

Martin Luther Quotes

THE GOSPEL

“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. Romans 3:28” — Martin Luther, *Faith Alone: A Daily Devotional*

“If God were willing to sell His grace, we would accept it more quickly and gladly than when He offers it for nothing.” — Martin Luther

“What man, if he were God, would humble himself to lie in the feedbox of a donkey or to hang upon a cross?” — Martin Luther

“He [Christ] died for me. He made His righteousness mine and made my sin His own; and if He made my sin His own, then I do not have it, and I am free.” — Martin Luther

“The heart overflows with gladness, and leaps and dances for the joy it has found in God. In this experience the Holy Spirit is active, and has taught us in the flash of a moment the deep secret of joy. You will have as much joy and laughter in life as you have faith in God.” — Martin Luther

“The world bears the Gospel a grudge because the Gospel condemns the religious wisdom of the world.” — Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*

CONVICTION

“I cannot choose but adhere to the word of God, which has possession of my conscience; nor can I possibly, nor will I even make any recantation, since it is neither safe nor honest to act contrary to conscience! Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise, so help me God! Amen.” — Martin Luther

MY NEIGHBOR

“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” — Martin Luther

“A true Christian lives and labors on earth not for himself but for his neighbor. Therefore the whole spirit of his life him impels him to do even that which he needs not do, but which is profitable and necessary for his neighbor.” — Martin Luther

“My neighbor is every person, especially those who need my help, as Christ explained in the tenth chapter of Luke. Even if a person has done me some wrong, or has hurt me in any way, he is still a human being with flesh and blood. As long as a person remains a human being, so long is he to be an object of our love.” — Martin Luther, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians*

“Although the Christian is thus free from all works, he ought in this liberty to empty himself, take upon himself the form of a servant, be made in the likeness of men, be found in human form, and to serve, help and in every way deal with his neighbor as he sees that God through Christ has dealt and still deals with him.” — Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty*

MARRIAGE

“One learns more of Christ in being married and rearing children than in several lifetimes spent in study in a monastery.” — Martin Luther

Martin Luther's marriage to Katherine von Borra is fascinating. After Katherine and her fellow nuns became convinced by Luther's writings, they were able to secretly contact him, requesting his help to escape. Early on Easter morning of 1523, Luther set in motion an ingenious plan to help Katherine and 11 other nuns escape from the convent. Luther sought to help all of the nuns return to their families or find a husband. He was able to aid every nun except for Katherine. Her family did not want her back, and she was too feisty for any of Luther's friends to marry. So, Luther married her himself. He wrote, "If I can manage it, before I die I will still marry my Katie to spite the devil." Luther didn't believe in long engagements. In fact, he had one of the shortest engagements in history — he proposed to Katherine and they were married that very same day (June 13, 1523). Their marriage not only shocked their friends, but eventually led to the transformation of church and culture. One scholar writes, "Little did the sixteenth-century world realize the tremendous significance — both religious and social — of this simple and reverent ceremony in the backwoods of rural Germany.... Luther's marriage remains to this day the central evangelical symbol of the Reformation's liberation and transformation of the Christian daily life." Martin and Katie didn't marry each other because they were infatuated with each other; instead they grew to love each other because they were married. Martin and Katie viewed marriage as a school for growing in godliness. • Martin and Katie enjoyed the God-given gifts of life and marriage unto the glory of God. Scripture teaches that "everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer" (1 Timothy 4:4-5). One Luther scholar explains how this was lived out in his life: "Luther's faith was simple enough to trust that after a conscientious day's labor, a Christian father could come home and eat his sausage, drink his beer, play his flute, sing with his children, and make love to his wife — all to the glory of God!" Excerpts from <http://www.boundless.org/relationships/2012/love-and-marriage-luther-style>.

THE WORD OF GOD

“One thing, and one alone, is necessary for life, justification, and Christian liberty; and that is the most holy word of God, the Gospel of Christ,” — Martin Luther, *Concerning Christian Liberty*

“If we do not love God and His Word what difference does it make if we love anything at all?” — Martin Luther, Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians

“Peace if possible. Truth at all costs.” — Martin Luther

PREACHING

“Preach [and live] as if Jesus was crucified yesterday, rose from the dead today, and is returning tomorrow.” — Martin Luther

IDOLATRY

“Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God, your functional savior.”
— Martin Luther

BEER

“Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!” — Martin Luther

“It is better to think of church in the ale-house than to think of the ale-house in church.” — Martin Luther

“Whenever the devil harasses you, seek the company of men or drink more, or joke and talk nonsense, or do some other merry thing. Sometimes we must drink more, sport, recreate ourselves, and even sin a little to spite the devil, so that we leave him no place for troubling our consciences with trifles. We are conquered if we try too conscientiously not to sin at all. So when the devil says to you: do not drink, answer him: I will drink, and right freely, just because you tell me not to.” — Martin Luther

THE DEVIL

“But I resist the devil, and often it is with a fart that I chase him away”. - Martin Luther

“Where God builds a church, the devil builds a chapel.” — Martin Luther

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SANCTIFICATION

“God made man out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us.” — Martin Luther

PRAYER

“Pray, and let God worry.” — Martin Luther

“You must learn to call on the Lord. Don’t sit all alone or lie on the couch, shaking your head and letting your thoughts torture you. Don’t worry about how to get out of your situation or brood about your terrible life, how miserable you feel, and what a bad person you are. Instead, say, “Get a grip on yourself, you lazy bum! Fall on your knees, and raise your hands and eyes toward heaven. Read a psalm. Say the Lord’s Prayer, and tearfully tell God what you need.” — Martin Luther, *Faith Alone: A Daily Devotional*

All Praise To You

Performed by Glad, CD "Voices of Christmas"

Written by Martin Luther (1524)

All praise to You, eternal Lord,
Clothed in the form of flesh and blood,
Choosing a manger for Thy throne,
While worlds on worlds are Yours alone.
The skies still once before You bow;
The virgin's arms they hold You now,
Angels, who did in You rejoice,
Now listen for Your infant voice.
A little Child, You are our Guest
So weary ones in You may rest;
Humble and lowly is Your birth
That we may rise to heaven from earth.
You come to us in darkest night
To make us children of Your light,
To make us stars in Your worlds divine,
Like Your own angels, round You shine.
All this for us Your love has done;
By This to You our love is won;
We sing of grace and Your glorious ways
And shout our thanks in endless praise.

Hymn based on John 1:14

The Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Fulfillment of Isaiah's Prophecy

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6