**Understanding - Ponderings**

**Give therefore to thy servant an understanding heart
to judge thy people and to discern
between good and bad.  *(1 Kings 3:9)***

**God thunders with his voice;
great and marvelous things does he,
which we cannot understand.  *(Job 37:5)***

**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law**

**and observe it with my whole heart.**

***(Psalm 119:34)***

**Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
and the son of the man
who finds understanding.  *(Proverbs 3:13)***

**Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom;
and with all your substance get understanding.  *(Proverbs 4:7)***

**And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us**

**understanding so that we may know him who is true.**

***(St. John 5:20)***

**Now we have received the Spirit that is from God,**

**so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.**

***(1 Corinthians 2:12)***

**Though I have the gift of prophecy,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and have not love in my heart, I am nothing.  *(1 Corinthians 13:2)***

**When I was a child, I spoke as a child,
I understood as a child, I thought as a child;
but when I became a man,
I put away childish things.  *(1 Corinthians 13:11)***

**And the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
shall keep your hearts
and minds through Jesus Christ.  *(Philippians 4:7)***

**And we know that the Son of God has come**

**and has given us understanding**

**so that we may know him who is true.**

***(1 John 5:20)***

**When we understand another person’s life better, our sense of being personally offended and threatened diminishes. Out of deep, authentic listening and speaking, new solutions are born. Einstein is credited with saying “We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” When we see beyond our familiar beliefs and values into those of others, we discover that our willingness to hear can create useful, synergistic solutions to the profound challenges we face today. We must forgive others for seeing the world differently than we do to get real resolution. We must hear them out and finally understand what's behind their stated opinions. We must be heard ourselves and share what's behind our stated opinions. When we do these things in our personal lives, we create openings for others to learn how to do this in their lives. The growth of such a practice can transform our world, spilling over into the workplace and into our civic and governmental interactions as well. *(Rev. Mary Murray Shelton)***

**It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them. *(Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais, French author and  dramatist)***

**One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other. *(Jane Austen)***

**There's nothing that can help you understand your beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child. *(Frank A. Clark, Register and Tribune Syndicate)***

**If you really want to understand something, the best way is to try and explain it to someone else. *(Douglas Adams, author)***

**Sooner or later, children begin to understand each other better than their own parents understand them. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**One thing is clear: Being understood by me is not very high on the world's agenda. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Confidence is the feeling you get just before you understand a situation. *(The Friday Letter)***

**The gentleman understands what is moral. The small man understands what is profitable. *(Confucius)***

**Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood. *(Marie Curie, Nobel-Prize winning chemist)***

**The understanding of his spiritual individuality makes man more real, more formidable in truth, and enables him to conquer sin, disease, and death. *(Mary Baker Eddy, in Science and Health)***

**Education in youth results in learning, but understanding comes with age and experience. *(Land Title Guarantee Company calendar)***

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**There are things which we come to know so well that we do not know how we know them. Perhaps we live best and do things best when we are not too conscious of how and why we do them. *(Albert Einstein)***

**If you can't explain it to a 6-year-old, you don't understand it yourself. *(Albert Einstein)***

**Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. *(Albert Einstein)***

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**Sometimes I think I understand everything; then I regain consciousness. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**We do not arrive at self-knowledge by thinking, but by doing; it is only through an examination of our actions, not of our thoughts, that we can understand what we are really like. *(Sydney J. Harris, Chicago News)***

**How can you expect a man who’s warm to understand one who’s cold? *(Alexander Solzhenitsyn, author)***

**Is it my fault for not understanding? or yours, for being so hard to understand? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**To understand is to forgive, even oneself. *(Alexander Chase)***

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**Understanding is the beginning of approving. *(Andre Gide)***

**Each of us really understands in others only those feelings he is capable of producing himself. *(Andre Gide)***

**Knowledge is the beginning of the discovery of something we don’t understand. *(Andre Gide)***

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**Life is the first gift, love is the second, and understanding the third. *(Marge Piercy, American writer)***

**What we do not understand we do not possess. *(Goethe)***

**The handwriting on the wall is often Greek to most of us. *(Olin Miller, in Atlanta Journal)***

**It's hard to understand what makes people tick. The same kids who refuse to eat spinach grow up and stand in line to buy yogurt. *(Sandy teller, NANA)***

**You have to grow up, start paying the rent, and have your heart broken before you understand country music. *(Emmylou Harris)***

**There would be no society if living together depended upon understanding each other. *(Eric Hoffer)***

**Go beyond the headlines and you'll find people who are affected by what's happening. Understanding their story is what matters. *(Lester Holt)***

**You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around -- and why his parents will always wave back. *(William D. Tammeus, in Kansas City Star)***

**Once we realize that imperfect understanding is the human condition. there is no shame in being wrong, only in failing to correct our mistakes. *(George Soros, in Soros on Soros)***

**Intellectual understanding comes first in the soul’s development, then a deeper understanding of principles follows, until the whole man ripens into wisdom. *(Charles Fillmore, in The Twelve Powers of Man, p. 84)***

**Only one man in a million understands the international situation. Isn't it odd how we keep running into him? *(The Baltimore Sun)***

**Tell me and I forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand. *(Chinese proverb)***

**There is no worse lie than a truth misunderstood by those who hear it. *(William James)***

**Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. *(Carl Jung)***

**Quick study -- almost: It is amazing how quickly the kids learn to drive a car, yet are unable to understand the lawn mower, snow-blower, or vacuum cleaner. *(Ben Bergor, in Catholic Digest)***

**Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. *(Martin Luther King, Jr.)***

**Nothing is more difficult for Americans to understand than the possibility of tragedy. *(Henry A. Kissinger)***

**Life is good -- don’t spoil it by trying to understand it. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Life is fascinating, but I'll go out of it understanding no more than when I came in. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**How do we truly understand one another when there are so many levels on which we operate? Every one of us is an integrated network of living systems, each changing from day to day but always following a natural path of evolution. These living systems are so many and so complex that it is virtually impossible to completely understand them. The truth is, there is no fixed location that can be defined as “you.” You are a work in progress, a dynamic, living system. So when you study “you,” you are not studying a painting or photograph that never changes. You are studying a moving picture from every conceivable camera angle. The best any of us can do is to sustain a lifelong process of self-exploration. Only by continually noticing more and more about ourselves will we come to understand who we truly are. *(Jim Cathcart, in The Acorn Principle: Know  Yourself, Grow Yourself)***

**If you couldn’t love what you don’t understand, family life would often be impossible. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**It is easier to know (and understand) men in general than one man in particular. *(La Rochefoucauld)***

**To understand a man, you must know his memories. The same is true of a nation. *(Anthony Quayle on "The Heart of the Dragon," South Carolina ETV)***

**If you are sure you understand everything that is going on, you are hopelessly confused. *(Walter F. Mondale)***

**A man of understanding has lost nothing, if he has himself. *(Michel de Montaigne)***

**The motto should not be “forgive one another,” rather, “understand one another.” *(Emma Goldman)***

**I want, by understanding myself, to understand others. I want to be all that I am capable of becoming. *(Katherine Mansfield)***

**I'm on the side of keeping things mysterious; I have never enjoyed understanding things. *(John Cage)***

**To understand a new idea, break an old habit. *(Jean Toomer, poet)***

**Before you can be reasonably convinced you are right about an idea, you should be sure that you understand the objections of your most articulate antagonists. The person who can state his antagonist’s point of view to the satisfaction of the antagonist is more likely to be correct than the person who cannot. *(Paul G. Hewitt, in Conceptual Physics)***

**When it comes to money, it’s better to do nothing than to do something you don’t understand. *(Suze Orman, in O magazine)***

**An understanding parent is one who is elated when words written on the new wallpaper are spelled right. *(Doug Larson, United Features Syndicate)***

**To understand your parents’ love, you must raise children of your own. *(Chinese proverb)***

**Poets utter great and wise things which they do not themselves understand. *(Plato)***

**Make contact Christ to Christ. Pray to God for understanding, so that you can put yourself “in the other person’s shoes” and have a realization of why he or she is really acting in this manner. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 310)***

**I got a fortune cookie that said, “To remember is to understand.” I have never forgotten it. A good judge remembers what it was like to be a lawyer. A good editor remembers being a writer. A good parent remembers what it was like to be a child. *(Anna Quindlen, in Thinking Out Loud)***

**Why is it so hard to remember when I last really understood what was going on? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**Seek not to understand that you may believe, but to believe that you may understand. *(St. Augustine)***

**If you would judge, understand. *(Seneca)***

**Spectators can never understand what it is like to be a player. *(Joe Sabah)***

**Though I give you mountains of money, it would be nothing compared with the awakening in you of spiritual understanding. (*Charles Fillmore)***

**It takes a long time to understand nothing. *(Edward Dahberg, American author and critic)***

**Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves. *(Henry David Thoreau)***

**How can I understand your thoughts, if I can’t even understand your words? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Understanding is another kind of vision -- that's why we say “I see,” when we mean “I understand.” *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**My Life, I have come to see, is not so much about learning who I am but about understanding and living in the light of Whose I am. *(Donald Spoto)***

**Understanding itself is of little value unless it is expressed by the activity of the will, and man’s will is a power for good only when it is grounded in understanding. *(Elizabeth Sand Turner, in Let There Be Light, p. 17)***

**If you don't understand how a woman could both love her sister dearly and want to wring her neck at the same time, then you were probably an only child. *(Linda Sunshine, author)***

**If you are to understand others, and have them understand you, know the big words but use the small ones. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The world cannot always understand a person's profession of faith, but it can understand service. *(Ian Maclaren)***

**Why did I understand so much more when I was younger than I do now? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**If you don’t understand yourself you don’t understand anybody else. *(Nikki Giovanni)***

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