

John Polkinghorne Quotes

*World, Thinking, Years, Reality, Ideas, Science, Doctrine, Strange, Unity, Able,
Transparency, Christ, Mean, Encounters, Class, Knowledge, Remarkable,
Inquiry, Fabric, Epistemology*

It is the faithfulness of God that allows epistemology to model ontology.

~John Polkinghorne

At present, too much theological thinking is very human-centered.

~John Polkinghorne

Evolution, of course, is not something that simply applies to life here on earth; it applies to the whole universe.

~John Polkinghorne

God didn't produce a ready-made world. The Creator has done something cleverer than this, making a world able to make itself.

~John Polkinghorne

I need the binocular approach of science and religion if I am to do any sort of justice to the deep and rich reality of the world in which we live.

~John Polkinghorne

Hope is much more than a mood. It involves a commitment to action.... What we hope for should be what we are prepared to work for...as far as that power lies in us.

~John Polkinghorne

The rational transparency and beauty of the universe are surely too remarkable to be treated as just happy accidents.

~John Polkinghorne

God is not a God of the edges, with a vested interest in beginnings. God is the God of the whole show.

~John Polkinghorne

Mathematics is the abstract key which turns the lock of the physical universe.

~John Polkinghorne

Chance doesn't mean meaningless randomness, but historical contingency. This happens rather than that, and that's the way that novelty, new things, come about.

~John Polkinghorne

Yes, I was a parish priest for five years. I was a curate in a large working class parish in Bristol and the Vicar of a village in Kent.

~John Polkinghorne

If the experience of science teaches anything, it's that the world is very strange and surprising. The many revolutions in science have certainly shown that.

~John Polkinghorne

However, as the Eastern churches have always maintained, through Christ creation is intended eventually to share in the life of God, the life of divine nature.

~John Polkinghorne

I was very much on the mathematical side, where you probably do your best work before you're forty-five. Having passed that significant date, I thought I would do something else.

~John Polkinghorne

Those theologians who are beginning to take the doctrine of creation very seriously should pay some attention to science's story.

~John Polkinghorne

Whitehead reacted strongly against the idea of God as a cosmic tyrant, one who brings about everything.

~John Polkinghorne

I very much enjoyed my career in science. I didn't leave science because I was disillusioned, but felt I'd done my bit for it after about twenty-five years.

~John Polkinghorne

I think it's very important to maintain the classical Christian distinction between the Creator and creation.

~John Polkinghorne

I'm a very passionate believer in the unity of knowledge. There is one world of reality - one world of our experience that we're seeking to describe.

~John Polkinghorne

So Whitehead's metaphysics doesn't fit very well on to physics as we understand the process of the world.

~John Polkinghorne

Well, it's because I gladly acknowledge some ideas that are part of process theology, but which I think are not tied to all the details of process thought, and are very illuminating and helpful.

~John Polkinghorne

Nevertheless, all of us who work in quantum physics believe in the reality of a quantum world, and the reality of quantum entities like protons and electrons.

~John Polkinghorne

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