

St. Valentine's Day, Loving Your Spouse Married Love Beyond the Honeymoon

1. What is this St. Valentine's Day and it's history?

- It is SAINT Valentine's Day, not just Valentine's Day
- Removed from the General Roman Calendar since so little was known about him
- Generally agreed that St. Valentine of Rome died a martyr in 269
- Very sketchy history but the recent practice of love and cards seems to have started with an English printing house that published a book of romantic verses to help a young man woo his intended
- I remember as a boy we all exchanged Valentine's cards at school — back then we also pledged allegiance to the FLAG
- Patron of Love, Young People and Happy Marriages. Also, bee keepers, epilepsy, fainting, plague, travelers and engaged couples.

2. How long have you been married and what can you share as in intro to our talk on St. Valentine's Day?

- Forty-four years married to 1 woman, with 4 kids with 4 spouses and now 18 grandkids
- More in love now than as newly weds; people think we just got married :-)



3. What is the most important thing we can do for our spouse?

- Treat the marriage and family like a work of art or like a special exclusive club
- Put God first, wife second and kids third
- Make time for each other — weekly dates...

4. What does it mean "marriage covenant," and how is that different than a contract?

5. What are the three things that can cause stress and hostility in a marriage?

- Kids
- Money
- Sex

6. What would we make of the Bible passage, “Wives submit to your husbands” ?

- My wife was quite happy following that passage; happy to have me lead
- What does the husband do first? Love his wife like Christ loved the Church!
- “Submit to one another”

7. How are a husband and wife like Christ and the Church?

- Eph 5:22–31
 - Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
 - 23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as **Christ also is the head of the church**, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.
 - 24** But **as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands** in everything.
 - 25** **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,**
 - 26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
 - 27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

- 28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;
- 29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,
- 30** because we are members of His body.
- 31** For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

8. Why is it helpful to understand the difference between men and women?

- Physical differences: Bodies are very different for particular reasons
- Sociological differences: “Nest Builders” feel safe and loved
- Sexual differences: the “one and only” and gentleness (not like 50 “Shades of Gray”; Romance vs. Sex
- Emotional differences:

9. How can we get along being so different?

- By understanding the differences, discussing and meeting each other's needs
- Working with, respecting and appreciating the differences

10. What can men do to keep their wives loving them?

- Treat them with dignity, love and romance

- Be a strong leader spiritually, and every other way
- Love their wives like Christ loved the Church
- Be lovable, respectful, communicative, romantic and appreciate
- Protect them from the kids; in charge of discipline

11. What can wives do to keep their husbands loving them?

- Be loving and respectful and SUPPORTIVE
- Encourage and build up; compliment and complement
- Understand testosterone and realize husband is not a beast

12. How do the kids play into the mix?

- Respectful of the mother
- Keep discipline and civility in the home
- Dad is the head of the house
- Give them a model to follow when they get married

13. Why is it good to remember about our courtship days?

- Think about the other all the time
- Basic hygiene and appearance

- Romance and love
- Keeping the other a priority

Any final words?

- Looking back at our family and the love from and for my wife — IT IS WORTH EVERY BIT OF EFFORT
- A successful marriage ripples like waves across a pond and effect everyone around you for the good