This sketch looks at how Christians complicate their faith by the trappings of religious practice to the detriment of a clear simple message. Complications which may deter all but the most determined seeker.

The sketch runs through twice – once in a coffee bar [e.g. Starbuck’s] and then in a ‘Christian’ bar designed to be a parallel of what happens in the previous encounter.

CAST
Customer Male or female
Bar attendant Male or female
Street vendor Male or female

Bar attendant is behind the bar. ENTER customer.

Attendant Good morning, sir [or madam], can I help you?
Customer Yes, I’d like a coffee please.
Attendant Would you like Colombian, Kenyan or Costa Rican?
Attendant How would you like it? Filtered, latte, expresso, Americano, Cappucino, Frappucino, Mocca, Choca, Choca-Mocca?
Customer Goodness. I didn’t realise there was so much choice. Americano.
Attendant Large, grande or supergrande?
Customer Large.
Attendant Black or white?
Customer White.
Attendant Cream or milk?
Customer Milk.
Attendant Skimmed, semi-skimmed or full fat?
Customer Semi-skimmed.
Spoilt for choice

With or without sugar?

With.

Is that white caster, white granulated, brown granulated, light brown, soft brown, Demerara, Candarel or Sweet’nLo?

Demerara.

And would you like any of our special Sprinkles on top? We’ve got dark chocolate, milk chocolate, white chocolate, cinnamon, vanilla, peppermint, hazelnut, Brazil nut, coconut, ……

[Exasperated] Oh, for goodness sake. This is ridiculous. All I want is a coffee. I’ll try somewhere else. [Walks away]

Please yourself.

[ENTER Street Vendor]

I’d like a coffee please.

[Producing coffee immediately] Certainly, sir, here you are.

SCENE TWO

Bar attendant is behind the bar. ENTER customer.

Good morning, sir [or madam], can I help you?

Yes, I’d like to become a Christian please.

Would you like to be Catholic, Orthodox or Protestant?


How would you like it? Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Reformed, Free?

Goodness. I didn’t realise there was so much choice. Anglican.

Evangelical, Liberal or Anglo-Catholic?

Evangelical.
Att  Charismatic or non-Charismatic?
Cus  Non-Charismatic.
Att  With or without liturgy?
Cus  With.
Att  1662, ASB or Book of Common Worship?
Cus  ASB.
Att  With or without a choir?
Cus  With.
Att  Is that robed with organ, unrobed with organ, robed with guitars, unrobed with guitars or unrobed with guitars and drums?
Cus  Unrobed with guitars.
Att  And would you like any of our special modern church features? We’ve got comfortable chairs, carpets, OHP, dataprojector, sound system, hearing loop, toilets, coffee bar, bookstall, front staging, ……
Cus  [Exasperated] Oh, for goodness sake. This is ridiculous. All I want is to become a Christian. I’ll try somewhere else. [Walks away]
Att  Please yourself.

[ENTER Street Vendor]
Cus  I’d like to become a Christian please.
Vendor  Certainly, sir, let me tell you about Jesus.

THE END