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## Double trouble for BB

By Shannon Molloy  
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After running away from a "strict and controlling" religious sect at the age of 19, *Big Brother* evictee David Tchappat said he doesn't regret the decision that saw him cut off from his entire family.

The 33-year-old fire fighter was a member of the Exclusive Brethren group until he decided to leave the secretive confines of total domination and venture into the real world.

Despite discussing on national television the organisation's authoritative stance over its members, Tchappat said he doesn't fear any backlash from his former "brothers".

"I don't answer to them anymore... I'm happy with my life and they leave me alone now," he said.

He spent three weeks in the *Big Brother* house before deciding to share the story of his unusual upbringing with his fellow housemates.

"It's not something I go around promoting... I tell people when I am close to them."

He attempted to leave the sect at 17-years-old, but was dragged back and "interrogated" by senior members for several months, he said.

Two years later he left for good and said he hasn't looked back.

However, he said life was difficult for several years and he battled through some "tough experiences", including the breakdown of his marriage, because of his naivety about the world.

"I had no idea... some people took advantage of me and I blew a lot of money but thankfully I didn't do anything that was life-changing.



David Tchappat.  
Photo: Paul Broben

"If I had stayed out when I was 17, I probably would have crashed and burned."

Leaving the sect required numerous sacrifices, including severing ties with his family, but Tchappat said he occasionally speaks with his parents.

"I don't have much of a relationship with my family anymore... we moved in different directions and we have different lives.

"I took a punt in entering the real world and I think it has paid off."

While every facet of his entire life was controlled, including who he would one day marry, Tchappat said he still had a happy childhood.

But life was vastly different to that of other Australian kids.

"I wasn't allowed to do anything that was considered fun... playing sports, going to the movies, watching TV, sleeping over at a mate's place, playing computer games, Christmas... I didn't have any of that.

"We went to church every night, a half day on Saturday and all day Sunday... it's a very strict and regimented life that is completely planned for you.

"Your life is controlled and you don't have a choice about anything."

The other *Big Brother* evictee last night, Nathan Stempel, said religious belief has also been an influence in his life.

The 27-year-old physiotherapist is a proud virgin and said he felt a bit "awkward" at pressure from other *Big Brother* housemates to pursue a relationship with Dubbo tomboy Renee.

"Renee is an amazing girl and we obviously connected well in the house, but both of us are real enough to know we're from different sides of the coin," he said.

"It wouldn't work in the real world and therefore I was probably over-cautious about creating something that wouldn't work."

While he felt strange knowing she had feelings for him that were not returned, he described the abattoir worker as a "lovely girl".

But he's not interested in a sexual relationship until he gets married, despite "coming close" to doing the deed as a teenager.

"I became a Christian when I was 17 and that led me to make a choice about my values, that prompted my decision (to remain a virgin).

"There are a lot of reasons though and I wouldn't say it's just a religious thing."

The Adelaide native said he is looking forward to having an adventure for a while, after resigning from his job to enter the Gold Coast reality television compound.

He might even consider a career in children's TV and already has a couple of potential costumes in his