

## *From My Valentine*

Valentine's Day originated from a Roman fertility feast known as the Feast of Lupercalia observed in Ancient Rome as a day of offering gifts to the goddess of free-sex and fertility. The Catholics substituted it with some "Christian symbolism". There were three origins of St. Valentines according to religious legends.

The most famous was that of a Roman Catholic priest executed around A.D. 269. Here we see a man who renounced his calling and vowed not to marry inspired Valentine's Day. He was known as Valentinus who was condemned to death by Emperor Claudius II, for converting the family of Asterius. On the eve of his execution that fell on February 13, 270 A.D., he wrote a farewell love letter to a young girl and signed it "From your Valentine".

The second legend was that of the bishop of Terni who was executed for a crime of loving a young peasant girl. He was also called Valentinus, a good replacement for the Roman sex goddess Lupercalia. All the legendary Valentinus were priests who fall in love with young girls, all were executed. Afterwards, Valentinus was made a saint.

Valentine's Day and everything related to it came from pagan ritual of sex and fertility. Our modern Valentine's Day originates from priests who renounced marriage but were caught having a love affair with young girls. The color

red is not the color of God's love since God's love is not about romance, sex or emotion. Cupid is not an angel of God. There is no such thing as angel of love.

The Feast of St. Valentine and its romantic celebration has no spiritual and biblical relevance. Valentine's Day enslaves people to do things that are oppressive and burdensome. It creates false hope and unrealistic expectation from human solution.

Christians are not commanded to celebrate Valentine's Day and there is no room for it in the Christian churches (Galatians 4:9-10).

The Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples did not celebrate anything related to Valentine's Day. The Bible is silent about it because it is one hundred percent pagan. Some born again churches are joining the world in celebrating this evil ritual of sex and fertility. It cannot edify the Church and it cannot glorify God. Examine your practices and beliefs. Search the Scripture.

Gradually, February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. The date was marked by sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers. There was often a social gathering or a ball.

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialized. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.

Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honor Juno. Juno was the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

The lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars.

Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the duration of the festival with the girl whom he chose. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II.

He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, a very ancient custom, indeed, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honor of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of pagan ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The pastors of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavored to do away with the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of maidens. And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feast. So it seems that the custom of young men choosing maidens for valentines, or saints as patrons for the coming year, arose in this way.

Points to ponder:

- Valentine's Day and everything about it came from pagan ritual of sex and fertility.
- Our modern Valentine's Day originates from priests who renounced marriage but both were in love with young girls
- The color red is not the color of love of God. Love has no color. Love is not just romance or sex.
- Cupid is not an angel of God. There is no such thing as angel of love.
- Valentine's Day enslaves people to do things that are burdensome. It creates false hope and expectation from human solution.
- The feast of St. Valentine and its romantic celebration has no biblical and spiritual relevance.
- Valentine's Day is commercialism and bondage of highest order. Its primary concern is romance, sex and lust.
- The believers are not commanded to celebrate Valentine's Day and there is no room for it in the Christian churches [Galatians 4:9-10].
- Valentine dinner date will not solve or improve your marital conflict or secure your marriage affair.
- The Lord Jesus and His disciples did not celebrate Valentine's Day. The Bible is silent about it because it is not biblical but pagan.
- Some apostate churches are joining the world in the celebration of this evil ritual of sex and fertility. Such affairs cannot edify the Church and glorify God.
- To use pagan activities such as Valentine's Day to raise money for the church is devious and blasphemous.
- We cannot join people who claims that they are fundamentalists yet observe and celebrate pagan rituals like New Year, Christmas, and Valentine's Day.

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From My Valentine  
Tract No. 2



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