

Freeman Dyson Quotes

*Thinking, People, Science, Technology, Mean, Giving, Trying, Global Warming,
Climate, Crazy, Art, World, Progress, Children, Different, Running, War, Years,
Looks, Hands*

You ask: what is the meaning or purpose of life? I can only answer with another question: do you think we are wise enough to read God's mind?

~Freeman Dyson

The greatest unsolved mysteries are the mysteries of our existence as conscious beings in a small corner of a vast universe.

~Freeman Dyson

If you want to have a program for moving out into the universe, you have to think in centuries not in decades.

~Freeman Dyson

A good scientist is a person with original ideas. A good engineer is a person who makes a design that works with as few original ideas as possible. There are no prima donnas in engineering.

~Freeman Dyson

Technology must be guided and driven by ethics if it is to do more than provide new toys for the rich.

~Freeman Dyson

The idea that global warming is the most important problem facing the world is total nonsense and is doing a lot of harm.

~Freeman Dyson

Unfortunately the global warming hysteria, as I see it, is driven by politics more than by science.

~Freeman Dyson

In the end it is how you fight, as much as why you fight, that makes your cause good or bad.

~Freeman Dyson

So long as you have courage and a sense of humor, it is never too late to start life afresh.

~Freeman Dyson

The technologies which have had the most profound effects on human life are usually simple.

~Freeman Dyson

Technology is a gift of God. After the gift of life it is perhaps the greatest of God's gifts. It is the mother of civilizations, of arts and of sciences.

~Freeman Dyson

In the future, a new generation of artists will be writing genomes as fluently as Blake and Byron wrote verses.

~Freeman Dyson

CO2 is so beneficial...it would be crazy to try to reduce it

~Freeman Dyson

The purpose of thinking about the future is not to predict it but to raise people's hopes.

~Freeman Dyson

When I listen to the public debates about climate change, I am impressed by the enormous gaps in our knowledge, the sparseness of our observations and the superficiality of our theories.

~Freeman Dyson

It is better to be wrong than to be vague.

~Freeman Dyson

The PhD system is the real root of the evil of academic snobbery. People who have PhDs consider themselves a priesthood, and inventors generally don't have PhDs.

~Freeman Dyson

Science is not a collection of truths. It is a continuing exploration of mysteries.

~Freeman Dyson

I do not make any clear distinction between mind and God. God is what mind becomes when it has passed beyond the scale of our comprehension.

~Freeman Dyson

In the history of science it has often happened that the majority was wrong and refused to listen to a minority that later turned out to be right.

~Freeman Dyson

We should try to introduce our children to science today as a rebellion against poverty and ugliness and militarism and economic injustice.

~Freeman Dyson

It is characteristic of all deep human problems that they are not to be approached without some humor and some bewilderment.

~Freeman Dyson

It's better to get mugged than to live a life of fear.

~Freeman Dyson

We do not need to have an agreed set of goals before we do something ambitious!

~Freeman Dyson

The media always tries to make everything into a disaster, but it's mostly rubbish.

~Freeman Dyson

No matter how far we go into the future, there will always be new things happening, new information coming in, new worlds to explore, a constantly expanding domain of life, consciousness, and memory.

~Freeman Dyson

To me, mathematics is like playing the violin. Some people can do it - others can't. If you don't have it, then there's no point in pretending.

~Freeman Dyson

There is a great satisfaction in building good tools for other people to use.

~Freeman Dyson

Everything in my life was luck. The key to having an interesting life is to always say "yes" to anything crazy.

~Freeman Dyson

We cannot hope to either understand or to manage the carbon in the atmosphere unless we understand and manage the trees and the soil too.

~Freeman Dyson

Scepticism is as important for a good journalist as it is for a good scientist.

~Freeman Dyson

I'm happy that I've raised six kids, and not one of them is a Ph.D.

~Freeman Dyson

For a physicist mathematics is not just a tool by means of which phenomena can be calculated, it is the main source of concepts and principles by means of which new theories can be created.

~Freeman Dyson

Nothing is boring if you look at carefully.

~Freeman Dyson

The more I examine the universe and study the details of its architecture, the more evidence I find that the universe in some sense must have known that we were coming.

~Freeman Dyson

The reason why new concepts in any branch of science are hard to grasp is always the same; contemporary scientists try to picture the new concept in terms of ideas which existed before.

~Freeman Dyson

Mind and intelligence are woven into the fabric of our universe in a way that altogether surpasses our understanding.

~Freeman Dyson

I think it's a big mistake to decide too soon what you're going to do with your life.

~Freeman Dyson

Vegetation is really controlling what happens...whereas the emphasis in the climate models has always been on the atmosphere.

~Freeman Dyson

Our thinking is permeated by our historical myths

~Freeman Dyson

If we want to go to space with humans, that's for fun not for science. Human adventures in space are just sporting events.

~Freeman Dyson

Aviation is the branch of engineering that is least forgiving of mistakes.

~Freeman Dyson

To give us room to explore the varieties of mind and body into which our genome can evolve, one planet is not enough.

~Freeman Dyson

Younger people have so many opportunities. I don't see any pessimism among them.

~Freeman Dyson

That was the wonderful thing about Ramanujan. He discovered so much, and yet he left so much more in his garden for other people to discover.

~Freeman Dyson

One factor that has remained constant through all the twists and turns of the history of physical science is the decisive importance of the mathematical imagination.

~Freeman Dyson

I am acutely aware of the fact that the marriage between mathematics and physics, which was so enormously fruitful in past centuries, has recently ended in divorce.

~Freeman Dyson

The public knows that human beings are fallible. Only people blinded by ideology fall into the trap of believing in their own infallibility.

~Freeman Dyson

The great advances in science usually result from new tools rather than from new doctrines.

~Freeman Dyson

We must be careful not to discourage our twelve-year-olds by making them waste the best years of their lives preparing for examinations.

~Freeman Dyson

Ethical progress is the only cure for the damage done by scientific progress.

~Freeman Dyson

The thing that makes me most optimistic is China and India - both of them doing well.

~Freeman Dyson

For any speculation which does not at first glance look crazy, there is no hope.

~Freeman Dyson

Things are always more complicated than most people believe.

~Freeman Dyson

[John Wheeler] rejuvenated general relativity; he made it an experimental subject and took it away from the mathematicians

~Freeman Dyson

Almost everything about the universe is astounding.

~Freeman Dyson

I'm prejudiced about education altogether. I think it's terribly overrated.

~Freeman Dyson

Technology without morality is barbarous; morality without technology is impotent.

~Freeman Dyson

The average ground temperature of the Earth is impossible to measure since most of the Earth is ocean...So this average ground temperature is a fiction.

~Freeman Dyson

Do not imagine that you have to know everything before you can do anything. My own best work was done when I was most ignorant.

~Freeman Dyson

When the great innovation appears, it will almost certainly be in muddled, incomplete and confusing form. ... For any speculation which does not at first glance look crazy, there is no hope.

~Freeman Dyson

Climate change is part of the normal order of things, and we know it was happening before humans came.

~Freeman Dyson

If you don't have a nasty obituary you probably didn't matter.

~Freeman Dyson

The history of mathematics is a history of horrendously difficult problems being solved by young people too ignorant to know that they were impossible.

~Freeman Dyson

Progress in science is often built on wrong theories that are later corrected. It is better to be wrong than to be vague.

~Freeman Dyson

A model is done when nothing else can be taken out.

~Freeman Dyson

There is no way to find the best design except to try out as many designs as possible and discard the failures.

~Freeman Dyson

Of course, the English countryside is completely artificial. It was naturally a forest; they chopped down the trees and made it into what it

is now: really a beautiful country.

~Freeman Dyson

As a working hypothesis to explain the riddle of our existence, I propose that our universe is the most interesting of all possible universes, and our fate as human beings is to make it so

~Freeman Dyson

The seeds from Ramanujan's garden have been blowing on the wind and have been sprouting all over the landscape. [On the stimulating effects of Ramanujan's mathematical legacy.]

~Freeman Dyson

The technologies that raise the fewest ethical problems are those that work on a human scale, brightening the lives of individual people.

~Freeman Dyson

It has become part of the accepted wisdom to say that the twentieth century was the century of physics and the twenty-first century will be the century of biology.

~Freeman Dyson

We simply don't know yet what's going to happen to the carbon in the atmosphere.

~Freeman Dyson

It is not surprising that honest and well-informed experts can disagree about facts. But beyond the disagreement about facts, there is another deeper disagreement about values.

~Freeman Dyson

Life is nature's way to give mind oportunities it wouldn't otherwise had.

~Freeman Dyson

It's not going to be just humans colonizing space, it's going to be life moving out from the Earth, moving it into its kingdom. And the kingdom of life, of course, is going to be the universe.

~Freeman Dyson

Science is my territory, but science fiction is the landscape of my dreams.

~Freeman Dyson

And somehow mother nature manages to create this incredible biosphere, to create this incredibly rich environment of animals and plants with this amazingly small amount of data.

~Freeman Dyson

I think that what the machines can do, of course, is wonderful, but it's not the same as what the brain can do.

~Freeman Dyson

There is no doubt that parts of the world are getting warmer, but the warming is not global.

~Freeman Dyson

The pain of childbirth is not remembered. It's the child that's remembered.

~Freeman Dyson

I am hoping that the scientists and politicians who have been blindly demonizing carbon dioxide for 37 years will one day open their eyes and look at the evidence.

~Freeman Dyson

The world is just - it's wonderful when you look at all the detail. It's just amazing. Nothing is boring if you look at it carefully.

~Freeman Dyson

We do not know how much of the environmental change is due to human activities and how much [is due] to long-term natural processes over which we have no control.

~Freeman Dyson

Committees do harm merely by existing.

~Freeman Dyson

Boiled down to one sentence, my message is the unboundedness of life and the unboundedness of human destiny.

~Freeman Dyson

Computer models of the climate....[are] a very dubious business if you don't have good inputs.

~Freeman Dyson

The only way to improve the chances for finding winners is to keep all the choices open and try them all.

~Freeman Dyson

The glory of science is to imagine more than we can prove.

~Freeman Dyson

It makes very little sense to believe the output of the climate models.

~Freeman Dyson

The key to having an interesting life is to always say "yes" to anything crazy.

~Freeman Dyson

I am saying that all predictions concerning climate are highly uncertain.

~Freeman Dyson

For me, science is just a bunch of tools - it's like playing the violin.

~Freeman Dyson

Humanity looks to me like a magnificent beginning but not the final word.

~Freeman Dyson

The laws of nature are constructed in such a way as to make the universe as interesting as possible.

~Freeman Dyson

If you start out with a tragic view of life, then anything since is just a bonus.

~Freeman Dyson

I think we're doing pretty well. It's clear the media, of course, always gives you the bad news.

~Freeman Dyson

In religion, you're supposed to be somehow in touch with something deep and full of mysteries.

~Freeman Dyson

I just enjoy calculating, and it's an instrument I know how to play. It's almost an athletic performance, in a way. I was just watching the Olympics, and that's how I feel when proving a theorem.

~Freeman Dyson

We won't really understand the brain until we can make models of it which are analog rather than digital, which nobody seems to be trying very much.

~Freeman Dyson

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