

# Sidney Poitier

## Quotes

*Father, Men, Mother, Dad, People, Racism, Children, Thinking, Wanted, Race, Black, Florida, Way, Journey, Two, Use, Nature, Reflection, Jackie, Years*

Living consciously involves being genuine; it involves listening and responding to others honestly and openly; it involves being in the moment.

~Sidney Poitier

You don't have to become something you're not to be better than you were.

~Sidney Poitier

To simply wake up every morning a better person than when I went to bed.

~Sidney Poitier

I never had an occasion to question color, therefore, I only saw myself as what I was... a human being.

~Sidney Poitier

I was the only Black person on the set. It was unusual for me to be in a circumstance in which every move I made was tantamount to representation of 18 million people.

~Sidney Poitier

A person doesn't have to change who he is to become better.

~Sidney Poitier

I do know that I'm responsible not for what happens, but for what I make of it.

~Sidney Poitier

I am the me I choose to be.

~Sidney Poitier

You don't have to become something that you aren't to become better than you are.

~Sidney Poitier

I set my star so high that I would constantly be in motion toward it.

~Sidney Poitier

I always wanted to be someone better the next day than I was the day before.

~Sidney Poitier

I think the way I want to think. I live the way I want to live.

~Sidney Poitier

So much of life, it seems to me, is determined by pure randomness.

~Sidney Poitier

We're all imperfect, and life is simply a perpetual, unending struggle against those imperfections.

~Sidney Poitier

I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life.

~Sidney Poitier

When you walk with someone, something unspoken happens. Either you match their pace or they match yours.

~Sidney Poitier

A good deed here, a good deed there, a good thought here, a good comment there, all added up to my career in one way or another.

~Sidney Poitier

I was born two months early, and everyone had given up on me. But my mother insisted on my life.

~Sidney Poitier

I have always been a learner because I knew nothing.

~Sidney Poitier

If I'm remembered for having done a few good things and if my presence here has sparked some good energies, that's plenty.

~Sidney Poitier

There is not racial or ethnic domination of hopelessness. It's everywhere.

~Sidney Poitier

True 'joy' is the difference between just amusing ourselves to death and creating 'meaningful' pleasure.

~Sidney Poitier

But my dad also was a remarkable man, a good person, a principled individual, a man of integrity.

~Sidney Poitier

So it's been kind of a long road, but it was a good journey altogether.

~Sidney Poitier

I had chosen to use my work as a reflection of my values.

~Sidney Poitier

Forgiveness works two ways, in most instances. People have to forgive themselves too. The powerful have to forgive themselves for their behavior. That should be a sacred process.

~Sidney Poitier

I couldn't adjust to the racism in Florida. It was so blatant... I had never been so described as Florida described me.

~Sidney Poitier

I'd seen my father. He was a poor man, and I watched him do astonishing things.

~Sidney Poitier

If the image one holds of one's self contains elements that don't square with reality, one is best advised to let go of them, however difficult that may be.

~Sidney Poitier

We all suffer from the preoccupation that there exists... in the loved one, perfection.

~Sidney Poitier

Acting isn't a game of "pretend." It's an exercise in being real.

~Sidney Poitier

Every new fashion is a form of rebellion.

~Sidney Poitier

My mother was the most amazing person. She taught me to be kind to other women. She believed in family. She was with my father from the first day they met. All that I am, she taught me.

~Sidney Poitier

If you apply reason and logic to this career of mine, you're not going to get very far. You simply won't.

~Sidney Poitier

But I always had the ability to say no. That's how I called my own shots.

~Sidney Poitier

I wouldn't change a single thing, because one change alters every moment that follows it.

~Sidney Poitier

To be compared to Jackie Robinson is an enormous compliment, but I don't think it's necessarily deserved.

~Sidney Poitier

As I've mentioned, a large part of my father's legacy is the lesson he taught his sons. He brought us together and said, 'The measure of a man is how well he provides for his children.'

~Sidney Poitier

My autobiography was simply the story of my life.

~Sidney Poitier

The older we get the less afraid we are.

~Sidney Poitier

I find myself, at this time in my life, no less challenged, no less plagued, no less intrigued by what I still don't know.

~Sidney Poitier

I was a gift to my mother. She was a remarkable person. God or nature, or whatever those forces are, smiled on her, then passed me the best of her.

~Sidney Poitier

My father was a poor man, very poor in a British colonial possession where class and race were very important.

~Sidney Poitier

I would like to grow less afraid of dying. I am infinitely less afraid today than I was 15 or 25 years ago. I was most afraid of dying when I was 33, because I come from a Catholic family.

~Sidney Poitier

I cannot be understood in three minutes.

~Sidney Poitier

In my case, the body of work stands for itself... I think my work has been representative of me as a man.

~Sidney Poitier

I'll always be chasing you... Glory.

~Sidney Poitier

Marriage is no way of life for the weak, the selfish, or the insecure.

~Sidney Poitier

I've learned that I must find positive outlets for anger or it will destroy me.

~Sidney Poitier

I had learned something of Miami from people who had visited there, so I knew what to expect.

~Sidney Poitier

Jackie Robinson is a true legend.

~Sidney Poitier

I was not the kind of a principal player that was so in demand that eight or 10 or 12 scripts came per month.

~Sidney Poitier

Mine was an easy ride compared to Jackie Robinson's.

~Sidney Poitier

My father was a tomato farmer. There is the phrase that says he or she worked their fingers to the bone, well, that's my dad. And he was a very good man.

~Sidney Poitier

History passes the final judgment

~Sidney Poitier

As a man, I've been representative of the values I hold dear. And the values I hold dear are carryovers from the lives of my parents.

~Sidney Poitier

I defend myself by improving myself.

~Sidney Poitier

My father was the quintessential husband and dad.

~Sidney Poitier

Generally, I tend to despise human behavior rather than human creatures.

~Sidney Poitier

Racism is very painful. That's life. It never ends.

~Sidney Poitier

I am not a hugely religious person, but I believe that there is a oneness with everything. And because there is this oneness, it is possible that my mother is the principal reason for my life.

~Sidney Poitier

Far as I can tell, I still have most of my hair, my gut is not hanging over my belt, and I still have all of my teeth.

~Sidney Poitier

When I set out to become an actor, I had set myself a standard.

~Sidney Poitier



So I'm OK with myself, with history, my work, who I am and who I was.

~Sidney Poitier

I had two roles for which I compromised.

~Sidney Poitier

I knew what it was to be uncomfortable in a movie theater watching unfolding on the screen images of myself - not me, but black people - that were uncomfortable.

~Sidney Poitier

I don't very often read novels.

~Sidney Poitier

I come from a great family. I've seen family life and I know how wonderful, how nurturing, and how wonderful it can be.

~Sidney Poitier

If you are anxious about death, then you don't have a sense of the oneness of things - you feel that after death, you will be no more.

~Sidney Poitier

I did not go into the film business to be symbolized as someone else's vision of me.

~Sidney Poitier

I couldn't adjust to the racism in Florida.

~Sidney Poitier

I sometimes like the pictures photographers take of me.

~Sidney Poitier

An appreciable number of directors have shifted to lower-cost films, allowing them to be satisfied with a more modest return.

~Sidney Poitier

The journey has been incredible from its beginning.

~Sidney Poitier

I wanted to explore the values that are at work, underpinning my life.

~Sidney Poitier

My father was very big on marriage.

~Sidney Poitier

In America, it is difficult to be your own man.

~Sidney Poitier

I have a kind of respect - a worshipful attitude, even - for nature and the natural order and the cosmos and the seasons.

~Sidney Poitier

Accept that environment compromises values far more than values do their number on environment.

~Sidney Poitier

Since I couldn't actuate the things that I wanted to do, the only weapon I had was to say no.

~Sidney Poitier

The impact of the black audience is expressing itself. They look to films to be more expressive of their needs, their lives. Hollywood has gotten that message - finally.

~Sidney Poitier

I'm going to quit writing.

~Sidney Poitier

I learned to hear silence. That's the kind of life I lived: simple. I learned to see things in people around me, in my mom, dad, brothers and sisters.

~Sidney Poitier

I had to satisfy the action fans, the romantic fans, the intellectual fans. It was a terrific burden.

~Sidney Poitier

If you apologize because you are afraid, then you are a child not a man.

~Sidney Poitier

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