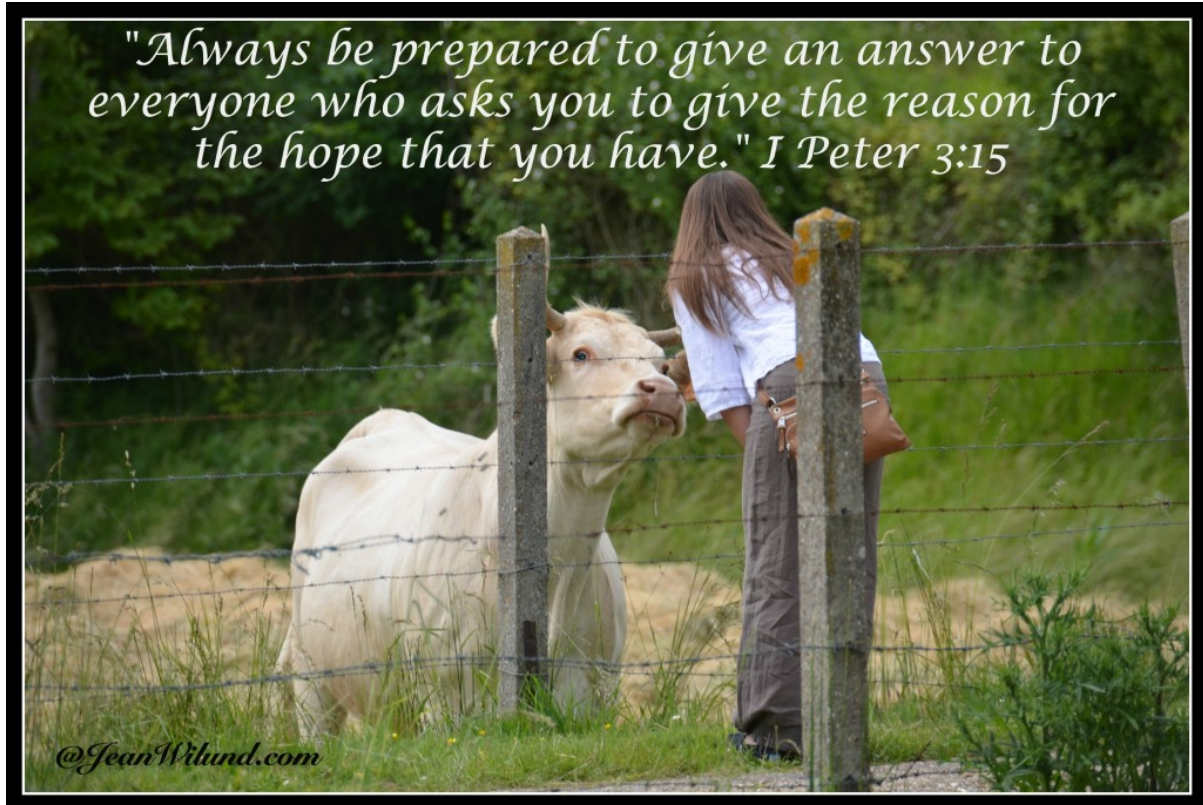


In Case You're Wondering What This Christian Believes



When you've got the Good News, you want to share it with anyone who'll listen! (I Peter 3:15)

In case you're wondering what this Christian believes: (I hope you've got a cup of coffee. I believe a lot.)

- **I believe in the One true God, who exists eternally in God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit.** He is the all-knowing and all-powerful Creator of the universe. He is always perfectly good, kind, loving, merciful, forgiving, wise, just and holy. (Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 43:10, John 4:24, Psalms 90:2, Matthew 19:26, I John 3:20, Matthew 28:19, Isaiah 22:3, Romans 11:33, Jeremiah 23:23 and 32:17, Psalms 25:8, 86:5, and 99:9, James 5:11)

- **I believe the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God and is without error in its original writings.** It is the complete revelation of God's will and the final authority in all matters of Christian faith and life. Not everything I write, however, is without error. I ask for grace and the opportunity to make corrections as needed. (*II Peter 1:21, II Timothy 3:15-17, Colossians 3:16*)

- **I believe that God created man in His image. Man was tempted by Satan and fell into sin, bringing sin into all the world.** Since then, every man has been born with sin in his heart. Because the penalty for sin is death, man is in desperate need of a Savior, completely unable to save himself. Unless God seeks after man, man will not seek after Him. A heart that shows any interest in spiritual things is a heart that is being drawn by God, but man must respond. Man has the freedom to choose to trust in Christ or to reject Him. (*Genesis 1:26-27 and 3:1-6, Jeremiah 17:9; Ephesians 2:12; Romans 3:10, 5:12 and 6:23, Isaiah 53:6, John 3:3, 16-18*)

- **I believe that Jesus Christ, who is the one and only Son of God, came down from heaven, is the only way to salvation, and is coming again.** When Jesus came down from heaven, He remained fully God, but He also became fully man, as He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, taking on the form of a man. He lived a sinless life and died on the cross, as the final and perfect sacrifice to pay for the sin of the world. He was buried and rose again on the third day, defeating sin and death. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father, continually interceding for believers in heaven. One day He will come again to judge sin, usher in His Kingdom, and establish the new heaven and the new earth. (*Matthew 1:23, John 1:14, I Peter 3:18, I Corinthians 15:3-4, 55; II Timothy 2:8,*

Acts 1:9, Hebrews 7:25 and 8:1, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 19, 20:12-15 and 21:1, Mark 13:26, Philipians 2:10-11)

- **I believe that all who call on the name of Jesus Christ, trusting only in His finished work on the cross for their salvation from the penalty of their sin, are immediately saved. Salvation is through Christ alone, not Christ plus something else.** It's not Christ plus good works or Christ plus baptism. All who trust in Christ become children of God and co-heirs with Christ. (*Mark 1:15, John 1:12-13, 6:40 and 17:6-8, Romans 5:8-10, 8:16-17 and 10:9-13, II Corinthians 5:21, 2 Peter 3:9*)

- **I believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all believers at the moment of salvation.** The Holy Spirit's ministry is to glorify Jesus Christ, convict man of sin, draw him to Jesus, and empower the believer to live the Christian life continually overflowing with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Holy Spirit guides, instructs and comforts believers. (*John 14:15-26, 15:26 and 16:7-14, Titus 3:5, Romans 8:9,14, Ephesians 3:16, 20, I Corinthians 3:16, Galatians 5:22-23, I John 2:27 and 4:12.*)

- **I believe every believer is called to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.** Salvation doesn't guarantee the believer will live a perfect life, but there should be convincing evidence through the believer's humble repentance of sin, as well as a sincere dedication and obedience to the Word of God. All believers are called to share the gospel, make disciples, and spend time daily in private study of the Bible and prayer. Believers should not live in bondage to a list of "do's" and "don'ts," but rather obedience should flow naturally out of a grateful heart for the

grace, mercy, and love they've received from Jesus Christ. This same love and grace should be continually passed on to others, knowing that one day we will all stand before God and be judged. (*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15; 1 Peter 3:15, Joshua 1:8, John 14:15, 2 John 1:6, Colossians 1:10 and 4:2, Ephesians 4:1, I Thessalonians 5:17 and 2:12, Revelation 14:4-5, Hebrews 9:27, I Corinthians 3:10-15*)

- **I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are demonstrations of faith and obedience.** Neither are necessary for salvation, but rather, they flow out of a heart of gratitude for the salvation the believer has already received by faith and a desire to obey the Lord. He has commanded that His followers baptize those who believe and regularly participate in the Lord's Supper. (*Luke 22:19, I Corinthians 11:23-26, Matthew 28:19, Romans 6:3-4, Ephesians 2:8-9*)
- **I believe that the church is not a building but the full family of God, the Body of Christ.** All who have trusted by faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation are the church, of which Christ is the Head. (*I Corinthians 12:13 & 27, Acts 2:47, Ephesians 1:22-23*)
- **I believe in the existence of Satan, who is the sworn enemy of God.** Satan's intentions are only to kill, steal and destroy. He is a liar, slanderer, and tempter. He masquerades as an "angel of light." He is powerful, but he is powerless before God. God has given Satan temporary freedom to roam the earth as the "ruler of darkness," but only to fulfill God's good purposes and glorify Himself as He continually triumphs over Satan. God will one day do away with Satan and his demons forever, but until that time God limits Satan's activity. (*Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 4:15, John 12:31, I Peter 5:8; Acts 10:38 and 26:18; Luke 22:3-4; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 and 11:14-15, Ephesians 6:12, 2*

Timothy 2:26; Revelation 2:10, 12:7-12 and 20:3,10; John 10:10; Colossians 2:15; I Corinthians 15:55-57, Job 1:12)

- **I believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead.** All those who have trusted in Christ for salvation will spend eternity in His presence in heaven. All those who have rejected Christ as their Savior and have chosen not to accept Christ's payment for their sin on the cross will spend eternity separated from God. (*I Thessalonians 4:16-17, John 5:28, Revelation 20:12-15; Matthew 25:41, Jude 1:6*)

PS – In case you're also wondering what I believe about the picture at the top: No, I don't believe that you can lead a cow – or any other animal – to salvation. I do believe, however, that a good sense of humor can lead to a good laugh.