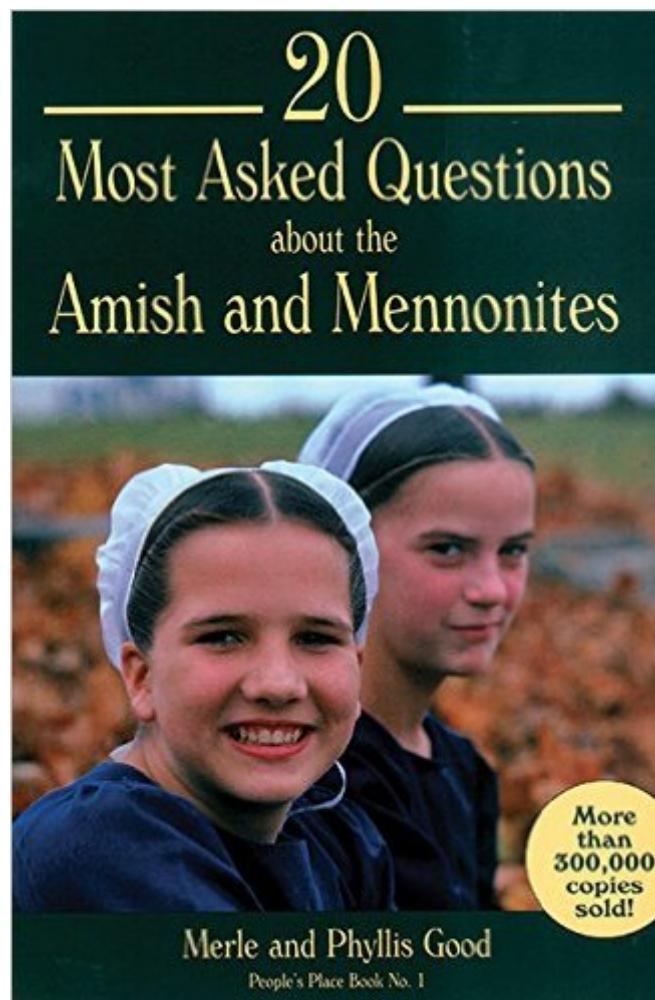


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# 20 Most Asked Questions About The Amish & Mennonites (People's Place)



## **Synopsis**

Sensitively answers the most common inquiries about Amish and Mennonite peoples. Authoritative, sympathetic, and thorough. 20 Most Asked Questions looks at origins, dress, pacifism, education, weddings, funerals, and food, as well as many other facets of Amish and Mennonite life. This book has sold more than 200,000 copies.

1. What is the difference between the Amish and the Mennonites?
2. When and how did these people get started?
3. Are they a Christian group or do they represent a different religion?
4. Aren't they a bit naive and backward? Why don't they accept modern things?
5. Does anyone ever join them? Does anyone ever leave?
6. Why do they dress that way?
7. Is it true they don't go to war?
8. Why are they against education?
9. Why are they such good farmers?
10. Why don't they pay Social Security taxes?
11. Do any of the Amish or Mennonite groups believe in missions?
12. What are their weddings like?
13. How are their women and children treated?
14. Is food a part of their religion?
15. Do they go to doctors and hospitals?
16. What about burial?
17. Don't they believe in having fun?
18. What are some of their problems?
19. Are they growing or dying in number?
20. What, in fact, holds them together?

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book feels somewhat incomplete. As it happens, I did know a few things about the Amish before I picked up the book and wanted to learn a bit more. The book is less than 100 pages and can be read in just over an hour (for a decent reader). There are 20 chapters over 88 pages (4.4 pages per

chapter), and each chapter can be read while standing in line somewhere or waiting to pick up a load.What did we learn?1. Amish and Mennonites have common origins but are different things.2. Not all Amish are conservative, nor are all Mennonites progressive. There is a such thing as both Old Order Mennonites and more progressive Amish.3. Mennonites do outreach and most Mennonites are now non-white. Amish, not so much.4. There are some very interesting photos that help bring the book to life.What could the authors have included to make the book more complete?1. The authors mentioned that the average Amish child was bilingual (p. 34), but there was no discussion about the language that they use-- which happens to be German that is probably very close to Swiss German (Schweizerdeutsch).2. The book is very dated. The original book was published in 1979 (35 years ago), and then updated in 1995 (19 years ago).3. I would like to have heard a bit more about the food and the cooking.4. There is this Amish concept of Rumspringa (deciding whether to stay in the community and be baptized or whether to leave it), and the authors did not touch on it even for a single minute. There are a few thought questions that are suggested, but not developed. (1. If modern/ non-Amish people are "progressive," then where are they going? What are they going to? How do they know when they arrive? 2.

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