

Paul Bloom

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Empathy, Compassion, Kindness, Mean, Writing, Interesting,
Moral, Jobs, Animal, War, Differences, Media, Teaching, Shoes, Men, Children,
Charity, Judgment*

Families survive the terrible twos because toddlers aren't strong enough to kill with their hands and aren't capable of using lethal weapons.

~Paul Bloom

Philosophers have often looked for the defining feature of humans â€” language, rationality, culture, and so on. I'd stick with this: Man is the only animal that likes Tabasco sauce.

~Paul Bloom

Our best hope for the future [...] lies in an appreciation of the fact that, even if we don't empathize with distant strangers, their lives have the same value as the lives of those we love.

~Paul Bloom

A religion such as Judaism or Catholicism might survive even if it comes to reject a literal account of God creating man and animals. But it cannot survive the rejection of an immaterial soul.

~Paul Bloom

I argue that we should be kind, we should be compassionate, and we should definitely be reasonable and rational, but that empathy leads us astray.

~Paul Bloom

The fact that something can be used for good isn't necessarily a knockdown argument for it.

~Paul Bloom

Empathy zooms you in on an individual and, as a result, it's narrow, it's innumerate, it's racist, it's very biased.

~Paul Bloom

I love teaching. I wouldn't take a job that didn't include it.

~Paul Bloom

The effects of Twitter and Facebook and all those things on people's psychologies is a really interesting question to which nobody knows the answer.

~Paul Bloom

Even the charities I give to are related to things that touch my life, like the Special Olympics. I'm not fully rational; I'm swayed by my biases and my emotions.

~Paul Bloom

Stories turn anonymous strangers into people who matter.

~Paul Bloom

What I mean by "empathy" is putting yourself in other people's shoes, feeling what they feel.

~Paul Bloom

I think empathy is really important for pleasure.

~Paul Bloom

I think Americans are always going to care more about Americans than about Mexicans.

~Paul Bloom

Traditionally, psychology has been the study of two populations: university freshmen and white rats.

~Paul Bloom

If you like somebody, they look better to you. This is why spouses in happy marriages tend to think that their husband or wife looks much better than anyone else thinks that they do.

~Paul Bloom

Because of empathy, stories of the suffering of one person could lead us into a war that could kill millions of people.

~Paul Bloom

It's hard to pull apart empathy from compassion. What is really clear is that we innately care for other people at least to some extent.

~Paul Bloom

In my own life, I do not live like an effective altruist. An effective altruist would really disapprove of my life. I don't give enough to charity and I still have both my kidneys.

~Paul Bloom

I think empathy can serve as a moral spark, motivating us to do good things. But anything can be a moral spark.

~Paul Bloom

Some people think that without that spark of empathy we would do nothing, but that's just flat-out wrong. You could feel compassion for somebody without the spark of empathy.

~Paul Bloom

And empathy is narrow; it connects us to particular individuals, real or imagined, but is insensitive to numerical differences and statistical data.

~Paul Bloom

It would be nice if everybody who had something interesting to say about my work could say it politely and civilly, but it doesn't work that way... Sometimes people are just really nasty.

~Paul Bloom

Individuals differ in how empathic they are. Some people would really flinch if they watched me hitting my hand with a hammer, and other

people would just not care.

~Paul Bloom

I have two teenage sons, and they're both surviving, thriving, and having a great time, and they're always on social media.

~Paul Bloom

My younger son told me nobody uses email anymore. I'm this old fogie with my email. I don't know what I'm supposed to communicate with now - SnapChat?

~Paul Bloom

I'm not a pacifist. I think the suffering of innocent people can be a catalyst for moral action. But empathy puts too much weight on the scale in favor of war. Empathy can really lead to violence.

~Paul Bloom

I am never going to write about dogs again. You can write about Islam, you can write about sexuality, but no, not dogs.

~Paul Bloom

When people want to inspire you to turn against some group of people, they'll often use empathy.

~Paul Bloom

Because of empathy, we care more for, and devote far more resources to, someone who is familiar, from our country or our group, than a stranger.

~Paul Bloom

Every president, Democratic or Republican, simply works on the supposition that it's better to keep jobs in America than let them go to Mexico.

~Paul Bloom

By "empathy," some people mean everything that is good - compassion, kindness, warmth, love, being a mensch, changing the world - and I'm for all of those things. I'm not a monster.

~Paul Bloom

I'm very interested in why we do good things, or bad things, and where moral judgments come from.

~Paul Bloom

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