

Christopher Lasch

Quotes

*People, Order, Believe, Family, Left, Common Sense, News, Drug,
Conservative, Advertising, Addiction, Our Society, Information, Wings, Want,
Demand, Jobs, Needs, Development, Media*

Relentless improvement of the product and upgrading of consumer tastes are the heart of mass merchandising.

~Christopher Lasch

Today Americans are overcome not by the sense of endless possibility but by the banality of the social order they have erected against it.

~Christopher Lasch

It is advertising and the logic of consumerism that governs the depiction of reality in the mass media.

~Christopher Lasch

The family is a haven in a heartless world.

~Christopher Lasch

Nothing succeeds like the appearance of success.

~Christopher Lasch

The attempt to redefine the family as a purely voluntary arrangement grows out of the modern delusion that people can keep all their options open all the time.

~Christopher Lasch

When liberals finally grasped the strength of popular feeling about the family, they cried to appropriate the rhetoric and symbolism of family values for their own purposes.

~Christopher Lasch

Progressive rhetoric has the effect of concealing social crisis and moral breakdown by presenting them as the birth pangs of a new order.

~Christopher Lasch

George Orwell's contention was that it is a sure sign of trouble when things can no longer be called by their right names and described in

plain, forthright speech.

~Christopher Lasch

The effect of the mass media is not to elicit belief but to maintain the apparatus of addiction.

~Christopher Lasch

It is the logic of consumerism that undermines the values of loyalty and permanence and promotes a different set of values that is destructive of family life.

~Christopher Lasch

The work of art is a scream of freedom.

~Christopher Lasch

Conservatives have no understanding of modern capitalism. They have a distorted understanding of the traditional values they claim to defend.

~Christopher Lasch

Drugs are merely the most obvious form of addiction in our society. Drug addiction is one of the things that undermines traditional values.

~Christopher Lasch

In our society, daily experience teaches the individual to want and need a never-ending supply of new toys and drugs.

~Christopher Lasch

We demand too much of life, too little of ourselves.

~Christopher Lasch

Because politics rests on an irreducible measure of coercion, it can never become a perfect realm of perfect love and justice.

~Christopher Lasch

A child's appetite for new toys appeal to the desire for ownership and appropriation: the appeal of toys comes to lie not in their use but in their status as possessions.

~Christopher Lasch

It is no longer an unwritten law of American capitalism that industry will attempt to maintain wages at a level that allows a single wage to support a family.

~Christopher Lasch

The left has come to regard common sense - the traditional wisdom and folkways of the community - as an obstacle to progress and enlightenment.

~Christopher Lasch

Because it equates tradition with prejudice, the left finds itself increasingly unable to converse with ordinary people in their common language.

~Christopher Lasch

Ostensibly rigorous and realistic, contemporary conservatism is an ideology of denial. Its symbol is a smile button.

~Christopher Lasch

Conservatives unwittingly side with the social forces that contribute to the destruction of traditional values.

~Christopher Lasch

The model of ownership, in a society organized round mass consumption, is addiction.

~Christopher Lasch

Neoclassical economics insists that advertising cannot force consumers to buy anything they don't already want to buy.

~Christopher Lasch

Propaganda in the ordinary sense of the term plays a less important part in a consumer society, where people greet all official pronouncements with suspicion.

~Christopher Lasch

The same historical development that turned the citizen into a client transformed the worker from a producer into a consumer.

~Christopher Lasch

Liberals subscribe to the new flexible, pluralistic definition of the family; their defense of families carries no conviction.

~Christopher Lasch

Most people no longer live in nuclear families at all.

~Christopher Lasch

The left sees nothing but bigotry and superstition in the popular defense of the family or in popular attitudes regarding abortion, crime, busing, and the school curriculum.

~Christopher Lasch

Every age develops its own peculiar forms of pathology, which express in exaggerated form its underlying character structure.

~Christopher Lasch

A society that has made 'nostalgia' a marketable commodity on the cultural exchange quickly repudiates the suggestion that life in the past was in any important way better than life today.

~Christopher Lasch

News represents another form of advertising, not liberal propaganda.

~Christopher Lasch

The left dismisses talk about the collapse of family life and talks instead about the emergence of the growing new diversity of family types.

~Christopher Lasch

Make it new is the message not just of modern art but of modern consumerism, of which modern art is largely a mirror image.

~Christopher Lasch

Most of these alternative arrangements, so-called, arise out of the ruins of marriages, not as an improvement of old fashioned marriage.

~Christopher Lasch

Conservatives sense a link between television and drugs, but they do not grasp the nature of this connection.

~Christopher Lasch

The family wage has been eroded by the same developments that have promoted consumerism as a way of life.

~Christopher Lasch

The left has lost touch with popular opinion, thereby making it possible for the right to present itself as the party of common sense.

~Christopher Lasch

In an individualistic culture, the narcissist is God's gift to the world. In a collectivist society, the narcissist is God's gift to the collective.

~Christopher Lasch

The prison life of the past looks in our own time like liberation itself.

~Christopher Lasch

The last three decades have seen the collapse of the family wage system.

~Christopher Lasch

Environmentalism opposes reckless innovation and makes conservation the central order of business.

~Christopher Lasch

Information, usually seen as the precondition of debate, is better understood as its by-product.

~Christopher Lasch

The left no longer stands for common sense, as it did in the days of Tom Paine.

~Christopher Lasch

The job of the press is to encourage debate, not to supply the public with information.

~Christopher Lasch

The news appeals to the same jaded appetite that makes a child tire of a toy as soon as it becomes familiar and demand a new one in its place.

~Christopher Lasch

The left ask people to believe that there is no conflict between feminism and the family.

~Christopher Lasch

I despise the cowardly clinging to life, purely for the sake of life, that seems so deeply ingrained in the American temperament.

~Christopher Lasch

The intellectual debility of contemporary conservatism is indicated by its silence on all important matters.

~Christopher Lasch

The question of the family now divides our society so deeply that the

opposing sides cannot even agree on a definition of the institution they are arguing about.

~Christopher Lasch

The hope of a new politics does not lie in formulating a left-wing reply to the right-it lies in rejecting conventional political categories.

~Christopher Lasch

A growing awareness of the depth of popular attachment to the family has led some liberals to concede that family is not just a buzzword for reaction.

~Christopher Lasch

Once women begin to question the inevitability of their subordination and to reject the conventions formerly associated with it, they can no longer retreat to the safety of those conventions.

~Christopher Lasch

Most women are pragmatists who have allowed extremists on the left and right to manipulate the family issue for their own purposes.

~Christopher Lasch

The conservative revival cannot be dismissed.

~Christopher Lasch

Ideologies, however appealing, cannot shape the whole structure of perceptions and conduct unless they are embedded in daily experiences that confirm them.

~Christopher Lasch

Instead of taking environmentalism away from the left, conservatives condemn it as a counsel of doom.

~Christopher Lasch

The proper reply to right wing religiosity is not to insist that politics and religion don't mix. This is the stock response of the left.

~Christopher Lasch

Personal disintegration remains always an imminent danger.

~Christopher Lasch

Knowledge is what we get when an observer, preferably a scientifically trained observer, provides us with a copy of reality that we can all recognize.

~Christopher Lasch

Traditionalists will have to master techniques of sustained activism formerly monopolized by the left.

~Christopher Lasch

The best defense against the terror of existence are the homely comforts of love, work, and family life, which connect us to a world that is independent of our wishes yet responsive to our needs.

~Christopher Lasch

Democracy in our time is more likely to die of indifference than of intolerance.

~Christopher Lasch

[Reinhold] Niebuhr endorsed G.K.Chesterton's observation that tolerance is the attitude of those who do not believe in anything.

~Christopher Lasch

It's not about winning. It's the enjoyment of doing it - it gets your brain going.

~Christopher Lasch

Uprootedness uproots everything except the need for roots.

~Christopher Lasch

The left has lost the common touch.

~Christopher Lasch

Adherents of the new religious right reject the separation of politics and religion, but they bring no spiritual insights to politics.

~Christopher Lasch

We are all revolutionaries now, addicts of change.

~Christopher Lasch

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