

## **A Manifesto in Quotes**

By Ex-P.F.C. Wintergreen

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.

--C. S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory."

O Salutaris Hostia//Quae caeli pandis ostium//Bella premunt hostilia,//Da robur, fer auxilium.//Amen.

--St. Thomas Aquinas.

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

--1 John 4:8.

My whole heart strives to know what the true good is in order to pursue it: no price would be too high to pay for eternity.

--Pascal, *Pensees*, #229.

I saw well why the gods do not speak to us openly, nor let us answer. Till that word can be dug out of us, why should they hear the babble that we think we mean? How can they meet us face to face till we have faces?

--C. S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*.

The really important kind of freedom involves attention, and awareness, and discipline, and effort, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them, over and over, in myriad petty little unsexy ways, every day. That is real freedom. That is being taught how to think. The alternative is unconsciousness, the default setting, the "rat race"--the constant, gnawing sense of having had, and lost, some infinite thing.

--David Foster Wallace, "This is Water."

Love is the only way to grasp another human being in the innermost core of his personality. No one can become fully aware of the very essence of another human being unless he loves him. By his love he is enabled to see the essential traits and features in the beloved person; and even more, he sees that which is potential in him, which is not yet actualized but yet ought to be actualized. Furthermore, by his love, the loving person enables the beloved person to actualize these potentialities. By making him aware of what he can be and of what he should become, he makes these potentialities come true.

--Victor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*.

If I did not believe, if I did not make what is called an act of faith (and each act of faith increases our faith, and our capacity for faith), if I did not have faith that the works of mercy do lighten the sum total of suffering in the world, so that those who are suffering on both sides of this ghastly struggle somehow mysteriously find their pain lifted and some balm of consolation poured on their wounds, if I did not believe these things, the problem of evil would indeed be overwhelming.

--Dorothy Day.

Meg, if we lived in a state where virtue was profitable common sense would make us good, and greed would make us saintly. And we'd live animals or angels in the happy land that needs no heroes. But since in fact we see that avarice, anger, envy, pride, sloth, lust, and stupidity commonly profit far beyond humility, chastity, fortitude, justice and thought, and have to choose to be human at all, why then perhaps we must stand fast a little, even at the risk of being heroes.

--Thomas More in Robert Bolt's *A Man for All Seasons*, from Brennan Manning's *The Ragamuffin Gospel*.

Posting a letter and getting married are among the few things left that are entirely romantic; for to be entirely romantic, a thing must be irrevocable.

--G.K. Chesterton.

[The attempt in obedience to follow Christ] does not consist in engaging in propaganda, nor even in stirring people up, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist.

--Cardinal Suhard, from Dorothy Day's *By Little, and By Little*.

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

--C. S. Lewis, "Is Theology Poetry?", from the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture website.

Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine, // There's always laughter and good red wine. // At least I've always found it so. // Benedicamus Domino!

--Hilaire Belloc.

In fact, to this very day, common sense in religion is rare, and we are too often trying to be heroic instead of just ordinarily good and kind.

--Dorothy Day, *Dorothy Day: A Biography*.

"Love--love is everything! Anybody can carry a candle in a procession or give money to the collection--that is nothing. The only thing that counts is to be joyful at all times with what we receive from God's hands. That is love!"

--Saint Francis, from Felix Timmermans' *The Perfect Joy of Saint Francis*.

Follow Me.

--Jesus, Mt. 4:19, Mt. 8:22, Mt 10:38, Mt 16:24, Mt. 19:21, Mk. 1:17, Mk 2:14, Mk. 8:34, Mk. 10:21, Lk. 5:27, Lk. 9:23, Lk. 9:59, Lk. 14:27, Lk. 18:22, Jn. 1:43, Jn. 10:27, Jn 10:26, Jn 21:19, Jn. 21:22.

Oh man, learn to dance, or the angels in heaven will not know what to do with you.

--St. Augustine.

And there will be much work to do. But I have faith in you, and that is why I am sending you. With you is Christ. Cherish him and he will cherish you. You will behold great woe and in that woe you will be happy. Here is my behest to you: in woe seek happiness. Work, work untiringly.

--Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*.

We didn't know what love was till he came.

--Rich Mullins.

The fruit of silence is prayer.

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service.

The fruit of service is peace.

--Mother Teresa.

I long for no other treasure but love, for it alone can make us pleasing to God.

--St. Therese of Lisieux.

Jesus does not demand great deeds. All He wants is self-surrender and gratitude.

--ibid.

Life holds only one tragedy, ultimately: not to have been a saint.

--Charles Peguy.

All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.

--Julian of Norwich.

Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.

--St. Augustine.

We may not look at our pleasures to go to heaven in featherbeds; it is not the way, for our Lord Himself went thither with great pain, and by many tribulations, which was the path wherein He walked thither, and the servant may not look to be in better case than his Master.

--Thomas More to his children, via his son-in-law William Roper.

A commitment is a moment of freedom that endures. Free choices are words that are sung. In commitments we hold the note; the choice continues, our moment of freedom is prolonged. Our commitments--the truths we choose to believe, the ideals we choose to embrace, the directions we choose to live by--these are the enduring choices that shape our souls, make us the persons we are and determine the true meaning of our names.

--Father David Knight.

The family is the human race's natural defense against utopianism.

--Michael Novak.

Hence in order that man come to the complete vision of blessedness it is required beforehand that he believe God, just as a student must believe a master who teaches him.

--Aquinas, *On Faith*, from the *Summa Theologica*.

For the sole true end of education is simply this: to teach men how to learn for themselves; and whatever instruction fails to do this is effort spent in vain.

--Dorothy Sayers, "The Lost Tools of Learning," from the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture website.

How can a Christian appear as a man of literary culture to those who call Christ, our Master and Lord, an uneducated fellow? The pupil of an uncultured master does not easily acquire erudition unless he swerves from his master's footsteps.

--Petrarch, *On His Own Ignorance*.

One must know oneself. Even if that does not help in finding truth, at least it helps in running one's life, and nothing is more proper.

--Pascal, *Pensees*, #72.

If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books.

--Roald Dahl.

Christianity taught men that love is worth more than intelligence.

--Jacques Maritain, "Art and Scholasticism," from the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture website.

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.

--Mark Twain.

Intelligence is nothing without delight.

--Paul Claudel.

*Otium sine litteris mors est.*

--Seneca.

Nietzsche is the moral philosopher of the present age. Whenever those immersed in the bureaucratic culture of the age try to think their way through to the moral foundations of what they are and what they do, they will discover suppressed Nietzschean premises.

--Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*.

Where death waits for us is uncertain; let us look for him everywhere.

The premeditation of death is the premeditation of liberty; he who has learned to die, has unlearned to serve. There is nothing of evil in life, for him who rightly comprehends that the privation of life is no evil: to

know how to die, delivers us from all subjection and constraint.

--Montaigne, "That to Study Philosophy is to Learn to Die."

As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;// As tumbled over rim in roundy wells// Stones ring; like each tucked string tells, each hung bells// Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its name;// Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:// Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;// Selves--goes itself; myself it speaks and spells,// Crying What I do is me: for that I came.// // I say more: the just man justices;// Keeps grace: that keeps all his goings graces;// Acts in Gods eye what in Gods eye he is--// Christ--for Christ plays in ten thousand places,// Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his// To the Father through the features of men's faces.//

--Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ., "As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame."

Bach's music is not merely agreeable, like other composers', but [it] transports us to the regions of the ideal. It does not arrest our attention momentarily but grips us the stronger and oftener we listen to it so that, after a thousand hearings, its treasures are still unexhausted and yield fresh beauties to excite our wonder.

--Forkel.

Music must strike fire out of the mind of man.

--Ludwig van Beethoven.

As from afar the magic notes of Mozart's music still gently haunt me.

Thus does our soul retain these fair impressions, which no time, no circumstances can efface, and they lighten our existence. They show us in the darkness of this life a bright, clear, lovely distance, for which we hope with confidence. O Mozart, immortal Mozart, how many, oh how endlessly many such comforting perceptions of a brighter and better life hast thou brought to our souls.

--from Schubert's diary, dated 13 June 1816.

Do not ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive. For what the world needs is more people who have come alive.

--Howard Thurman

Let us love God, my friends, but let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brows.

--St. Vincent de Paul.

It is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating.

--Oscar Wilde.

Distrust any enterprise that requires new clothes.

--Henry David Thoreau

A pint of sweat saves a gallon of blood.

--General George S. Patton.

Do we live together to make money from each other or do we live together because we love each other?

--T.S. Eliot, *The Rock*.

We only do well the things we like doing.

--Colette, *Prisons and Paradise*.

It was revealed to Abba Anthony in the desert that in the city there was one who was his equal, a physician by profession, who gave his surplus to the poor and who every day sang the Trisagion with the angels.

--The Sayings of the Desert Fathers.

Pray not for tasks equal to your powers. Pray rather for powers equal to your tasks. For then the doing of your work shall not be the miracle, but you shall be the miracle.

--Fr. Solanus Casey.

Act not how you feel, act how you wish you felt.

--Unknown.

If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze.

--St. Catherine of Sienna.

The vocation doesn't promise happiness, yet, once heard, there is no happiness apart from the call.

--C. S. Lewis.

I feel ambivalent about selling my services in a world where some can't buy them.

--Paul Farmer.

If we do only what is required of us we are slaves. The moment we do more we are free.

--Cicero, from *Study is Hard Work* by William Armstrong.

A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, conn a ship, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently, die gallantly. Specialization is for insects.

--Robert A. Heinlein.

How far one's vocation will take one, is always a mystery, and where one's vocation will take one. But I believe it to be true always that the foundations are always in poverty, manual labor, and in seeming failure. It is the pattern of the Cross, and in the Cross is joy of Spirit.

--Dorothy Day.

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes but in having new eyes.

--Marcel Proust.

[God, keep me from being counted with those who] consider themselves and their lives as a series of sensations to be experienced rather than as a work to be accomplished.

--John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*.

Man has always lost his way; but now he has lost his address.

--G. K. Chesterton.

If china, then only the kind  
you wouldn't miss under the movers' shoes or the treads of a tank;  
if a chair then one that's not too comfortable, or  
you'll regret getting up and leaving;  
if clothes, then only what will fit in one suitcase;  
if books, then those you know by heart;  
if plans, then the ones you can give up  
when it come time for the next move,  
to another street, another continent or epoch  
or world:  
Who told you you could settle in?  
Who told you this or that would last forever?  
Didn't anyone tell you you'll never  
in the world  
feel at home here?

--"If China," by Stanislaw Baranczar.

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Christianity is not about building an absolutely secure little niche in the world where you can live with your perfect little wife and your perfect little children in your beautiful little house where you have no gays or minority groups anywhere near you. Christianity is about learning to love like Jesus loved and Jesus loved the poor and Jesus loved the broken.

--Rich Mullins.

Love the quick profit, the annual raise,  
vacation with pay. Want more  
of everything ready-made. Be afraid  
to know your neighbors and to die.  
And you will have a window in your head.  
Not even your future will be a mystery  
any more. Your mind will be punched in a card  
and shut away in a little drawer.  
When they want you to buy something  
they will call you. When they want you

to die for profit they will let you know.  
So, friends, every day do something  
that won't compute. Love the Lord.  
Love the world. Work for nothing.  
Take all that you have and be poor.  
Love someone who does not deserve it.  
Denounce the government and embrace  
the flag. Hope to live in that free  
republic for which it stands.  
Give your approval to all you cannot  
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man  
has not encountered he has not destroyed.  
Ask the questions that have no answers.  
Invest in the millenium. Plant sequoias.  
Say that your main crop is the forest  
that you did not plant,  
that you will not live to harvest.  
Say that the leaves are harvested  
when they have rotted into the mold.  
Call that profit. Prophesy such returns.  
Put your faith in the two inches of humus  
that will build under the trees  
every thousand years.  
Listen to carrion - put your ear  
close, and hear the faint chattering  
of the songs that are to come.  
Expect the end of the world. Laugh.  
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful  
though you have considered all the facts.  
So long as women do not go cheap  
for power, please women more than men.  
Ask yourself: Will this satisfy  
a woman satisfied to bear a child?  
Will this disturb the sleep  
of a woman near to giving birth?  
Go with your love to the fields.  
Lie easy in the shade. Rest your head  
in her lap. Swear allegiance  
to what is nighest your thoughts.  
As soon as the generals and the politicians  
can predict the motions of your mind,  
lose it. Leave it as a sign  
to mark the false trail, the way  
you didn't go. Be like the fox  
who makes more tracks than necessary,



some in the wrong direction.

Practice resurrection.

--Wendell Berry, "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front."