

1. Love God

It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Enter this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.

2. Spend Less

Quick question for you: What was the one gift you remember getting for Christmas last year? Next question: What about the fourth or fifth gift? Do you remember that one? Spending less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts that may not be remembered in less than a year. America spends around \$600 billion dollars during the Christmas season, and much of that goes right onto a credit card. By spending wisely on gifts we free ourselves from the anxiety associated with debt so we can take in the season with a full heart.

3. Give More

We know what you're thinking. "Wait, didn't they just say I should spend less, and yet here they are telling me to give more? What gives?" The most powerful, memorable gift you can give to someone else is yourself. No one modeled this more than Jesus. So what does this look like for you? Tickets to a ball game or the theater? A movie night? The main point is simple: When it comes to spending time with those you love, it's all about quality, not quantity.

4. Love All

It all boils down to love. Love from a savior. Love to a neighbor in need. By spending just a little less on gifts we free up our resources to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help. This is the conspiracy three churches began a few years ago, and it has since grown into an international movement where thousands of churches have raised millions of dollars to love others in life-changing ways. It's not that there's something wrong with the shopping mall-it's that the better story is about loving all.

Pray and ask how you are to participate in Gift To The World this year. We are changing lives and eternities around the world every year with this gift. And as we give for the life change of others, we are changing too!

Pastor Dave