

Believing solo

By [David Heim](#)

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It's hardly news that someone counts herself in the "religious but not part of an organized religion" camp. Or as novelist Anne Rice [described herself](#): she is a follower of Christ who has decided to quit Christianity. Perhaps Rice's statement got so much media play because of her much publicized conversion to Christianity a decade ago.

Probably most Christians have days when they want to disassociate themselves from the other people who are trying to follow Christ. But the New Testament grounds for doing so are pretty thin.

Rice said it was the anti-gay, anti-feminist public face of Christianity that she could not longer identify with, and she was especially upset by the Catholic bishops' opposition to gay marriage. Rice's own Roman Catholic upbringing—which she renounced at 18, only to return to the church later—seems to figure in her decision: she assumes that the Catholic Church stands for the whole of Christianity. Is she unaware of or uninterested in ways of being Christian other than the Roman way?

Her commitment, though, still seems significant. She [told NPR](#) that she couldn't go back to writing those steamy vampire novels, which she regards as deeply pessimistic about life:

I live now in a world that I feel God created, and I feel I live in a world where God witnesses everything that happens. . . .That's a huge change from the atheist I was when I wrote the vampire novels.