

I CORINTHIANS 13

Christmas

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If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family -

I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family -

I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family -

It profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, *attend* a myriad of holiday parties, and *sing* in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ,

I have missed the point.

love

... stops the cooking to hug the child.

... sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

... is kind, though harried and tired.

... doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

... doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.

... doesn't give, only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

... never fails. Video games will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust.

But giving the gift of love will endure.

