Shepperd, J. A., \*Pogge, G. C., \*Lipsey, N. P., Miller, W. A., & Webster, G. D. (in press). Beliefs in a loving versus punitive God and behavior. Journal of Research on Adolescence. doi: 10.1111/jora.12437

**Abstract**

We examined the extent to which beliefs in a loving God and punitive God correspond with self-reported behavior in an online, longitudinal survey involving three waves of data collection, each separated by six months. Adolescents (*N* = 760) reported the extent to which they believed in a loving God and a punitive God (Times 1 and 3) and reported their engagement in benevolent (helping and forgiveness) and aggressive behavior (Times 2 and 3). Participants strongly endorsed a loving God but not a punitive God. In addition, belief in a loving God corresponded with reports of less aggressive and more benevolent behavior, whereas belief in a punitive God corresponded with more aggressive and less benevolent behavior.

\*\*\* Full article available upon request. \*\*\*