

Desmond Tutu Quotes

*People, Thinking, Mean, Children, Justice, Want, Believe, Humans,
Compassion, Christian, Country, Men, Forgiving, World, Way, Rights, Order,
Evil, Giving, Real*

There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in.

~Desmond Tutu

When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land.

~Desmond Tutu

Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another.

~Desmond Tutu

Do your little bit of good where you are; its those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

~Desmond Tutu

You are either on the side of the oppressed or on the side of the oppressor. You can't be neutral.

~Desmond Tutu

If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.

~Desmond Tutu

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

~Desmond Tutu

To remain neutral in situations of injustice is to be complicit in that injustice.

~Desmond Tutu

Our maturity will be judged by how well we are able to agree to disagree and yet continue to love one another, to care for one another,

and cherish one another and seek the greater good of the other.

~Desmond Tutu

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

~Desmond Tutu

My father always used to say, "Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument."

~Desmond Tutu

If we are going to see real development in the world then our best investment is WOMEN!

~Desmond Tutu

It is through weakness and vulnerability that most of us learn empathy and compassion and discover our soul.

~Desmond Tutu

My message to the international community is that our silence and complicity especially on the situation in Gaza shames us all. It is almost like the behaviour of the military junta in Burma

~Desmond Tutu

My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.

~Desmond Tutu

Give young people a greater voice. They are the future and they are much wiser than we give them credit for.

~Desmond Tutu

Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning.

~Desmond Tutu

Religion is like a knife: you can either use it to cut bread, or stick in someone's back.

~Desmond Tutu

We have allowed the interests of capital to outweigh the interests of human beings and our Earth.

~Desmond Tutu

Without memory, there is no healing. Without forgiveness, there is no future.

~Desmond Tutu

A person is a person through other persons; you can't be human in isolation; you are human only in relationships.

~Desmond Tutu

Forgiveness is abandoning your right to revenge.

~Desmond Tutu

We are each made for goodness, love and compassion. Our lives are transformed as much as the world is when we live with these truths.

~Desmond Tutu

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

~Desmond Tutu

Frequently people think compassion and love are merely sentimental. No! They are very demanding. If you are going to be compassionate, be prepared for action.

~Desmond Tutu

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

~Desmond Tutu

I would refuse to go to a homophobic heaven. No, I would say sorry, I mean I would much rather go to the other place.

~Desmond Tutu

I am fifty-two years of age. I am a bishop in the Anglican Church, and a few people might be constrained to say that I was reasonably responsible. In the land of my birth I cannot vote...

~Desmond Tutu

True peace must be anchored in justice and an unwavering commitment to universal rights for all humans, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin or any other identity attribute.

~Desmond Tutu

How could you have a soccer team if all were goalkeepers? How would it be an orchestra if all were French horns?

~Desmond Tutu

But God can only smile because only God can know what is coming next.

~Desmond Tutu

Without forgiveness, there's no future.

~Desmond Tutu

Universal education is not only a moral imperative but an economic necessity, to pave the way toward making many more nations self-sufficient and self-sustaining.

~Desmond Tutu

I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights.

~Desmond Tutu

God's love is too great to be confined to any one side of a conflict or to any one religion.

~Desmond Tutu

Ubuntu is very difficult to render into a Western language... It is to say, 'My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in what is yours.'

~Desmond Tutu

It means a great deal to those who are oppressed to know that they are not alone. And never let anyone tell you that what you are doing is insignificant.

~Desmond Tutu

Inclusive, good-quality education is a foundation for dynamic and equitable societies.

~Desmond Tutu

Racism, xenophobia and unfair discrimination have spawned slavery, when human beings have bought and sold and owned and branded fellow human beings as if they were so many beasts of burden.

~Desmond Tutu

People of conscience need to break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change.

~Desmond Tutu

You know when ubuntu is there, and it is obvious when it is absent. It has to do with what it means to be truly human, to know that you are bound up with others in the bundle of life.

~Desmond Tutu

The fundamental law of human beings is interdependence. A person is a person through other persons.

~Desmond Tutu

It is our moral obligation to give every child the very best education possible.

~Desmond Tutu

People often speak of God being even-handed. God is not even-handed. God is biased, in favor of the weak, of the despised.

~Desmond Tutu

I'm absolutely, utterly, and completely certain that God wouldn't be homophobic. I'd much rather go to hell - I really would much rather go to hell - than go to a homophobic heaven.

~Desmond Tutu

In the Bible, we first encounter God when he sides with a bunch of slaves against a powerful Pharaoh, an act of grace freely given.

~Desmond Tutu

Do your little bit of good where you are.

~Desmond Tutu

Children are a wonderful gift. They have an extraordinary capacity to see into the heart of things and to expose sham and humbug for what they are.

~Desmond Tutu

Is Zionism racism? I would say yes. It's a policy that to me looks like it has very many parallels with racism. The effect is the same. Whether you call it that or not is in a sense irrelevant.

~Desmond Tutu

If we have loved well while we were alive, there is life after death here-our love will go on for generations.

~Desmond Tutu

The moment our dignity is undermined, we get up in arms and want to see our dignity restored - especially if we are humiliated.

~Desmond Tutu

I don't want a moratorium on the death penalty. I want the abolition of it. I can't understand why a country [USA] that's so committed to human rights doesn't find the death penalty an obscenity.

~Desmond Tutu

We spend billions on banks when we know that a fraction of this money could save all the children in the world.

~Desmond Tutu

If you recall the happiest moments in your life, they are all from when you were doing something for somebody else.

~Desmond Tutu

The abolition of the death penalty is making us a civilized society. It shows we actually do mean business when we say we have reverence for life.

~Desmond Tutu

To forgive is to abandon your right to pay back the predator in his own coin, but it is the loss that Liberates.

~Desmond Tutu

We don't want apartheid liberalized. We want it dismantled. You can't improve something that is intrinsically evil.

~Desmond Tutu

Hate has no place in the house of God. No one should be excluded from our love, our compassion or our concern because of race or gender, faith or ethnicity - or because of their sexual orientation.

~Desmond Tutu

Forgiveness does not mean condoning what has been done. Forgiving means abandoning your right to pay back the perpetrator in his own coin.

~Desmond Tutu

It makes no sense to invest in [fossil fuel] companies that undermine our future

~Desmond Tutu

The pressure to succeed has a lot to do with why people overstep the line. It is a peculiar weakness of western culture where we have made a fetish of success.

~Desmond Tutu

To take a life when a life has been lost is revenge, not justice.

~Desmond Tutu

Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime. Teach a man to cycle and he will realize fishing is stupid and boring.

~Desmond Tutu

We can no longer continue feeding our addiction to fossil fuels as if there is no tomorrow. For there will be no tomorrow.

~Desmond Tutu

I can't control what happens to me, but I can control how I respond to it.

~Desmond Tutu

To treat anyone as if they were less than human, less than a brother or a sister, no matter what they have done, is to contravene the very laws of our humanity.

~Desmond Tutu

Catharsis is about cleansing and healing at one and the same time - healing memories and attitudes, healing the spirit and the heart.

~Desmond Tutu

Forgiveness is something that we are often asked to grant and very few of us ever have the roadmap of how to get from the pain that we have experienced to being able to forgive someone.

~Desmond Tutu

Forgiveness is taking seriously the awfulness of what has happened when you are treated unfairly. Forgiveness is not pretending that things are other than the way they are.

~Desmond Tutu

Climate change: Never before in history have human beings been called on to act collectively in defence of the Earth

~Desmond Tutu

Arrogance really comes from insecurity, and in the end our feeling that we are bigger than others is really the flip side of our feeling that we are smaller than others.

~Desmond Tutu

Gaza is going to test who believes in the worth of human beings.

~Desmond Tutu

In its history, Europe has committed so many massacres and horrors that it should bow its own head in shame.

~Desmond Tutu

We are made for loving. If we don't love, we will be like plants without water.

~Desmond Tutu

We need other human beings in order to be human.

~Desmond Tutu

Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there is so much diversity among his people?

~Desmond Tutu

When people were hungry, Jesus didn't say, "Now is that political or social?" He said, "I feed you." Because the good news to a hungry person is bread.

~Desmond Tutu

When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we hate. When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves. All of our humanity is dependent upon recognizing the humanity in others.

~Desmond Tutu

Love your enemy; it will ruin his reputation.

~Desmond Tutu

We must stop climate change. And we can, if we use the tactics that worked in South Africa against the worst carbon emitters.

~Desmond Tutu

That's the chief lesson I have learned: the texture of our universe is one where there is no question at all but that good and laughter and justice will prevail.

~Desmond Tutu

It is by standing up for the rights of girls and women that we truly measure up as men.

~Desmond Tutu

God is not upset that Gandhi was not a Christian, because God is not a

Christian! All of God's children and their different faiths help us to realize the immensity of God.

~Desmond Tutu

I would refuse to go to a homophobic heaven.

~Desmond Tutu

As long as we fail to face up to the past and deal with it accordingly, the future will smack of corruption.

~Desmond Tutu

Fundamental rights belong to the human being just because you are a human being.

~Desmond Tutu

The God who existed before any religion counts on you to make the oneness of the human family known and celebrated.

~Desmond Tutu

Goodness is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Light is stronger than darkness. Life is stronger than death. Victory is ours through Him who loved us.

~Desmond Tutu

Don't raise your voice, improve your argument." [Address at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Houghton, Johannesburg, South Africa, 23 November 2004]

~Desmond Tutu

No one is self-sufficient. And it's not a one-way thing- -the generosity of spirit from one side provokes a response in kind from the other side.

~Desmond Tutu

We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft

spot for sinners. His standards are quite low.

~Desmond Tutu

God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion.

~Desmond Tutu

I have no doubt that in the future, the laws that criminalize human love and commitment will look the way the apartheid laws do to us now, so obviously wrong

~Desmond Tutu

We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets, to enjoy looking at the billows of the sea and to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew.

~Desmond Tutu

Men and boys, we show our manhood through the way we treat our women. Our wives, our sisters, our mothers.

~Desmond Tutu

No peace is impossible when people are determined to achieve it

~Desmond Tutu

For Christians, who believe they are created in the image of God, it is the Godhead, diversity in unity and the three-in-oneness of God, which we and all creation reflect.

~Desmond Tutu

Our Lord wanted us to be Christ-like. Christ-like doesn't mean not having faults. It means that you do actually have a capacity to draw out the good that is in others.

~Desmond Tutu

In the land of my birth I cannot vote, whereas a young person of eighteen can vote. And why? Because he or she possesses that wonderful biological attribute - a white skin.

~Desmond Tutu

Without forgiveness, there is no future.

~Desmond Tutu

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