

# ***“All you need is Love?”***

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>*

One of the chief attributes of God is Love. (1 Jn 4:8) Since He created us in His image (Gen 1:26) it shouldn't surprise us that we're fascinated by Love; and have been trying to restore a type of "Eden" (Delightful Pleasure) in our own lives. As Satan "spoiled" God's design for Love in Eden, so he's corrupted our world. 1Jn 5:19 "*the whole world lieth in wickedness*" (Ponēros: hurtful, degenerate/diseased) Vs 21 "...*keep yourselves from idols.*"

## **1. Satan has infected our view of love, making of it an idol to pursue / worship. (honor)**

A. This corruption of our concept of love (and God) is continuous and intentional.

- 1) 1955 movie "Love is a many splendored thing" won academy awards, was about Adultery!
- 2) The Beatles song "All you need is Love" was Britain's contribution to "Our World", the first global television link in June 67, viewed by >400 million people in 25 countries.
  - a) None of the Beatle Boys could "practice" what they sang, each going through a series of broken relationships looking for a "lasting love".
- 3) David Gates (from Bread) 1969 song reflected the reality of most relationships when he wrote "Where does the loving go?"
- 4) Captain and Tennille's 1975 song "Love will keep us together" topped the charts, but "love" wasn't enough to keep them together.

## **2. Love is not only "Many Splendored" But multifaceted, including:**

A, Eros: Erotic Passion (Pr. 5:18-19) "*let thy fountain be blessed and rejoice with thy wife.... Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished (śāgā: enraptured) always with her love.*"

- 1) The book of the Song of Solomon is filled with poetic references about sensual love!

B. Pathos: Intense Emotion. It's not inherently evil, *but it is easily infected!*

Ro 1:26 "*vile affections...*" Col 3:5 "*inordinate affections*"

1 Thes 4:5 "*lust (pathos) of concupiscence*" (epithumeo: superimposed passions)

C. Philos: Deep Affection Titus 2:4 "*Teach the young women to love their husbands*"

1 Pt 1:22 "*ye have purified your souls in obeying the trough through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren*" Philadelphia: from philos (love) and adelphos: brethren

D. Agape: Charitable Benefaction (1 Cor 13) 1 Peter 1:22b "*See that ye love (agape) one another with a pure heart, fervently*"

**Satan seeks to corrupt each of them!**

## **3. While each are gifts of God (Jms 1:17) The order and priority we give them will determine whether we allow Satan to corrupt/destroy our love.**

**The History of Valentine Day provides a practical illustration of this!**

A. Valentine's Day originated with the Roman Festival of Lupercalia 750 BC

- 1) King Amulius, ordered his great nephews (Romulus and Remus) to be thrown into the Tiber river in retribution for his nieces immorality. (with the Roman god Mars)

- 2) The twins (Romulus and Remus) were rescued and nurtured by a she-wolf (Lupa) in a den at the base of Palatine Hill. (Modern Day Rome)
- 3) As adults they killed their uncle and returned To Palatine Hill to build Rome in 753 BC.
- 4) Lupercalia was celebrated in Rome between Feb. 13-15 to honor the she wulf (lupa) and to please the Roman fertility god Lupercus.
- 5) The festival involved pagan sacrifices and sensuality where the women who were “marked” would pair off with the young men for a year.

**B. Where did “Valentine’s Day” originate:** In 270 AD Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers, so he outlawed marriage.

- 1) Pastor Valentine defied the order and continued to marry Romans, so Claudius ordered his execution.
- 2) In prison he witnessed to the Jailer (Asterius) and ministered to his family and others.
- 3) Before his execution he left a card in the cell signed “Your Valentine”.
- 4) Lupercalia survived the rise of Christianity but was outlawed as “un-Christian” when “Bishop” Gelasius replaced it with St. Valentine’s Day. (495 CE)

## Conclusion:

The contrasts between the origins and motivations for these two holidays continue today.

Lupercalia worshipped the “idol” of Passion (Eros) and Pleasure (Pathos)

Valentine focused on Compassion (Philos) and Charitable Commitment (Agape)

These seemingly contrary, yet possibly complimentary, motivations still provide the basic foundational choices upon which most romantic relationships are built.

**In reality, God is the creator of both passionate pleasure, As well as Compassionate Commitment; and honors/celebrates both! (Pr 5:15-19)**  
*(Remember that Eden literally means delightful pleasure!)*

## Application:

Since the Fall, couples try to restore a type of Eden (Delightful Pleasure) in their own relationships; *But too often forget the lessons of Eden; Repeating the fall in their own lives.* Ro 5:12:

Like Adam and Eve in Gen. 3, We are prone to: Listen to the seduction of Satan (1-6)

➔ Hide from the real source of love (Vs 8) ➔ Blame each other for our failures. (11-14)

➔ Try to dominate/manipulate our partners (Vs 16) with the end result that we Experience the Curse of sin in our relationships. Vs 16-24

*Thankfully, like them, we also have The Promise of Redemption in Christ. Gen. 3:15,21*

*James 3 contrasts two foundational “philosophies” (Wisdoms) that are available to us.*

*One is “from above” (Vs 17) (an’ōthen: from the first) and the other is “earthly, sensual, devilish” (15)*

**Worldly Wisdom** prompts us to build our lives and relationships on the foundation of Passion and Personal (selfish) Pleasure.

**God’s Wisdom** calls us to build our lives and relationships on Godly Principles of Compassionate Commitment.

Over the next weeks we’ll be looking at God’s Building Codes and carefully, prayerfully prayerfully inspect the foundational principles on which our lives and loves are built. (Mt 7:24-25)

**Who (or what fellowship) are you building your life and love with?**

**What foundation are you building your life and life and love on?**