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IT'S ALWAYS TIME FOR GIFTS

Where is it written in the Bible that holidays are the only time to give gifts? So what if it's not the Christmas season? Who cares if Father's Day or Mother's Day or a friend's birthday won't appear on our calendars for months? It's never too early to give some gifts away.

Let me give you some ideas. Here are thirty-two suggestions; take your choice: Mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion. Write a long overdue love note. Hug someone tightly and whisper, 'I love you.' Forgive an enemy. Be gentle and patient with an angry person. Express appreciation. Gladden the heart of a child. Find the time to keep a promise. Make or bake something for someone else-anonymously. Release a grudge. Listen. Speak kindly to a stranger. Enter into another's sorrow. Smile. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Take a walk with a friend. Kneel down and stroke a dog. Read a poem to your mate or friend. Lessen your demands on others. Play some beautiful music during supper. Apologize if you were wrong. Talk together with the television and cell phone off. Treat someone to an ice cream cone (frozen yogurt would e fine). Do the dishes for the family. Pray for someone who helped you when you hurt. Fix breakfast on Saturday morning. Give a soft answer even though you feel strongly. Encourage an older person. Point out one thing you appreciate most about someone you work with or live near. Offer to baby sit for a weary mother. Give your teacher a break – be equally cooperative.

Let's make this Season one long, extended gift of ourselves to others. Unselfishly! Without announcement! Or obligation! Or reservation! Or hypocrisy. That is Christianity, isn't it? AMEN.

~ Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
Matthew 28:18 – 20

