

Joseph Butler

Quotes

*Self, Passion, World, Men, Satisfaction, Affection, Happiness, Principles, Mean,
People, Real, Science, Action, Desire, Doe, Firsts, Doubt, Compassion,
Innocence, Usage*

The tongue may be employed about, and made to serve all the purposes of vice, in tempting and deceiving, in perjury and injustice.

~Joseph Butler

Pain and sorrow and misery have a right to our assistance: compassion puts us in mind of the debt, and that we owe it to ourselves as well as to the distressed.

~Joseph Butler

Things and actions are what they are, and the consequences of them will be what they will be: why then should we desire to be deceived?

~Joseph Butler

Compassion is a call, a demand of nature, to relieve the unhappy as hunger is a natural call for food

~Joseph Butler

But to us, probability is the very guide of life.

~Joseph Butler

Happiness or satisfaction consists only in the enjoyment of those objects which are by nature suited to our several particular appetites, passions, and affections.

~Joseph Butler

Every man is to be considered in two capacities, the private and public; as designed to pursue his own interest, and likewise to contribute to the good of others.

~Joseph Butler

Love of our neighbour, then, has just the same respect to, is no more distant from, self-love, than hatred of our neighbour, or than love or hatred of anything else.

~Joseph Butler

As this world was not intended to be a state of any great satisfaction or high enjoyment, so neither was it intended to be a mere scene of unhappiness and sorrow.

~Joseph Butler

Happiness does not consist in self-love.

~Joseph Butler

It is not at all incredible, that a book which has been so long in the possession of mankind should contain many truths as yet undiscovered.

~Joseph Butler

Virtue, as such, naturally procures considerable advantages to the virtuous.

~Joseph Butler

People might love themselves with the most entire and unbounded affection, and yet be extremely miserable.

~Joseph Butler

Every man hath a general desire of his own happiness; and likewise a variety of particular affections, passions, and appetites to particular external objects.

~Joseph Butler

Every thing is what it is, and not another thing.

~Joseph Butler

The first thought is often the best.

~Joseph Butler

Virtue is not to be considered in the light of mere innocence, or abstaining from harm; but as the exertion of our faculties in doing good.

~Joseph Butler

Thus there is no doubt the eye was intended for us to see with.

~Joseph Butler

That which is the foundation of all our hopes and of all our fears; all our hopes and fears which are of any consideration; I mean a Future Life.

~Joseph Butler

The principle we call self-love never seeks anything external for the sake of the thing, but only as a means of happiness or good: particular affections rest in the external things themselves.

~Joseph Butler

There is a much more exact correspondence between the natural and moral world than we are apt to take notice of.

~Joseph Butler

Man may act according to that principle or inclination which for the present happens to be strongest, and yet act in a way disproportionate to, and violate his real proper nature.

~Joseph Butler

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

~Joseph Butler

Remember likewise there are persons who love fewer words, an inoffensive sort of people, and who deserve some regard, though of too still and composed tempers for you.

~Joseph Butler

Self-love then does not constitute THIS or THAT to be our interest or

good; but, our interest or good being constituted by nature and supposed, self-love only puts us upon obtaining and securing it.

~Joseph Butler

The Epistles in the New Testament have all of them a particular reference to the condition and usages of the Christian world at the time they were written.

~Joseph Butler

Thus self-love as one part of human nature, and the several particular principles as the other part, are, themselves, their objects and ends, stated and shown.

~Joseph Butler

Every one of our passions and affections hath its natural stint and bound, which may easily be exceeded; whereas our enjoyments can possibly be but in a determinate measure and degree.

~Joseph Butler

The satisfaction that accompanies good acts is itself not the motivation of the act; satisfaction is not the motive, but only the consequence.

~Joseph Butler

The love of liberty that is not a real principle of dutiful behavior to authority is as hypocritical as the religion that is not productive of a good life.

~Joseph Butler

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