

William Sloane Coffin

Quotes

*Love, Christian, Men, Justice, Compassion, Violence, Country, World, Heart,
Needs, Exercise, Leap Of Faith, Life, Biblical, Risk, Stature, Values, Passion,
Spiritual, Good Life*

The world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.

~William Sloane Coffin

In our time all it takes for evil to flourish is for a few good men to be a little wrong and have a great deal of power, and for the vast majority of their fellow citizens to remain indifferent.

~William Sloane Coffin

Diversity may be the hardest thing for a society to live with, and perhaps the most dangerous thing for a society to be without.

~William Sloane Coffin

I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, and then you grow wings.

~William Sloane Coffin

The cause of violence is not ignorance. It is self-interest. Only reverence can restrain violence - reverence for human life and the environment.

~William Sloane Coffin

Love measures our stature: the more we love, the bigger we are. There is no smaller package in all the world than that of a man all wrapped up in himself.

~William Sloane Coffin

There is nothing anti-intellectual in the leap of faith, for faith is not believing without proof but trusting without reservation.

~William Sloane Coffin

To show compassion for an individual without showing concern for the structures of society that make him an object of compassion is to be sentimental rather than loving.

~William Sloane Coffin

The world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. We can never really love anybody with whom we never laugh. Love is in the giver, not the gift.

~William Sloane Coffin

Hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible.

~William Sloane Coffin

It is one thing to say with the prophet Amos, "Let justice roll down like mighty waters," and quite another to work out the irrigation system.

~William Sloane Coffin

The temptation to moralize is strong; it is emotionally satisfying to have enemies rather than problems, to seek out culprits rather than the flaws in the system.

~William Sloane Coffin

Human beings who blind themselves to human need make themselves less human.

~William Sloane Coffin

Socrates had it wrong; it is not the unexamined but finally the uncommitted life that is not worth living.

~William Sloane Coffin

Christ came to take away our sins, not our minds.

~William Sloane Coffin

A spiritual person tries less to be godly than to be deeply human.

~William Sloane Coffin

We are not loved because we are valued; we are valued because we

are loved.

~William Sloane Coffin

It is a mistake to look to the Bible to close a discussion; the Bible seeks to open one.

~William Sloane Coffin

For Christians, the problem is not how to reconcile homosexuality with scriptural passages that condemn it, but how to reconcile the rejection and punishment of homosexuals with the love of Christ.

~William Sloane Coffin

We must be governed by the force of law, not by the law of force.

~William Sloane Coffin

To be avoided at all costs is the solace of opinion without the pain of thought.

~William Sloane Coffin

Human unity is not something we are called on to create â€” only something we are called on to recognize.

~William Sloane Coffin

If your heart is full of fear, you won't seek truth; you'll seek security. If a heart is full of love, it will have a limbering effect on the mind.

~William Sloane Coffin

It is not because we have value that we are loved, but because we are loved that we have value. Our value is a gift, not an achievement.

~William Sloane Coffin

People who fear disorder more than injustice will only produce more of both.

~William Sloane Coffin

All of life is the exercise of risk.

~William Sloane Coffin

When a man is drowning, it may be better for him to try to swim than to thrash around waiting for divine intervention.

~William Sloane Coffin

We put our best foot forward, but it's the other one that needs the attention.

~William Sloane Coffin

It's so much easier to beat your breast than to stick your neck out.

~William Sloane Coffin

In life you can either follow your fears or be led by your values, by your passions.

~William Sloane Coffin

Love measures our stature: the more we love, the bigger we are.

~William Sloane Coffin

We have sold our birthright of freedom and justice for a mess of national security.

~William Sloane Coffin

Every nation makes decisions based on self-interest and defends them on the basis of morality.

~William Sloane Coffin

I asked an 85 year old professor, 'What makes you cry?' He said, 'Whenever I see or hear the truth.'

~William Sloane Coffin

Only reverence can restrain violence - reverence for human life and the

environment.

~William Sloane Coffin

Faith handles the ultimate incongruities of life, humor handles the more immediate ones.

~William Sloane Coffin

Compassion and justice are companions, not choices.

~William Sloane Coffin

We call on all members of America's religious communities, as a testament of our common faith, to join Faithful Security, and to take action immediately to break faith with nuclear weapons.

~William Sloane Coffin

It's too bad that one has to conceive of sports as being the only arena where risks are, [for] all of life is risk exercise. That's the only way to live more freely, and more interestingly.

~William Sloane Coffin

For finally, we are as we love. It is love that measures our stature.

~William Sloane Coffin

Without love, violence will change the world; it will change it into a more violent one.

~William Sloane Coffin

Nuclear Weapons merit unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation

~William Sloane Coffin

The woman most in need of liberation is the woman in every man and the man in every woman.

~William Sloane Coffin

I'm not OK, you're not OK-and that's OK.

~William Sloane Coffin

It is often said that the Church is a crutch. Of course it's a crutch. What makes you think you don't limp?

~William Sloane Coffin

I'm delighted that the future is unsure. That's the way it should be.

~William Sloane Coffin

Isn't that what growing up is all about - learning to outlast despair?

~William Sloane Coffin

What is faith? Faith is being grasped by the power of love.

~William Sloane Coffin

Charity is only a waystation on the road to justice.

~William Sloane Coffin

Truth is always in danger of being sacrificed on the altars of good taste and social stability.

~William Sloane Coffin

Love is in the giver, not the gift.

~William Sloane Coffin

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