

## **Did You Return Any of Your Presents?**

**Did any of you return any of your Christmas presents after Christmas?** Come on, be honest. Anyone want to admit that you took back that tie Uncle Walt gave you or that sweater Aunt Bess gifted you? I found a study that stated that 54% of all holiday gifts were exchanged. That doesn't count the number of gifts that were re-gifted.

It is funny what gets returned and what gets kept. For women the gifts most exchanged were toddler clothes and sweaters. For guys it was dress shirts and athletic apparel. What was surprising to me is that men are actually the pickiest when it comes to gifts exchanging.

What really shocked me was what gifts both sexes never return, anti-aging skincare. That begs a lot of questions. Who would gift someone anti-aging skin care? Then, is it not exchanged because it would be embarrassing? Hopefully your gifts were such that you didn't need to take them back.

Why are gifts returned? There are a host of reasons from the wrong size or color or simply it would never be used. I have a hunch that a lot more gifts would be returned if the lines were not so long. So, my hunch is that more gifts are simply left in a drawer or thrown away because they simply did not meet the need of the person who got that gift. Gifts more often than not get returned or buried in a drawer because the recipient doesn't value that gift.

Here is an observation. The more love we have for someone the more we want our gift to them to be perfect. We want them to love our gift and never think of returning it. A gift given in love is a gift worth keeping. A gift given from love, even if we don't like it has a better chance of being kept. How many of you have gifts from your kids that you never used but would never part with because of the love behind that gift?

When you give here at YOUR CHURCH NAME we recognize that it is a gift motivated by your love of God. We treat every gift as valuable and important. We can do all we do only because of your generosity. Unlike people who don't use the gifts given to them we use every gift to help advance the Kingdom of God. That is our mission and passion and your generosity makes that happen.

So, while you might now be wondering if Aunt Sally kept your gift or returned it please be assured that your gift today is appreciated and will be used. Thank you for your generosity!