

Erich Fromm

Quotes

*Men, Mean, Love, People, Life, Thinking, Dream, Love Is, Reality, Children,
Believe, Art, Religious, Real, Sleep, Self, Doe, Feelings, Giving, Two*

Immature love says: 'I love you because I need you.' Mature love says 'I need you because I love you.'

~Erich Fromm

Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction.

~Erich Fromm

It takes a moment to tell someone you love them, but it takes a lifetime to prove it.

~Erich Fromm

Love isn't something natural. Rather it requires discipline, concentration, patience, faith, and the overcoming of narcissism. It isn't a feeling, it is a practice.

~Erich Fromm

Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties.

~Erich Fromm

Man's main task in life is to give birth to himself, to become what he potentially is. The most important product of his effort is his own personality.

~Erich Fromm

The lust for power is not rooted in strength but in weakness.

~Erich Fromm

The task we must set for ourselves is not to feel secure, but to be able to tolerate insecurity.

~Erich Fromm

The scars left from the child's defeat in the fight against irrational authority are to be found at the bottom of every neurosis.

~Erich Fromm

To love somebody is not just a strong feeling - it is a decision, it is a judgment, it is a promise.

~Erich Fromm

Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence.

~Erich Fromm

True love is like a pair of socks: you gotta have two and they've gotta match.

~Erich Fromm

The quest for certainty blocks the search for meaning. Uncertainty is the very condition to impel man to unfold his powers.

~Erich Fromm

Selfish persons are incapable of loving others, but they are not capable of loving themselves either.

~Erich Fromm

When people can't handle God any more, they turn to religion.

~Erich Fromm

Most people die before they are fully born. Creativeness means to be born before one dies.

~Erich Fromm

Mother's love is peace. It need not be acquired, it need not be deserved.

~Erich Fromm

Who will tell whether one happy moment of love or the joy of breathing

or walking on a bright morning and smelling the fresh air, is not worth all the suffering and effort which life implies.

~Erich Fromm

The affirmation of one's own life, happiness, growth and freedom, is rooted in one's capacity to love.

~Erich Fromm

It is time to cease to argue about God , and instead to unite in the unmasking of contemporary forms of idolatry.

~Erich Fromm

Psychoanalysis is essentially a theory of unconscious strivings, of resistance, of falsification of reality according to one's subjective needs and expectations.

~Erich Fromm

People do not see that the main question is not : "Am I loved?" which is to a large extent the question : "Am I approved of? Am I protected? Am I admired?" The main question is: "Can I love?"

~Erich Fromm

Most people see the problem of love primarily as that of being loved, rather than that of loving, of one's capacity to love. Hence the problem to them is how to be loved, how to be lovable.

~Erich Fromm

I need you because I love you.

~Erich Fromm

To spare oneself from grief at all cost can be achieved only at the price of total detachment, which excludes the ability to experience happiness

~Erich Fromm

Happiness does not exclude sadness - if a person responds to life, he's sometimes happy and sometimes sad. What matters is he responds.

~Erich Fromm

The danger of the past was that men became slaves. The danger of the future is that man may become robots.

~Erich Fromm

As we ascend the social ladder, viciousness wears a thicker mask.

~Erich Fromm

There is nothing of which we are more ashamed than of not being ourselves. And there is nothing which brings us greater joy and happiness than to think, feel, and say what is ours.

~Erich Fromm

If a person loves only one other person and is indifferent to all others, his love is not love but a symbiotic attachment, or an enlarged egotism.

~Erich Fromm

Giving is the highest expression of potency.

~Erich Fromm

The aim of life is to be fully born, though its tragedy is that most of us die before we are thus born.

~Erich Fromm

Paradoxically, the ability to be alone is the condition for the ability to love.

~Erich Fromm

The whole life of the individual is nothing but the process of giving birth to himself; indeed, we should be fully born when we die.

~Erich Fromm

The deepest need of the human being is to overcome our separateness, to leave the prison of our loneliness.

~Erich Fromm

Hate is a product of the unfulfilled life.

~Erich Fromm

Human history begins with man's act of disobedience which is at the same time the beginning of his freedom and the development of his reason.

~Erich Fromm

An illusion shared by everyone becomes a reality.

~Erich Fromm

If the handbag could think, it would have a terrific inferiority feeling, because, not having been bought, it would feel useless.

~Erich Fromm

Love is an act of faith, and whoever is of little faith is also of little love.

~Erich Fromm

Care and responsibility are constituent elements of love, but without respect for and knowledge of the beloved person, love deteriorates into domination and possessiveness.

~Erich Fromm

We are not on the way to greater individualism, but are becoming an increasingly manipulated mass civilization.

~Erich Fromm

One cannot be deeply responsive to the world without being saddened very often.

~Erich Fromm

You have to stop in order to change direction.

~Erich Fromm

The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal.

~Erich Fromm

Love is an act of faith.

~Erich Fromm

Just as modern mass production requires the standardization of commodities, so the social process requires standardization of man, and this standardization is called equality.

~Erich Fromm

We are not only less reasonable and less decent in our dreams... we are also more intelligent, wiser and capable of better judgment when we are asleep than when we are awake.

~Erich Fromm

There is undoubtedly a difference between people who manipulate other people and people who create things.

~Erich Fromm

Why should society feel responsible only for the education of children, and not for the education of all adults of every age?

~Erich Fromm

To hope means to be ready at every moment for that which is not yet born, and yet not become desperate if there is no birth in our lifetime.

~Erich Fromm

Intellectuals are hindered on the way to being, by their narcissism.

~Erich Fromm

FORTITUDE IS THE CAPACITY TO SAY NO WHEN THE WORLD WANTS TO HEAR 'YES'

~Erich Fromm

Close your eyes, let your spirit start to soar, and you'll live as you've never lived before.

~Erich Fromm

Only the person who has faith in himself is able to be faithful to others.

~Erich Fromm

Conditions for creativity are to be puzzled; to concentrate; to accept conflict and tension; to be born everyday; to feel a sense of self.

~Erich Fromm

Modern man lives under the illusion that he knows what he wants, while he actually wants what he is supposed to want.

~Erich Fromm

If I am what I have and if I lose what I have who then am I?

~Erich Fromm

In erotic love, two people who were separate become one. In motherly love, two people who were one become separate. The mother must not only tolerate, she must wish and support the child's separation.

~Erich Fromm

The duty to be alive is the same as the duty to become oneself, to develop into the individual one potentially is.

~Erich Fromm

There can be no real freedom without the freedom to fail.

~Erich Fromm

Mother's love is bliss, is peace, it need not be acquired, it need not be deserved. If it is there, it is like a blessing; if it is not there it is as if all the beauty had gone out of life.

~Erich Fromm

We are a society of notoriously unhappy people: lonely, anxious, depressed, destructive, dependent - people who are glad when we have killed the time we are trying so hard to save.

~Erich Fromm

Freedom is the fundamental condition for any growth.

~Erich Fromm

The real opposition is that between the ego-bound man, whose existence is structured by the principle of having, and the free man, who has overcome his egocentricity.

~Erich Fromm

Giving is more joyous than receiving, not because it is a deprivation, but because in the act of giving lies the expression of my aliveness.

~Erich Fromm

Man's main task in life is to give birth to himself.

~Erich Fromm

A dream is a microscope through which we look at the hidden occurrences in our soul.

~Erich Fromm

Man is the only animal for whom his own existence is a problem which he has to solve.

~Erich Fromm

We talk a great deal about Russia today, and I'm afraid that in twenty

years, we and Russia will be more similar than different.

~Erich Fromm

In times of change, learners inherit the earth

~Erich Fromm

While every human being has a capacity for love, its realization is one of the most difficult achievements.

~Erich Fromm

Integrity simply means not violating one's own identity.

~Erich Fromm

Man is the only animal that can be bored.

~Erich Fromm

Happiness is a very proud word of our whole cultural heritage.

~Erich Fromm

When people can see a vision and simultaneously recognize what can be done step by step in a concrete way to achieve it, they will begin to feel encouragement and enthusiasm instead of fright.

~Erich Fromm

Integrity simply means a willingness not to violate one's identity, in the many ways in which such violation is possible.

~Erich Fromm

It seems that great minds a hundred years ago saw what would happen today or tomorrow, while we to whom it is happening blind ourselves in order not to be disturbed in our daily routine.

~Erich Fromm

The experience of separateness arouses anxiety; it is, indeed, the

source of all anxiety.

~Erich Fromm

But not only medicine, engineering, and painting are arts; living itself is an art in fact, the most important and at the same time the most difficult and complex art to be practiced by man.

~Erich Fromm

We live in a world of things, and our only connection with them is that we know how to manipulate or to consume them.

~Erich Fromm

To live is to be born every minute. Death occurs when birth stops.

~Erich Fromm

I think what democracy means today, in reality, is to a large extent, manipulated consent - not forced consent, manipulated consent - and manipulated more and more with the help of Madison Avenue.

~Erich Fromm

Independent of others and in concert with others, your main task in life is to do what you can best do and become what you can potentially be.

~Erich Fromm

The only truly affluent are those who do not want more than they have.

~Erich Fromm

That millions of people share the same forms of mental pathology does not make these people sane.

~Erich Fromm

Man does not only sell commodities, he sells himself and feels himself to be a commodity.

~Erich Fromm

Just as love for one individual which excludes the love for others is not love, love for one's country which is not part of one's love for humanity is not love, but idolatrous worship.

~Erich Fromm

Human history began with an act of disobedience and it is not unlikely that it will be terminated by an act of obedience.

~Erich Fromm

There is nothing inhuman, evil, or irrational which does not give some comfort, provided it is shared by a group.

~Erich Fromm

Equality today means 'sameness', rather than 'oneness'.

~Erich Fromm

To die is poignantly bitter, but the idea of having to die without having lived is unbearable.

~Erich Fromm

Modern man thinks he loses something - time - when he does not do things quickly. Yet he does not know what to do with the time he gains, except kill it.

~Erich Fromm

In love the paradox occurs that two beings become one and yet remain two.

~Erich Fromm

The most beautiful as well as the most ugly inclinations of man are not part of a fixed biologically given human nature, but result from the social process which creates man.

~Erich Fromm

Religion and nationalism, as well as any custom and any belief however absurd and degrading, if it only connects the individual with others, are refuges from what man most dreads: isolation.

~Erich Fromm

When blended with sexuality, the death instinct is transformed into more harmless impulses expressed in sadism or masochism.

~Erich Fromm

If it is a virtue to love my neighbor as a human being, it must be a virtue - and not a vice - to love myself, since I am a human being too.

~Erich Fromm

Love of others and love of ourselves are not alternatives. On the contrary, an attitude of love towards themselves will be found in all those who are capable of loving others.

~Erich Fromm

The human passions transform man from a mere thing into a hero, into a being that in spite of tremendous handicaps tries to make sense of life.

~Erich Fromm

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