

The Exclusive Brethren who separated from the Open Brethren in 1848 and adhere to a rigid code of practice that among other things restricts the contact their members can have with those outside their group. The Open Brethren believe that their individual churches should have freedom in their dealings with others. The two groups remain separate and do not hold joint events.  
[www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/](http://www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/)

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Worldwide there are some 50,000 Exclusive Brethren. In New Zealand there are at present at least 6,000 Exclusive Brethren. The Wellington Exclusive Brethren has over 300 members who at present use temporary premises in Linden as their Church [www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/](http://www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/).

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This means that they are not a large Christian group within Aotearoa New Zealand. The premises has a high security fence and no signage, which could mean they are worried about what others think of them.

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Exclusive Brethren children attend Westmount schools. The Johnsonville School has about 100 students. Education is conducted as per the New Zealand curriculum. Exclusive Brethren use the Darby translation of the Bible as the absolute guide for everything they do. From their earliest childhood, members are read and taught Bible stories.

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Exclusive Brethren are banned from watching television, listening to the radio and using the internet. This, however, cuts them off from the real world.

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Exclusive Brethren separate themselves from others because the rest of the world is wicked which does not seem to be a sensible thing to do as they have to live in this world.

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They congregate every Sunday in their meeting rooms to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to preach the Gospel.

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They follow a rigid code of conduct based strictly on the Bible, with a firm moral framework focused on the family unit. They prefer their ageing members to remain in their own homes.

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The Exclusive Brethren have tight control of their members' behaviour and the leader is regarded as the supreme authority. When a member is "under discipline" they are typically not permitted to take part in the Lord's Supper and occasionally they may be asked to leave the Church.

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