

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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True Love

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Romantic love is being commercially highlighted this weekend. Companies are seeking your money by offering playful teddy bears, sexy pajamas, colorful flowers, and even succulent chocolate covered strawberries for your valentine. Just click here, give your card number, and your thoughtfulness is on the way to being appreciated.

These little expressions that “woo” another to you are important, not only in a courtship that has not yet blossomed into marriage, but in keeping life-long marriages alive. Fulfilling one’s sexual responsibility in marriage is a command from God. God says we must render unto our husband or wife their “due”. (*I Corinthians 7:3*). Tender expressions of love on a particular day no doubt draws two people closer romantically. This is a good thing.

But what about February 13, February 15 and beyond? Most of us cannot afford a dozen roses or a new teddy bear every day of the year. How can we keep romance alive beyond a special week end? The answer lies beyond mere cute and playful gifts. It is love that gives yourself in a

special way to another each and every day.

True love that we are to show to others is built upon a foundation of **respect**. The same Greek word for “love” (AGAPAO) that a husband is to manifest toward his “wife” (*Ephesians 5:25*), is the same word that he is to manifest to his “enemy” (*Matthew 5:44*). How can this be? Is my wife my enemy! There is no genuine romance with an enemy. The word is connected with both in that we must **respect** the fact that our enemy is made in the image of God and therefore, regardless of what evil the person does to us, we are not to curse them or try to murder them (*James 3:9, Matthew 5:21-23, Genesis 9:6*). We are to love them, as God does. While a husband should view his wife in a closer and deeper way than just one made in God’s image, the **respect** of who she— your chosen mate for life— should be remembered daily

As a husband, you will daily provide tender headship that honors her more fragile or weaker body (*I Peter 3:7*). Out of respect of who she in the sight of God you will sacrifice your self for her well-being like Christ did for his

bride, the church (*Ephesians 5:25*). Out of respect for your own body, you, as a husband, will nourish and cherish with warmth your wife, providing her necessities (*Ephesians 5:28-29*). Leading headship, absent of dictatorial or bitter words, is what you should provide your wife. 365 days a year.

As a wife, you will offer a love that emphasizes a sense of “belonging”. This love (PHILEO) is the love Paul says younger women were to express towards their husbands in *Titus 2:4*. Out of respect of the role of her husband, the wife is to belong to him in subjection, not as a ruler over him (*Ephesians 5:24, I Pet. 3:1-6*). This love is more than just seeking another’s good will, it is a warmth that arises from a sense of belonging, like having your “own” children. A special warmth should exist in knowing that the husband and wife uniquely belong to one another.

True love, not just romance is for every day of the year. Let us truly love every day.