

# Mary Douglas

## Quotes

*Doe, Organization, Years, Equality, Body, Religious, Hierarchy, People, Strong,  
Done, Ideas, Reality, Terrorism, Rewards, Islam, Destructive, Community,  
Mobility, Present Day, Black And White*

If you want to change the culture, you will have to start by changing the organization.

~Mary Douglas

The history of the Church of Rome is a constant leakage of members into such breakaway cults, which go on splitting.

~Mary Douglas

Enclave life becomes very tense, Even when they do elect a leader, the factions remain, with the threat of splitting off.

~Mary Douglas

Our technological infrastructure alienates us from each other. No need to form a workplace community, everybody there will be out in a year or two, and so will you, looking for a better place.

~Mary Douglas

Where there is dirt there is system. Dirt is the byproduct of a systematic ordering and classification of matter.

~Mary Douglas

Hierarchy works well in a stable environment.

~Mary Douglas

It seems true that the growth of science and secularism made organized Christianity feel under threat.

~Mary Douglas

Inequality can have a bad downside, but equality, for its part, sure does get in the way of coordination.

~Mary Douglas

The human body is always treated as an image of society.

~Mary Douglas

Institutions have the pathetic megalomania of the computer whose whole vision of the world is its own program.

~Mary Douglas

Hierarchy is is much reviled in the present day.

~Mary Douglas

Yes, disappointment over perceived unfairness, injustice, promises not kept, tends to go hand in hand with increasing prosperity. Expectations are dashed. What can I say!

~Mary Douglas

If people want to compete for leadership of a religious group, they can compete in piety. A chilling thought. Or funny.

~Mary Douglas

Pretensions to moral superiority are devastatingly destructive.

~Mary Douglas

The theory of cultural bias... is the idea that a culture is based on a particular form of organization. It can't be transplanted except to another variant of that organization.

~Mary Douglas

Behind a leader there must be followers, but they should always be on the lookout for the main chance and ready to change sides if the current leader doesn't deliver.

~Mary Douglas

I am convinced that living in an enclave shapes the personality, and living alone shapes the personality too.

~Mary Douglas

I am sure it must be true that people opt out of the mainstream society

because they feel that there are going to be no rewards for them, if they stay.

~Mary Douglas

I have increasingly, over the years, felt that religion today does our civilization more harm than good.

~Mary Douglas

Since 1970, relationships can be more volatile, jobs more ephemeral, geographical mobility more intensified, stability of marriage weaker.

~Mary Douglas

It is only partly true that religion does more harm than good in society. The community makes God into the image it wants, vengeful, or milky sweet, or scrupulously just, and so on.

~Mary Douglas

It is very reasonable to worry about the harm done by organized religion, and to prefer looser and more private arrangements.

~Mary Douglas

Some scholars have been arguing that a civilizational clash between organized religions is the next step in human history.

~Mary Douglas

Any great organization can go through sectarian phases.

~Mary Douglas

Islam is in principle egalitarian, and has always had problems with power.

~Mary Douglas

It's unlikely that the organized religions will get more sectarian... or is it? I am not at all sure.

~Mary Douglas

When we are reflecting on terrorism we can grieve for many things we do and have done.

~Mary Douglas

Just in our lifetime our society has become looser and more private, it becomes extremely difficult to hold to any permanent commitment whatever, least of all to organized religion.

~Mary Douglas

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