

## WHO IS YOUR VALENTINE

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It's Valentine's Day weekend. Love is in the air. Did you wonder how Valentine's Day began and why? Valentine's Day originated from a blend of ancient Roman, pagan, and early Christian traditions, officially established in 496 A.D. by Pope Gelasius I to honor the martyr Saint Valentine, potentially replacing the mid-February fertility festival of Lupercalia. The day shifted toward romance in the Middle Ages, associated with spring and courtly love. Who is Saint Valentine?

It is around 265 A.D. and the Roman Emperor Claudius has made it a law that young men are not to marry. He believes that they will fight with more abandon in war if they don't have a wife and family to worry about. This results in a culture that becomes more and more vile. Polygamy runs rampant. This is where the true history behind St. Valentine comes from.

St. Valentine secretly married and ministered to couples in discrete locations so the Roman soldiers would not find out. He put his life on the line to help unite men and women in marriage and keep them away from sinful lifestyles. He did this for years, all hidden from the eye of Emperor Claudius. Unfortunately, he was found out. Claudius demanded that he recant his beliefs and become a loyal Roman citizen, but Valentine stood strong and because of that was put to death. Before he died, he sent letters out to his friends, many of which he had the chance to secretly marry, and asked them to pray for him and all the Christians in Rome. He urged them to keep their marriages sacred and focused on Christ. He closed each letter with these words, "Remember your Valentine." He was killed on the 14th of February in 270 A.D. This is why we celebrate each year on that day.

The story is told of a middle school principal who had a problem with a few of the girls who started to use lipstick. The problem was they pressed their lips against the mirrors in the girl's restroom. The principal explained how this is a problem because it takes the custodian a lot of time to get the lipstick off of the mirrors, but the girls continued to do it. To solve the problem, the principal brought the group of girls in to show them what it took for the custodian to clean the mirrors each day. The custodian took a long-handled brush, dipped it in the commode, and washed the lipstick off of the mirrors. There was no more lipstick problem after that day.

Yes, this is disgusting. However, at times it takes something disgusting for us to realize the seriousness of what we have done. Ask yourself this, "What about my sins?" Are they not disgusting? Maybe it's those four-letter words used at times, or the movies you watch and the TV shows you watch. After all, I am not as bad as... We compare ourselves to others to justify our actions. Try comparing yourself to Jesus. Not so good this time, are you?

How is this for disgusting? Spit from Roman soldiers running down the face of Jesus, or His blood running down His back because of the beating He had received, or running down His head because of the crown of thorns that was pressed down into His forehead. ["Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." \(John 15:13\)](#)

It's been said, "Love will find a way to express itself." Thank God He found a way to express His love for us. He sent His Son to die on the cross so we may have forgiveness for our sins. ["7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested](#)

in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (I John 4:7-10)

One way we can express our love for Jesus is this. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15) Paul wrote about other expressions of love. “<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.” (I Corinthians 13:4-13)

People send and receive Valentine cards as an expression of love. God showed mankind His love for them by sending His Son to be the sacrifice for sin that mankind could never pay. He did not want any to perish “<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken. <sup>9</sup> And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.” (Isaiah 25:8-9)

Remember your Valentine. Love Jesus with every fiber of your being. Have a blessed week.

Loving My Jesus:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Llpe3qM4OHc&list=RDLlpe3qM4OHc&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Llpe3qM4OHc&list=RDLlpe3qM4OHc&start_radio=1)