



The Gift of Love

December 31, 2007

Love is a Verb; Loving Family and Friends

"And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1 Jn. 4:21

The family is the laboratory in which the true nature of love for others is cultivated and tested. Families that model unconditional love (with all our flaws) combined with respect and honor for one another have a greater potential to see their children develop a commitment to enduring relationships.

It is in this family context that God intended children and grandchildren should learn the meaning and value of honor, respect and tolerance for others. They learn to love those who are hard to love from our example. The world says THEIR happiness is of first importance, a view in opposition to God's view. A healthy, godly family teaches that God is more interested in our holiness than He is our happiness. We know from experience that our deepest satisfaction and joy flow from our pursuit of holiness, not the fruitless pursuit of happiness.

The Apostle John reminds us that our love for God is authenticated by our love for each other, especially family and friends. However, regardless of the kind of environment in which our grandchildren are being raised, the question remains, "What will my grandchildren learn about love from my example?" Realizing that too many relationships are based upon making me happy, God is calling for grandparents who will stand in the gap and model a better way.

At our GrandCamps each summer, one of the highlights of our time for both grandparents and grandkids is the time of blessing. The giving and speaking of blessing is an enduring act of love that can be a true, life-changing gift of love. I encourage you to make it a regular practice in your family.

ACTION STEPS:

- Ask God to show you changes that need to occur in your life that will enable you to provide a more godly model to your grandchildren for treating one another with love and respect.
- Take steps to learn how to speak blessing into your grandchildren's lives.
[Visit our web site for information about using the blessing effectively.](#)

GRANDPAUSE: *"God is more concerned with the state of peoples' hearts than with the state of their feelings."* - A.W. Tozer

[Weekly Prayer Suggestion For Grandparents: Carry Each Other's Burdens](#)

Suggested Reading:

[The Blessing, Original Edition](#)

By Gary Smalley / Simon & Schuster Trade Sales

[The Blessing, Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance](#)

By John Trent & Gary Smalley / Thomas Nelson



[The Basket of Flowers - Audiobook on CD](#)

By Blackstone Audiobooks

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