

# Francois de La Rochefoucauld Quotes

*Men, People, Love, Mind, Passion, Giving, Self, Thinking, Vanity, Faults, Pride,  
May, Heart, Desire, Wise, Envy, Virtue, Doe, Praise, Friendship*

Good advice is something a man gives when he is too old to set a bad example.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

All women are flirts, but some are restrained by shyness, and others by sense.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Absence diminishes mediocre passions and increases great ones, as the wind extinguishes candles and fans fires.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

True love is like ghosts, which everyone talks about and few have seen.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

A work can become modern only if it is first postmodern. Postmodernism thus understood is not modernism at its end but in the nascent state, and this state is constant.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

To eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

When we are unable to find tranquility within ourselves, it is useless to seek it elsewhere.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

There is only one kind of love, but there are a thousand imitations.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Nothing hinders a thing from being natural so much as the straining ourselves to make it seem so.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Marriage is the only war in which you sleep with the enemy.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Most people know no other way of judging men's worth but by the vogue they are in, or the fortunes they have met with.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

There are no accidents so unlucky from which clever people are not able to reap some advantage, and none so lucky that the foolish are not able to turn them to their own disadvantage.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

It is only persons of firmness that can have real gentleness. Those who appear gentle are, in general, only a weak character, which easily changes into asperity.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The accent of one's birthplace remains in the mind and in the heart as in one's speech.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

To listen closely and reply well is the highest perfection we are able to attain in the art of conversation.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

If we are incapable of finding peace in ourselves, it is pointless to search elsewhere.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Decency is the least of all laws, but yet it is the law which is most strictly observed.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Few people have the wisdom to prefer the criticism that would do them

good, to the praise that deceives them.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

No persons are more frequently wrong, than those who will not admit they are wrong.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

There is no better proof of a man's being truly good than his desiring to be constantly under the observation of good men.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We promise according to our hopes and perform according to our fears.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

People's personalities, like buildings, have various facades, some pleasant to view, some not.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Most of our faults are more pardonable than the means we use to conceal them.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We pardon to the extent that we love.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Sincerity is an openness of heart; we find it in very few people; what we usually see is only an artful dissimulation to win the confidence of others.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The strongest symptom of wisdom in man is his being sensible of his own follies.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

A true friend is the greatest of all blessings, and that which we take the least care of all to acquire.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Old people love to give good advice; it compensates them for their inability to set a bad example.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Self-love is the greatest of all flatterers.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Sometimes accidents happen in life from which we have need of a little madness to extricate ourselves successfully

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The only thing constant in life is change

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Those who occupy their minds with small matters, generally become incapable of greatness.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

To achieve greatness one should live as if they will never die.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Hypocrisy is the homage vice pays to virtue.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Moderation is an ostentatious proof of our strength of character.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Humility is often only feigned submission which people use to render others submissive. It is a subterfuge of pride which lowers itself in order to rise.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The man who leaves a woman best pleased with herself is the one whom she will soonest wish to see.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Our virtues are often, in reality, no better than vices disguised.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We can never be certain of our courage until we have faced danger.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

One forgives to the degree that one loves.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

It is no tragedy to do ungrateful people favors, but it is unbearable to be indebted to a scoundrel.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Cunning and treachery are the offspring of incapacity.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The only thing that should surprise us is that there are still some things that can surprise us.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We are more interested in making others believe we are happy than in trying to be happy ourselves.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Mediocre minds usually dismiss anything which reaches beyond their own understanding.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

There is a kind of love, the excess of which forbids jealousy.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Whatever ignominy or disgrace we have incurred, it is almost always in our power to reestablish our reputation.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Our minds are lazier than our bodies.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

It is sometimes necessary to play the fool to avoid being deceived by cunning men.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

When a man must force himself to be faithful in his love, this is hardly better than unfaithfulness.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Too great refinement is false delicacy, and true delicacy is solid refinement.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

No man is clever enough to know all the evil he does.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

If we did not flatter ourselves, the flattery of others could never harm us.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

It is easier to be wise for others than for ourselves.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Our actions seem to have their lucky and unlucky stars, to which a great part of that blame and that commendation is due which is given to

the actions themselves.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Though men are apt to flatter and exalt themselves with their great achievements, yet these are, in truth, very often owing not so much to design as chance.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

It is a common fault never to be satisfied with our fortune, nor dissatisfied with our understanding.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The moderation of people in prosperity is the effect of a smooth and composed temper, owing to the calm of their good fortune.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Weakness of character is the only defect which cannot be amended.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The violence we do to ourselves in order to remain faithful to the one we love is hardly better than an act of infidelity.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Time's chariot-wheels make their carriage-road in the fairest face.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Before we set our hearts too much upon anything, let us examine how happy they are, who already possess it.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Love can no more continue without a constant motion than fire can; and when once you take hope and fear away, you take from it its very life and being.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld



The height of cleverness is to be able to conceal it.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The generality of virtuous women are like hidden treasures, they are safe only because nobody has sought after them.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Gracefulness is to the body what understanding is to the mind.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We would frequently be ashamed of our good deeds if people saw all of the motives that produced them.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

If we have not peace within ourselves, it is in vain to seek it from outward sources.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Politeness is a desire to be treated politely, and to be esteemed polite oneself.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

It is from a weakness and smallness of mind that men are opinionated; and we are very loath to believe what we are not able to comprehend.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Self-interest makes some people blind, and others sharp-sighted.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

However rare true love may be, it is less so than true friendship.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

It is with true love as it is with ghosts; everyone talks about it, but few have seen it.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Folly pursues us at all periods of our lives. If someone seems wise it is only because his follies are proportionate to his age and fortune.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Idiots and lunatics see only their own wit.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Gallantry of mind consists in saying flattering things in an agreeable manner.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We always love those who admire us, but we do not always love those whom we admire.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Perfect behavior is born of complete indifference.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We are more often treacherous through weakness than through calculation.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Perfect Valor is to do, without a witness, all that we could do before the whole world.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We arrive at the various stages of life quite as novices.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

There is no disguise which can hide love for long where it exists, or simulate it where it does not.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We have no patience with other people's vanity because it is offensive to our own.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Conceit causes more conversation than wit.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Why is it that our memory is good enough to retain the least triviality that happens to us, and yet not good enough to recollect how often we have told it to the same person?

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

What makes lovers never tire of one another is that they talk always about themselves.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Jealousy is not so much the love of another as the love of ourselves.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

If we are to judge of love by its consequences, it more nearly resembles hatred than friendship.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The man that thinks he loves his mistress for her own sake is mightily mistaken.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

I always say to myself, what is the most important thing we can think about at this extraordinary moment.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The world is full of pots jeering at kettles.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Taste may change, but inclination never.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Men frequently do good only to give themselves opportunity of doing ill with impunity.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

How can we expect another to keep our secret if we have been unable to keep it ourselves?

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Philosophy triumphs easily over past evils and future evils, but present evils triumph over it.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Simplicity is a delicate imposition.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Jealousy is the greatest of all evils, and the one that arouses the least pity in the person who causes it.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

We rarely think people have good sense unless they agree with us.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Nothing is impossible; there are ways that lead to everything, and if we had sufficient will we should always have sufficient means. It is often merely for an excuse that we say things are impossible.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

A man's happiness or unhappiness depends as much on his temperament as on his destiny.

~Francois de La Rochefoucauld

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