

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Quotes

*Christian, Jesus, Men, Mean, Grace, Prayer, People, Christ, Community,
Suffering, World, Self, Heart, Real, Believe, Thinking, Hands, Brother, Church,*

Doe

Your life as a Christian should make non believers question their disbelief in God.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The person who's in love with their vision of community will destroy community. But the person who loves the people around them will create community everywhere they go.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Silence in the face of evil is evil itself.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The exclusion of the weak and insignificant, the seemingly useless people, from a Christian community may actually mean the exclusion of Christ; in the poor brother Christ is knocking at the door.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We must learn to regard people less in light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Jesus calls men, not to a new religion, but to life.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Love asks nothing in return, but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Who can really be faithful in great things if he has not learned to be faithful in the things of daily life?

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Jesus himself did not try to convert the two thieves on the cross; he waited until one of them turned to him.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We have learnt, rather too late, that action comes, not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The church is not a religious community of worshippers of Christ but is Christ himself who has taken form among people.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Music... will help dissolve your perplexities and purify your character and sensibilities, and in time of care and sorrow, will keep a fountain of joy alive in you.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God.....We must not.....assume that our schedule is our own to manage, but allow it to be arranged by God.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is from God that parents receive their children, and it is to God that they should lead them.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

May God in His mercy lead us through these times; but above all, may He lead us to Himself.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christianity preaches the infinite worth of that which is seemingly worthless and the infinite worthlessness of that which is seemingly so valued.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our church. We are fighting today for costly grace.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The gift of Christ is not the Christian religion, but the grace and love of God which culminate in the cross.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Faith without works is not faith at all, but a simple lack of obedience to God.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

If you do a good job for others, you heal yourself at the same time, because a dose of joy is a spiritual cure.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected.... Hoarding is idolatry.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The entire day receives order and discipline when it acquires unity. This unity must be sought and found in morning prayer. The morning prayer determines the day.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I believe that God both wills and is able to bring good out of everything, even the worst... I believe that even our mistakes and wrongdoing are not fruitless.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The will of God, to which the law gives expression, is that men should defeat their enemies by loving them.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The biggest mistake you can make in your life is to be always afraid of making a mistake.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes...and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The deep meaning of the cross of Christ is that there is no suffering on earth that is not borne by God.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

When you read the Bible, you must think that here and now, God is speaking with me

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The deceit, the lie of the Devil consists of this, that he wishes to make man believe that he can live without God's Word.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Good Friday and Easter free us to think about other things far beyond our own personal fate, about the ultimate meaning of all life, suffering, and events; and we lay hold of a great hope.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Things do exist that are worth standing up for without compromise. To me it seems that peace and social justice are such things, as is Christ himself.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Comfort the troubled, and trouble the comfortable.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all he has. It is the pearl of great price to by which the merchant will sell all his goods.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Wherever there are sinners, the weak, the sorrowful, the poor in the world, that is where God goes.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich!

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thus the call to follow Christ always means a call to share the work of forgiving men their sins. Forgiveness is the Christlike suffering which it is the Christian's duty to bear.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Cheap grace is grace without discipleship.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The church has an unconditional obligation to the victims of any ordering society, even if they do not belong to the Christian community.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I need the Christ that is in you, and you need the Christ that is in me.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

There is meaning in every journey that is unknown to the traveler.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

God does not love some ideal person, but rather human beings just as we are, not some ideal world, but rather the real world.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A god who let us prove his existence would be an idol.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling

what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The pursuit of purity is not about the suppression of lust, but about the reorientation of one's life to a larger goal.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Battles are won, not with weapons, but with God. They are won where the way leads to the cross.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The word of cheap grace has been the ruin of more Christians than any commandment of works.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Earthly possessions dazzle our eyes and delude us into thinking that they can provide security and freedom from anxiety. Yet all the time they are the very source of anxiety.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Once a man has truly experienced the mercy of God in his life he will henceforth aspire only to serve.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Time is lost when we have not lived a full human life, time unenriched by experience, creative endeavor, enjoyment, and suffering.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with him, whether the heart is full or empty.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is very easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements in comparison with what we owe others.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is only because he became like us that we can become like him.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Only those who put tomorrow completely into God's hand and receive fully today what they need for their lives are really secure.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

He who loves community destroys community; he who loves the brethren builds community.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

When people are deeply affected by the Word, they tell it to other people.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

time is the most valuable thing that we have, because it is the most irrevocable.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is infinitely easier to suffer in obedience to a human command than to accept suffering as free, responsible men.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It seems to me more important actually to share someones distress than to use smooth words about it.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The richness of God's Word ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our heart.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without

discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Only he who gives thanks for the little things receives the big things.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Incarnation is the ultimate reason why the service of God cannot be divorced from the service of man.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Intercessory prayer is the purifying bath into which the individual and the community must enter every day.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The church is her true self only when she exists for humanity.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together. It is not you that sings, it is the Church that is singing, and you, as a member of the Church, may share in its song.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Fulfilled life is possible in spite of unfulfilled wishes.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Self-justification and judging others go together, as justification by grace and serving others go together.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The more deeply we grow into the psalms and the more often we pray

them as our own, the more simple and rich will our prayer become.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Lord confers great honor on his servants when he brings them suffering.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Possessions are not God's blessing and goodness, but the opportunities of service which he entrusts to us.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Sometimes we just need a firm kick in the pants. An unsmiling expectation that if we mean all these wonderful things we talk about and sing about, then let's see something to prove it.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

God is not a God of the emotions but the God of truth.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

So the Christian, too, belongs not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes. There is his commission, his work.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

No sacrifice which a lover would make for his beloved is too great for us to make for our enemy.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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