



## 12 Love Habits at Christmas

“Let love be your highest goal...”

1 Corinthians 14:1 NLT

The Scripture teaches us that, “above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). Apostle Paul reinforces this idea by saying, “let love be your highest goal”. In this article, we will explore twelve ways in which we can practice love habits on Christmas and throughout the year. Paul postulates, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another” (John 13:35).

So, let us strive to apply the following principles in our daily lives:

1. **Gratitude**—Saying “thank you” is a gift but putting our appreciation into writing can give more meaning. This is especially true during this turbulent year when many have faced loneliness, lost loved ones through the pandemic, and lost their jobs. Remember that you are always in the will of God when you practice gratitude. The Bible tells us, “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV).
2. **Kindness** – Bless someone with kind actions this Christmas! Some practical things include allowing someone to go before you in a checkout line or surprising someone with money or gifts. The Bible instructs, “And be kind to



one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

3. **Care**— As believers, we are called to care for desperate and destitute people. Show that you care by volunteering to serve others in giving. For example, give goods to a local pantry or buy a gift card for someone who is struggling financially. We are reminded in Matthew that, "... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

4. **Offering God's Word** – What Bible verse has been most impactful to you? Share that verse with a friend via text or email or share it on your social media page. Explain what the verse means to you. Do this, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

5. **Integrity** – Can people count on your promises because you are a man or woman of your word? Proverbs 28:6 says, "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways." So, remember, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how to answer each person" (Colossians 4:6).

6. **Patience** – Oftentimes, we show extraordinary patience to strangers while getting irritable with those we live with. Let us determine from now on to bless and extend the same patience to our spouse, children, parents, and siblings as



we do to strangers. As it is written, “Be patient with all” (1 Thessalonians 5:14 NKJV). So, instead of being irritated with them, tell them how much you love and appreciate them.

7. **Time** – Time is one of the greatest assets that God has given us, and we should share our time with others. Think about someone who you can share your time and attention with today. Be proactive by calling them on the phone and telling them how much you value and love them. Be a listening ear to someone who wants to unburden their heart to you. 2 Corinthians 6:2 states, “In the time of my favor, I heard you. And in the day of salvation, I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor. Now is the day of salvation” (NKJV).

8. **Prayer** – God calls every twice born child of God to be an intercessor on behalf of others. Your intercessory prayers will go a long way to bless someone more than your visits, financial gifts, or service. Ezekiel 22:30 states, “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.” James 5:16 states, “Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

9. **Generosity** – Many of us have the habit of giving gifts to our family and friends during holidays. While this is a great practice, think about giving to someone who is not your usual target. Maybe the mailman, the pharmacist, or the person working at the grocery store. Your gifts do not need to be expensive,



just a token of your love to express your appreciation for them. “Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God” (2 Corinthians 9:11).

10. **Sharing a well-loved Christian book** – If you have a Christian book that blessed you when you read it, it may be time to pass it on. Write a note to the recipient expressing what it meant to you and why you wanted to pay it forward. Hebrews eloquently states, “do not neglect to do good and to share what you have. For such sacrifices are pleasing to God” (Hebrews 13:16).

11. **Hospitality** – Be intentional about showing hospitality to strangers and people in your neighborhood. For example, you can offer to mow their lawn, shovel snow from their driveway, or do grocery shopping for them. Find a way to let people around you know that they are valued and highly appreciated. “Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” (Hebrews 13:2 NLT). 1 Peter 4:9 reminds us to, “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:9).

12. **Humility**— Jesus Christ is our model for humility. It is written in Philippians 2:3 that, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” Ephesians 4:2 reinforces this by saying, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.”



**Conclusion:** As we practice learning and giving others the above love habits, we will become more like Christ.

**Prayer:** Holy Father, help us to practice these 12 love habits daily. May they characterize our lives and become a lifestyle.

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