

Love is the Greatest Gift!

By Richard Crisco

1 Corinthians 13 - Christmas Version

Submitted by Sheri Hanson

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows
Strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, But do not
show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen baking dozens of
Christmas cookies, Preparing gourmet meals and
arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime,
But do not show love to my family, I'm just another
cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing
homes And give all that I have to charity, But do not
show love to my family, It profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and
crocheted snowflakes, Attend a myriad of holiday
parties, and sing in the choir's cantata, But do not
focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.
Love is kind, though harried and tired.
Love doesn't envy another's house
That has coordinated Christmas china and table
linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, But
is thankful they are there to be in the way.
Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in
return, But rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all
things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost,
golf clubs will rust But the gift of love will endure.

*1Cor 12:31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And
now I will show you the most excellent way.*

*Jn 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His
only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should
not perish but have everlasting life.*

For God so loved the world...

“So” is a small word but is extremely powerful.

It says that the limitless love of the Most Loving God
is lavished upon this inconsiderate and unkind world.
It says that the impeccable love of the matchless God
is bestowed upon an unworthy world.

It says that the holy love of the Most Holy God is
directed to the most unholy world.

It says that the perfect love of the Pure and Righteous
God is extended to an imperfect world.

It says that the pardoning love of a Merciful God is
given to a condemned world.

It says that the reclaiming love of the God of reconciliation is given to a degenerating world. It says that the gracious love of the God of grace is directed to a world in disgrace.

For God so love the world.

I think it not improper to personalize this phrase.

For God so love Richard! I don't know about you but I am so glad that God so loves me! I was sinking deep in sin....

That He gave...

Love is never content to simply exist. Love must act. Love is a word of action.

Love proves it's self by what it does.

Love that does not listen is a lie.

Love that does not provide is a phony.

Love that does not fulfill is a fake.

Love that does not give is a gimmick.

God so loved the world that He gave. That is action!

He did not give because the world was worthy. He did not even give because the world was needed. He gave because He so loved! That is grace!

In this act of love we get an example of divine giving. The single motivation for His giving is His love for us.

We ought give Him our time, talent, testimony, and tithe just because we so love Him!

His only begotten Son....

In this phrase we see the quality of the gift of God.

God's love for us not only motivated Him to give but He gave us the best that He had.

He not only gave us the best but He gave the only Son that He had.

There was none other like Him. He is one of a kind!

God demonstrated for us a divine example of the principle of sowing and reaping.

God gave the one Son He had in order to gain many sons and daughters. Through the blood of one, He now has many sons and daughters.

However, in order to gain God had to give.

1Jn 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

I will give God my best simply because He gave me His best. We ought to understand that you can't beat God's giving. The more you give the more He gives to you. Just keep on giving and you find it's really true.

That whosoever believes in Him....

In this phrase we see the object of God's love gift.
Whosoever are you and I!
It's the high and the low; the rich and the poor; the good and bad; the good looking and the ugly.
It's the happy and the sad; the sick and the well; the up and the down; the weak and the strong.
It's the black and the yellow, red and white. We all are precious in His sight!
It's the neat and the nasty; the wise and the foolish; the short and the tall; the fat and the thin.
Whosoever!
No matter who you are; God's love gift is for you.
No matter what you've done; God's love gift is for you!

God's love gift is ample for all,
but applied only for those who believe!

III. Settlement with the bank – we had to respond to the notice in order to be included in the settlement!

Everything I am saying is true, but the power of this Gospel is for those who believe.

Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

If you don't believe you will go to hell, not because God did not do His part but simply because you would not receive His love gift.

Shall not perish but have everlasting life.

This phrase tells of the benefit that belongs to whosoever believes. Jesus says that if we believe we shall not perish! (Die, Decay, Fade Away, etc.)

If we believe we will not die but live with Him Forever, Now and After this life!

“The Gift that keeps on Giving!”

In 1924, the phrase "The Gift That Keeps on Giving" was first used in commerce to promote the "phonograph" or the "talking machine".

This is a gift that is not just opened and used for a couple of weeks and then tossed aside, but this is a gift that will not only last for this lifetime, but into eternity as well.

His Gift of Love can never be taken away from us.

Romans 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

But how many of you have seen on Christmas morning yourself or your kids unwrap a present and it is the greatest thing, but then 2 weeks later, off it sits in a corner, no longer being used.

Unfortunately, while from God's perspective, the gift of His love is available to us forever; many, after initially finding great joy in receiving God's love, later on it appears to have little or no impact on their life.

2Co 5:14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

How do we make the gift of God's love a reality from our own perspective, each and every day, and not just the day we unwrap it?

Jn 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Noah Webster 1828 American English Dictionary

Abide:

1. To rest, or dwell. Gen. xxix 19.
2. To tarry or stay for a short time. Gen. xxiv 55.
3. To continue permanently or in the same state; to be firm and immovable. Ps. cxix 90.
4. To remain, to continue. Acts xxvii 31. Eccl. Viii 15.

Jesus says that if you keep his commandments, you will abide or remain in his love. You will continually experience his love.

He is not going to remove his love from you, but if you are not following His ways, you will not be able to experience His love from your perspective as He wants us to.

And it is in His love, that we experience joy.

He wants us to have complete joy, and that is found in a continual experiencing of his love which is found in a continual obedience to His commands.

We will NOT be able to experience His love, though we will not be separated from it, when we are not abiding in Him.

If you want to unwrap the Love of God into your life continually, then choose each day to abide in Him.

Conclusion

This Christmas, why not unwrap the gift of God's love into your life.

For those who have never unwrapped it, this is the one and only gift you need.

For those who have unwrapped God's love and received Him as Savior, my prayer is that you make that a reality in your life each and every day by abiding in His love by following what He wants you to do.