

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. Worldwide there are some 50,000 Exclusive Brethren.

[www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/](http://www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/)

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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.

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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, this is not sensible as the people still have to be part of the world in which they find themselves.

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They congregate every Sunday in their meeting rooms to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to preach the Gospel. In my opinion, the Exclusive Brethren do not pose a threat to mainstream religions other than they do make it hard for members to leave the group and use threats to keep members.

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