

# The Joy of Christmas Is Love

Pastor Mark Lehmann

1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”

**John 1:1-13 NIV**

14 “Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.”

**Isaiah 7:14 NIV**

4 “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.”

**Galatians 4:4-7 NIV**

## A Love that is Unexpected

*“Our God is the God of the unexpected. Few things could be more unexpected than the King of heaven being born in a stable.”*

-Bill Crowder

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

**John 3:16 NLT**

8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**Romans 5:8 NIV**

## **A Love that is Undeserved**

8 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

**Ephesian 2:8 NIV**

## **A Love that is Undefinable**

9 “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

**1 John 4:9-10 NIV**

*“The greatest power in the universe is the power of sacrificial love.”*

-Anonymous

Four ways you can see the depth of that love:

1. The Costliness of the Deed
2. How Underserving the Object of Love
3. The Greatness of the Benefit
4. The Freedom of the Act

15 “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

**2 Corinthians 9:15 NIV**

### **A Love that is Unconditional**

10 “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

**Isaiah 54:10 NIV**

15 “Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! 16 See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands.”

**Isaiah 49: 15-16 NLT**

### **A Love that Demands a Response**

#### ***Jesus, Lover of My Soul***

*“Jesus, lover of my soul  
Jesus, I will never let You go  
You've taken me from the miry clay  
You've set my feet upon the rock  
Now I know*

*I love You, I need You  
Though my world may fall, I'll never let You go  
My Saviour, my closest friend  
I will worship You until the very end”*