

AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE... 1 Cor. 13:13

On Saturday February 14th, we will observe a most wondrous holiday. "The love day" or more commonly known as Valentine's Day. The paper will be full of stores advertising various gifts to present to your loved ones. There will no doubt be a run at the jewelers, florists shops, candy stores, etc. as we prepare to shower our loved one with an outward manifestation of our love for them. What better to celebrate than love? Love is at the center of our lives. Without someone or something to love we would be people most miserable. Love motivates us to do things for one another. The Bible says in 1 John 4:8 "God is Love".

For a Christian, we miss the purpose of Christ's birth if we do not accept it as a living link which joins us together in spirit as children of the ever-loving and true God. In love alone, the love of God, and the love of man will be found the solution of all ills, which inflict the world today. Slowly, sometimes painfully, but always with increasing purpose, emerges the great message of Christianity: Only with wisdom comes joy, and with greatness comes love.

Love has motivated men to give up their kingdoms; love has more power over us than anything else known to mankind. One definition I found in Smith's Bible dictionary says "natural affection." Also spiritual affection for Holy things (Rom. 12:10; 1 John 4:7, etc.), which is the fruit of the spirit, opposed to evil, and only satisfied with a likeness to Jesus Christ and God.

In the hierarchy needs of life, as they are listed as water, food, clothing, shelter, with these being the most crucial, however we need to add love also as an essential. To say that one will perish without love does not mean that everyone without adequate love dies. However, many do, for without the will to live is often impaired to such an extent that a person's resistance is critically lowered and death follows. But most of the time lack of love makes people depressed, anxious, and without zest for life. They remain unhappy and lonely, without friends or work they care for, their life is a barren treadmill stripped of all action and joy.

So, as we pause to tell or show someone how much we love him or her on this very special day, let us reflect on how much God loved us. For the Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." If you are trying to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, you will make a sincere effort to love all mankind.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

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