



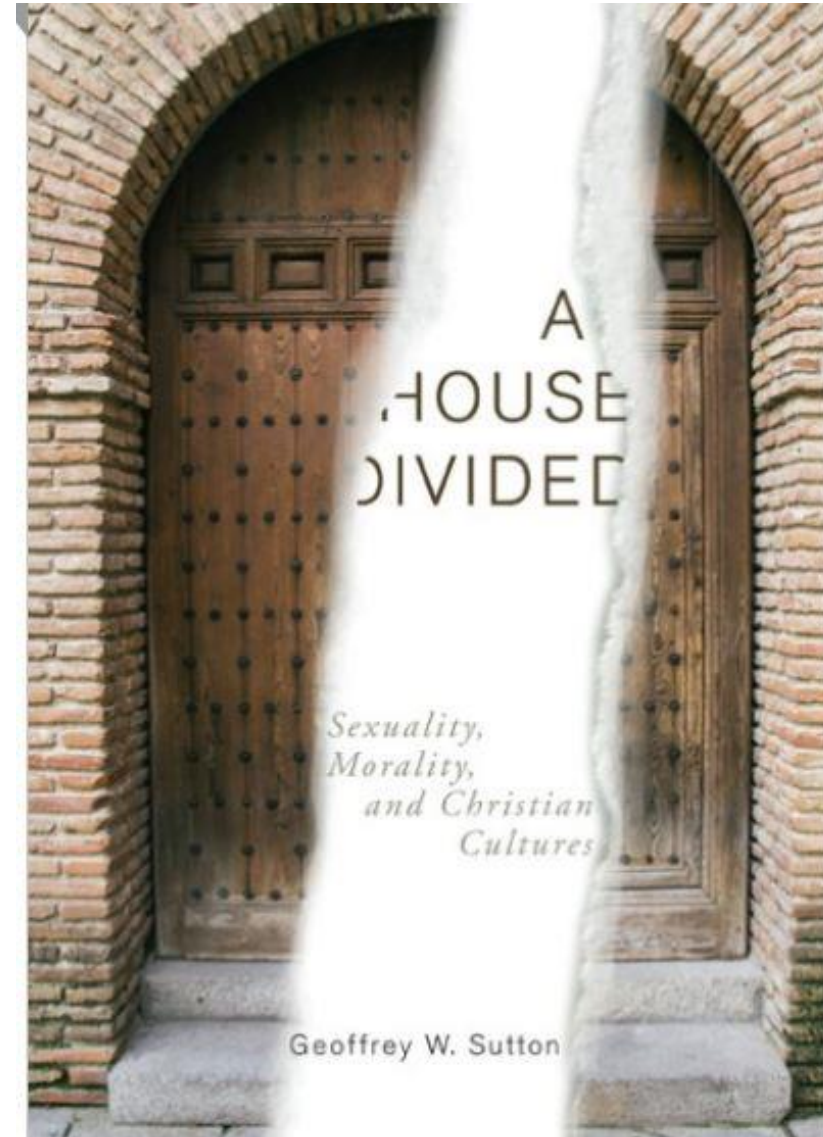
# Summer Project: A Near Final Research Article on Identity & Moral Foundations

Geoff Sutton

Previously

***A House Divided (2016)*** -- An application of Moral Foundations Theory to understanding the views of conservative and progressive Christians about sociopolitical moral issues.

**Pickwick Book at**  
**[WIPFandSTOCK](#)**



# Basics

I considered...

Bifurcated perspectives on biblical interpretation (e.g., [Borg](#), 2001).

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6 Domains of Human nature [SCOPES](#)

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6 Moral Foundations ([Haidt](#) (2012))

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Christian Moral Arguments

# Moral Foundations Theory

- Morality is largely driven by sentiment – not reason.
- Moral emotions lurk behind six categories of reasons
  - **Care & Fairness** (“liberal”)
  - **Authority, Loyalty, & Purity** (“conservative”)
  - **Liberty** (2 parts: lifestyle & government-economic)

# The Research Project

**Test Moral Foundations Theory in a **theologically conservative** sample.**

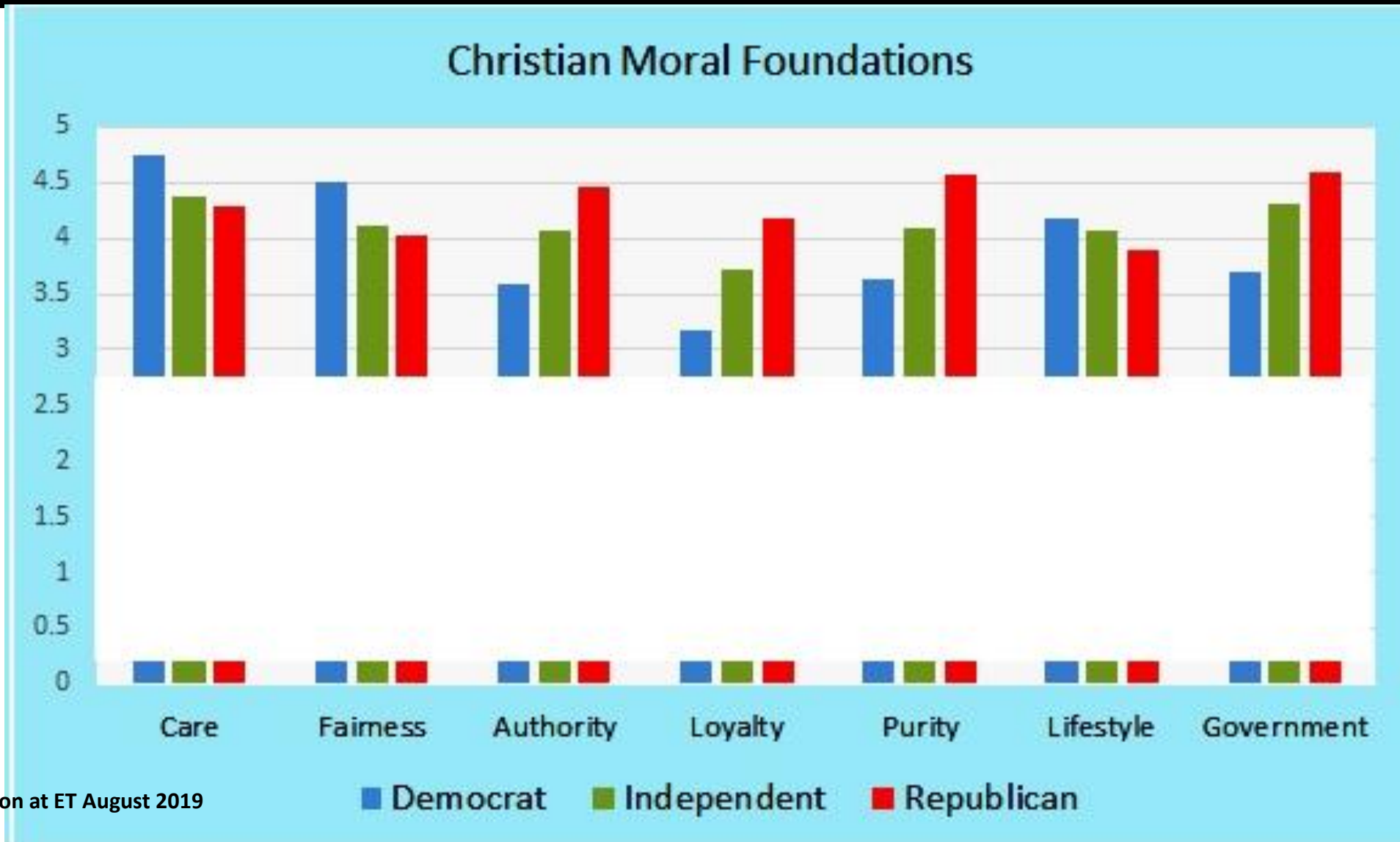
**Prior studies found a 2 x 3 pattern in general samples, but did not include Liberty**

**Would sociopolitical identity be stronger than spirituality in determining moral foundation patterns?**

**Project team = Heather Kelly & Marin Huver**

**Our paper is under peer review**

# A Major Finding



## Appendix : Abstract from the manuscript

Consistent with social identity theory, political identity was strongly linked to conservative Christians' morality represented by the Moral Foundation Theory model (e.g., Graham, Haidt, & Nosek, 2009). Participants identifying as Democrats scored significantly higher than did those identifying as Republicans on the individualizing foundations of care and fairness but significantly lower than Republicans on the binding foundations of authority, loyalty, and purity. In addition, political identity differentially related to the two liberty subfoundations consistent with salient political party themes. Hierarchical regression analyses identified political identity as a consistent predictor of all moral foundations beyond the variance accounted for by unique contributions of gender and education. Spirituality factors, primarily fundamentalism, contributed additional incremental value to predicting the three binding but not the individualizing foundations, which suggest a congruent dual identity (Political, Religious) for Republicans that does not hold for Democrats.