



# Religious sects





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# What is a sect?

SECTS a religious body or denomination, esp. a small group that has broken away from an established church any group of people having a common leadership, set of opinions, philosophical doctrine, political principles, etc., specif. a faction of a larger group.





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The word sect derives from the Latin secta meaning  
'followed principle, guideline and party'

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- **Members of a sect are predominately lower class and usually attained membership through conversion.**
- **There members are considered nonconformist meaning that they do not conform to the norm and attend an established church**





The power structure of a sect is informal; the leaders are usually untrained and typically chosen by the members.



P.Honigseim in Religion: Past and Present states that a sect is a structure which is primarily related to religion and has the following features: small in number, it stands next to a comprehensive structure. The members consider themselves to be elite, they have close fellowship and the leadership is less bureaucratic and more charismatic.



# Seven different types of sects

- **Conversionist;**
- **Revolutionary;**
- **Introversionist;**
- **Manipulative;**
- **Thaumaturgical (miracles/personal messages from God);  
Reformist;**
- **Utopian**



# JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES



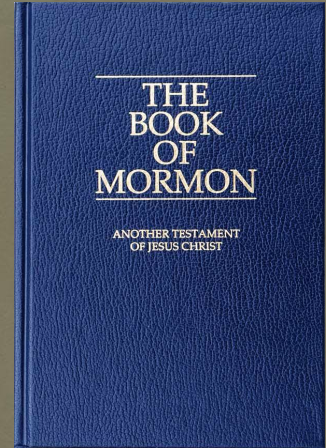
Jehovah Witnesses are members of a Christian-based religious group. The denomination was founded in the USA and there are now 6.9million active witnesses in 235 countries around the world. They are known for door-to-door evangelical work through offering the Bible literature and aiming to convert people to 'the truth'.



# MORMON'S

## THE CHURCH OF LATER DAY SAINTS

- The Mormon's were founded in the 1820's by Joseph Smith. Their key values are strengthening families, helping other, missionary work and lifelong learning. Mormons state themselves as Christian, though some of their beliefs differ from mainstream Christianity. Mormons believe in the views of the Bible, as well as other books of scripture, such as the Book of Mormon.
- They have a unique view of society and believe that all people are the spirit children. They believe returning to God requires following the example of Jesus Christ, and accepting his atonement through ordinances such as baptism.



# THE AMISH



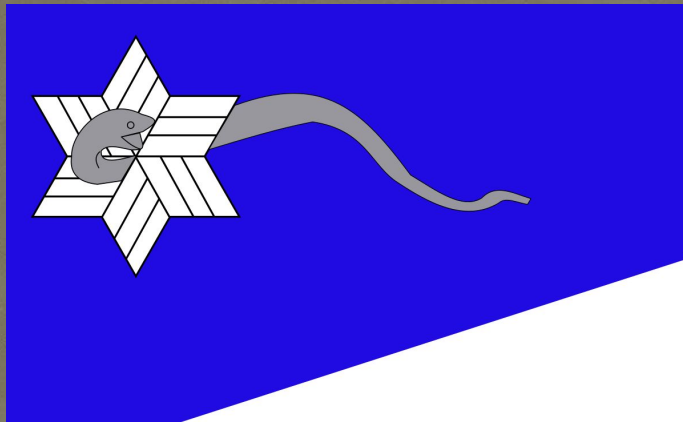
The Amish are a group of people who follow the teachings of Jacob Ammann; it is a protestant denomination that is mainly centered within American society. They follow simple customs and refuse to take oaths, vote or to perform military services.





# Branch Davidians

The Branch Davidians are an apocalyptic new religious movement founded in 1955 by Benjamin Roden. They regard themselves as a continuation of the General Association of Davidian Seventh-Day Adventists, established by Victor Houteff in 1935.



# Hutterites



**Hutterites are a communal ethnoreligious branch of Anabaptists, who, like the Amish and Mennonites, trace their roots to the Radical Reformation of the early 16th century and have formed intentional communities**

Today, almost all Hutterites live in Western Canada and the upper Great Plains of the United States.





*Thank you for your attention!*

