How to Get Along with Others

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

The Origins of "Valentine's Day"

Although different opinions exist about how Valentine's Day began, the most common legend has it that a Roman priest named Valentine defied the Roman Emperor, Claudius, who gave an order to stop allowing young men to get married (Claudius figured that they would be less distracted and be better soldiers in the Roman Army if they were not married). Valentine refused to follow the order and continued to perform the marriages of young men and women. We was arrested, imprisoned, and eventually beheaded on February 14th 269 A.D. Legend has it that Valentine had befriended the jailer's blind daughter who became his friend. On the day of his execution he wrote a farewell letter to her and signed it "from your Valentine."

Valentine would eventually be known as "the patron saint of lovers" and in 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius officially recognized February 14th (the date of Valentine's martyrdom) as a holiday to honor St. Valentine.
Today, Valentine's day is celebrated by sending "Valentine Cards" giving chocolates, sending red flowers (usually roses) and exchanging poems and "love messages"

February 14 is not a Biblical holiday. If we are to find any reason to utilize this day for redeemable purposes, I think that it is appropriate to use it as an opportunity to honor heterosexual marriage and to promote God's gift of agape love.

Life is about relationships (not things) and therefore a pursuit to love God and others should be paramount in our pursuits (Love is the greatest of all commands – Matthew 22:37-38)
Jesus cited the Torah of Moses which said:
De 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And… Le 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.
True, life-long friendships are hard to find
Pr 18:24 … there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.
Failed marriages can get a fresh new start if God's ways are embraced and His power is tapped into.

How can we better get along with others (in our marriages and friendships)?

Prerequisites:

- Know Jesus personally (you cannot know the love of God apart from know the God of love)
- Bury selfish ambition (love and selfishness are opposites)
- Yield to the Holy Spirit (love is a fruit of the Spirit)

Actions and Attitudes which flow out of LOVE from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

1. **Be PATIENT as God is with you** (love "suffereth long")
2. **Speak and act with KINDNESS** *(love "is kind")*
3. **APPRECIATE the differences and blessings of OTHERS and be content with yours** *(love "envieth not")*
4. **View yourself HUMBLY** *(love "vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up"*
5. **Don't act RUDELY** *(love does not "behave itself unseemly")*
6. **Be a GIVER, not a selfish taker** *(love "seeketh not her own")*
7. **Don't be easily IRRITATED or stirred up to ANGER** *(love "is not easily provoked")*
8. **Don't keep a RECORD OF WRONGS** *(love "thinketh no evil")*
9. **Be SAD about SIN** (in your life especially) *(love "rejoiceth not in iniquity")*
10. **Be in pursuit of TRUTH** (hear it, believe it, tell it, live it) *(love "rejoiceth in the truth")*
11. **NEVER GIVE UP on others** *(love "Beareth all, believeth all, hopeth all, endureth all")*

How do we get along with others? We love, the way God says to. Always be asking yourself: "Is what I am about to say the most loving way to say it?" Ask: "Is what I am about to do the most loving way of behaving?"