Griffith - Women who want to stick to traditional gender roles join Pentecostal groups because they reject equality.

Parsons believes religion provides value consensus, keeps society stable. Secularization is what causes today's problems. Try to return the country to its traditional beliefs.

Psychic deprivation:

Consumerism has taken over and people feel 'lonely'. Turn to NRM's to find themselves, want spiritual and positive meaning to their lives. E.g. Scientology.

Post modern view focuses on individual worship and seeking out a religion that fits your needs 'spiritual shopping'. Feel lonely so join an NRM to belong (functionalist).

The life span of sects -

Niebuhr - Sects are short-lived, sect - denomination = increase in members social status- conflict of interest between wealth and spirituality, there are more second-generation members who lose interest, success is a downfall and they need official leadership through becoming a denomination.

Examples: Quakers - Christian roots, Methodists -Began as a sect but moderated their beliefs to become a denomination.

Wallis - Sects are short-lived sect - denomination = increase in members social status, there are more second generation members who lose interest, success is a downfall and they need official leadership through becoming a denomination.

Be world-affirming and flexible.

A postmodern explanation –

Argue that society has undergone profound social change as it has evolved from a modern society to a postmodern society focused on consumption, choice and individualism.

A 'crisis of meaning', traditional sources of explanations (not interested in the truth), Relativity of knowledge, 'spiritual shopping', individualism and self-improvement.

Overstate the extent of individual choice – Bruce = we feel the need to belong and the mix and match idea may not create identity that some people want. Tends to ignore class and gender, for some people religion isn't about choice.