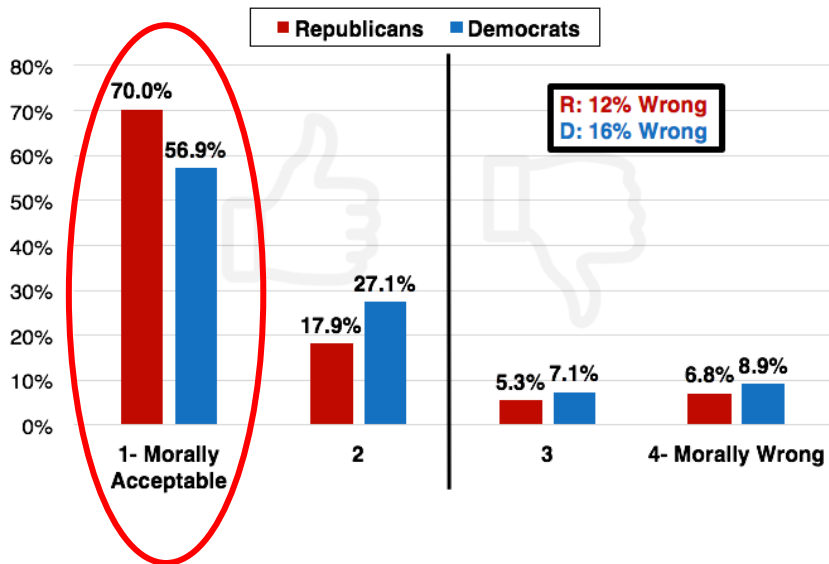


Driving, even when biking, walking, or bussing are possible

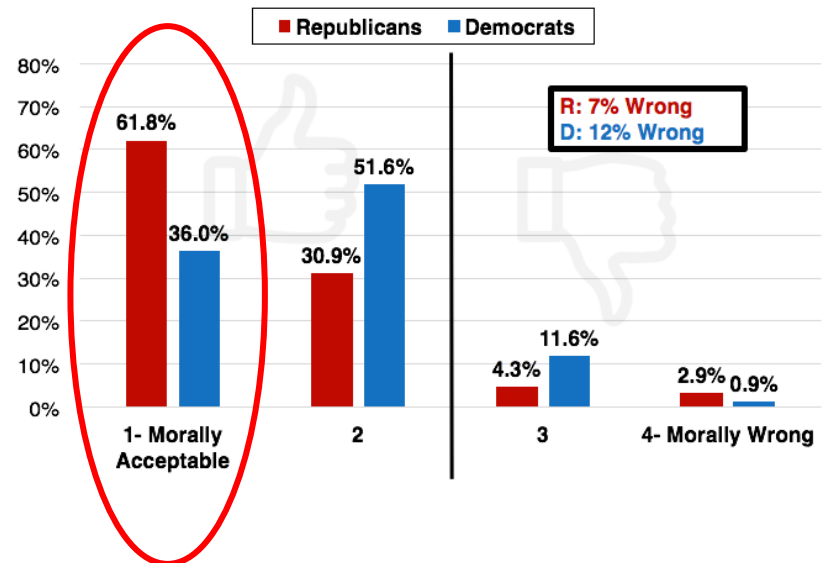
(N = 543)



Using air travel for vacations (N = 545)



Driving, even when biking, walking, or bussing are possible (N = 543)



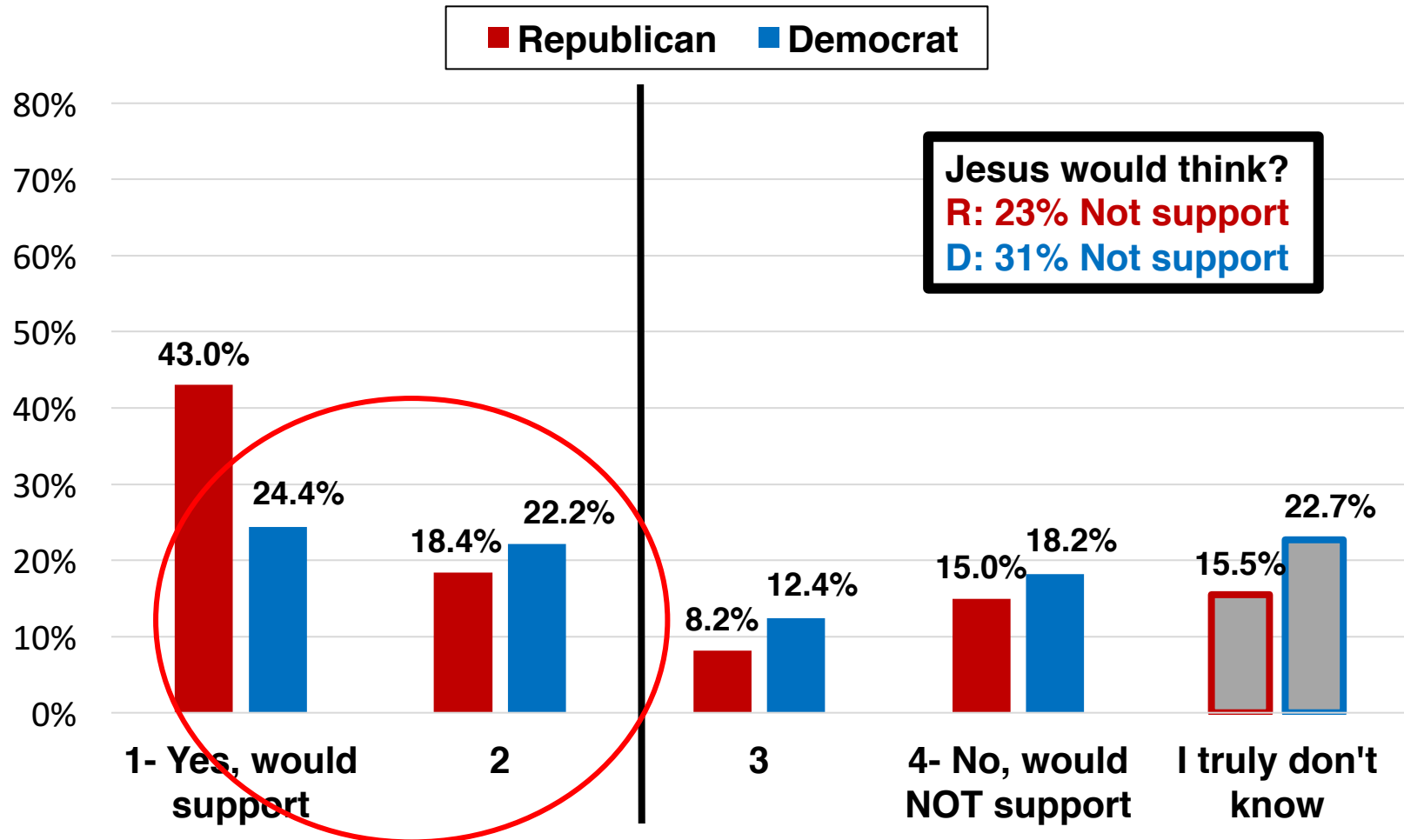
Morally acceptable or
morally wrong?

What would Jesus think?

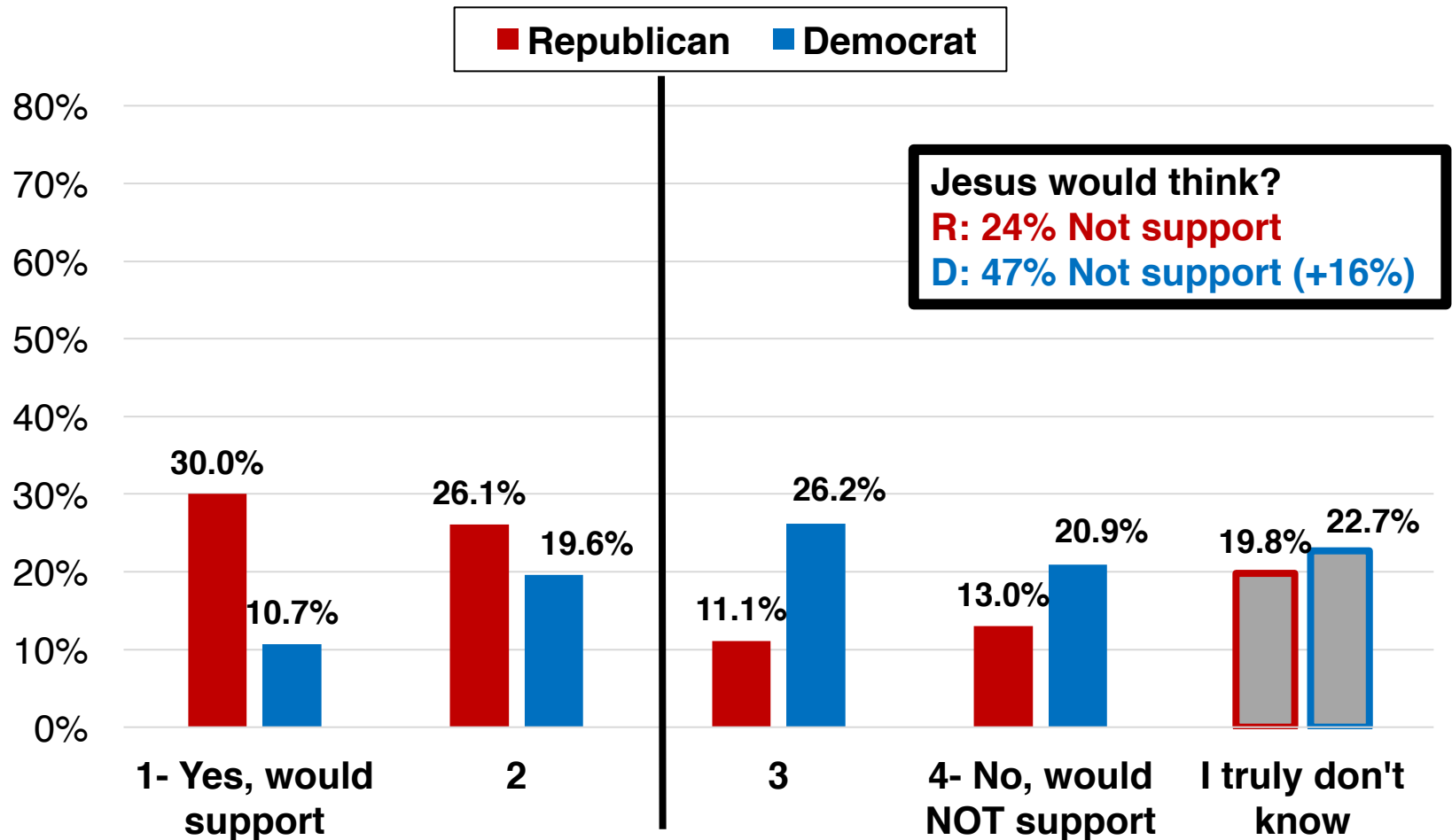


Would Jesus support: Using air travel for vacations

(N = 545)



Would Jesus support: Driving, even when biking, walking, or bussing are possible (N = 545)

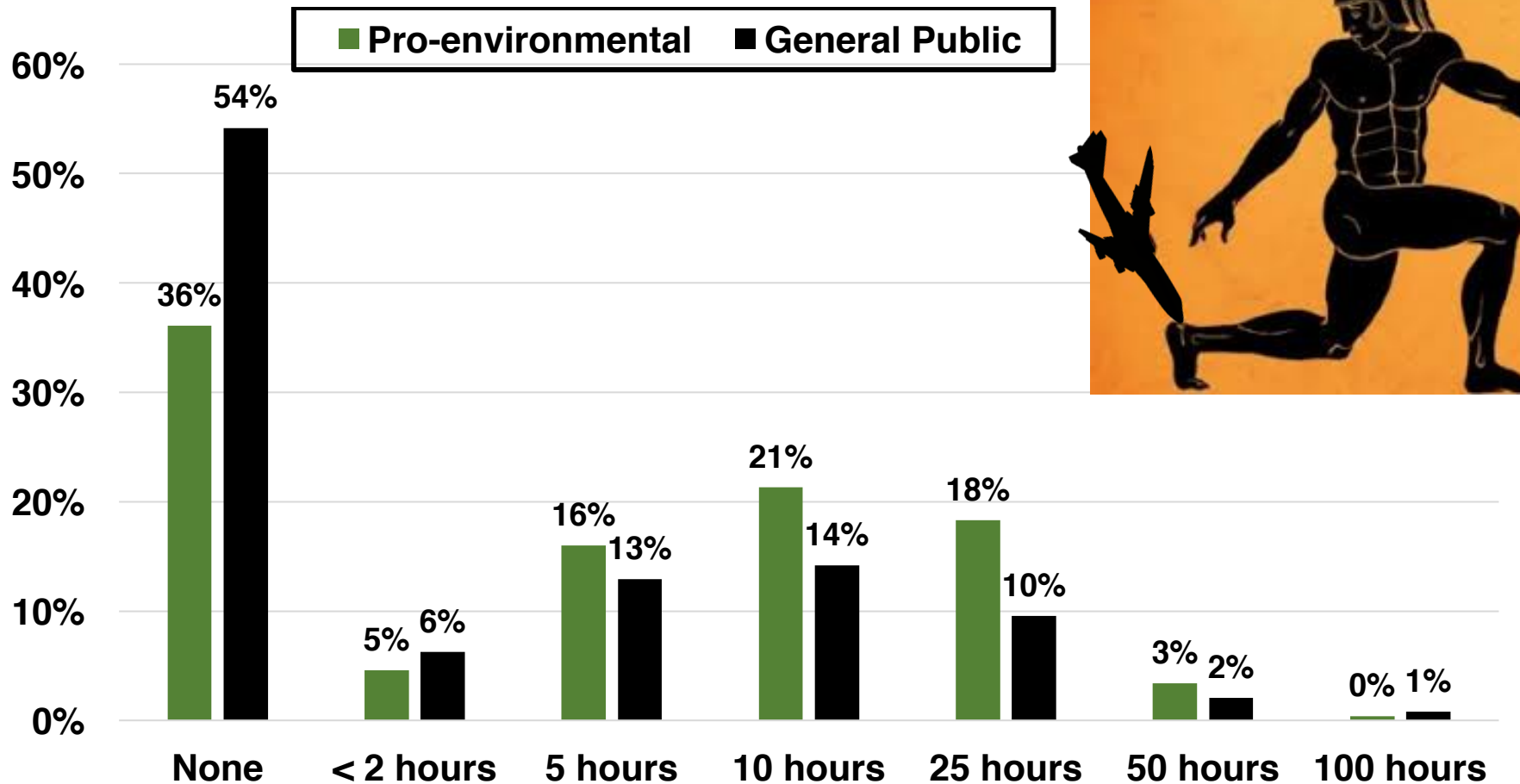


Air travel: The environmentalist's Achilles' heel?

Survey from November 2015

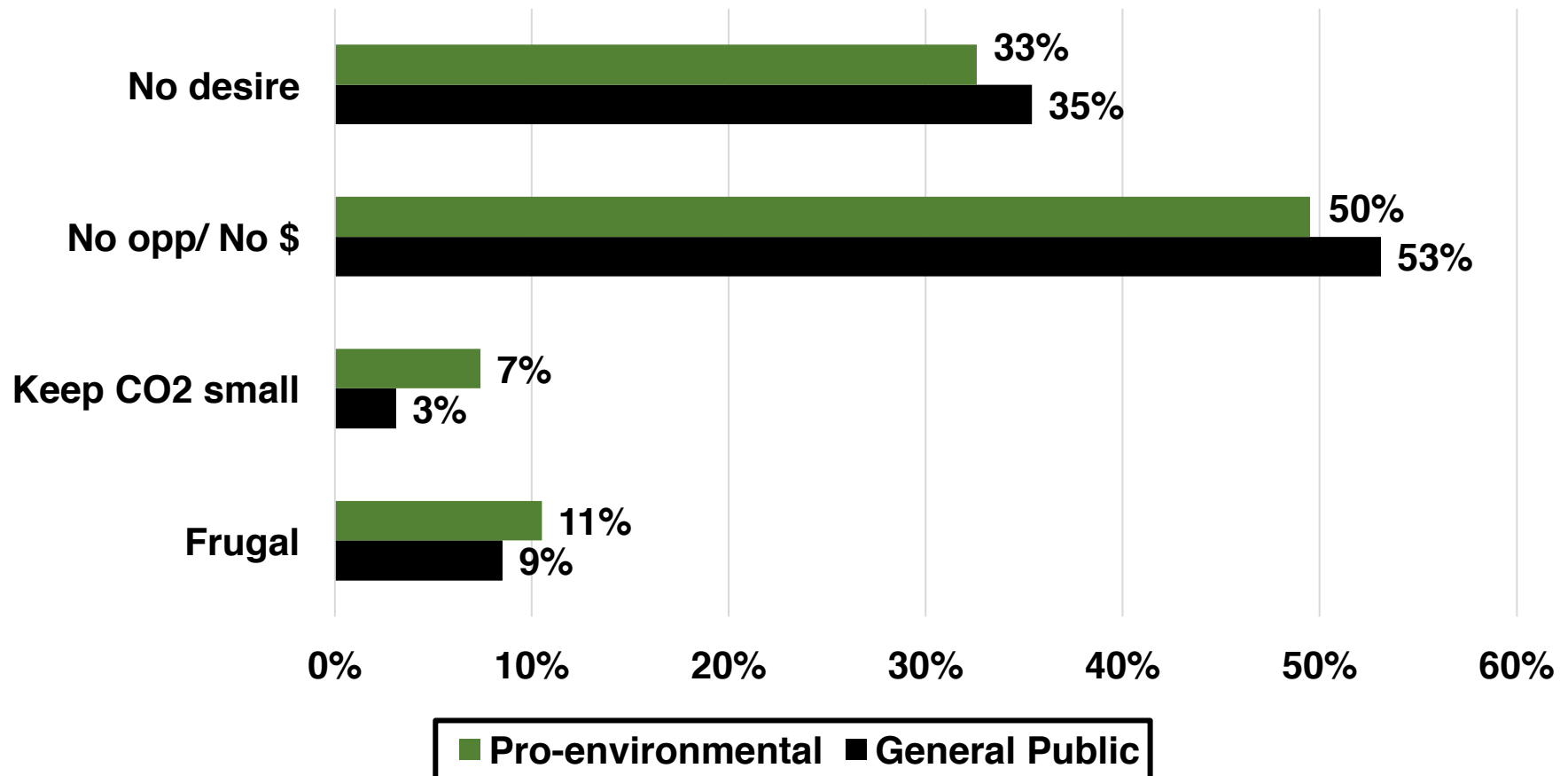
Air travel for last year (Achilles' heel?)

Pro-environmental $N = 263$, General public $N = 240$; Nov. 2015)



95 Pro-environmental and 130 General public did not fly in the last year.

What is the reason you did not fly?



Is it morally sound to use air travel?

Take an honest look in the mirror.



Remember to share.



Lawyers' Ethics and Climate Change

Courtney Johnson
courtney@crag.org

Professional Ethics

- Duties are to clients
- “Zealous” advocacy
- Oregon RPC 2.1 Advisor:
 - In representing a client, a lawyer shall exercise independent professional judgment and render candid advice. In rendering advice, a lawyer may refer not only to law but to other considerations such as moral, economic, social and political factors, that may be relevant to the client’s situation.

Sustainable Future Section

Mission:

The Sustainable Future Section supports sustainability within the Oregon legal profession and the practice of law through:

1. Educational programs,
2. Examination of the integration of law and sustainability, and
3. Dialogue about the needs and interests of future generations.

Activities:

Newsletter, Programs, Awards, Study Groups, Task Force, Community Activities

Oregon Bar Bylaw

Article 26 Sustainability:

- “The Bar supports the goal of sustainability, generally defined as meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. . . .
- “In the practice of law, principles of sustainability may be important in addressing competing economic, social and environmental priorities that impact future generations.
- The Bar will encourage education and dialogue on how law impacts the needs and interests of future generations ...”

Climate Change Task Force Recommendations

1. Issue a statement supporting carbon pricing
2. Provide legal support for climate change legislation
3. Encourage lawyers and law firms to reduce their carbon footprint
4. Amend the Oregon constitution to include a specific reference to the State's duty to hold all natural resources in trust for future generations
5. Revise investment guidelines