



RUHL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER WEEKEND EDITION

February 14, 2020

“Thinking Out Loud” by Rev. Blaine R. Wenger

“Flowers, Chocolates, and Fancy Dinner Out”

Every year, when Christmas comes around, you hear, “We should keep the spirit of Christmas alive in our hearts all year round. When Easter comes, “We should live like Jesus is risen every day.” When Thanksgiving comes, it is something like, “We should be thankful every day. And then, before you know it, it is Christmas time again. The “cycle” starts over. Nobody says, we should keep Groundhog’s Day in our hearts all year long. No one exhorts us to celebrate Halloween as a continual reminder. Understandable. But then, too, no one preaches we should remember Valentine’s Day every day. Maybe that is because there aren’t special church services for Valentine’s Day. Maybe there should be.

Think about it, a “holiday” that celebrates love. That is something that we as followers of Jesus Christ ought to be able to get behind. You say, well, where is the Biblical tie in? The ancient Church, the ancient Hebrews, Jesus, did not observe such a thing. Well, not the way that we do today – with flowers, with candy – lots of chocolate, with special meals, presents and maybe more. But, the principle behind Valentine’s Day – not so much the Saint who gave the day its name – but the principle of love IS as Biblical as it gets.

The Old Testament, and Jesus, declares that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and mind, and soul, and strength.

The Second most important, is to love your neighbor as yourself.

We are to love our enemies.

To be obedient to Jesus means to love.

I could go on and on and on.

Love is foundational to our identity as followers of Jesus. It is foundational to the practice of our faith. To try to follow Jesus without loving – well everyone – is just not possible. We might think that we are, but without love, we have wandered off the true path.

I’m not saying that this is easy. Or, anyone always gets it right. But love is our work as we live out our faith. So ... it seems to me, that there should be way more than one day a year set aside. It seems to me, that this – along with Christmas, and Easter, and Thanksgiving – is something that we should keep, or practice every day.

I’m sure that many reading can remember and picture the joy that you gave when you declared your love for someone on some Valentine’s Day past. Why should we limit ourselves to one day? Why should we limit ourselves to a person or two? What might our families look like, and how might they function, if each member truly felt loved, every day? What might be the impact on friendships, the workplace, school, neighborhoods, and oh, yes – the CHURCH?!

Jesus changed the world with love.

What can you do today? Tomorrow? Beyond Grace & Peace, Pastor Blaine

This Week In Worship

This Week In Worship – we come to the end. That’s right. It’s the last message from the book of Ephesians. It has been quite a journey. I hope and pray that all who have come along have been blessed a time or two along the way, that you have been challenged, or encouraged as you might have had need. Sunday, we will be looking at Ephesians 6:21-24. Take a look at it. Think about it. Compared to what we have been discussing the last few weeks, it might seem a bit anticlimactic, but all of God’s word has a message for us. What message does God reveal to you? Reflect on that until Sunday, then, let us gather together to praise God and dig into His word. Until then, be blessed.