

I think the most of Amish communities have recognized that this is a world of technology. And we all have choices, we all choose where we want to live and how we want to live.

So how does a community figure out what technology is ok to use?

Some of the communities are actually having a difficult time deciding what's OK and what's not. Half the church might say "Well I don't have a problem with this" and the other half might say "Oh, no we're staying with our traditional beliefs and we're not going to ever go outside them."

We have this image of the Amish as being frozen in time, stuck somewhere around 1850. Completely abstaining from technology and anything else that belongs to the modern world. But that's not quite right because new economic pressures are leading to new debates within Amish churches about just how much to let the outside world in.

The Amish live what's called a plain life. But the boundaries of plain can be blurry. So, like, within 10 to 15 miles, you could have electricity, and an automatic washing machine. You could go 10 to 15 miles away, and you're gonna have solar kerosene lamps and batteries, and then you could go over the hill and there's not gonna be so much as a refrigerator.

Case in point, Sherry's friend, Wilma, has electricity at home but it's powered by solar because her community is not OK with public power grids. Similarly, her neighbors won't own cars, but they might hire non-Amish drivers to get them around.

Some Amish churches let people use technology for business. But, once you've a taste of it, it's hard to put away after work hours.

NIVEAU A2

NIVEAU B1

NIVEAU B2