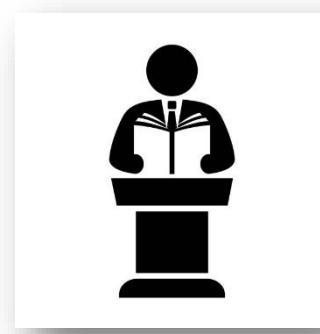


## The Minister's Musings

### To Authenticate Love

*"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him":*

-- 1 John 4:9



It is sometimes called a Daisy Oracle. Whenever someone plucks the petal off a daisy and repeats the phrase, "He/she loves me, He/she loves me not". Then when the final petal is reached, the supposed truth has been revealed. If only there was a test, to authenticate love. Humans have been trying for centuries to determine whether or not love is real.

We all want what is genuine, authentic and legitimate. When it comes to love, we look for certain behaviors or priorities. Scientists have yet to find a laboratory test for love, and yet love remains highly sought after.

As youngsters, going home with a full shoebox of Valentine's cards and treats was proof enough. If a small box of conversation heart candies doesn't say love, well I don't know what does! Let's face it, Valentine's Day is a day of grand gestures, when we attempt to authenticate love by sending gifts and other thoughtful gestures. And these gestures sometimes hit the mark. They help to persuade the receiver the one's love is the real thing.

But what about God? How does He "fill our box" with proof that we are loved? Maybe a box of answered prayers, or a bouquet of overdue blessings? Well God reaches out with a grand gesture that might sound unusual, but it really takes the cake. He gives us a Savior, his Only Son, to authenticate his love for us. Now while everybody knows what to do with box of chocolates, we might have more difficulty with a Savior.

Some might say, Jesus is wonderful, but what do I do with him? Like a home décor item that doesn't quite fit, we don't always know what to do with Jesus. Do we place him in the dining room where all can see? Or maybe we place on the mantel, where he will join family time. Or perhaps we put him in the basement, and only bring him out when we absolutely need him.

God's Word reminds us that Jesus is for all occasions. John says, "...live through Him". In Christ Jesus, we can have our sins forgiven, and then live in this forgiveness and hope. He is God's ultimate Valentine to us. When it comes to considering God's love, we don't need to pluck daisies, Christ Jesus is a constant reminder of God's abiding love.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Pastor Chris