

VALENTINE'S DAY MESSAGE

14/02/2021 @ LIMS Church

Bible Readings: 1-Corinthians 13:1-13; 1-John 4:7-12

Valentine's Day has its origin in the Roman Festival of LUPERCALIA, held in the mid-February every year. This festival celebrated the coming of Spring including fertility rites and pairing of women with men by lottery.

At the end of fifth Century, Pope Gelasius—1 replaced Lupercalia with Saint Valentine's Day. Saint Valentine was a Clergyman—either a Priest or a Bishop in Roman Empire, who ministered to persecuted Christians. So, Valentine day became an annual festival to celebrate (i) Love, (ii) Friendship and (iii) Admiration.

According to Cambridge English Dictionary, word Valentine is a noun word used as a name of a person or thing—meaning someone you love or would like to have romantic relationship with.

Now the question arises that what is the biblical relevance to Valentine day???

In response to this, I would like to say that the foundation of Christianity/Christian Faith is on two things: (A) Love (B) Forgiveness

You can see both of these in the teaching, preaching, life and sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus. In both our readings today, the word LOVE has come up many times. Apostle John in his 1st Epistle tells us that GOD IS LOVE. Moreover, in his Gospel, he tells us that God, who is love—so loved the world that He gave His One & Only begotten Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). **Jesus is the expression and reflection of God's Love.**

1-John 4:9-10 says “This is how God showed His love amongst us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”
Before this, in verse 8 it is written “whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love”.

In John 8:42, we see Jesus having heated argument with Jews around Him. They were calling & claiming themselves descendents and children of Abraham and thereby, children of God (V41b). Jesus put them on spot by saying “If God was your father, you would love me for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but He sent me(V42). Earlier, in John 8:23, Jesus said “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world”.

In John 17:21 Jesus in His prayer mentions...just as you are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

From the above references of Scripture, it is proved that Jesus and God the Father are one. So, if God is love Jesus is love too. Therefore, Jesus is our Valentine. No wonder Jesus taught us about love at length. Refer to Matthew 22:37-38; John 15:9-10 & 12 In verse 14 of chapter 15, Jesus makes His love conditional to the new commandment that He gave. Unfortunately, great many believers do not read the Scriptures with the

right perspective, viewpoint, attitude and understanding. As such they do not give enough weight to the above verses. Remember, that in the beginning only, I mentioned to you that Valentine day is a celebration of love, friendship and admiration. **Jesus** is our Valentine, so check out your love, friendship and admiration for Jesus Christ today.

Valentine's Day Defined

V= Verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God (John 3:3b).

A= All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

L= Love one another (1-John 3:11b)/ Love your enemies (Luke 6:27b).

E= Even a child is known by his doings (Proverbs 20:11)

N= No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Luke 16:13).

T= Trust in the Lord with all thine heart (Proverbs 3:5).

I= If a man lack wisdom, let him ask of God (James 1:5).

N= Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39).

E= Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above (James 1:17).

S= Sing unto the Lord, all the earth (1-Chronicles 16:23).

D= Depart from evil and do good (Psalm 34:14).

A= Ask, and it shall be given to you (Luke 11:9).

Y= You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)

Have a great & blessed valentine Day.....Amen