

Parker J. Palmer

Quotes

*Teacher, People, Teaching, Self, Heart, Integrity, Mean, Community, Thinking,
World, Real, Reality, Journey, Giving, Needs, Trying, Church, Kids, Decision,
Education*

Wholeness does not mean perfection: it means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life.

~Parker J. Palmer

Community is a place where the connections felt in our hearts make themselves known in the bonds between people, and where the tuggings and pullings of those bonds keep opening our hearts.

~Parker J. Palmer

I now know myself to be a person of weakness and strength, liability and giftedness, darkness and light. I now know that to be whole means to reject none of it but to embrace all of it.

~Parker J. Palmer

One of the hardest things we must do sometimes is to be present to another person's pain without trying to "fix" it, to simply stand respectfully at the edge of that person's mystery and misery.

~Parker J. Palmer

We are here not only to transform the world but also to be transformed.

~Parker J. Palmer

Self-care is never a selfish act - it is only good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer others.

~Parker J. Palmer

Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you.

~Parker J. Palmer

Community doesn't just create abundance - community is abundance. If we could learn that equation from the world of nature, the human world might be transformed.

~Parker J. Palmer

At its deepest level, I think teaching is about bringing people into communion with each other, with yourself as the teacher, and with the subject you are teaching.

~Parker J. Palmer

Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am.

~Parker J. Palmer

Violence is what happens when we don't know what else to do with our suffering.

~Parker J. Palmer

We think it's about little techniques and tricks, but techniques only take you so far. We need teachers who care about kids, who care about what they teach, and who can communicate with kids.

~Parker J. Palmer

I will always have fears, but I need not be my fears, for I have other places within myself from which to speak and act.

~Parker J. Palmer

Each time a door closes, the rest of the world opens up.

~Parker J. Palmer

A scholar is committed to building on knowledge that others have gathered, correcting it, confirming it, enlarging it.

~Parker J. Palmer

The spiritual life is about becoming more at home in your own skin.

~Parker J. Palmer

The ancient human question 'Who am I?' leads inevitably to the equally important question 'Whose am I?' - for there is no self outside of

relationship.

~Parker J. Palmer

A leader is a person who must take special responsibility for what's going on inside of himself or herself ... lest the act of leadership create more harm than good.

~Parker J. Palmer

When someone says 'I'm so disillusioned', I say 'Congratulations! You've lost another illusion.'

~Parker J. Palmer

In every story I have heard, good teachers share one trait: a strong sense of personal identity infuses their work.

~Parker J. Palmer

I like to say that before we can create an external space in which to receive people, we have to create an internal space in which to receive them.

~Parker J. Palmer

What do I want to let go of and what do I want to give myself to?

~Parker J. Palmer

Humility is the only lens through which great things can be seen--and once we have seen them, humility is the only posture possible.

~Parker J. Palmer

It's more important to be in right relationship than it is to be right.

~Parker J. Palmer

I want my inner truth to be the plumb line for the choices I make about my life - about the work that I do and how I do it, about the relationships I enter into and how I conduct them.

~Parker J. Palmer

We need a coat with two pockets. In one pocket there is dust, and in the other pocket there is gold. We need a coat with two pockets to remind us who we are.

~Parker J. Palmer

... the stranger is not a threat but an opportunity to grow in my view of reality, to grow in my own sense of possibility

~Parker J. Palmer

Mentoring is a mutuality that requires more than meeting the right teacher: the teacher must meet the right student.

~Parker J. Palmer

Don't let anyone or anything rob you of the beauty and meaning at the heart of life. It's your birthright gift.

~Parker J. Palmer

How easily we get trapped in that which is not essential - in looking good, winning at competition, gathering power and wealth - when simply being alive is the gift beyond measure.

~Parker J. Palmer

For me, teaching is about weaving a web of connectedness between myself, my students, the subject I'm teaching, and the larger world.

~Parker J. Palmer

The highest form of love is the love that allows for intimacy without the annihilation of difference.

~Parker J. Palmer

As I teach, I project the condition of my soul onto my students, my subject, and our way of being together.

~Parker J. Palmer

Is the life I'm living the life that wants to live in me?

~Parker J. Palmer

Connection and connectedness are other words for community and communion.

~Parker J. Palmer

Good teachers join self and subject and students in the fabric of life.

~Parker J. Palmer

The winters will drive you crazy until you learn to get out into them.

~Parker J. Palmer

I am not sure that any sight or sound on earth is as exquisite as the hushed descent of a sky full of snow.

~Parker J. Palmer

Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.

~Parker J. Palmer

By choosing integrity, I become more whole, but wholeness does not mean perfection. It means becoming more real by acknowledging the whole of who I am.

~Parker J. Palmer

The inner life of any great thing will be incomprehensible to me until I develop and deepen an inner life of my own.

~Parker J. Palmer

The power for authentic leadership is found not in external arrangements, but in the human heart.

~Parker J. Palmer

Why does a literary scholar study the world of "fiction"? To show us that the facts can never be understood except in communion with the imagination.

~Parker J. Palmer

I think the church needs to be much more countercultural than that and invite people into slowing down, into a "Be-still-and-know-that-I-am-God" mindset.

~Parker J. Palmer

Teaching like any truly human activity emerges from one's inwardness.

~Parker J. Palmer

Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess.

~Parker J. Palmer

Authority is granted to people who are perceived as authoring their own words, their own actions, their own lives, rather than playing a scripted role at great remove from their own hearts.

~Parker J. Palmer

Science requires an engagement with the world, a live encounter between the knower and the known.

~Parker J. Palmer

We listen for guidance everywhere except from within.

~Parker J. Palmer

Whoever our students may be, whatever the subject we teach, ultimately we teach who we are.

~Parker J. Palmer

We are participants in a vast communion of being, and if we open ourselves to its guidance, we can learn anew how to live in this great and gracious community of truth.

~Parker J. Palmer

The past isn't fixed and frozen in place. Instead, its meaning changes as life unfolds.

~Parker J. Palmer

I think the pursuit of happiness is the pursuit of reality because illusion never leaves us ultimately happy.

~Parker J. Palmer

My favorite topping is one that a lot of people don't like. I love anchovies.

~Parker J. Palmer

You are much more likely to have a holy experience in a quiet, focused, and communal context than you are when you are being entertained.

~Parker J. Palmer

Truth-telling by a leader can legitimate truth-telling at every level.

~Parker J. Palmer

I don't do a lot of top-down teaching.

~Parker J. Palmer

Every young person needs some adult who's just wild and crazy about them!

~Parker J. Palmer

Good teaching comes from good people.

~Parker J. Palmer

The teachers who have had the most impact on me and on most learners I know are teachers whose "selfhoods" have been deeply invested in what they are doing.

~Parker J. Palmer

God ain't finished with any of us yet.

~Parker J. Palmer

I have to say that I have been blessed with significant teachers at every stage of my life.

~Parker J. Palmer

Relational trust is built on movements of the human heart such as empathy, commitment, compassion, patience, and the capacity to forgive.

~Parker J. Palmer

You don't become a good teacher by applying techniques; you don't become a good teacher by using the latest hot methodologies that are being promoted in this or that handbook.

~Parker J. Palmer

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