

Recommended Gifts

As you consider the gifts you will choose for family and friends during this Christmas season, here are a few that are recommended:

- **The Gift of Listening.** But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
- **The Gift of Affection.** Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for them.
- **The Gift of Laughter.** Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, “I love to laugh with you.”
- **The Gift of a Written Note.** It can be a simple “Thanks for the help” card or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.
- **The Gift of a Compliment.** A simple and sincere, “You look great in red,” “You did a super job,” or “That was a wonderful meal” can make someone’s day fulfilling.
- **The Gift of a Favor.** Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.
- **The Gift of Solitude.** There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
- **The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition.** The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really, it’s not that hard to say, with a smile, “Hello” or “Thank you.”

If you can give some or all of these gifts during this – or any – season of the year, you will discover how much richer your relationships will be. And if you find them in your own stocking presented by others, you are blessed, indeed.

--Beecher Hunter