

The Perfect Gift

Ever heard the phrase “I’m only human?” It’s the usual excuse for our foul-ups, big and small. Well, if humanity is all that we have to work with, how are we supposed to fix it? Can we get meaningfully **better**?

Progress means moving closer and closer to the standard of **Good**. So, are we? Look around. Our world is still polluted with every imaginable kind of lack. As long as we keep making it “better” by ourselves, it always will be. Why? It’s simple! If you foul-up a math problem on the first step, what happens if you ignore it and press on? Your error will compound itself over and over again, and you’ll get further from the **Truth**, instead of closer to it.

That’s the problem with our world. It isn’t broken because “we’re only human.” It’s broken because we aren’t human enough! Each of us lacks **Perfect-Humanity**, and we all need access to it if any of us are to get meaningfully better. Since we live in a logical world, there’s only one solution to our problem. Perfection has to be **given** to us. Naturally, this gift can only come from Someone who is Perfect in the first place. We require a gift that only **God** can give. He did! His Name is **Jesus Christ**.

The Perfect Giver

Why is there something rather than nothing? Because God is **The Giver**. He is the Perfect-Being. He lacks nothing at all, and He has all within Himself to give away. The world exists because God gave it existence. We’re alive because God gave us life, personhood, and a potential for perfection. How can we reach that potential? **We can’t!** But **God can** reach it in us through His gift of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Is God’s unique **Son**. In Jesus is found the Perfect-Humanity we each need to get meaningfully better. The Life of God in Jesus is the greatest gift of all. He’s “**God with us**.” In Him dwells the unbroken Community of God’s Perfect Love. Jesus can fill every lack.

God loves the world so much that **He gave** His life to save it. You’re a part of that world, and His gift is especially for you. He’s risked the greatest unfairness of all by making **Life** with Him a gift instead of a demand. He has given Himself to you because He loves you and wants to be especially “yours.” Do you want to be especially “His.” Then receive Him, believe in Him, give yourself to Him in return – and become His child.

This Gift Exchange IS Your Christmas.

Matthew 5:48 – John 3:16 – John 1:12-13

Why the Gift?



What is Christmas all about? Is it about spending more money than you’ve got? Is it about getting up at 5 a.m to trample on others for a cheap TV you don’t even need? Is it about drinking enough alcohol to run a Volkswagen – or eating enough food to feed a village? Maybe it’s about making your house visible from outer-space? Seriously, what’s it all about?

Is Your Christmas Meaningful Without God’s Gift of Christ?

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The Meaning In Giving

Most people exchange gifts at Christmas. We inherited this tradition from our past. Ever wondered why we still do it? Most of us find exchanging gifts meaningful, and we'd miss it if we gave it up. Why? What's so special about giving?

It is often said that it's **better** to give than to receive. Sounds nice – but think about it for a minute. What's the real benefit of giving something of yours to someone else? What if they don't appreciate it or give anything to you in return? What if it ends up being unfair? Is giving worth the risk? After all, if you give something away, doesn't that mean it's not "yours" anymore? What's "better" about that?

Well – consider this. What makes another person "yours?" What is the difference between your loved ones, and everybody else? You don't own them – so how are they especially **yours**? They're only yours because they are freely **giving** themselves to you. And if you're theirs, it's because you are giving yourself to them in return. That's how Love works. Love makes us better-together than we could ever be by ourselves. **Love** is worth the risk.

The Need

Another tradition that Americans and other western-types inherited from our past is a "can do attitude." We cherish the value of individual persons, and prize the freedom to solve our own problems and meet our own needs. We guard these ideals jealously – and sometimes even fight to preserve them. But there's a downside. Too often, our **purpose** as individuals gets buried beneath our own self-interest. Ask: "am I **Good** by myself?"

Imagine you are all that exists. Just you – all by yourself. Dwell on that for a minute. What is it like? Is it good? Do you have everything you always wanted? It's finally all about you. Still, nobody can congratulate you for being so important. No one can give you anything, or receive anything from you to make your life **meaningful**. You don't have any friends to make you into a friend. You don't have any loved ones to make you into a loved one. You're **alone** – and that's all you are.

Alright, wake up. Do you mean anything by yourself? No! You can't! You came from others to begin with, and now you depend on others to make your life meaningful. Others are depending on you for meaning too. We all need a **community** to truly matter.

The Needy

So, what's wrong with our world today? If we asked ten people, we might get ten different answers, each one a reflection of someone's culture, background, and life-priorities. But they'd all have something in common. The problem is a **lack**.

Try it. What's wrong with "your world?" Is it a lack of recognition or respect? Is it a lack of justice or equality? Perhaps it's a lack of food and safe housing. Is it a lack of wealth, status, or pleasure? Maybe it's a lack of fairness, or a lack of good-health owing to the lack of some needed cure? Don't you lack **goodness** and **dignity** even by your own standards? Be honest. Do you do as you would have done? Do you always give others what you expect to always receive from them? Are your relationships enjoying perfect peace? Ask yourself: "am I whole and healthy?" Of course you're not. None of us are **Perfect**.

Now – can you make up for your lack by yourself? If you can, then what are you waiting for? You know you can't, and we are all in the same boat. Every single one of us lacks what all of us need together... a **Community** that isn't broken.