

P. S. I Love You

For conspiracy theorists, Valentine's Day is yet another opportunity to gripe about the coup led by a group of women in a secret meeting with gift companies to create a holiday that costs men money and gets us in trouble. The meeting must have involved the CEO's of Hallmark, FTD, and Russell Stover thinking of a way to make tons of money and some group of women leaders out to get their husbands in trouble for forgetting yet another "special" day of the year. "Hey, they already forget our birthdays and anniversaries. Let's see if we can get 'em to forget another one."

I'm pretty sure that's not how the whole thing started. However, if you check the history of St. Valentine, you don't get a real clear understanding how the holiday did begin. In fact, go to the History Channel website and read their "History of Valentine's Day." There's not much about the way the day started or even which St. Valentine is responsible. It could have been the priest who secretly performed weddings in direct disobedience to Emperor Claudius II. Or, it could have been the man who sent letters from prison (the first valentine's greeting) to his lover (the daughter of his jailor?), signing the letter "from your Valentine." Whatever the case, the website shows that the holiday has been celebrated in mid-February for centuries and acknowledges that the holiday "contains vestiges of Christian and ancient Roman tradition."

Should the Christian celebrate such a holiday? What place does Valentine's Day have in the life of the believer? These are good questions, ones that should be asked of everything that we do. We should endeavor to be sure that Scripture is, in fact, our "only rule of faith *and practice*." But is it not true that the very Word of God itself is much like a love letter from God to His people? In it He reveals Himself and His will for our salvation. In it He proclaims His perfect, perpetual and sacrificial love for His Bride, the Church. In it He tells how He wins her heart. And even within the pages of Scripture, we have a love letter, a book completely dedicated to describing the emotions connected with dating, marriage, and sexuality. The Song of Solomon would make most Hallmark store clerks blush.

It being the case that God has given us marriage and the emotions connected with it, should Christians not be the best at celebrating Valentine's Day? Because our love for our spouse grows out of that perfect love God has for His people, should we not teach the world what it means to truly love our wives, to be enraptured by them, and to show them that we love

them? Not only should we remember Valentine's Day, but wives of Christian men ought to be made to feel even more special and glamorous and cherished than other women.

But this raises a question. Why does Mr. Hallmark need to make all the money off of us? Who needs him? Besides, those cards are so generic and stale. Anyone can write those. Men, let me challenge you to take up the lost art of writing letters to your wife. We live in a world that relies heavily on texting and Facebook wall posts. College students are required to have laptops. We know how to surf the net, shop online, use proper netiquette, but, you know, Paper Mate still makes a great pen. And, there are even places online that you can buy them.

Perhaps you are thinking to yourself, "that just sounds so silly." Well, is it silly that God wrote the Bible for us, His love letter to His Bride? Is it silly that the Song of Solomon records, in words and on paper, the joys of marital bliss, the passion between a husband and his wife? Besides, doesn't Ephesians 5 teach husbands to love their wives as Christ has loved the church? What does your wife need you to do for her? She needs to be nourished and cherished (Eph 5:29). She needs to know that she's special. She needs to be reassured that (after Christ) she's your only love. You can nourish and cherish your wife in your letters. You can instruct her in the Word. You can encourage her in the faith. You can remind her of your commitment to her. No, your words don't have to be as flowery as Solomon's, but they should be from the heart. If you want a place to start, check out the [Letters of John and Abigail Adams](#). Steal, uh, I mean borrow, from those letters. Use words of songs. Use the words of Scripture. I can promise you that she doesn't care where the words themselves come from as long as they are from the heart. Besides, practice makes perfect. It may take time to get over the feeling of embarrassment or your weakness with the English language, but this will pass. You're not doing this for yourself, but for your wife.

Husbands, follow the example of Scripture and those who have gone before us who model this lost art. Love your wife in a very real, tangible, and Biblical way. Nourish and cherish her in letters. And don't give your money to Hallmark. Write the cards yourself. Show your wife that you don't forget her. Show Hallmark that you can be creative too.