

## ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

### INTRODUCTION

Valentine's Day was named in honor of Saint Valentine who was a widely recognized 3rd-century Roman Christian. He ministered to persecuted Christians and was martyred on February 14 which has been observed as Valentine's Day since 496 AD.

Valentine's Day is a reminder of the importance of love. Consider what the Bible says about love. It is interesting that the Apostle John wrote more about love than any other disciple. The Gospel of John and The First Epistle of John are full of information concerning God-love. Probably, the Scripture passage on love most familiar to people is in 1 Corinthians 13 written by the Apostle Paul.

### CONSIDERING LOVE

- A. What is love? Love is visible.
1. The Apostle Paul gives characteristics of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*
  2. Saint Augustine of Hippo (430), *What does love look like? It has hands to help others. It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.*
  3. That doesn't sound like the kind of love promoted today.
- B. Where is love from? Love is from God.
1. 1 John 4:8, *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*
  2. 1 Jn. 4:16, . . . *God is love. . .*
  3. It is God's nature to love which did not begin with mankind nor angels, but within the Godhead.
  4. Illustrate from love to fear by Adam and Eve.
  5. Thomas A Kempis (1380-1471), *A wise lover values not so much the gift of the lover as the love of the giver.*
- C. Why must I love? Love is commanded by God.
1. Matthew 22:37-39, *And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*
  2. It may be God's nature but it has not always been mine. My love can be suspicious, self-centered, even lacking.
  3. C. S. Lewis, *God's love for us is a much safer subject to think about than our love for Him.*
- D. How do we know God loves us? God's love is revealed in His actions.
1. 1 John 4:9, *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.*
  2. Romans 5:8, *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
  3. Billy Graham, *When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I love you."*
- E. How can we get this God-love? God's love is received through His Son.
1. John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
  2. John 16:27, *for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.*
  3. It is a choice, 1 John 3:23, *And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ.*
  4. William Law (1761), *Will you let the fear of a false world, that has no love for you, keep you from the fear of that God, who has only created you that He may love and bless you to all eternity?*
- F. Why is love so important? Love is how God intends for us to live.
1. Colossians 3:14, *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*
  2. 1 Corinthians 13:8, 13, *Love never ends. . . So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*
  3. John 13:35, *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*
  4. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1945), *Give me such love for God and men as will blot out all hatred and bitterness.*

- G. How are we to love? Love is reflecting God's love to others.
1. 1 Corinthians 16:14, *Let all that you do be done in love.*
  2. Ephesians 5:2; *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*
  3. 1 John 3:18, *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*
  4. Anonymous, *Love people, not things.*
  5. Godly love can see beyond oneself.

<b>CONCLUSION</b>
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- A. Love is at the very heart of God.
- B. We need our hearts that were hardened by sin to be replaced by God with a new heart that can love.
- C. There is plenty to love: God, myself, and everyone else who comes my way.
- D. There is a future beyond compare, 1 Corinthians 2:9, . . . *What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.*