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Quotes about Churches

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The first time I sang in the church choir; two hundred people changed their religion.

- Allen, Fred A.

He was of the faith chiefly in the sense that the church he currently did not attend was Catholic.

- Amis, Kingsley

I have no objections to churches so long as they do not interfere with God's work.

- Atkinson, Brooks

It is indolence... Indolence and love of ease; a want of all laudable ambition, of taste for good company, or of inclination to take the trouble of being agreeable, which make men clergymen. A clergyman has nothing to do but be slovenly and selfish; read the newspaper, watch the weather, and quarrel with his wife. His curate does all the work and the business of his own life is to dine.

- Austen, Jane

It will, I believe, be everywhere found, that as the clergy are, or are not what they ought to be, so are the rest of the nation.

- Austen, Jane

The Church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

The Church cannot be content to live in its stained-glass house and throw stones through the picture window of modern culture.

- Brown, Robert McAfee

The church exists to train its member through the practice of the presence of God to be servants of others, to the end that Christlikeness may become common property.

- Brown, William Adams

Wherever we find the Word of God surely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ, there, it is not to be doubted, is a church of God.

- Calvin, John

People have described me as a management bishop but I say to my critics, Jesus was a management expert too.

- Carey, George

I believe with all my heart that the Church of Jesus Christ should be a Church of blurred

edges.

- Carey, George

The old cathedrals are good, but the great blue dome that hangs over everything is better.

- Carlyle, Thomas

A Church which has lost its memory is in a sad state of senility.

- Chadwick, Henry

We praise Him, we bless Him, we adore Him, we glorify Him, and we wonder who is that baritone across the aisle and that pretty woman on our right who smells of apple blossoms. Our bowels stir and our cod itches and we amend our prayers for the spiritual life with the hope that it will not be too spiritual.

- Cheever, John

An instinctive taste teaches men to build their churches with spire steeples which point as with a silent finger to the sky and stars.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

The parson knows enough who knows a Duke.

- Cowper, William

A woman's asking for equality in the church would be comparable to a black person's

demanding equality in the Ku Klux Klan.

- Daly, Mary

And of all plagues with which mankind are cursed, ecclesiastic tyranny's the worst.

- Defoe, Daniel

His creed no parson ever knew, for this was still his simple plan, to have with clergymen to do as little as a Christian can.

- Doyle, Sir Francis

There is not in the universe a more ridiculous, nor a more contemptible animal, than a proud clergyman.

- Fielding, Henry

The local church is the outcrop of the church universal.

- Forsyth, Peter T.

Many come to bring their clothes to church rather than themselves.

- Fuller, Thomas

Church is the only place where someone speaks to me and I do not have to answer back.

- Gault, Charles De

Churchgoers are like coals in a fire. When they cling together, they keep the flame aglow; when they separate, they die out.

- Graham, Billy

Those who marry God can become domesticated too -- it's just as hum-drum a marriage as all the others. The word Love means a formal touch of the lips as in the ceremony of the Mass, and Ave Maria like dearest is a phrase to open a letter. This marriage like the world's marriages was held together by habits and tastes shared in common between God and themselves -- it was God's taste to be worshipped and their taste to worship, but only at stated hours like a suburban embrace on a Saturday night.

- Greene, Graham

It is one of the ironies of the ministry that the very man who works in God's name is often hardest put to find time for God. The parents of Jesus lost Him at church, and they were not the last ones to lose Him there.

- Havner, Vance

Many people are in a rut and a rut is nothing but a grave--with both ends kicked out.

- Havner, Vance

The church is so subnormal that if it ever got back to the New Testament normal it would seem to people to be abnormal.

- Havner, Vance

It's about time we quit playing church in these services that start at eleven o'clock sharp and end at twelve o'clock dull.

- Havner, Vance

What makes a church great in the eyes of God? Participation, proclamation, preservation, and propagation. Every church ought to exhibit all four.

- Hawkins, O. S.

A full-dressed ecclesiastic is a sort of go-cart of divinity; an ethical automaton. A clerical prig is, in general, a very dangerous as well as contemptible character. The utmost that those who thus habitually confound their opinions and sentiments with the outside coverings of their bodies can aspire to, is a negative and neutral character, like wax-work figures, where the dress is done as much to the life as the man, and where both are respectable pieces of pasteboard, or harmless compositions of fleecy hosiery.

- Hazlitt, William

I'm a priest, not a priestess. Priestess implies mumbo jumbo and all sorts of pagan goings-on. Those who oppose us would love to call us priestesses. They can call us all the names in the world -- it's better than being invisible.

- Heyward, Carter

But a priest's life is not supposed to be well-rounded; it is supposed to be one-pointed -- a compass, not a weathercock.

- Huxley, Aldous

The Church has always been willing to swap off treasures in heaven for cash down.

- Ingersoll, Robert Green

The question confronting the Church today is not any longer whether the man in the street can grasp a religious message, but how to employ the communications media so as to let him have the full impact of the Gospel message.

- John Paul II

The separation of church and state is a source of strength, but the conscience of our nation does not call for separation between men of state and faith in the Supreme Being.

- Johnson, Lyndon B.

This merriment of parsons is mighty offensive.

- Johnson, Samuel

There is no heresy or no philosophy which is so abhorrent to the church as a human being.

- Joyce, James

Yes, I see the Church as the body of Christ. But, oh! How we have blemished and scarred that body through social neglect and through fear of being nonconformists.

- King Jr. Martin Luther

Where God builds a church the devil builds a chapel.

- Luther, Martin

Once is orthodox, twice is puritanical.

- Melbourne, Lord

Archbishop -- A Christian ecclesiastic of a rank superior to that attained by Christ.

- Mencken, H. L.

A church is a place in which gentlemen who have never been to heaven brag about it to persons who will never get there.

- Mencken, H. L.

The difference between listening to a radio sermon and going to church...is almost like the difference between calling your girl on the phone and spending an evening with her.

- Moody, Dwight L.

Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man.

- Moody, Dwight L.

The Christian church is a society of sinners. It is the only society in the world, membership

in which is based upon the single qualification that the candidate shall be unworthy of membership.

- Morrison, Charles C.

The greatest hindrances to the evangelization of the world are those within the church.

- Mott, John R.

The priesthood is a marriage. People often start by falling in love, and they go on for years without realizing that love must change into some other love which is so unlike it that it can hardly be recognized as love at all.

- Murdoch, Iris

A church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.

- Nash, L. L.

Many are called but few are chosen. There are sayings of Christ which suggest that the Church he came to establish will always be a minority affair.

- Norman, Edward

If church prelates, past or present, had even an inkling of physiology they'd realize that what they term this inner ugliness creates and nourishes the hearing ear, the seeing eye, the active mind, and energetic body of man and woman, in the same way that dirt and dung at the roots give the plant its delicate leaves and the full-blown rose.

- O'Casey, Sean

Here, the churches seemed to shrink away into eroding corners. They seem to have ceased to be essential parts of American life. They no longer give life. It is the huge buildings of commerce and trade which now align the people to attention. These in their massive manner of steel and stone say, Come unto me all ye who labor, and we will give you work.

- O'Casey, Sean

I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish Church, by the Roman Church, by the Greek Church, by the Turkish Church, by the Protestant Church, nor by any church that I know of. My own mind is my own church.

- Paine, Thomas

My own mind is my own church.

- Paine, Thomas

It would be far better to be of no church than to be bitter of any.

- Penn, William

Too hot to go to Church? What about Hell?

- Poster In Dayton, Ohio

The act of bell ringing is symbolic of all proselytizing religions. It implies the pointless

interference with the quiet of other people.

- Pound, Ezra

Mass ought to be in Latin, unless you could do it in Greek or Chinese. In fact, any abracadabra that no bloody member of the public or half-educated ape of a clargimint could think he understood.

- Pound, Ezra

He who is near the Church is often far from God.

- Proverb, French

Be neither intimate nor distant with the clergy.

- Proverb, Irish

Standards of conduct appropriate to civil society or the workings of a democracy cannot be purely and simply applied to the Church.

- Ratzinger, Cardinal Joseph

Nearly all the evils in the Church have arisen from bishops desiring power more than light. They want authority, not outlook.

- Ruskin, John

The root of almost every schism and heresy from which the Christian Church has

suffered, has been because of the effort of men to earn, rather than receive their salvation; and the reason preaching is so commonly ineffective is, that it often calls on people to work for God rather than letting God work through them.

- Ruskin, John

A glorious Church is like a magnificent feast; there is all the variety that may be, but every one chooses out a dish or two that he likes, and lets the rest alone: how glorious soever the Church is, every one chooses out of it his own religion, by which he governs himself, and lets the rest alone.

- Selden, John

We sing in a church, why can we not dance there?

- Shaw, George Bernard

What is wrong with priests and popes is that instead of being apostles and saints, they are nothing but empirics who say I know instead of I am learning, and pray for credulity and inertia as wise men pray for skepticism and activity.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The problem is not that the churches are filled with empty pews, but that the pews are filled with empty people.

- Shedd, Charlie

I have, alas, only one illusion left, and that is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

- Smith, Sydney

How can a bishop marry? How can he flirt? The most he can say is I will see you in the vestry after service.

- Smith, Sydney

The priesthood in many ways is the ultimate closet in Western civilization, where gay people particularly have hidden for the past two thousand years.

- Spong, John

I never weary of great churches. It is my favorite kind of mountain scenery. Mankind was never so happily inspired as when it made a cathedral.

- Stevenson, Robert Louis

I never saw, heard, nor read, that the clergy were beloved in any nation where Christianity was the religion of the country. Nothing can render them popular, but some degree of persecution.

- Swift, Jonathan

I think a bishop who doesn't give offence to anyone is probably not a good bishop.

- Thomson, James

A little, round, fat, oily man of God.

- Thomson, James

One hundred religious persons knit into a unity by careful organizations do not constitute a church any more than eleven dead men make a football team. The first requisite is life, always.

- Tozer, A. W.

A group touring Westminster Abbey in London heard the guide list the famous people buried within its walls. During a momentary silence a little old lady's voice blurted out loud and clear, Anybody been saved here lately?

- Unknown, Source

Though the church has many critics, it has no rivals.

- Unknown, Source

Sign in lot: Church parking only. We will not forgive those who trespass against us.

- Unknown, Source

The Pope is an idol whose hands are tied and whose feet are kissed.

- Voltaire

She say, Celie, tell the truth, have you ever found God in church? I never did. I just found a bunch of folks hoping for him to show. Any God I ever felt in church I brought in with me.

And I think all the other folks did too. They come to church to share God, not find God.

- Walker, Alice

In the Church, considered as a social organism, the mysteries inevitably degenerate into beliefs.

- Weil, Simone

The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion.

- Wesley, John

I don't go to church. Kneeling bags my nylons.

- Wilder, Billy

The itch of disputing is the scab of the churches.

- Wotton, Sir Henry



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