

**Christmas...Make it count!
Give Good Gifts
Matthew 2:1-12**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

Question: Since the giving of Christmas gifts is a large part of this season, how do we do that in a way that honors Jesus?

A Theology of Christmas Gift-Giving

1. The first gift of Christmas is the Father's giving us Jesus. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." John 3:16a

2. The second gift of Christmas is the way we give back to Jesus.

"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." Matthew 2:11

3. The third gift of Christmas is the way we love each other in imitation of Jesus"

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

- **The biblical rationale for gift-giving is that it is one way to love each other in the way Jesus loves us.**

The Key Principle: When we give and receive Christmas gifts, it needs to be done in a way that honors Jesus and brings a smile to his face.

A Guide: As you go about getting gifts for others, use these questions to help you find gifts that honor Jesus and bring a smile to his face.

- 1. Is my gift heart-felt?**
- 2. Does my gift connect with the heart of the person I am giving it to?**
- 3. Do I think creatively about gifts?**

- **Can I give the gift of **time**?**
 - **Can I write a **note**?**
 - **Can I **make** something?**
 - **Can I give to **something** they would care about?**
4. **Does my giving include giving to the **poor**?**
 5. **Is my giving financially **sane**?**