

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

romance and Valentine Day? - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/1/31 17:59

Hey

I was talking with some other sisters this afternoon and the topic turned to this upcoming Valentines day. They were all talking about the big expensive gifts and plans they are expecting from either boyfriend/husband for Valentines day. I was really kind of surprised because although there was not anything really wrong with what they were talking about it all just sounded really worldly and selfish. I don't know if i was just being overly critical or not but it just seems to me as Christians should we be getting caught up in these things? When I started asking what exactly it was they were celebrating one lady told me that her and her husband really just enjoy celebrating their love and each other. She said they always do gifts and plan a romantic night out. Again I am not saying that its wrong just not comfortable with the focus being so much on self. One of the ladies was teasing me and told me I was just a cold fish, with not one romantic bone in my body. It kind of hurt my feelings but I did not say anything, although it has got me wondering if I am wrong about date nights, romance, and how this all fits into my understanding of what Biblical marriage is?

Anyone have any thoughts they want to share?

rdg

After thought I should add that I am married and feel like I have a strong marriage but we do not gush all over each other the way some of our couple friends do..(I wanted to add that when I wrote this I did not mean to imply that couple who do gush all over each other are wrong)

Re: romance and Valentine Day? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/1/31 18:24

Quote:

-----but we do not gush all over each other the way some of our couple friends do..

And why not?

My husband and I are on our 43th year of marriage and we are still romantic...he will buy me roses on valentine's day - how I love that! We do not exchange expensive gifts but I just love it when he gives me a real sweet card and some roses ...:-)

Check your PM for more from me - some things are better said in private.

ginnyrose

Re: romance and Valentine Day? - posted by Compton (), on: 2010/1/31 18:44

Quote:

-----Again I am not saying that its wrong just not comfortable with the focus being so much on self. One of the ladies was teasing me and told me I was just a cold fish, with not one romantic bone in my body.

Rainday,

I'm sorry to hear you got your feelings hurt, but you did ask for it.

Human feelings and experience, redeemed and sanctified to a state of grace that faintly recalls unspoiled man and woman before the fall, are a divine creation. Such beautiful dimensions of life are a gift from the Creator, not a cursing.

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

Mike

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/1/31 19:14

Hi

Maybe I did ask for it as you said. I was not trying to be rude or squash anyone's fun, just asking some questions. Since posting this though I a call from one of the ladies I was talking with and she wanted to know if I wanted her husband to talk with mine about doing more to prove his love for me. I asked her what she meant, she said that she thought maybe I was feeling left out because my husband does not buy me gifts or show his love like the other husbands do. I told her that was not a problem for me and if I gave her that impression that I was sorry, I was just asking questions because of the way they were going on about what they were getting and going to be doing. She ended up telling me that she would pray for me because it was clear my marriage was in real trouble and I did not even know it?? I did not know what to say to her and I still don't. Do others feel this way to that if your not buying gifts, and holding hands, hugging and going out on dates all the time that the marriage is in trouble?

My husband and I have never been romantic, its just not who he is. He has never bought me flowers but he works really hard to provide for us so that when we do have children I can stay home to be with them. We do not go out on date nights as other couples our age but he does come home and not go out hanging out with the boys even though he could if he wanted to. He is not overly demonstrative with his affection in public, but I know if I need him he will be there no matter what. He does tell me he loves me all the time though, even more then I do him. This is really confusing to me right now

love in Him
rdg

Edit: I just wanted to make sure that I was not trying to say that being affectionate with your spouse in public is wrong. I did not say that to these ladies either I was more trying to understand their need to celebrate with expensive gifts and dates to prove ones love in a marriage and why it was so vital that your husband prove his love by buying things for you on Valentines Day.

Re: romance and Valentine Day? - posted by HeedWatchmen (), on: 2010/1/31 20:16

Rainydaygirl

Please do not let anyone tell you that your marriage is in trouble because you do not do the things that some other couples have chosen to do.

I am also not saying that it is wrong to do some special things from time to time, but everyone today seems to be so caught up in themselves and enjoying the moment. When I read your post to my husband, he immediately opened his Bible to II Timothy 3:1-5 --

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Today many people are "lovers of their own selves", "trucebreakers", and "lovers of pleasures" more than lovers of God". That is what Valentine's Day is, it is a day to have pleasure. Galatians 4:10,11 advises against us "observing days, and months, and times, and years." According to Paul this is a sign of weakness.

God wants us to keep our priorities straight. Is it really necessary to spend a lot of money to tell you spouse that you love him/her? Thirty years ago and earlier couples were not out spending all kinds of money on each other and being affectionate in public. That was when most marriages still lasted a lifetime. Couples didn't need the constant high points in order to stay in love with each other. They were committed and loved each other and that is what mattered.

As far as your friends go, I would give you II Corinthians 10:12:

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

From what I read from you I believe you have a GREAT marriage. You and your husband seem to have a grasp on what is important in spending time together instead of finding every excuse to do activities away from each other. Don't let any one tell you that your marriage is in trouble. You will always be much happier if you are able to enjoy each other and show each other your love without spending a lot of money doing so.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2010/1/31 21:02

Hi again Rainyday,

Quote:
-----a call from one of the ladies I was talking with and she wanted to know if I wanted her husband to talk with mine about doing more to prove his love for me.

You must be in a really close knit church for people to be so familiar with you that they feel free to ask such a thing!

Quote:
----- Do others feel this way to that if your not buying gifts, and holding hands, hugging and going out on dates all the time that the marriage is in trouble?

I think gifts, practical ones certainly, but pointless one especially, are part of the language some can use to communicate love to one another. Yet it's the love that's important...and so if you and your husband are communicating just fine then there's no problem!

My wife and I just went to dinner between my first response, and this one. I shared with her the question of this thread, and she reminded me that we might not know the full context for every one's perspective on this question. So true!

I guess my context; the original reason I reacted to your question in a certain way, is that I feel we take it upon ourselves to disapprove of people too often, and many times this disapproval is based on style and not substance. It can all lead to needless additional disappointment with people...and perhaps a contrary disposition!

I did consider whether your question was more one of style or more one of substance. For instance, I know my Libby wants a certain style of expressed love from me...the kind I naturally tend to give anyways. She likes me to be very talkative, and to occasionally surprise her with writing my feelings, She also appreciates lots of undistracted face time like at the restaurant tonight. She isn't a big fan of expensive gifts because she is sensitive to how such purchases can thwart our family peace and stability. (And I suspect this preference has more to do with living practically with self-employment than any "principle" of non-materialism.)

Well, that's her style I suppose. I also know women who appreciate expensive gifts, and that seems perfectly fine to me as well. Meanwhile, other women see love best when chores are being done! And still others when the man dotes on the children. Quite frankly, I admit I can't really claim to be an expert on this subject!

My point is that I think all these expressions, these dialects, are neither better nor worse than the things your friends we're looking forward to.

Blessings,

MC

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2010/1/31 21:05

Quote:
-----My husband and I have never been romantic, its just not who he is. He has never bought me flowers but he works really hard to provide for us so that when we do have children I can stay home to be with them. We do not go out on date nights as other couples our age but he does come home and not go out hanging out with the boys even though he could if he wanted to. He is not overly demonstrative with his affection in public, but I know if I need him he will be there no matter what. He does tell me he loves me all the time though, even more then I do him. This is really confusing to me right now

From the beginning post this all comes off to me as long nosed and condescending. Sometimes I think there is a great deal of anger in trying to be too 'spiritual'. That probably sounds crazy, but seriously, sometimes what I read here on SI seems more to me a knock off of Islam or eastern religion than Christianity. There is nothing sinful or even compromising about being romantic with your spouse. To even imply that it is- is to begrudge the affection of others. Read the Song of Songs. It was given for our learning. Have any of us attained to that level?

Being spiritual has nothing to do with how long your skirt is or whether you wear a suit every Sunday (and I'm all for suits and long dresses for those that wear them). It has nothing to do with looking so sour it's as if someone downed a gallon of lemon juice. Being spiritual for a married couple is to be a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the Church. What could be worse than an *ascetic marriage*? It becomes a situation where any enjoyment in life or anything of celebration is considered a sin or compromise.

I had not weighed in here except there are many young believers that read these posts. I want to say categorically that it is not a sin to express love to your spouse, but it is a sin to begrudge the love expressed to others. You risk being charged with envy. And that expression depends on the persons involved. To take on the attitude of the opening thread is to risk scandal like you can't imagine. We have to take time to work on our marriages. This is one of the ways the enemy gets a foothold in lives. Men start calling their wife 'the old lady' or acting like it- no one ever tells anyone they love the other - and it becomes a seedbed for the devil's lies. I would kiss you goodbye dear- but that would be fleshly. No, fleshly will be when that pretty little thang starts showing him some attention that he don't get at home or if that player at the grocery store starts to tell your wife how fine she is.

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/1/31 21:23

Quote:
-----I had not weighed in here except there are many young believers that read these posts. I want to say categorically that it is not a sin to express love to your spouse, but it is a sin to begrudge the love expressed to others.

Honestly I never said that it was sin to express love for your spouse and I was not judging these ladies or anyone here on SI at all. I was asking a few questions because they were discussing spending a lot of money and how it was so important that their husbands prove their love to them by making sure they did all this stuff. I have only been a christian for a few years(not as long as many here I am sure) so I was asking questions because I was wanted to learn from those who are more mature.

Honestly between some of the reactions that I have gotten here and some that I got from those that I know in the real world I was clearly wrong and I am sorry I every asked this stupid question. Truly more sorry then any will ever know.

Please would one of the mods just remove this thread if possible. I really am sorry. Did not mean to offend anyone. I humbly ask for anyone who was offended forgiveness.

Very sorry
rdg

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2010/1/31 21:40

Quote:

-----Please would one of the mods just remove it or if possible. I really am sorry. Did not mean to offend anyone.

It's not necessary. I'm not offended and I doubt if anyone else is either. But what we have to guard against is a dangerous attitude that can eventually destroy us. This may well have been a God-send. As a young Christian I did a lot of really radical things that seemed spiritual. But honestly, it has been at times when I thought I was most spiritual that the enemy came in and nearly destroyed my life. Never take your eye off of your home or assume that the devil is not at work. Never assume that the enemy will not attack. He will attack you in ways you are not prepared to handle; especially as you go into ministry and become a threat to his kingdom.

The danger is also that we don't talk about these things often enough. I have had older Christian holiness preachers sit me down and talk to me about the dangers I am talking about. I thought something was wrong with *them* or that they needed revival!

I used to think that a romantic night means sitting and listening to a sermon with the wife. But a wise teacher told me once that he and his wife does not listen to Amazing Grace to their candle light dinner. That was shocking to me! But we have to have wisdom. And sometimes our reactions to what others are doing are a red flag in our own life. As a young Christian let me encourage you to always be vigilant. You will likely change over time. You may not want certain things today - but in time that may change. Don't make boundaries for yourself- either literal or implied- that are unnecessary.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2010/1/31 21:56

No worries here Rainygirl.

Re: - posted by KathleenP (), on: 2010/2/1 5:30

Please please may I say something? As I was reading Rainyday's first post and the way it swerved almost immediately, I felt badly because of it.

I believe she had a legitimate concern for what she was hearing these ladies discuss and that if you had overheard the conversation, you might have a clearer understanding of her concern.

When my daughter-in-law to be was going to have a shower, a friend of hers remarked on making a trip to a certain store and I was very upset that she would say what she did in front of me and my daughter-in-law is very shy and discreet.

We need sometimes to remember to keep the marriage bed holy and unless I'm interpreting things wrongly myself, I have also heard "over the top" sort of things spoken where a warning buzzer went off. Was she judging the conversation, or grieved through the Holy Spirit? Love between married couples has long been affected by the world's over rated view of romance and stress on intimacy.

I don't think this dear saint intended anything but to question certain things that were discussed. I trust that she felt safe inquiring about it here, and I did not detect any harshness in her post.

Maybe we have been too affected by the world in yet another holiday and what it represents. Rainydaygirl, I'm blessed that you are so content by not setting the same sort of standards on one day as many. I bless your house for your husband's desire to provide and do what is most pleasing before the Lord. God bless.

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2010/2/1 7:45

Quote:

----- Love between married couples has long been affected by the world's over rated view of romance and stress on intimacy.

With all due respect, I have to strongly disagree here. This is the type of thing I have challenged in this thread; not because I enjoy a conflict, but because this is very serious territory and a lot of confusion exists here. The devil did not invent romance- God did. Nor did the devil invent intimacy. I am more inclined to say that the world has lost its way in romance and all that is left is a cheap lust in which the masses having lived in fornication before marriage and have almost no real ability for intimacy. Consider this passage from Proverbs 5:

Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

There is a danger in Proverbs 5 that the antidote is given for. That danger is adultery. The antidote? Be thou *ravished* always with her love. The context is clearly affection and attention. Let your fountain be blessed and *rejoice* with the wife of your youth. This is the joy of marriage that protects men and women from *real* sin. Setting boundaries that God did not set is a recipe for scandal. We have to take God seriously here and not esteem ourselves wiser than He.

The time would fail us to examine the Song of Solomon. It sounds scandalous even to many of our ears. Is this gushing? We are light years past giving flowers and going to dinner. That would be child's play compared to this revelation. But the Holy Spirit is the author. Solomon wrote as he was moved by the Holy Spirit. This tells me that romance and intimacy has its origin in God and the devil knows nothing about it.

You have stolen my heart, my sister, my bride;
you have stolen my heart
with one glance of your eyes,
with one jewel of your necklace.

How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride!
How much more pleasing is your love than wine,
and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice!

Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride;
milk and honey are under your tongue.
The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon.

Re: - posted by Wordizlife (), on: 2010/2/1 8:49

After reading RobertW's reply I cant wait to get married!!!!!!

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2010/2/1 9:18

I wanted to share something that has been precious to me and something I have re-read over and over again many times.

A little nook in the very heart of God

God's plan for every marriage is happiness.

Marriage is meant to be a miniature of heaven—a fragment of the celestial blessedness, let down into this world.

Marriage is meant to be a little sanctuary, into which husband and wife may flee from earth's storms and dangers, where in love's shelter, their hearts fed with affection's daily bread—they may dwell in quiet peace.

Marriage is meant to be a shelter in which, covered from the frosts of the world and shielded from its cold and tempests—two lives may grow together into richest beauty, realizing their sweetest dreams of happiness, blending in whatever things are true, whatever things are pure, and attaining the finest possibilities of godly character.

Marriage is meant to be a holy ark, floating on the wild floods of human life—like Noah's ark on the deluge, bearing to heaven's gates, to the harbor of glory—the lives which God has shut within its doors.

A godly marriage is a little nook in the very heart of God, where faithful souls are held close to the Father's heart, and carried safely, amid dangers and sorrows, to the home above!

(J. R. Miller, "The Marriage Altar" 1898)

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2010/2/1 9:20

Quote:

-----After reading RobertW's reply I cant wait to get married!!!!

Marriage is not a drudgery if we are careful to listen to God's counsel. Whether one marries or not should be based upon God's purposes and the 'gift' that each of us has (I Cor. 7). But I don't mind saying that we can live good lives as believers. Some young people are under the impression that God's will for their life is to marry someone and live *miserably* ever after. They think they need to marry a sinner to find some excitement. Just keeping it real here. This is also why many go into sin because they think living a Christian life is meant to be some dull dead existence. But that is the lie of the devil.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jer. 29:11)

Over and over in Proverbs we are given wise practical counsel about our daily existence. We can't always live on the mountain and drink straight grape juice. There is a practical side to our spiritual lives that requires that we study God's word and not seek to somehow improve on it by adding to or taking away from (it). Proverbs 1 tells of the finality of those that refuse God's counsel. It is a book loaded with practical instruction on how to keep ourselves from scandal.

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

When do people generally try to get romance in marriage? *After* they find out their spouse has been cheating on them. Then they burn their car up trying to get to Borders Books or the local Christian book store to get *The Five Love Languages* or some other book to help them get past it. I don't say that as a criticism; but as a warning to those that think they stand- take heed lest you fall. You are not too spiritual for a little romance in your life. God forbid that any would have to learn this advice the hard way. Society is loaded with scandal- but we are not ignorant of the devil's devices if we are willing to study and apply what God has said.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/2/1 10:59

RobertW and Christian - I love your posts! They are so sweet and so true!

Someone has said that only Christians can experience real romance because they do it God's way by confining themselves only to each other and concentrating on serving the other. And I agree.

It is easy to settle into a routine after marriage and perhaps the 'fire' wanes some. There is a lot of danger when this is allowed to continue indefinitely. It is like one poster said - another will come along and with sweet words minister to an emotional need that developed because these desires were left untended.

Having said all this, I do think that to demand expensive gifts as a symbol of one's love is selfish. Period. Little things done on a regular basis mean so much and they cost little. This is what helps to keep the fires of romance alive. Hugging and kissing in public is not proper - unless one is fixing to leave for some time, like at an airport - but you could hold hands! I still thrill to the feel of my husband's strong, large hands. It reminds me how much bigger he is than me and that I am safe with him! :-)

Blessings,
ginnyrose

Re: romance and Valentine Day? - posted by Theophila (), on: 2010/2/1 11:34

Hi All,
Interesting posts.

Let me begin by saying that i'm all for date nights and romance, bless God! I'm not sure about the expensive gifts part but then that's relative too! Depending on your financial resources, a \$100 gift is nothing to one and expensive to another.

That said, there's a whole lot of foolishness that folk can get into on account of Valentine's day. If the DHs of the sisters in rdg's church are happy to provide said expensive gifts to their DWs, all is well. If it's a noose round their necks, that's a whole 'nother matter altogether.

Not sure who said this but i agree...Christian marriage should be a picture of heaven. I believe God instituted marriage out of His great big heart of love.

Rdg, as long as you and DH are happy in your expressions of love to one another, i think all is well. Besides, you could find some inspiration in the Song of Solomon too. There are portions there you could read to DH.

Our church is full of young unmarried uns many of whom have no notion of what a joyful, godly marriage is. Because of this, I'm conscious of my interactions with DH in public. I'm glad that a few of my single girlfriends have remarked to me how they would love to have a marriage like mine.

DH and i are active in church, he in bible-studies, moi, in leading worship. So folk know we love Jesus but it's also important to me that they know we also ENJOY being with each other. We have fun, we laugh, hug etc. We love gushing over each other.....especially in public!
All that is spiritual too!

Peace to all

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/2/1 11:36

After many tears spent this last night and asking my dear husband to please forgive me for causing such a mess, I thought that I might try with this one last post to share with you all again what was on my heart. It is my prayer that I will not be under things so badly this time.

When I was younger(not all that long ago) I spent a good deal of my time in love stories. I use to fantasize for hours about my prince and how he would one day sweep me off my feet. I use to make up my own little stories and imagine that this is how marriage to my prince would be. I would give him my heart and he would give me his and just like Darcy and Elizabeth we would spend all our days and nights completely in love and I would be the center of his universe. Then I met my husband, and he was not the prince I always dreamed about, and marriage was not full of romance all the time, and things were not as I always imagined they would be. Instead of fantasy there was life to be dealt with. When I came to the Lord, I knew if I wanted my marriage to last, one of the things that I had to die to was all these notions I had of marriage and romance from movies and books because they were all about self. Things like Valentines day, candies, flowers and diamonds didn't seem to have the same a lure to me as I once thought they did. I no longer needed the intensity of a Hollywood romance because I found in Jesus that loving my husband and caring for him more than I did self was a better way.(for me) It was really self on my part that desired to be the center of the universe or to hold another's heart completely. Over time I came to see that Jesus is the only one who should ever hold that place in our life. The more time I spent in seeking the Lord the more I am seeing that loving another is not about what they can or have to do to prove their love by observing certain days or buying gifts. Its more about the every day things and knowing that my husband's desire is the same as mine to walk with the Lord together. To make Jesus the one who matters most in both our lives.

The women that I was talking with were talking about Valentines day, and their plans, their date nights. One of them mentioned how she had picked out a very expensive pair of diamond earrings that her husband had better not forget to get her. They were talking about their plans for the day, dinners, gifts, and the like. It really reminded me of all the Hollywood hype of what love is and so that is when I opened my mouth and asked them what would happen if they didn't get the gifts or the flowers, or the earrings? Why was that so important to them and so it began. Then I came here and I posted in such a way that made some very upset and I know I did not word things very well because people kept saying your judging and I really was not trying to. Again I am sorry, I was more trying to understand if it is truly healthy for us as young women to be getting so caught up with expecting these things, these kind of romantic things that the world says husbands must do if they really love us? I was not trying to say that it is wrong if one spouse desires to do these things for the other, but should any of it be expected as a way of proof? Compared to many here I am a baby Christian and I know I have much to learn but it is confusing when I look to the Word and it talks about sacrifice and putting others first and the two coming together as one to further His Kingdom and yet there are those who profess His name who tell me that what really matters in a marriage is buying gifts and candle lit dinners, and spending every moment making the other person feel special. Is that honestly really humanly possible to do even, I mean spend all your time in your marriage making your spouse feel happy and special all the time? I guess I am trying to figure out what is love? and what is a good marriage?

As for affection in public I did not say it was sinful or wrong to hold hands, or hug but I do think even those in the church go to far at times with this. Also for the record I did not say that my husband and I do not have intimacy, I said we do not gush all over each other, (I should have added in public as some of our friends do.) My husband is not romantic, this is not something new to me either. He was never romantic when we first dated(we were very young) but he is a really great guy and I am thankful for him. He has grown and matured in the Lord and like me he still has areas that he needs to die to. For me knowing that Jesus is the love of his life actually gives me great comfort because I know he does not want to walk in such a way to bring sorrow to his first love...Jesus!!

Anyway if you read this far thanks for letting me try to clear things up. I really do hope that I have been able to better convey what I was trying to say and not that I was speaking against what others do in their marriage. If I still have written in such a way that someone finds offensive please know that was not the intention of my heart ever. Some of this is what is running through my mind this morning. I also wanted to take a moment and say thank you to some who posted in the thread, what you shared really did help.

thank you
rdg

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2010/2/1 12:05

Hi RDG,

Thanks for sharing here. I for one am absolutely not offended at all. This thread has gone in different directions than just the original posts. I surely wish you and yours all the best. Be encouraged in the Lord! We serve a wonderful Savior that cares about these things! He knows where we are and is concerned about even the little things. Delight yourself in Him all your days and you will marvel at what He will bring to pass. God Bless.

Re: romance and Valentine Day? Lotta rape; little romance., on: 2010/2/1 13:26

THE HISTORY OF VALENTINES DAY.

"Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honour Juno. Juno was the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

The lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the duration of the festival with the girl whom he chose. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that Roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off.

He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, a very ancient custom, indeed, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honour of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of pagan ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The pastors of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavoured to do away with the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of maidens. And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feast. So it seems that the custom of young men choosing maidens for valentines, or saints as patrons for the coming year, arose in this way.'
...SOURCE..

It seems that Valentine's day was simply a ploy by the Emperor of Rome to keep his vast legions sexually satisfied by conscripting young girls and forcing them into sexually slavery for their use. It was nothing more than a veteran's benefit. He of course made it mandatory by assigning it to the whim of the queen of heaven herself; the chief demoness of all the gods.

If the soldier chose to marry the girl he could, or move on as he chose. It was shameful and cruel sexual abuse, established as law. Leave it to the Catholics to create a saint out of the carnage.

I think it is harmless today. Just another commercial, guilt driven holiday, . Beware if you forget the flowers. You don't really love her....

I don't think it matters if you celebrate it or not, but I assure you it is meaningless either way.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/1 16:53

Greetings

I was going to stay away from this thread for a couple of reasons but I have to admit that some of what has been written here has been on my mind and actually kind of surprised me.

Robert you wrote:When do people generally try to get romance in marriage? After they find out their spouse has been cheating on them. Then they burn their car up trying to get to Borders Books or the local Christian book store to get The Five Love Languages or some other book to help them get past it. I don't say that as a criticism; but as a warning to those that think they stand- take heed lest you fall. You are not too spiritual for a little romance in your life. God forbid that any would have to learn this advice the hard way.

I really need some clarification on your post because I do not want to respond thinking you mean one thing when really you are saying another:) Are you saying that if a husband and wife do not make time for romance(dates, gifts, flowers,ect) then one or the other will end up in an affair? Also could you please share what is your definition of romance in a marriage???

God Bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/1 16:56

Greetings hmmm

What you posted here by J.R. Miller "The Marriage Altar" was really beautiful.

Quote:
-----A godly marriage is a little nook in the very heart of God, where faithful souls are held close to the Father's heart, and carried safely, amid dangers and sorrows, to the home above!

This part especially touched my heart. Thank you for sharing it.

God Bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2010/2/1 17:35

Quote:
-----I really need some clarification on your post because I do not want to respond thinking you mean one thing when really you are saying another:) Are you saying that if a husband and wife do not make time for romance(dates, gifts, flowers,ect) then one or the other will end up in an affair? Also could you please share what is your definition of romance in a marriage???

I think that is an oversimplification of what I'm saying. What I am saying is- far too often people try to work on their marriage when it's too late. Some marriages will never see an affair no matter how bad things get. Some marriages will see affairs no matter how well the other spouse loves. Everyone expresses love in different ways and receives love in different ways. I think it wise to get to know your spouse and understand them and what their needs are and pay attention to those needs. Because believe me- the enemy has studied our lives and he does know how to trip us up. He knows how to come to us in times when we lack self-control.

Keeping our relationship healthy so that each other knows they are loved and even *feel* loved is very important. It is spiri

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

tual to love your wife or husband. And when I say 'romance' I am speaking of cultivating the flame of the relationship. There has to be a sense in which we feel special- #1 in the eyes of our spouse. Not taking God's place- but among men and women. People need to feel loved. How that takes place depends on the person. So it may seem nonsense to some to want a card, flowers or chocolates, etc.

Have you ever noticed the gift shop at the Hospital? It's almost always near the entrance. Ever notice how people get cards and plants when they are sick? What is this almost universal phenomena? It is the sense in which we can find a way to express our love or friendship with a small something. The size of the gift is not what matters- but the level of sacrifice. A gift of 2 mites could well be worth more than a pair of diamond earrings. A special night together with just a bowl of soup and a special table setting- some thing of effort- an attempt at showing affection. A little note in the wallet or the purse. A surprise e-mail just to say, "I love you and I'm thinking about you today." Simple things that are meaningful- only limited by the imagination of a heart determined to let it's beloved know that they are loved.

Re: - posted by KathleenP (), on: 2010/2/1 17:36

Rainydaygirl,

You are sweet and humble and you did not make a mess here.

My daughter-in-law also read many romance books etc. prior to marrying my son and that shock of the trials of a husband and wife in a world that paints a fairy tale showed her how misleading these books were.

I won't elaborate on subjects concerning what is romance and what is being ravished for I fear it would lead to contention. God's Word is very discreet and so He has taught me to be this way as well.

Let all that we do be done to the glory of God and that should be sufficient.

The quote from J.R. Miller is precious and pure.

Re: - posted by SHMILY, on: 2010/2/1 18:05

Rainydaygirl

Just want you to know I did understand your original post and agree. I was somewhat taken aback at some of the replies.

Hmmmmm

What wonderful quote. Thank you.

REJOICE! =)

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/1 18:30

Greetings Robert

Thanks for clearing that up. I agree that there is nothing wrong with doing little things to let your spouse know you care about them. I think that any one of those things you mentioned is fine if done in the right heart with the right attitude in Christ Jesus. I will say this though, I also agree with what rdg said that there is something very wrong when it becomes expected in a marriage.

Thinking over the thread in general, I really do think women today can get very caught up in the world's idea of romance and love. I also think the number one threat to most marriages is the notion of romantic love that is pretty much shoved in our faces via entertainment and television. Marriage is a really wonderful bond between husband and wife, but there are many days when there are real struggles and hurdles that must be overcome in order just to make it to the end of the day. When two people are looking to each other instead of to Christ there will always be disappointments. Jesus alone can be our all and all and the false ideas that most of what the world tries to tell us is "true love" will crash and burn because its bases is in self and not Christ.

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

God Bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2010/2/1 19:21

Glad to clear that up Mary. :)

Quote:
-----Jesus alone can be our all and all and the false ideas that most of what the world tries to tell us is "true love" will crash and burn because its bases is in self and not Christ.

I was in a class on marriage once when I commented to the speaker that I had always wondered what it would be like to have a relationship as did Abraham and Sarah. The passage I am referring to is:

After all, this is how holy women who set their hope on God used to make themselves beautiful in the past. They submitted themselves to their husbands, just as Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. You have become her daughters by doing good and by not letting anything terrify you. (1 Peter 3:6, 7 ISV)

Needless to say the gal teaching became infuriated. Why? Because the focus was on the fact that Sarah called Abraham 'lord' or 'master' as some translations have it (Heb. adon). It means to be supreme in authority. But the story does not end there. The word Sarah means 'princess'.

Let's do a test:

*Therefore **princess** laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? (Genesis 18:12)*

I struggle to understand the depth of the relationship that existed between Abraham and his princess. Is it ok for me to view my wife as a 'princess' and treat her as such? Should I fear over loving my wife? I'm not asking the world for an answer or Hollywood- I'm asking based on the scriptures- what is an appropriate relationship between a man and wife?

Now everyone put your stones down. ;) But I want to ask a question; if I referred to my wife as princess and she turned around and referred to me as her master - how would you respond to that? Now, I have seen preachers handle these passages like hot coals in their hands. And this I submit is what Hollywood and this world has done to us - and what they have not done the pharisees have finished- Until there is almost no hope in our times that a man and woman could ever comfortably relate to each other as did Abraham and his princess much less a man love his wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. One would cry this and the other would cry that. So we settle every day for less than God's best.

At the risk of angering everyone I must say that at some point we have to stop using God and the bible as an excuse not to love one another in the sense that God expects. If we are married we have responsibilities that do not allow us to live as if we were single. This risk is tremendous. (see 1 Cor. 7:5) If I eavesdrop on a group of godly women and hear them saying to the effect: "my husband is going to *love me like he loves himself and cherish me as he cherishes his own body..*" (Para Eph. 6) Should I judge that these women are speaking carnally? How does a man supply his own needs? Typically if it is within his means he will do for himself what he desires. He will please himself; that is, the married is anxious for the things of the world, how he shall please the wife. (1 Cor. 7)

Should these women expect their husbands to love them in this way? Well, to be consistent- if a wife has the right to expect her children to mind- and the husband expects his wife to be in subjection - surely she is entitled to his end of the deal. We are called to love our wives as Christ loves the Church and if we are not there we need to get about our business. That is not the world's idea- it is God's commandment.

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/1 20:09

Greetings Robert

You wrote:But I want to ask a question; if I referred to my wife as princess and she turned and referred to me as her master - how would you respond to that?

Truthfully it does not matter to me if you call your wife a princess or not:) I am not being sarcastic either I just really do not have a problem if you want to call your wife princess that is between the two of you and I would consider it a personal thing.

You wrote:Should these women expect their husbands to love them in this way? Well, to be consistent- if a wife has the right to expect her children to mind- and the husband expects his wife to be in subjection - surely she is entitled to his end of the deal. We are called to love our wives as Christ loves the Church and if we are not there we need to get about our business. That is not the world's idea- it is God's commandment.

I did not say that a wife should not expect her husband to love her. I said there was a real problem with any wife who expects to be given gifts, and who expects to be treated as if she is all that matters in her husband's world. Having that attitude is a selfish one and needs to be repented of. This idea that husbands or wives "must" prove their love in some materialistic way is not Biblical in my understanding at all. I have seen some really spoiled wives who throw worst tantrums than a two year old all because they are caught up in the notion that they deserve to have their husbands undivided attention all the time. Again this is Hollywood and the world's idea of love and there are many young women especially who get caught up in this. It's an unfair expectation to place on a husband to be all things to his wife at all times, he is only human not a prince and not a knight in shining armor. Fairy tales are just that fairy tales:)

God Bless
maryjane

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2010/2/1 20:37

Quote:
----- Its an unfair expectation to place on a husband to be all things to his wife at all times, he is only human not a prince and not a knight in shining armor. Fairy tales are just that fairy tales:)

Is this a reasonable response to what I have written? Seriously?

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/1 20:47

Greetings Robert

Quote:
-----Quote: Its an unfair expectation to place on a husband to be all things to his wife at all times, he is only human not a prince and not a knight in shining armor. Fairy tales are just that fairy tales:)

Is this a reasonable response to what I have written? Seriously?

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

I am sorry if you were offended by what I wrote. I was trying to be a bit light hearted.

But really in all seriousness there are women who claim to love the Lord and yet really do behave like this. They really do get caught up in the idea that their husband must be just like a knight in shining armor to them or prince charming. The demands of time and such that they place on their husbands does cause a real strain on their marriages. I guess that is why I do think it is such a danger and one as women in the Lord we do need to be mindful of.

I really was not trying to offend you brother, I think that "for me" I am seeing this from a female point of view. Please know that I am not making a broad statement that all things romantic are bad or wrong. I am not saying that all women struggle with having these ideas in their minds of what their husband has to be, or wanting him to prove his love in some material way. I know there are many women who do not, but for those who do it is a real problem when they marry. What I am sharing is that in all things even as wives when it comes to our marriages we need to be seeking the Lord and not be trying to fulfill some fantasy in self. I agree we need to love one another and we should express our love for one another but when we as wives start making demands or start having expectations of our husbands that are not centered in Christ then there is a problem.

God Bless and hope you have a good evening
maryjane

Re: , on: 2010/2/1 22:55

Robert,

All I can say is AMEN brother. I agree with everything you have said, and gladly, I am reminded to be ravished with my wife.....thank you bro.

Re: romance and Valentine Day?, on: 2010/2/1 23:05

My Mother is my only Valentine, and I do buy Roses and a box of chocolates for her. I just love it when the bakery is filled with small valentine cakes with "I love you" or "Be Mine" written on them. It's one of those gay times that people are festive over their loved one, I think that is really neat.

Re: - posted by rainydaygirl, on: 2010/2/1 23:41

Hi

I wanted to say thank you very much to those ladies here in the forum and who pm me for your kindness and support. After all that has happened my husband has asked me not to take part in forum and I want to respect that. I wanted to say to you ladies here that I have read over your posts and your pm and I will be in prayer over them and am taking them to heart. Some wonderful things were written to me and I hope to learn and grow with your advice. I really hope none of you will feel slighted that I did not get to write you back individually.

much love in Him
rdg

Re: - posted by Ceri (), on: 2010/2/2 6:47

I'm sorry you have had a bad experience - it is all a learning curve, The problem with expressing in writing is that you do not have body language and facial expressions to also go by which is essential to communication, so the writing has to be even more specific and to the point.

I do hope though that your husband reconsiders his decision and allows you to just put it down to a learning experience and move on, after all you did get a lot of positive feedback so it wasn't all bad!
I read your last note and it was so heartfelt and you were not wrong in what you said.

For us, we haven't much money at all and life is a struggle, I don't get anything on valentine's day but everyday in our 24 years of marriage my husband gives me hugs and kisses and tells me how much he loves me and how special I am - I don't need that one day a year!!

If I have a bad day he'll take me out for a country drive with my music playing and I'll sing my heart out while he drives - wonderful and so uplifting! - it's the little things he does that matter to me.

General Topics :: romance and Valentine Day?

I do hope your husband will encourage you to grow, flourish and learn, it's what the Lord does with us all the time! we may let Him down many times but the Lord just picks us up, brushes us down and moves us on.
all the best x

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/2/2 10:22

rdg, as I consider the my initial response to your post I think that perhaps an explanation is in order so perhaps you could understand where I am coming from. Before I go there I must say that Ceri has it right when she says that in posting one cannot observe the body language of the poster so is it may well be one will not get the message intended.

rdg, your original post echoed the concepts that is shared by another person I know real well. She would say something similar and go on to declare similar sentiment like you posted in your explanation of where you were coming from. But the reality was is that she was a very selfish person, the way she treated her husband stank in spite of his efforts to love her. She was very critical and yet a very religious person. The outside world knew something was wrong because family members would speak of it but she was so intimidating that no one could ever confront her successfully - she would either get so angry or be so meek, but would never repent. Anyhow, when I read your post this is the memory that came to me...

rdg, I do hope you will reconsider your disgust at having posted this question...some gems were shared here on this thread - the kind one wants to go back and read again. Males came on board and reacted strongly -I loved that! Did you hear what they were saying? e.g. RobertW, I think it was, said how romance comes from the heart of God - the love that is to be shared by a husband and wife. It is not an invention of the devil. rdg, did you know there were Christian theologians in the past who taught against this? who taught that physical intimacy was only to be entered into when children are desired? Vestiges of this mindset still exist among some, not many, but I have heard of it. Husbands and wives are to find pleasure in each other and sometimes busyness gets in the way and it is neglected. One or the other will suffer which will provide for the enemy a loophole to weasel in to wreck this relationship.

The point is that Christians need to embrace, promote the delight that God has created for husbands and wives. The world has done a fabulous job in perverting it. They hanker for it, hence the perversion. The harder they work to reclaim some of the Godly pleasure the worse the mess.

RDG, I am glad you love your husband, that this love is mutual and that it does not need diamonds to prove it. Just keep on loving him and know that this is the will of God..

God bless..

ginnyrose