

Christ's Love Cannot Be Measured

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38, 39. {UL 191.1}

Christ might, because of our guilt, have moved far from us. But instead of moving farther away from us, He came and dwelt among us, filled with all the fullness of the Godhead, to be one with us, that through His grace we might attain to perfection. By a death of shame and suffering He paid man's ransom. What self-sacrificing love is this! From the highest excellency He came, His divinity clothed with humanity, descending step by step to the very depths of humiliation. No line can measure the depth of this love. Christ has shown us how much God can love and our Redeemer suffer in order to secure our complete restoration. He desires His children to reveal His character, to exert His influence, that other minds may be drawn into harmony with His mind. {UL 191.2}

Christ, our Saviour, in whom dwelt absolute perfection, became sin for the fallen race. He did not know sin by the experience of sinning, but He bore the terrible weight of the guilt of the whole world. He became our propitiation, that all who receive Him may become sons of God. The cross was erected to save man. Christ lifted on the cross was the means devised in heaven for awakening in the repenting soul a sense of the sinfulness of sin. By the cross Christ sought to draw all to Himself. He died as the only hope of saving those who, because of sin, were in the gall of bitterness. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit, a new principle of mental and spiritual power was to be brought to man, who, through association with divinity, was to become one with God. {UL 191.3}

To break down the barriers that Satan had erected between God and man, Christ made a full and complete sacrifice, revealing unexampled self-denial. He revealed to the world the amazing spectacle of God living in human flesh, and sacrificing Himself to save fallen man. What wonderful love! As I consider it, I weep to think that so many of those who claim to believe the truth are encrusted with selfishness.... {UL 191.4}

I marvel that professing Christians do not grasp the divine resources; that they do not see the cross more clearly as the medium of forgiveness and pardon, the means of bringing the proud, selfish heart of man into direct contact with the Holy Spirit, that the riches of Christ may be poured into the mind, and the human agent be adorned with the graces of the Spirit, that Christ may be commended to those who know Him not.—*Manuscript 91, June 26, 1902, "Christ's Sacrifice for Us."* {UL 191.5}

PRINCE OF PEACE CONTROL MY WILL

Prince of Peace control my will;
Bid this struggling heart be still:
Bid my fears and doubting's cease:
Hush my spirit into peace.

Thou hast bought me with Thy blood,
Opened wide the gate to god;
Peace I ask, but peace must be,
Lord, in being one with Thee.

May Thy will, not mine be done;
May Thy will and mine be one;
Chase these doubting's from my heart,
Now Thy perfect peace imparts.

Savior, at Thy feet I fall,
Thou, my life, my God, my all;
Let Thy happy servant be
One forevermore with Thee.

20 Reasons Why It is Better to Give Than to Receive

By [Jayson D. Bradley](#)

Paul quotes Jesus in Acts, "It's more blessed to give than receive" (Acts 20:35). If pressed, we generally believe it—or we think we do.

We struggle with believing that giving is better than getting, and why wouldn't we? Acquiring and hoarding are part of our broken nature. We love the security of having stuff. We are a disposable culture addicted to the emotional boost of buying something new.

And what about non-economic forms of giving? Do we really believe giving attention, encouragement, and compliments are better than being on the receiving end?

Here are 20 reasons why giving is better than receiving:

1. GIVING IS HOW GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE FOR US

John 3:16 is one of the most well-known verses of all time. It says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

In the very presence of Jesus, God demonstrates that He is **love**—and **love** gives. If we truly want to be like Jesus, we will give.

2. GIVING MAKES YOU HAPPY

There have been many studies about the happiness level of people who gave money to charities or volunteered their time. Across the board, these studies always seem to point at the happiness of people who give.

It was found in a [2002 survey](#) by the National Opinion Research Center's General Social Survey that 43 percent of people who gave blood two or three times a year were very happy, as opposed to the 29 percent who didn't.

3. GIVING COMMUNICATES SOMETHING IMPORTANT ABOUT OUR WORLDVIEW

Psalm 50:10 says, "For every beast of the forest is mine, *and* the cattle on a thousand hills." This beautifully reveals the sovereignty of God and His ultimate ownership of every resource.

Our hoarding communicates a belief that there is only so much to go around and, if we don't get it, someone else will. There isn't room for faith that God is able to supply us with what we need.

4. GIVING IS THE WAY GOD BLESSES OTHERS

When God was talking to Abram about creating a nation that would be his, the point was always about being a blessing to others. He tells Abram, “And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing” (Gen. 12:2).

God doesn't often drop His providence out of the sky. He blesses us so that we will be able to bless others.

5. GIVING HELPS US LIVE LONGER

The journal *Health Psychology* published a study in 2012 that found that people who regularly volunteer live longer. But there was a catch—it had to be for unselfish reasons. If you volunteered for any reason beyond the joy of giving, it did not have the same long-term health benefits.

6. GIVING JOYFULLY MAKES GOD HAPPY

Paul spells it out for us: “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 8:1). That is pretty self-explanatory. When we give as joyful expression, it delights our Maker.

7. GIVING INCREASES OUR SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

It makes sense that when we give to others, they feel closer to us. What we might not realize is that giving to others makes us feel closer to them, too.

8. GIVING IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE

While God does not want us to give out of compulsion (2 Cor. 9:7), He does want us to give. In fact, Jesus encourages us to give to everyone who asks of us (Lk. 6:30). That is a pretty sobering statement.

9. GIVING IS CONTAGIOUS

The “pay it forward” idea is not a myth. It is a fact. When people experience a generous kindness, they are more apt to treat others with the same sort of benevolence.

In a combined study between the University of California, San Diego, and Harvard, the first laboratory evidence was found that showed how cooperative behavior is infectious. It spreads through social networks.

10. GIVING GIVES YOUR LIFE MEANING

There is often a disconnect between who we think or say we are, and who we actually are. Now, many people would say that they are not selfish, but they still make decisions based on what is ultimately best for them.

It is not until you actually become generous that you can say that giving is important to you. Once you do, you will find that it begins to define you more profoundly than you previously thought possible.

11. GIVING BATTLES DEPRESSION

One contributing aspect to cycles of depression is the feeling of isolation. [Studies have shown](#) that volunteering and giving to others helps combat self-hatred.

12. GIVING PUTS GOD IN OUR DEBT

In the book of Matthew, Jesus tells us, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily, I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matt. 10:42). The fact that God is keeping tabs down to glasses of water given in His name should be pretty motivating.

The writer of Proverbs says it in even more emphatic language, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again" (Prov. 19:17). God in your debt. Ponder that a second.

13. GIVING INCREASES OUR CONFIDENCE

One critical element to a poor self-image is constant focus on ourselves and our state of being. Self-preoccupation breeds a false self-understanding. Giving helps to move our focus away from us and on to others.

It is great to have a strong sense of self-awareness, but that inner voice can be a constant force for criticism and negativity. Being generous not only changes where we are placing the spotlight, but it helps give our brain a positive argument for why we are not so bad.

14. GIVING BUILDS TRUST

When you give gifts to others, you are trusting that they will use the gift responsibly. If you're like me, you've heard a lot of people say, "I can't give a gift to that person, they'll just waste it on [fill in the blank]."

Building up a history of generosity gives you plenty of stories where people did act responsibly. Generous people are generally optimistic people.

15. GIVING MAKES YOU LISTEN DIFFERENTLY

Generous people tend to listen to people's stories with the question, "Is there a way I can help?" The more they give, the more they hear a need or request behind someone's story.

16. GIVING MAKES YOU LOOK AT YOUR RESOURCES DIFFERENTLY

The more people give, the more they begin to see all of their resources as potential opportunities.

When they begin pressing themselves to be more altruistic, they will generally think in terms of money. As they are captured by a spirit of benevolence, they begin to see things like time, attention, praise, and the benefit of the doubt as tools of generosity.

17. GIVING GENERATES CONTENTMENT

The Scripture says that the eyes of man are never satisfied (Prov. 27:20). This need to amass more and more is completely real.

People who are bitten by the generosity bug begin to see their own belongings differently. Seeing and responding to the needs of others helps create a sense of peace in their own desire for acquisition.

18. GIVING PROMOTES A UNIVERSAL GOOD

A study at the University of Pennsylvania used a twist on a common game theory construct to prove that cooperative behavior is not only encouraged in a large group, but it pays off for everyone.

19. GIVING HELPS CREATE LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

A 2011 report from the [National Marriage Project](#) found that regular acts of generosity on behalf of spouses creates a harmony that serves the relationship in the long term. We are talking about little acts of kindness like fetching a cup of coffee or offering a back rub.

20. GIVING MAKES YOU LIKEABLE

Let us be honest: When you're a genuinely generous person, people find you trustworthy and kind—as long as it seems genuine and philanthropic. If it feels forced or manipulative, all bets are off.

It is the Right Thing to Do

Ultimately this list is all about how you can benefit from giving. On some level, that is okay. When Jesus says, "[It's better to give than to receive](#)," He is not making a statement about benefit.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Christ might, because of our guilt, have moved far from us. But instead of moving farther away from us, He came and dwelt among us, filled with all the fullness of the Godhead, to be one with us, that through His grace we might attain to perfection. By a death of shame and suffering He paid man's ransom. What self-sacrificing love is this! From the highest excellency He came, His divinity clothed with humanity, descending step by step to the very depths of humiliation. No line can measure the depth of this love. Christ has shown us how much God can love and our Redeemer suffer in order to secure our complete restoration. He desires His children to reveal His character, to exert His influence, that other minds may be drawn into harmony with His mind

Devotional Book: *The Upward Look*

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