

3 Gifts of Christmas - part 3 - Love - Dec. 23, 2020

Love is at the heart of C-mas... It's the heart of God. **God is love**

1 Jn 4:8 - "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

1 Jn. 4:16 - "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

Christmas is a celebration of love. Love came down at C-mas.

Jn. 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

Luke 2:21 - "She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins"

In C-mas story, we can learn how best to love.

1 - Love isn't just talk. It is action. Love gives.

Our actions matter. Willingness to do... Patient. Kind.

2 - Love gives its best

1 Jn 4:9 - "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

Best effort... For our Best.

3 - Love gives first.

1 Jn 4:18 - "We love because He first loved us"

Rom. 5:8 - "But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God is Love because that's who God is.

His Love doesn't depend on our actions.

4 - Love continues ... It's consistent.

1 Cor. 13:8 - "Love never fails." It never ends.

- Adam & Eve sinned, God responded w/ mercy

- Jonah fled, God got Him back on track. Peter, too.

--- Even on the cross, Jesus prayed for forgiveness.

The gift of God's son was not a reward for the obedient.

It was a ransom for the defiant.

God's love is seen best when we're at our worst.

Prodigal son was welcomed back home.

John 1:5 - "The light shines in the darkness, darkness has not overcome it." Light can't be extinguished.

Love never fails.

5. - Best gift we can give is to love like that.

Unconditional, unending love.

That ability only comes from God.

1 Jn 4:7 - "Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God."

Rom. 5:5 - "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Christmas is a celebration of the night love was born.

May that love make its home in us. May we reflect God's love.

Song of the week: "When Love Was Born" by Mark Schultz