



CHRISTMAS

GETTING THIS CHRISTMAS RIGHT

Gift Giving Gone Awry and Giving Gone Aright



**What is your favorite Christmas Gift?
Or
your Funniest**



**Gifts and giving really can rock our world
and
Without giving our world would be hell**



Gift Giving Gone Awry



Gift Giving Gone Awry

What is the Christmas Gift that keeps on giving?

(Debt)

I am giving this to you in hopes of buying your acceptance, love, friendship.

Gift of good intentions, but ...

Weighing your gift value to what you received



Broaden our Look at Gift giving gone Awry

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

**If I speak in the tongues of men and of
angels, but have not love, I am a noisy
gong or a clanging cymbal.**



Broaden our Look at Gifts

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.



Gift giving gone Awry

**Our world says employ your gifts fully
towards your own - Achievement –
advancement - money – career –
power – position – use your gifts to be
somebody – Make a name for yourself**





Gift giving gone Awry

Let's take stock of our Gifts how are we using them.

Our Bodies?

Our Minds?

Our Time?

The stuff we're good at?

Our Relationships?

Do you have any relationships that at the outset don't benefit you?



Giving Gone Aright

**Gifts and giving really can rock our
world and
without them our world would be hell**



Giving Gone Aright

Giving is at the heart of who God is



“For in self-giving we touch a rhythm not only of all creation but of all being. For the eternal Word also gives Himself in sacrifice; and that not only on the cross. For when he was crucified He “did that in the wild weather of His outlying provinces which He had done at home in glory and gladness.” From before the foundation of the world He surrenders begotten Deity back to begetting Deity in obedience.



And as the Son glorifies the Father, so also the Father glorifies the Son. ... For the highest to the lowest, self exists to be abdicated ... This is not a heavenly law which we can escape by remaining earthly, nor an earthly law which we can escape by being saved. What is outside the system of self-giving is not earth, nor nature, nor “ordinary life”, but simply and solely Hell.”



Giving Gone Aright

John 17:1 Jesus spoke these things;
and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He
said, "Father, the hour has come;
glorify Your Son, that the Son may
glorify You,



Giving Gone Aright

Props to the Debbie and Margo and Sue
for their creativity

Painter, Chair movers,....

Time with Debbie

MDA Camp



For some time now, researchers have known that social contact can have a measurable impact on protecting people's health. It seems to boost the immune system, lower the frequency of colds and other infections. It speeds wound healing. But now it turns out that not all social contact is created equal. And the benefits of social contact may belong only to those who are on the giving end of the contact.

Giving, finds a team of researchers at the University of Michigan, reduces mortality and promotes longevity. It doesn't matter whether the support is in the form of the kind of emotional support that spouses exchange or the instrumental help one might provide to a neighbor. Either way, it has a significant impact on the giver.

The kinds of giving we're talking about are things like driving a friend to the doctor's, helping a sick or elderly neighbor with shopping, volunteering to deliver meals to the housebound or caring for a chronically ill family member. These are known in the psych biz as instrumental support. Then there's out and out emotional support, the kinds husbands and wives give each other, which includes things like making the other person feel loved, cared for and listened to when they need to talk.



Isaiah 58:6-11 “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?



Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ...If you take away ...the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.





for you

**pour yourself out for the
hungry and satisfy the
desire of the afflicted**

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for you

**You may want to start by
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