



The Gift of Love

December 24, 2007

Love is a Verb; Love Your Neighbor

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Matt. 22:39

Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan 2000 years ago, and today it is still one of the most widely known stories of modern times. We call those who engage in extraordinary acts of kindness or compassion "Good Samaritans".

Though extraordinary acts of kindness are indeed noble and neighborly, the point of Jesus' story was not merely kind acts, but an every day disposition of mercy and kindness toward those in need. The "experts" answer to Jesus' question about who was the real neighbor (the one who had mercy on him) was correct. Jesus' reply to "go and do likewise," revealed that the issue is not so much figuring out who my neighbor is, but being honest about my heart disposition towards those needing mercy and compassion?

This facet of the Gift of Love, loving our neighbor, is acquired as we cultivate a heart disposition that is focused beyond ourselves toward the needs and interests of others. What a perfect time of year for talking about the gift of love with our grandchildren and families. Use the creative wisdom God has given you to flesh out the meaning of "love your neighbor" at this Christmas season. Remember, the compelling force for such a heart disposition is this: *"We love because He first loved us."* All that remains is to "go and do likewise" - that is, shift our focus from ourselves towards those who are lost, outcast and desperate for hope and authentic love. This Gift of Love is a gift worth giving to our grandchildren.

ACTION STEPS:

- As part of your Christmas gift giving this year, why not include a date with your grandchildren to do something such as a project with [Habitat For Humanity](#) or helping at your local rescue mission.
- Consider sponsoring a child through [Compassion](#) or [World Vision](#) in the name of your grandchildren as part of their Christmas gift, and ask them to join in contributing to their monthly support (within their ability) and to correspond with the sponsored child.

GRANDPAUSE: *"The smallest good deed is better than grand intentions." -*

unknown

[Weekly Prayer Suggestion For Grandparents: **Memories**](#)

Suggested Reading:

[Love Your Neighbor, A VeggieTales Board Book](#)

By Cindy Kenney / Zonderkidz

[A Peep Behind the Scenes](#)

By O.F. Walton / A. B. Publishing

[Amazing Grace, DVD](#)

By Foxfaith



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