

**June 4, 2017**

**Blessing**

Here are three ways we can bless our unbelieving friends and neighbors:

- a) **Words of Affirmation:** This is the simplest way to bless someone. Send them a note, write them an email, text them. Send some words of arrogation and encouragement. “I can live for two months on a good compliment.” - Mark Twain  
“A word of encouragement is like oxygen to the soul.” - Michael Frost
- b) **Acts of Kindness:** Bless others by doing them a favor or providing some kind of practical support - cut an elderly person’s lawn, babysit an exhausted couple’s children, help a neighbor move to a new home.
- c) **Gifts:** I’m talking about totally random gift-giving. Nothing blesses someone more than an unexpected gift. (Michael Frost, 2016).

### **Philippians 2:3-11**

*This is a God Who is known most clearly when He abandons His rights for the sake of the world. Yes, says Paul; and that’s ‘the mind of Christ’, the pattern of thinking that belongs to you because you belong to the Messiah of God (verse 5). And if you’re truly living in Him and by His kind of life, the exhortations of verses 1-4 may suddenly make a lot more sense (N.T. Wright, 2004).*

**Next week:** *Surprise the World continues!*

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When have you felt blessed by someone?

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What made you feel blessed?

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***For further study, read Romans 12:9-21***

Blessing others is directly associated with loving others. The word 'bless' is only used in verse 14 (in the NIV translation) What other instructions could be seen as blessing in these verses?

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When we live unexpected lives (which clearly includes the blessing of strangers), we find ourselves being questioned by others. Then we have the best opportunity for sharing the hope of Christ within us!

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