



Moderator's
Christmas
CHRISTMAS BEGINS
WITH CHRIST
Message 2019 

Christmas - the greatest expression of love

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16.

There are many ways of showing love and affection. We can do this in words, actions, gestures and more. We each express love in ways that can best relay our intentions. There is no right or wrong way. Each expression shows our heart and soul. Our hope and aim is that it is well received. Love is an enormous part of our make-up. Whatever way it is given, with right and honourable intentions, it will be received and appreciated.

Christmas is love. Love is Christmas. "God so loved that he gave his Son". This is the greatest expression of love. The personal touch, person-to-person, kanohi ki te kanohi.

At Christmas, God is reminding us that love is the greatest gift. Jesus, God's Son, the baby of Bethlehem, was given to humanity, the world. God so loved that God came to us in a baby born in a manger. God identifies with humanity. God is showing and teaching us God's personal love.

As we replicate and follow the way of God, let us try our best to *be there*: the personal touch, face to face, being present wherever possible. We are God's gift to our families, our friends, and our communities. Be there in person this Christmas. It makes all the difference.

It is said that the next best expression of love is your voice, followed closely by your written word. If you can't be there for your loved ones this Christmas, send a voice message, send a written message – an email, card, letter. If you can't be there in any of these ways, there is always, and forever, your prayers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

You are loved.

Yours in Christ's service

Fakaofu

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