

# Hans Urs von Balthasar

## Quotes

*Christian, Order, Men, Believe, Mean, Beautiful, Son, Children, Faith, Giving,  
Catholic, Father, Two, Saint, Easter, Way, Essence, Unity, Firsts, Jesus*

Even if a unity of faith is not possible, a unity of love is.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Being disguised under the disfigurement of an ugly crucifixion and death, the Christ upon the cross is paradoxically the clearest revelation of who God is.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Lovers are the ones who know most about God; the theologian must listen to them.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

It is to the Cross that the Christian is challenged to follow his Master: no path of redemption can make a detour around it.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

There will never be beings unloved by God, since God is absolute love.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

The Holy Spirit knows what a particular age's most pressing need is far better than men with their programs.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

To be a child means to owe one's existence to another, and even in our adult life we never quite reach the point where we no longer have to give thanks for being the person we are.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

There is much in Christianity which can be subjected to exact analysis. But the ultimate things are shrouded in the silent mysteries of God.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Not longer loved or fostered by religion, beauty is lifted from its face as a mask, and its absence exposes features on that face which threaten

to become incomprehensible to man.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

God defines himself as "I am who I am", which also means: My being is such that I shall always be present in every moment of becoming.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

A truth that is merely handed on, without being thought anew from its very foundations, has lost its vital power.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Only in Christ are all things in communion. He is the point of convergence of all hearts and beings and therefore the bridge and the shortest way from each to each.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

The One, the Good, the True, and the Beautiful, these are what we call the transcendental attributes of Being, because they surpass all the limits of essences and are coextensive with Being.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Thus it is necessary to commence from an inescapable duality: the finite is not the infinite.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Every experience of beauty points to [eternity].

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

The saints are never the kind of killjoy spinster aunts who go in for faultfinding and lack all sense of humor.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Love alone is credible.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Without a doubt, at the center of the New Testament there stands the Cross, which receives its interpretation from the Resurrection.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

What the Father gives is the capacity to be a self, freedom, and thus autonomy, but an autonomy which can be understood only as a surrender of self to the other.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

We no longer dare to believe in beauty and we make of it a mere appearance in order the more easily to dispose of it.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

The inner reality of love can be recognized only by love.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Christian obedience, by its very nature, has a heroic character.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

But the issue is not only life and death but our existence before God and our being judged by him. All of us were sinners before him and worthy of condemnation.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

The Passion narratives are the first pieces of the Gospels that were composed as a unity.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

The first attempt at a response: there must have been a fall, a decline, and the road to salvation can only be the return of the sensible finite into the intelligible infinite.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

If God wishes to reveal the love that he harbors for the world, this love

has to be something that the world can recognize, in spite of, or in fact in, its being wholly other.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

St. Paul would say to the philosophers that God created man so that he would seek the Divine, try to attain the Divine. That is why all pre-Christian philosophy is theological at its summit.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

Her (Mary's) Son first had to be the Child of the Father in order then to become man and be capable of taking up on his shoulders the burden of a guilty world.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

The work with which we embark on this first volume of a series of theological studies is a work with which the philosophical person does not begin, but rather concludes.

~Hans Urs von Balthasar

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