

#IamA Christian

by Dr Bruce Woolard

**Believers were first called Christians in
Antioch, a non-Jewish city.
Acts 11:26**

I am a Christian

Several years ago our former State President, Thabo Mbeki, gave a very moving speech in parliament titled “I am an African,” wherein he unequivocally stated what it meant to be an African. His words resonated throughout the continent and people, who in the past, had difficulty identifying themselves as Africans – proudly declared “I too am African.”. Because of my historic roots I am, by definition, an Anglo-African, however I want to speak to you on an identity that is far more important than our national or ethnic heritage.

I shall use the personal pronoun “I” only because it fits the narrative of my message that I’ve titled “**I am a Christian.**”

At the end of this talk I hope many of you and maybe all of you present will respond and say “I, too, am a Christian.”

God is eternal and has chosen various ways in revealing Himself to mankind. He used intuition and conscience, nature and creation, signs and wonders, human experience, the prophets and apostles and then finally through Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Bible.

The Bible consists of 66 books – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Old Testament is a historic record of Israel and the New Testament introduces us to reasons why Jesus came to redeem mankind.

Jesus Christ is God incarnate. Conceived of the Holy Spirit, born miraculously. He lived, died, resurrected and ascended into heaven. He is our advocate in heaven, pleading our case in the court of Divine justice.

The Holy Spirit is my resident teacher and guide, He convicts me of sin and inspires me to live a purposeful life.

I believe we reap what we sow. There will be a day of retribution, a day of reckoning, punitive action will be divinely executed. God will ask you and me to give account of ourselves.

The Church is like a multi-faceted diamond; each local church is responsible to God's truth to express to the community the Christian message of reconciliation.

The world is corrupt and getting worse, but our influence will last forever. The message we bring is one of Grace, Forgiveness, Love, Joy, Peace and Hope.

I am not worthy of God's love – God does not need me,
Without God I am like a ship without a rudder, a car without an
engine, a student without a teacher;
In me, that is in my human nature, there is nothing that is good.
How can I say that?
How can I belittle myself?
Why do I humiliate myself?
I do so because

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

and as a Christian,
I realise that in me lurks an egocentric, self-centred, carnal and
depraved nature that must die so that Christ can live in me.
Like Nicodemus in John 3, I realise that, that which is born of the flesh
is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.
I must be born anew within my spirit.

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

Because of God's Grace,
He bought me from the slave market of sin,
and paid a price with His own precious blood to redeem me,
a lost sinner bound for hell and eternal destruction.

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

Because with these lips I've confessed the Lord Jesus Christ
and believe God raised Him from the dead,

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

Because the things of the world I once held dear
are now like discarded rubbish in a refuse drum,

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

Because God has promised to forgive me of my past
and offered me eternal life.

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

Because He has written my name in the Lamb's book of life,
I'm registered as a citizen of the capital city of Heaven,
the new Jerusalem,

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

Because I have been numbered with the Saints of Glory,
and I've tasted of the Holy Spirit, who resides in me.

I AM A CHRISTIAN,

and, therefore, I have a new motivation, I'm a new creation,
I have a whole new purpose in life.

When things go wrong, as they sometimes do,
I'll not be afraid.

I AM A CHRISTIAN and God has promised never to leave me nor
forsake me.

Because I AM A CHRISTIAN

I have found it in my heart to forgive those who dislike me
and revile me.

I resist the temptation to lash out when hurtful and unfair slander,
about me,
is spread like arsenic on a slice of bread,
and digested by the uninformed and ignorant whose appetites seek
my demise.

Because I AM A CHRISTIAN

I will not be intimidated or silenced by those who seek my harm,
although 100 shall fall on my right and a 1000 on my left,
I will stand firm and serve the Lord.

I am human and sometimes feel tired and weary
and all strength and energy is sapped from me,
like a wet rag wrung dry,
my inadequacies and limitations haunt me in the night,
yet will I not give up,
because

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

Although I've experienced and suffered wrongs and injustices of sinful
man,
despite the hypocrisy and double standards of some,
By God's Grace, I'll persevere and tenaciously hold onto my security
in Christ Jesus.

Although my body will weaken and my bones grow old and my hair
turn grey,
my soul shall be renewed and quickened,
day by day.

I AM A CHRISTIAN

and therefore I recognise that every dark cloud has a silver lining,
and that as seasons come and go,
so shall I flourish and blossom and fly away.

I love the sinner, but hate his sin,
and will seek ways and means of reaching men,
women, boys and girls
with the Gospel of Love and Mercy.

I AM A CHRISTIAN

and I'm compelled to live for Jesus my Lord.
I cannot afford to be naïve and think that the enemy of my soul
will not attack me,
I must put on the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, the sword of
the Spirit, the breastplate of righteousness and shoes,
ready to bring the Gospel of peace to others.
I will equip myself to fight the good fight.

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

I will hear the cry for help from the lonely and disheartened,
the young child and the aged,
I cannot, I dare not,
turn a blind eye to their need or shut out the noise of their call at night.
I will respond with compassion, empathy and care.
Why should I?

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

And as such, I am God's eyes, ears, feet, hands and heart.
"Who will go for me?" says the Lord.
Because **I AM A CHRISTIAN**,
I have said, "*Lord, here am I, send me.*"
I will refuse a glass of intoxicating wine,
and will not gamble my money on games of chance,
or seek to ride my luck in the senseless pitfalls of
casinos slot machines and one arm bandits.
I will not sit in the seat of the scornful and squander my living
on vices of iniquity.

I AM A CHRISTIAN.

And, therefore, will act prudently when using social platforms
or activating my smart phone.

The TV and electronic devices shall not control me.
I will reject any form of language and entertainment that will imprison
my soul and chain me as a slave to the dungeon
of darkness and addiction.

I AM A CHRISTIAN and I have one master and Lord.

I will set my affections on things above and not those things below.
I will celebrate my life as a liberated soul,
seeking not my own comforts first,
but the comforts of those I love and those I'm called to serve.

I AM A CHRISTIAN,

deeply committed to my Saviour and my church.

I'll pray for my church,
I'll defend my church,
I'll promote my church,
I'll protect my church,
I'll faithfully tithe to my church,
I'll regularly attend church services.
I'll use my skills and talents in service to my church,
I'll love my church,
because **I AM A CHRISTIAN.**

I will not neglect assembling with believers,
but seek to serve God through the organ of the local church
which is an expression of Christ's Body.
To injure or bring my church into disrepute,
is to damage Christ's Body and therefore limit God's witness to a lost
and dying world.

Because **I AM A CHRISTIAN**,
I'll start and end each day in prayer and communication with my God.
My bible shall serve as a road map for my journey through life.
I will read and seek to understand it and apply its principles to my
conduct and conversation.

Because **I AM A CHRISTIAN**,
I'll sing and praise my God who is worthy of my worship.
All the good I can do I must do to His glory.
I will laugh with those who laugh and weep with those who weep.
The day will come when I will have to say goodbye
and leave my body,
and migrate to the world where I'll never grow old
or taste of pain and grief.
The day will come when my lifeless body
will be lowered into the ground
and God shall wipe away my tears.
I'll stand before God and He will ask me
why He should let me enter heaven,
and I'll say, "*Lord my God, you know **that I AM A CHRISTIAN**,*
and as such,
I accept your Son's sacrifice for my sin, His life is my life."
God will say "*Welcome home, you are a co-heir of the inheritance*
made possible through my Son's atoning death."
I know I'll live eternally,
that is an undeniable promise because

I AM A CHRISTIAN

and I sincerely hope

YOU ARE ONE TOO.

*"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in
your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10:9*

Colossians 2:6-8

“Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthen in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no-one takes you captive through empty and deceptive philosophy which depends on human tradition rather than on the principles of Christ.”



This sermon was first preached by Dr Bruce Woolard
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Bruce is the lead minister of St Davids Congregational Church.



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Sunday Service – 9:00am

All welcome.