

Stanley Hauerwas on Being Stanley Hauerwas
adapted from *Hannah's Child: A Theologian's Memoir*

“I always seem to be on the ‘in-between.’ I am working-class, but I have spent a life in the University teaching students who do not come from the working classes. I am a Protestant who is probably more Catholic than many Catholics. I am deeply conservative but I am drawn to extreme positions. I am now a chaired professor at a major research university, yet I still do not feel at home in the academy.”

“I slowly learned...that to be a Christian meant that you could never protect yourself from the truth.”

“I was raised to ‘just get on with it.’ If you smashed a finger loading a scaffold with brick, which I did many times, there was no time to dwell on the pain. I was able to live 24 years with a mentally ill spouse because I learned early on that you just have to get on with it.”

“I certainly did not have a well worked out Christology [upon arriving at Yale in 1962]. I still do not. I am not even sure I believe in anyone having a well worked out Christology.”

“I am not a pacifist because of a theory, I am a pacifist because John Howard Yoder convinced me that nonviolence and Christianity are inseparable.”

“The primary task of my work was to demonstrate the link between the truth of what we say we believe and the shape of the lives we live. Ethics has always been my way to pursue that task.”

“There is no substitute for learning to be a Christian by being in the presence of significant lives made significant by being Christian...lives of quiet serenity capable of attending with love to the everyday without the need to be recognized as ‘making a difference.’”

“My son Adam and I are Christians because of the people at Sacred Heart and Broadway [Churches] who welcomed us into their lives and made us participants in the drama of our salvation....Without those communities Adam and I could not have survived.”

“Most people do not have to become a theologian to become a Christian but I probably did. Of course being a theologian can be a liability for being a Christian. You cannot help but be tempted to be a professional believer because you get paid for believing in God. As a result you cannot afford to call into question what you say you believe.”

“During the years that [his first wife] Anne’s illness dominated our lives, I discovered the gift of friendship. indeed, I discovered that I had a gift for friendship. I love and trust people.”

“Baseball and theology are inseparable for me.”

“For me learning to be a Christian means learning to live without answers. Indeed to learn to live in this way is what makes being a Christian so wonderful. Faith is but a name for learning how to go on without knowing the answers....that’s why I find that being a Christian makes life so damned interesting.”

“I try to be a church theologian. I am not interested in what I believe. I am not even sure what I believe. I am much more interested in what the church believes.”

“I am a Christian because I believe that by so being I have a better chance of living truthfully.”