



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

"Since I been married, I have fallen romantically in love many times...to the same person."

Two Sweethearts

On the third date with my future wife, I informed her that I was a VD baby. She almost fell on the floor. I said "Yes, I am a [Valentine's Day](#) baby". All through elementary school there was a girl in my class that was also born on the same day. The teachers would make us stand in front of the class and kiss. I soon learned that it was not a good idea to be born on that day. What my wife does for this birthday boy overshadows what I do for her. But I did ask her to marry me with two teddy bears 34 years ago on that day.

The exact origins and identity of St. Valentine are unclear. According to legends, Claudius, the ruler of Rome, banned marriages because married men were unwilling to fight in his army. The [priest Valentine](#) defied the ruler and continued to perform marriages in secret. He was discovered and ordered to be put to death. While in jail, he healed the jailer's daughter of blindness through prayer and they became good friends. The sentence was carried out on February 14 around 275 AD. He left her a note and signed it "from your Valentine". In 496 AD, [Pope Gelasius](#) decided to put an end to the Feast of Lupercalia. (It was a pagan festival of love and lust, where names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.). He declared that February 14 be celebrated as St Valentine's Day.

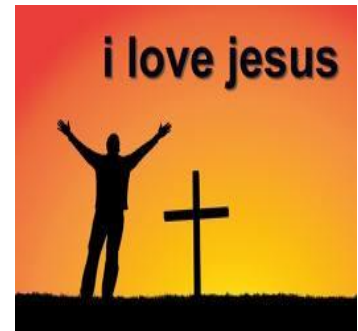
Yes, we should express to our special someone how much we love them especially on this special day. But the greater command is that we need to be a Sweetheart to the Lord our God. We need to express our thankfulness for His grace and mercy. We need to talk with Him every day. We need to read His Word and obey His leading. After all, God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, even while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. The word love (or charity) is used over 500 times in the Bible.

If you do not have at least one sweetheart, let me know. I will introduce you to the Heavenly One that will never leave you. If you need a special someone, well, you will have to ask the Match Maker upstairs. He will do a better job than I. But if you do have two, like me, show them both love and appreciation on this St. Valentine's Day February 14.



Charles L Stambaugh
The VD Baby Mt Wolf, PA

Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor (spouse, friend, family, and co-worker) as thyself." Matt 21:37- 38



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