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**REFLECTING ON**

**GOD'S LOVE**

**John 3:16**

**(Valentine's Day)**

**Learning from our Calendar (3)**

## My purpose - Reminder

- ▶ This year, I am preaching through the calendar - an ongoing study of holidays and observances we find on our calendars.
- ▶ This is not about observing these days as the church, but addressing various subjects related to these days from a Biblical perspective (since holidays often cause us to pause and ponder their meaning).

# Valentine's Day

- ▶ This Friday is “Valentine’s Day”.
- ▶ A day where we pause to declare our love to our spouse or love interest (scriptural?), family and friends.
- ▶ Sometimes, this is a romantic spousal love, and for others it is more superficial letting someone know they are special to you.
- ▶ Observed with flowers, cards, candy, gifts, dinner, etc. ~145 million cards are purchased each Valentine’s day.

# The “holiday”

- ▶ Observed February 14<sup>th</sup> each year in the US. It is NOT an official holiday, but a celebration.
- ▶ Origin is uncertain.
  - At least 3 different “Saint Valentines” (Catholicism) all of whom were martyred.
  - 2 died ~270 AD.
  - Legend - Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriage for young, military men. Valentine continued to perform marriages in secret.
- ▶ Another, while in prison, wrote a letter to the jailer’s daughter and signed it, “from your valentine.”
- ▶ February 14<sup>th</sup> traced to middle ages

## Our lesson

- ▶ While we do not observe this day as the church, love is a pivotal and important Biblical subject.
- ▶ There are many lessons to consider about God's love for us, our love for God and others, etc. Love is a Biblical foundation of our relationships.

# God's Love For Us

- ▶ Clearly taught in scripture
- ▶ **1 John 4:7-8** - God is love
- ▶ **1 John 4:9-11** - demonstrated in sending Jesus to die for us. **John 3:16, Romans 5:8**
- ▶ Jesus demonstrated this love - **Philippians 2:5-8, 1 John 3:16, John 15:13** - He did this voluntarily and because of His love
- ▶ How will we respond? **2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Romans 8:31-39**



# True Love Defined

- ▶ Love (agape) - Caring enough to sacrifice for what is best
- ▶ **1 John 4:11** - this love will be reflected in how we treat others as well.
- ▶ **1 Corinthians 13:1-8a** describes this love
  - **13:1-3** - the importance of this love.  
Without love it is noise to God!  
**Cf. 1 Samuel 15:22**

# True Love Defined

- ▶ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a** describes this love:
  - It suffers long - patience & more
  - Is kind - considerate, warmhearted. Universal
  - Does not envy - it not jealous of others
  - Does not parade itself, is not puffed up - humble
  - Does not behave rudely - we are considerate and measured in our conduct
  - Does not seek its own - unselfish, not self-serving in our goals





# True Love Defined

- ▶ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a** describes this love:
  - Is not provoked - we are in control over our emotions and actions.
  - Thinks no evil - do we wish harm on others, including our enemies? (NOTE: Different from punishment)  
Are we scheming? Do we assume the worst?
  - Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in truth - what brings you joy? What do you approve of?



# True Love Defined

- ▶ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a** describes this love:
  - Bears all things - what are we willing to tolerate and keep to ourselves for the sake of others?
  - Believes all things - gives the benefit of the doubt. We believe God & His promises
  - Hopes all things - we GENUINELY want the best outcome, and when possible we positively look to that end
  - Endures all things - we do not give up



# True Love Defined

- ▶ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a** describes this love:
  - It NEVER fails!!!!!!!
  - God's love is the perfect manifestation of what this love ought to look like.
  - It is the heart foundation of every relationship we are in! Even our enemies -  
**Matthew 5:43-46.**



# How do we manifest this love toward others?

- ▶ FIRST, this is a question of action.
- ▶ **1 John 4:19**, we love Him because He first loved us. We love others because (and how) we love God.
- ▶ We can pray for them - **1 Timothy 2:1, James 5:16, cf. Matthew 5:43-45**
- ▶ We bear with them - **Colossians 3:12-13**  
(we are all different - **Galatians 3:27-29**)
- ▶ We forgive - **Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21-35, cf. Luke 23:34, James 2:13, 1 John 4:20-21, 1 Peter 4:8**





# How do we manifest this love toward others?

- ▶ SECOND, this is a question of examination.
- ▶ I need to ask myself, “IS my love for others what it ought to be?”

How do I consider and treat my brethren?

How do I respond when I am “offended”?

How do I treat my neighbor?



# How do we manifest this love toward others?

- ▶ Special consideration:
- ▶ A lesson like this could be devoted to the subject of marriage.

Often, we associate “valentine’s day” with our spouse, and we should! The marriage bond is truly the foundation of society. How we treat each other as husband and wife is going to impact the quality of our lives, both spiritually and physically. Consider **Ephesians 5:22-33**,

**1 Peter 3:7, etc.**



# How do we manifest this love toward others?

- ▶ When it comes to showing love for others, do NOT limit it to a few days a year!  
This love needs to be present 24/7/365¼
- ▶ Yes, we can and should give extra special considerations from time to time (even if it is when we are reminded to do so).  
But the foundation of those special occasions is rooted in our everyday love and relationship.





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**The best demonstration of  
love is from God to us!  
Let our love be a reflection  
of God's very nature in us!**

Learning from our Calendar (3)

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**Do others see God's  
love in you?**

**Learning from our Calendar (3)**

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Let us pray!

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Learning from our Calendar (3)