

Honoring God's Love

As Valentine's Day approaches the topic of love becomes front and center. Wives anticipate some special treatment – flowers, candy or a dinner out on the town. Showing our love is really important to reinforce the understanding of a loving relationship with our spouse. Valentine's Day is a day set aside for us to ignore the busyness of life and prioritize our relationship with someone special. It only becomes a negative if we forget to honor a loved one on this day.



I can speak from experience on the topic of forgetting. It was nearly a half century ago but I remember it well. I was engaged to Kathy but was working 1,000 miles away from her during her last semester of college. I was working for the YMCA and because of not being in close proximity to Kathy, I was super dedicated to my job. On the night of February 14, 1971 I was supervising a teen activity at my Y. We had been hit by a major snowstorm earlier that day, so I not only had to shovel the driveway at home but the parking lot at the Y as well. I remember exactly where I was at the YMCA when I realized the day was February 14 – Valentine's Day. In my busyness and preoccupation with work I had forgotten to send a card, flowers or candy. Cell phones hadn't even been thought of in 1970 so I had no way of instantly communicating with her that night. The young lady to whom I had pledged my loyalty for life seemed secondary in importance to what I did at work. Kathy deserved better.

We all know the familiar passage of John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

God gave the biggest gift of all – the sacrifice of His son. His sacrifice was because of His love for us. What God did for each of us is a key part of His plan. It paved the way for the salvation of all mankind. That is pretty big stuff – much bigger than flowers, candy and a nice restaurant meal or night out on the town.

God desires a lasting relationship with each of us. He asks for a commitment from us as we need to honor and love Him. He wants us to communicate with Him and make Him an integral part of our daily life. In return He offers us many blessings during our lifetime and salvation for eternal life. And, He wants us to express love to others. We love others because He first loved us.

I had a commitment to Kathy – to love her always. In less than four months from that forgettable Valentine's Day I would be waiting at the altar for her. And yet, on a day specifically set aside to express my love I had become too busy to honor that commitment. God is offering a commitment of eternal life to you. If you accept God's offer you need to hold up your part of the commitment: to love, honor and obey. Sound familiar? Love, honor and obey are words typically said in a marriage ceremony. So also are the words "as long as we both shall live." To people of faith God expands the "as long as we both shall live" to life eternal. Honor God's love on Valentine's Day and every day.

Question: How do you show your love to God? Do you sometimes get overwhelmed or too busy to fully commit your life to Him?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Life is busy, but we commit our selves to you. We pray you will always be a priority in our lives. Amen.