

## Kevin's Korner

### "I Am A Christian"

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting "I've been saved!"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost! That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak with human pride  
I'm confessing that I stumble - needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong  
I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success  
I'm admitting that I've failed and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't think I know it all  
I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect  
My flaws are far too visible but God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartache which is why I seek His name

When I say, "I am a Christian," I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority -- I only know I'm loved

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Working on my sermon on Separating Weeds from Wheat for our series on Jesus' Parables, I remembered this poem "I Am A Christian" by Carol Wimmer. I couldn't fit it into my sermon so I'm sharing it as "Gospel Truth." This poem of humility and gratitude speaks loudly to me – it is me, I think. Could these be our words, as a church?

It seems to me that our society (and maybe ourselves?) too often has put the church on a "pedestal" as if it were "set apart" from those who do not participate in a church. I do believe that the church, and church people, ought to be "set apart," but not as being better than anyone else. That wouldn't fit with Jesus' teachings.

Jesus was constantly teaching that the "last shall be first," "And anyone who wants to be first must be your slave." "The least important person among all of you is the most important." The problem is that we church people have accepted a special place. We get comfortable being admired and respected. I know that I do. We've forgotten that what sets us apart is that we are called to serve others. We are called to be the least, the doormat for the community around us, not living on a pedestal above, and out of touch with, the community around us (I know I'm preaching to the choir).

But I suspect there are people in our neighborhood and community who don't think they could belong to a church on a pedestal, perhaps because they don't often see churches willing to get on their knees in humility and gratitude before God and in service to our neighbors. I pray to God for forgiveness and I join with Carol Wimmer in proclaiming, "I'm confessing that I stumble - needing God to be my guide." My prayer is, "Lord, help me get down on my knees, so I can see you face to face."

May God bless us and lead us always!

*Pastor Kevin*