



## The Gift of Love

December 3, 2007

### Love is a Verb

*"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."*

1 John 4:11

We just received the news this afternoon in Colorado Springs about the senseless shooting of several people at New Life Church where at least one died. We give thanks to God for the quick action of a volunteer security guard who prevented the loss of many more lives. In the midst of such senseless violence, the question is always asked, "how can we make such places safe from violence?" The answer is... we can't, at least not with security guards and systems. Such safe places are an illusion.

The only hope for such safety is a world where God's love is received and overflowing to others. When we know we are deeply loved by God and others, we are free from hatred and violence. The Christmas message of love and hope is the ultimate gift we can give the world today. People who shoot wildly at shopping malls, schools and churches have somehow missed experiencing such love - the costly "gift" of love God has offered to all.

Such violent events at the Christmas season can detract us from the important truths. It is in such a time that we must ponder how deep a love was demonstrated towards us through God's Ultimate Gift, Jesus Christ, and to remember that this gift of love was given, not just for us to receive, but to also give away. "We love because He first loved us." (1 Jn. 4:19) This gift of love was given, not only that we may know we are loved, but that we may truly love those who need to know they are loved.

For the remainder of December we will consider what it mean to love God, to love our neighbor, and to love one another? One thing is for sure -- love is more than a noun. It is a verb. May all our grandchildren know they are loved as they, by our example, see love in action. As grandparents we are in a unique position to demonstrate the love of God by both word and action in the way we love God, love each other, and love the lost and desperate.

Give the GIFT OF LOVE this Christmas and all year long. Tell your grandchildren they are loved, and teach them how to love well by your own example.

## ACTION STEPS:

1. Pray! Ask God to show you how to love what and who He loves
2. Say it and show it often! No matter how young or old your grandchildren are, they need to know that you love them BOTH by your words and your actions. Men, this means us too!

**GRANDPAUSE:** "Love people and use things - NOT love things and use people!"

[WEEKLY PRAYER SUGGESTION FOR GRANDPARENTS:](#) **The Gift**

## Suggested Reading

### [Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ](#)

By John Piper / Crossway Books & Bibles

### [The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others](#)

By Scot McKnight / Paraclete Press

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