

Karl Barth

Quotes

*Jesus, Men, Christian, Church, Sin, Joy, Gratitude, Angel, Christ, Heaven,
Lying, Thinking, Grace, Theology, Limits, Giving, Passion, Newspapers, Littles,
Needs*

To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.

~Karl Barth

Jesus does not give recipes that show the way to God as other teachers of religion do. He is himself the way.

~Karl Barth

Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible.

~Karl Barth

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so?

~Karl Barth

When we speak of our virtues we are competitors, when we confess our sins we become brothers.

~Karl Barth

I take the Bible far too seriously to take it literally.

~Karl Barth

We must read the Bible through the eyes of shipwrecked people for whom everything has gone overboard.

~Karl Barth

Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Gratitude evokes grace like the voice and echo. Gratitude follows grace as thunder follows lightning.

~Karl Barth

Grace creates liberated laughter. The grace of God...is beautiful, and it radiates joy and awakens humor.

~Karl Barth

Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.

~Karl Barth

When we are at our wits' end for an answer, then the Holy Spirit can give us an answer. But how can He give us an answer when we are still well supplied with all sorts of answers of our own?

~Karl Barth

No one can be saved - in virtue of what he can do. Everyone can be saved - in virtue of what God can do.

~Karl Barth

I don't believe in universalism, but I do believe in Jesus Christ, the reconciler of all

~Karl Barth

I have read many books, but the Bible reads me.

~Karl Barth

Christian worship is the most momentous, most urgent, most glorious action that can take place in human life.

~Karl Barth

Jesus Christ, as he is attested to us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God whom we have to hear, and whom we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

~Karl Barth

Prayer without study would be empty. Study without prayer would be blind.

~Karl Barth

Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God.

~Karl Barth

Faith is never identical with piety even if it were the purest and finest.

~Karl Barth

The theologian who labors without joy is not a theologian at all. Sulky faces, morose thoughts and boring ways of speaking are intolerable in this field.

~Karl Barth

The resurrection of Jesus was like a boulder crashing into the pool of history.

~Karl Barth

One drop of eternity is of greater weight than a vast ocean of finite things.

~Karl Barth

The term 'laity' is one of the worst in the vocabulary of religion and ought to be banished from the Christian conversation.

~Karl Barth

Grace must find expression in life, otherwise it is not grace.

~Karl Barth

Let us hear what the Bible says and what we as Christians are called to hear together: By grace you have been saved.

~Karl Barth

In the Church of Jesus Christ there can and should be no non-theologians.

~Karl Barth

Sin scorches us most after it comes under the scrutinizing light of God's forgiveness and not before

~Karl Barth

The best theology would need no advocates; it would prove itself.

~Karl Barth

Religion is the possibility of the removal of every ground of confidence except confidence in God alone.

~Karl Barth

The person who knows only his side of the argument knows little of that.

~Karl Barth

There will be no song on our lips if there be no anguish in our hearts.

~Karl Barth

When I come before these men I do not have to explain that we are all sinners. They have committed every sin there is. All I have to tell them is that I, too, am a sinner.

~Karl Barth

We must hold the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.

~Karl Barth

To say revelation is to say, 'the Word became flesh...'

~Karl Barth

It may be that when the angels go about their task praising God, they play only Bach. I am sure, however, that when they are together en famille they play Mozart.

~Karl Barth

Man can certainly keep on lying... but he cannot make truth falsehood. He can certainly rebel... but he can accomplish nothing which abolishes the choice of God.

~Karl Barth

He [Jesus Christ] is the Master of all as the Servant of all.

~Karl Barth

The Truth lies not in the Yes and not in the No, but in the knowledge and the beginning from which the Yes and the No arise.

~Karl Barth

It is always the case that when the Christian looks back, he is looking at the forgiveness of sins.

~Karl Barth

Sin is not confined to the evil things we do. It is the evil within us, the evil which we are.

~Karl Barth

Humor is the opposite of all self-admiration and self-praise.

~Karl Barth

In Jesus, God wills to be true God not only in the height but also in the depth - in the depth of human creatureliness, sinfulness and mortality.

~Karl Barth

Belief cannot argue with unbelief, it can only preach to it.

~Karl Barth

To be a Christian and to pray are one and the same thing; it is a matter that cannot be left to our caprice. It is a need, a kind of breathing necessary to life.

~Karl Barth

The gospel is not a truth among other truths. Rather, it sets a question mark against all truths.

~Karl Barth

Grace and gratitude go together like heaven and earth.

~Karl Barth

Our position is such that we can be rescued from eternal death and translated into life only by total and unceasing substitution, the substitution which God Himself undertakes on our behalf.

~Karl Barth

God listens to Bach while the angels listen to Mozart.

~Karl Barth

The theologian who labours without joy is not a theologian at all.

~Karl Barth

Exegesis, exegesis, and yet more exegesis!

~Karl Barth

Impossibility is more possible than everything which we hold to be possible.

~Karl Barth

A being is free only when it can determine and limit its activity.

~Karl Barth

Faith in God's revelation has nothing to do with an ideology which glorifies the status quo.

~Karl Barth

Jews have God's promise and if we Christians have it, too, then it is only as those chosen with them, as guests in their house, that we are new wood grafted onto their tree.

~Karl Barth

With an ear open to your musical dialectic, one can be young and

become old, can work and rest, be content and sad: in short, one can live.

~Karl Barth

The Devil may also make use of morality.

~Karl Barth

Men have never been good, they are not good and they never will be good.

~Karl Barth

Conscience is the perfect interpreter of life.

~Karl Barth

Humanity in its basic form is co-humanity.

~Karl Barth

The relation of this God with this man; the relation of this man with this God--this is the only theme of the Bible and of philosophy.

~Karl Barth

Radically and basically, all sin is simply ingratitude.

~Karl Barth

What is offered to man's apprehension in any specific revelation of Christ is the living God himself.

~Karl Barth

True theology is an actual determination and claiming of man by the acting God.

~Karl Barth

We act unbelievably and disobediently when, for whatever motive, we distort, falsify, or suppress the facts about our life in nature and history.

~Karl Barth

What God chooses for us children of men is always the best.

~Karl Barth

Man can certainly keep on lying (and does so), but he cannot make truth falsehood.

~Karl Barth

Mozart creates music from a mysterious center, and so knows the limits to the right and the left, above and below. He maintains moderation.

~Karl Barth

Where dogmatics exists at all, it exists only with the will to be a Church dogmatics, a dogmatics of the ecumenical Church.

~Karl Barth

I haven't even read everything I wrote.

~Karl Barth

No act of man can claim to be more than an attempt, not even science.

~Karl Barth

Scientific dogmatics must devote itself to the criticism and correction of Church proclamation and not just to a repetitive exposition of it.

~Karl Barth

Mozart's music is an invitation to the listener to venture just a little out of the sense of his own subjectivity.

~Karl Barth

'joy' in Phillipians is a defiant 'Nevertheless!' that Paul sets like a full stop against the Philippians' anxiety.

~Karl Barth

For the millions that suffer unjustly, the Confessing Church does not yet have a heart.

~Karl Barth

In dogmatics our question is: What are we to think and say?

~Karl Barth

Abortion is 'the great modern sin.

~Karl Barth

Dogmatics is the testing of Church doctrine and proclamation.

~Karl Barth

Whether the angels play only Bach praising God, I am not quite sure.

~Karl Barth

If I have a system it is limited to a recognition of what Kierkegaard called 'the infinite qualitative distinction' between time and eternity

~Karl Barth

Mozart's music always sounds unburdened, effortless, and light. This is why it unburdens, releases, and liberates us.

~Karl Barth

There is no philosophy that is not to some extent also theology.

~Karl Barth

When the frontier between God and man, the last inexorable barrier and obstacle, is not closed, the barrier between what is normal and what is perverse is opened.

~Karl Barth

Exactly halfway between exegesis and practical theology stands dogmatics.

~Karl Barth

The Christian Church does not exist in Heaven, but on earth and in time.

~Karl Barth

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