The Amish

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The Amish

Now, in 2012, if someone went to the Amish community and saw them, it will be like a scene from the eighteenth century. The Amish people and their community have not been affected with the big changes in the world. The Amish chose to put themselves in a different and an isolated life. And they still have the same life from a long time. In fact, No one of the Amish is a famous. Also, they never mix with outsiders, even though Amish communities are living in the United States of America. They are still strong as a group and also, they have unique details in their history, culture and lifestyle.

First, the Amish established in the sixteenth century in Europe. On the basis of religious principles, those promote tolerance and simplicity in life and service of others. During that time, the Amish had suffered persecution and imprisonment. Also, they could not own land or even house. “The first large group of Amish settlers to North America arrived in Philadelphia in 1737. This group settled in eastern Pennsylvania. Settlements were planted over the next century, and Amish now reside in rural areas across 20 states” (Denison, 1998).

When they first came to the United State of America they settled in North America and the Canadian province of Ontario. They had chosen to settle in places that are compatible with their requirements in a life that is agriculture. Then over time, they have been multiplied and spreader. The Largest Amish Settlements in the United State of America are in Lancaster County Area, Pennsylvania and then in Holmes County Area, Ohio.

The Amish people are living, moving and all what is happening in their lives is because of religion, and their religion is Christianity.

At first glance the Amish appear quite religious. Yet a deeper inspection reveals no church building, sacred symbols, or formal religious education, even in Amish schools.
Unlike modern religion, relegated to an hour or so of services on Sunday morning, religious meaning pervade Amish life. Silent prayers before and after meals embroider each day with reverence. Religion is practiced, not debated. The Amish way of living and being requires neither heady talk nor formal theology. Religious understandings are woven into the fabric of living, not writing in systematic theologies. Amish spirituality is deeply communal and filled with modesty. In the spirit of humility, the Amish are slow to make pronouncement about eternal outcomes, but yield to the wisdom of divine providence (Kraybill, 1993, pp. 9-10).

The teachings of the Church are mandatory for everyone. So, if someone spurns or ignore any of the teachings of the church, as result, the Amish's leaders will meet and decide if that person can be stay as one of the Amish or be out of the Amish church and community.

Amish are not celebrated for anything. They just do for a religious event. And it is called the Lord's Supper. The families and community celebrate twice a year, in the fall and spring. They fast, prayer, and meditation at the time of this occasion.

Second, despite the fact that the Amish live on the land of the United States of America, therefore the law applies to everyone. The Amish has an exception in some cases. “This exemption from Social Security and Medicare taxes is applicable for self-employment income and wages. However, for wages to be exempt, both the employer and employee must have approved Form 4029 exemptions” (Green, 2009). They want to take care of themselves in their old age or illness. Also, “Most Amish view the government with some distrust. Amish feel the government exists to protect the good, but do not agree with all its laws. For example, they are pacifists and avoid conscription and war” (Strouse & James, 1999).
Also, the Amish have an exception in education, which is compulsory in the United States, until high school. In fact, the Amish families are farmers. And parents need their children to assist them in agriculture. “considered formal study beyond the eighth grade unnecessary for farming. Finally, in 1972, the United States Supreme Court, in a case known as Wisconsin vs. Yoder, ruled that Amish children could end their formal schooling at the age of fourteen” (The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Stud, 2012). Their school is just one or two rooms. And they learn basics of math, geography, English, and German. Also, they might learn science. The Amish speak three languages; Pennsylvania Dutch at home, English with outsiders, and High German in church.

Economically, the Amish are relying on agriculture for their life. And they like to make their farm at small size, because they want to make sure that they can take care of it as a family. Also, they like to raise livestock in small numbers. So, the Amish might sell some of their production locally. Also, the Amish are relying on themselves in everything. All their needs are produced from themselves. For example, their clothes are weaved for both women and men by they women.

Amish clothing is very different. Men are wearing long hats, belts are banned, no pockets in their clothes, and black is the dominant color. The Amish men must shave their mustache and leave their beards. The Amish women also covering their heads in white hats, wearing woolen shawls on the shoulders, and wearing dresses.

The Amish prefer to have a big family. And the average is over seven people on one family. Amish marry Amish. And divorce do not happen, they may live separate in one house. The marriage happens in the church. And the marriage of relatives is common between the
Amish families. The responsibility rests with the father. So, the Father is the decision-maker in the family.

Amish community has all kind of health care. They have surgeons, family practitioners, and specialists as well. Differs from one family to another about the health. Some families prefer modern medicine, and others prefer folk medicine. But they all ultimately believe that God is the Healer.

Amish do not use electricity. And they are using natural gas instead. Also they do not use cars, except in emergency situations. Whatever, they still use of vehicles and horses. “The Amish seek to master technology rather than become its slave. Like few other communities, they have shown the tenacity to tackle the powerful forces of technology in order to preserve their traditional way of life” (The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Stud, 2012).

Overall, the Amish are independent, and cohesive on themselves. They have been strong under any influence and succeeded since hundreds of years. And they proved to themselves and the world that they can take care of themselves. Also, there are no famous people from the Amish. In fact, they are some of the leaders whom are stood strongly against the law, and were able to get exceptions. Whatever, Amish still have something not widely known. They do not allow interviews, and photography. “The Amish have made self-conscious collective decisions to reject computers and accept calculators, to build their own schools, and to argue their convictions before congressional committees. They have controlled the conditions of their work” (Kraybill, 2001, p. 320)
References


