

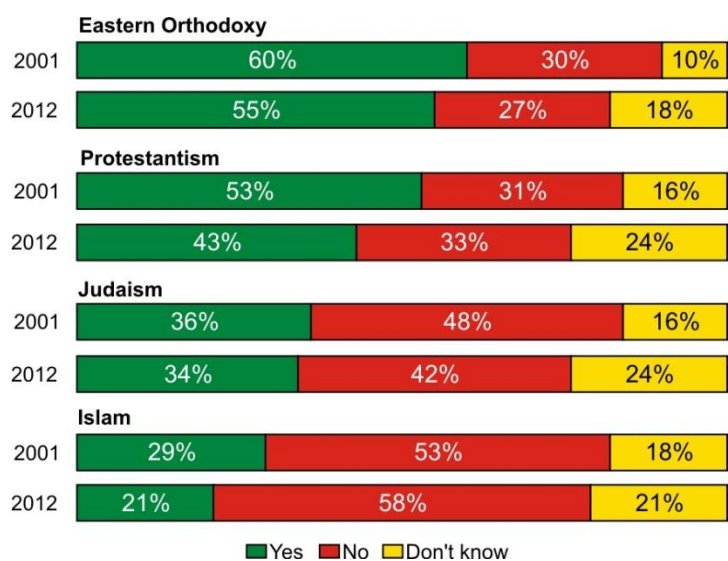
CHANCES FOR RECONCILIATION OF RELIGIONS

The 2nd Vatican Council began the ecumenical movement within the Roman Catholic church. Its goal is the unity of Christianity and reconciliation with other religions. Ecumenism was one of the major goals during the pontificate of pope John Paul II, who reinforced inter-denominational dialogue by meeting with leaders of other denominations and religions and initiating ecumenical meetings and celebrations. While pope Benedict XVI has continued pursuing these goals, they seem to be less strongly stressed than during the times of John Paul II.

Poles believe that reconciliation is possible between Roman Catholicism and the other branches of Christianity: Eastern Orthodoxy (55%) and Protestantism (43%). The views about barriers between Catholicism and other monotheistic religions are much more pessimistic: reconciliation with Judaism is possible according to 34%, and with Islam according to 21%. In case of these two religions (in particular Islam) the prevailing view holds that removing the barriers is not possible.

Comparing current results with earlier polls, it is clear that, since 2001, the number of people unable to judge the potential for reconciliation has increased. In the last 11 years, the number of people optimistic about removing the barriers between Catholicism and Protestantism, Islam and Orthodoxy has decreased, least of all in case of Eastern Orthodoxy. On the positive side, the number of respondents pessimistic about reconciliation between Catholicism and Judaism has decreased.

IS RECONCILIATION AND REMOVING THE EXISTING BARRIERS POSSIBLE BETWEEN ROMAN CATHOLICISM AND...



The decreasing potential for reconciliation between Catholicism and other monotheistic religions may be associated with the death of John Paul II. His activity towards strengthening ecumenism was universally noted and perceived as successful.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Chances for reconciliation between Catholicism and Orthodoxy, Protestantism, Judaism and Islam"*, August 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2012, N=960. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.