

# Jacques Ellul

## Quotes

*Men, Mean, Technique, Christian, Technology, Civilization, Propaganda,  
Prayer, World, Thinking, People, Use, Biblical, Views, Matter, Doe, Order,  
Reality, Ends, Sports*

Belief is reassuring. People who live in the world of belief feel safe. On the contrary, faith is forever placing us on the razor's edge.

~Jacques Ellul

Modern technology has become a total phenomenon for civilization, the defining force of a new social order in which efficiency is no longer an option but a necessity imposed on all human activity.

~Jacques Ellul

Prayer is not a discourse. It is a form of life, the life with God. That is why it is not confined to the moment of verbal statement.

~Jacques Ellul

The goal of modern propaganda is no longer to transform opinion but to arouse an active and mythical belief

~Jacques Ellul

No matter what God's power may be, the first aspect of God is never that of the absolute Master, the Almighty. It is that of the God who puts himself on our human level and limits himself.

~Jacques Ellul

When God picks out a man and speaks to him, it is to engage him in a work, an action. Nowhere in Scripture do we find indeterminate or purely mystical vocation.

~Jacques Ellul

The fact of knowing how to read is nothing, the whole point is knowing what to read.

~Jacques Ellul

Christians should be troublemakers, creators of uncertainty, agents of a dimension incompatible with society.

~Jacques Ellul

Technique has taken over the whole of civilization. Death, procreation, birth all submit to technical efficiency and systemization.

~Jacques Ellul

The will of the world is always a will to death, a will to suicide. We must not accept this suicide, and we must so act that it cannot take place.

~Jacques Ellul

Education no longer has a humanist end or any value in itself; it has only one goal, to create technicians.

~Jacques Ellul

It is the emergence of mass media which makes possible the use of propaganda techniques on a societal scale.

~Jacques Ellul

Propaganda does not aim to elevate man, but to make him serve.

~Jacques Ellul

Mass media provides the essential link between the individual and the demands of the technological society.

~Jacques Ellul

Fate operates when people give up

~Jacques Ellul

The machine is a tool. But it is not a neutral tool. We are deeply influenced by the machine while using it.

~Jacques Ellul

There is one act par excellence which profanes money by going directly against the law of money, an act for which money is not made. That act is giving.

~Jacques Ellul

Thinking has become a superfluous exercise... purely internal, without compelling force, more or less a game.

~Jacques Ellul

When there is propaganda, we are no longer able to evaluate certain questions, or even to discuss them

~Jacques Ellul

No one knows where we are going, the aim of life has been forgotten, the end has been left behind. Man has set out at tremendous speed- to go nowhere.

~Jacques Ellul

Propaganda begins when dialogue ends.

~Jacques Ellul

Philosophy which asserts that human experience repeats itself is ineffectual.

~Jacques Ellul

The Holy Spirit alone can do this, the Holy Spirit alone can establish this link with one's neighbor.

~Jacques Ellul

Prayer holds together the shattered fragments of creation. It makes history possible.

~Jacques Ellul

There are different forms of anarchy and different currents in it. I must, first say very simply what anarchy I have in view. By anarchy I mean first an absolute rejection of violence.

~Jacques Ellul

We have to admit that there is an immeasurable distance between all

that we read in the Bible and the practice of the Church and of Christians.

~Jacques Ellul

Freedom is completely without meaning unless it is related to necessity, unless it represents victory over necessity.

~Jacques Ellul

Hate, hunger, and pride make better levers of propaganda than do love or impartiality.

~Jacques Ellul

Because of the myth of progress, it is much easier to sell a man an electric razor than a straight-edged one.

~Jacques Ellul

Technical civilization has made a great error in not suppressing death, the only human reality still intact

~Jacques Ellul

The individual who is the servant of technique must be completely unconscious of himself.

~Jacques Ellul

Our civilization is first and foremost a civilization of means; in the reality of modern life, the means, it would seem, are more important than the ends.

~Jacques Ellul

In sum, thought and reflection have been rendered thoroughly pointless by the circumstances in which modern men and women live and act.

~Jacques Ellul

The most favorable moment to seize a man and influence him is when

he is alone in the mass. It is at this point that propaganda can be most effective.

~Jacques Ellul

Science brings to the light of day everything man had believed sacred. Technique takes possession of it and enslaves it.

~Jacques Ellul

No technique is possible when men are free. Technique requires predictability and, no less, exactness of prediction. It is necessary, then, that technique prevail over the human being.

~Jacques Ellul

And an apprenticeship to whatever gadgetry is useful in a technical world

~Jacques Ellul

I describe a world with no exit, convinced that God accompanies man throughout his history.

~Jacques Ellul

God is not an encyclopedia whose task is to satisfy our curiosity.

~Jacques Ellul

Salvation is universal because the love of God encompasses all. If God is God and if God is love, nothing is outside the love of God. A place like hell is thus inconceivable.

~Jacques Ellul

The aim of modern propaganda is no longer to modify ideas, but to provoke action.

~Jacques Ellul

Journalistic content is a technical complex expressly intended to adapt

man to the machine.

~Jacques Ellul

For the word is dialectical in itself and at the same time is integrated into the whole of existence. By this I mean that the word is intended to be lived.

~Jacques Ellul

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