

John Shelby Spong Quotes

*Thinking, People, Jesus, Christian, Book, Religious, Believe, Church, Religion,
Humanity, Mean, Views, Prayer, Way, Writing, Children, Years, Christianity,
Biblical, Looks*

I do assert that one prepares for eternity not by being religious and keeping the rules, but by living fully, loving wastefully, and daring to be all that each of us has the capacity to be.

~John Shelby Spong

The church is like a swimming pool. Most of the noise comes from the shallow end.

~John Shelby Spong

I think one of the things we've got to look out for is human beings claiming that they know how God operates.

~John Shelby Spong

The view of the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world is a barbarian idea based on primitive concepts of God and must be dismissed.

~John Shelby Spong

I think that anything that begins to give people a sense of their own worth and dignity is God.

~John Shelby Spong

Was Judas Iscariot a figure of history? I do not think so. There is no mention of him in any source before the 8th decade.

~John Shelby Spong

All religion seems to need to prove that it's the only truth. And that's where it turns demonic. Because that's when you get religious wars and persecutions and burning heretics at the stake.

~John Shelby Spong

I don't want a God that would go around killing people's little girls. Neither do I want a God who would kill his own son.

~John Shelby Spong

I prepare for death by living.

~John Shelby Spong

You can't have a world where 50 percent of the people are dieting and 50 percent of the people are starving if you want stability.

~John Shelby Spong

I ... look at Jesus and see a humanity open to all that God is--open to life, open to love and open to being.

~John Shelby Spong

I think we have to recover our spiritual nature. The way we have interpreted Christianity does not do that.

~John Shelby Spong

There's no way a human being can escape his or her human-ness to be able to imagine God. We can talk about how we've experienced God, not what or who God is.

~John Shelby Spong

I learned early in life that you get places by having the right enemies.

~John Shelby Spong

The great danger... in believing yourself especially chosen is that it becomes easy to view those who are not your people as God's especially unchosen.

~John Shelby Spong

The way that I see Christianity is that its role is to enhance the life of every person.

~John Shelby Spong

The virgin birth, understood as literal biology, makes Christ's divinity, as traditionally understood, impossible.

~John Shelby Spong

Paul's words are not the Words of God. They are the words of Paul- a vast difference.

~John Shelby Spong

Hysterical fundamentalism is not the way into the future; it is the last gasp of the past.

~John Shelby Spong

Prayer cannot be a request made to a theistic deity to act in human history in a particular way.

~John Shelby Spong

Mother Nature is not sweet.

~John Shelby Spong

Whatever diminishes life is evil, and whatever enhances life is good.

~John Shelby Spong

My sense is if the Episcopal Church can't stand challenge within its own ranks, then it is not a church I would want to be a member of anyway.

~John Shelby Spong

It appears to be in the nature of religion itself to be prejudiced against those who are different.

~John Shelby Spong

[Charles] Darwin, for example, is the one who made us face the fact that the primary way we tell the Christ story doesn't work anymore.

~John Shelby Spong

The Sins of Scripture is an interesting title; most people don't put sins and scripture together in the same title. It jars people.

~John Shelby Spong

I experience God as the power of life, the power of love and the ground of being. I don't say that's what God is; I say that's my experience of God.

~John Shelby Spong

Terrorism is a real despair. These are people for whom life has been so negative that they're willing to die if they can take down some of their enemies.

~John Shelby Spong

We are in a survival mentality, and that's hard-wired into our humanity, because we are the winners of an evolutionary struggle of millions and millions and millions of years.

~John Shelby Spong

In the private arena, you can do whatever you wish, and people do. These crazy evangelical preachers get on the radio and TV and say incredible things.

~John Shelby Spong

Moral judgment is not life-giving; love that transcends the boundaries of judgment as Jesus' love did, is.

~John Shelby Spong

I can only give away the love that I have received.

~John Shelby Spong

It's not going to be a straight upward progression, but there's no doubt that consciousness is growing. Prejudices die regularly in the Western world. We don't burn witches anymore.

~John Shelby Spong

It's almost inevitable that we become religious people. The question is, what kind of religion is it?

~John Shelby Spong

...death is ultimately a dimension of life through which we journey into timelessness.

~John Shelby Spong

Oh the Christian church has encouraged enormous immaturity among the peoples who are its primary adherence.

~John Shelby Spong

One of my professors said to me once, "Any god that can be killed off will be killed, but if I can shake up your faith in your god, it means you already don't have much of a god."

~John Shelby Spong

Pat Robertson said the feminist movement was just a bunch of lesbians who wanted to leave their husbands and kill their children. I quoted him in my book. It's a fantastic statement.

~John Shelby Spong

Some parts of the Bible are dreadful. In fact, my working title for *The Sins of Scripture* was "The Terrible Text of The Bible."

~John Shelby Spong

Now, if Mary has an egg cell, then Jesus gets 50 percent of his genetic make up from his mother. And if his mother is a child of Adam, she, too, is fallen so Jesus is not perfect.

~John Shelby Spong

I think the story of the Christian faith is how you can become more deeply and fully human, not how you can become religious. And I don't see any indication that being religious makes you more moral.

~John Shelby Spong

I don't think much about my physical body going off into the long, green fairways of heaven to play golf.

~John Shelby Spong

I live on the other side of Copernicus and Galileo; I can no longer conceive of God as sort of above the sky, looking down and keeping record books.

~John Shelby Spong

What kind of god is it that some human brain can shatter the illusions that have been built up around such a deity? God's a mystery. I'll never be able to tell you what God is.

~John Shelby Spong

God is a presence that I can never define but I could never deny.

~John Shelby Spong

I don't make that decision [what next book will be] until I've read enough to know that I've got something different to say and I know how to say it.

~John Shelby Spong

In fact, in 1724 the Western world learned that women were co-creators of life that's when it was discovered that women had an egg cell.

~John Shelby Spong

I see Christianity in very humanistic terms.

~John Shelby Spong

So much organized religion, in my opinion, ends up being life-denying.

~John Shelby Spong

We're either going to be driven to a whole new sense of radical interdependence where we are, in the Bible's words, our neighbor's keeper, or destroy ourselves.

~John Shelby Spong

There are some great values in Christianity, but I think the values are located more deeply in our humanity than they are in our religion. There are certainly some survival values.

~John Shelby Spong

The thing that intrigues me about Matthew is that I don't believe anybody would read it if they aren't Jewish and understand it. And so to say that publicly as a Christian is kind of interesting.

~John Shelby Spong

We have a democracy within the bounds of a constitution which provides certain guarantees related to the basic humanity of every person. I think that's the best way to go.

~John Shelby Spong

If you want to be a Roman Catholic scholar and write, you've got to write in such a way that nobody understands what you're saying, and then you're thought to be profound.

~John Shelby Spong

Benedict XVI kept saying that homosexuals are deviant. They're not deviant. They're deviant only if you say that anyone who is different from me is abnormal.

~John Shelby Spong

It's just not easy enough to say that I pray and God will accomplish.

~John Shelby Spong

Apologetic explanations do not develop unless there is a reality that has

to be explained and defended. Jesus was undeniably a figure of history.

~John Shelby Spong

I believe that God is very real.

~John Shelby Spong

Religion is a mixed blessing.

~John Shelby Spong

I've never known about anyone being helped by being told how wretched, miserable, sinful, and evil they are.

~John Shelby Spong

The Bible interprets life from its particular perspective; it does not record in a factual way the human journey through history.

~John Shelby Spong

The priesthood in many ways is the ultimate closet in Western civilization, where gay people particularly have hidden for the past two thousand years.

~John Shelby Spong

I experience God as the power of love.

~John Shelby Spong

The miracle stories of the New Testament can no longer be interpreted in a post-Newtonian world as supernatural events performed by an incarnate deity.

~John Shelby Spong

Live life to it's fullest, love wastefully, and be all we can be.

~John Shelby Spong

I know Jerry [Falwell] fairly well, and he's probably not bright enough to recognize all of the implications of what he said.

~John Shelby Spong

Some people think prayer stops bullets or rockets or land mines. It doesn't. That's magic, that's not God. Sometimes, you're just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

~John Shelby Spong

Some people think prayer is telling God what to do. I don't think that's the case.

~John Shelby Spong

I'm not writing for fundamentalists. I'm writing for the people who have been repelled by that kind of thinking and yet who think there might be something they haven't yet discovered.

~John Shelby Spong

The way you become divine is to become wholly human

~John Shelby Spong

The biblical texts that we Christians have used for centuries to justify our hostility toward the Jews need to be banished forever from the sacred writings of the Christian church.

~John Shelby Spong

Prayer is not adult letters written to Santa Claus, and God is not some parent-like figure up in the sky who's going to take care of us.

~John Shelby Spong

When I look back at the Christian faith, I see that we have had to retranslate, almost reinvent ourselves a number of times.

~John Shelby Spong

I've never met anybody who was helped by being told how wretched, miserable and sinful they are.

~John Shelby Spong

I still hope. I wouldn't be in this position if I didn't. I love the church. I love the Bible. But I think we're in a time where we're desperately in need of a great reformation.

~John Shelby Spong

There's an awful lot of biblical ignorance, and the church perpetuates that ignorance.

~John Shelby Spong

I grew up in North Carolina being told that the Bible approves slavery and segregation, that it was the will of God.

~John Shelby Spong

I think the worst way to go is to have somebody think they speak for God. If you look at history, every nation that has operated as if it spoke for God has become violently destructive.

~John Shelby Spong

What the mind cannot accept, the heart can finally never adore.

~John Shelby Spong

I want the traditional family upheld, but I don't want it upheld to the detriment of other people.

~John Shelby Spong

I think I could make the case for any kind of organized religion, but I'm not an expert in those, so let me narrow my focus to talk about Christianity.

~John Shelby Spong

Toward the end of his life, [Arnold] Toynby said the Christianity he saw developing was brittle, imperialistic and incapable of reforming itself.

~John Shelby Spong

What happened in the Western world was that Plato ceased to be the way people thought. Aristotle was rediscovered, and the modern, educated world moved toward Aristotelian thinking.

~John Shelby Spong

I go where I'm invited. And all I can tell you is if we accepted every invitation we had, I'd be away every day of my life.

~John Shelby Spong

I am a child of the 21st century.

~John Shelby Spong

The audience that I try to reach are members of what I call the church alumni association. Now they are people who have not found in institutional religion a God big enough to be God for their world.

~John Shelby Spong

Inequality for gay and lesbian people is no longer a debatable issue in either church or state.

~John Shelby Spong

Human wholeness can never be found in the denigration of another

~John Shelby Spong

Related Links:

- Thinking Quotes
- People Quotes
- Jesus Quotes
- Christian Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Religious Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Church Quotes
- Religion Quotes
- Humanity Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Views Quotes
- Prayer Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Christianity Quotes
- Biblical Quotes
- Looks Quotes