

**What will you find this Christmas?  
Part #3 – Love that won't ever let go!  
Sunday December 16, 2007 / Pastor Dave Larmour  
Audio Available –**

"A Tickle Me Elmo, \$45, an iPod shuffle, \$79, a vacation in Hawaii, \$4500, a great childhood, priceless."  
(10 Priceless gifts parents can give their children)  
<http://www.ksuccess.com/blog/102/10-priceless-gifts-children/>

Brian Tracey says there are three things we can do to help someone else know that we love them:

generous words / nurturing touch / wise and consistent actions

Gary Chapman identifies 5 ways we can give and receive love ...

- ✓ Mary and Joseph and their story of love ...
- ✓ You and me and God's story of love ...

**A. How do we know that God loves us?**

**Narrative #1** – Luke 1:26-38

**1. Words of Affirmation**

"The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly **favored!** The Lord is with you." v-28

**2. Physical Touch**

"The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be **born** will be called the Son of God." v-35

**Narrative #2** – Matthew 1:18-25

**3. Acts of Service**

"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." (v-21)

**4. Quality Time**

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." (v-23)

**5. Gift-giving**

"But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus." (v-25)

**B. How Does God know that we love him?**

"We must continually remind ourselves that the first commandment requiring us to love God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind **is indeed first.** I wonder if we really believe this. It seems that in fact we live as if we should give as much of our heart, soul, and mind as possible to our **fellow human beings,** while trying hard not to forget God ... But Jesus' claim is much more radical. He asks for a **single-minded commitment** to God and God alone. God wants all of our hearts, all of our mind, and all of our soul." (Henri Nouwen – Advent and Christmas)

**C. Does the world have enough evidence to convict us of being his disciples?**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."  
(John 13:34-35)

Q – Who are we affirming?

Q – Who are we touching?

Q – Who are we serving?

Q – Who are we spending time with?

Q – Who are we giving gifts to this year ... and why?