

# Sunrise Christian Church

February 2019 Family News Letter

Called to Love, Learn, Lead

Love is real, love is true



*Your love is more delightful than wine.*

*Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes;  
your name is like perfume poured out.*

Song of Solomon 1:2-3

## He

How beautiful you are, my darling!

Oh, how beautiful!

Your eyes are doves.

## She

How handsome you are, my beloved!

Oh, how charming!

Song of Solomon 1:15-16

## Forbid marriage?

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry...” - I Timothy 4:1-3.

What we think of as Valentine’s Day likely originated from a poem written by Chaucer in the late 1300’s, though the celebration does have a basis of truth. In a city outside of Rome there was a bishop named Valentine who was persecuted because of his faith. At this time, Christianity was not recognized as an official religion; therefore, at times they were persecuted in areas of the Roman empire. And since marriage was under the Government’s control; they decreed who was able to marry and under what conditions. Therefore, it’s not surprising that the emperor or his governor would decide to forbid Christians to marry as “legal” marriage entitled children from that marriage to become citizens of the State. Therefore, Christians were in a dilemma: should they obey the king, or simply live together outside the legal bonds of marriage? This is where Valentine came in; against the wishes of the State he married people, resulting in his persecution and death. Today, marriage is still under attack; in part because of the reduced honor given it, and, in part, by the society’s modification of who can marry. God’s intention is that marriage was to unite a man and woman together- not two men or two women. Therefore, we need to work together to uphold God’s institution of marriage.



## **24 ways to strengthen your marriage:**

- Start each day with a kiss.
- Wear your wedding ring at all times.
- Go on a date with your spouse once a week.
- Accept differences.
- Be polite.
- Be gentle
- Give gifts.
- Smile often.
- Touch.
- Talk about dreams.
- Give back rubs.
- Laugh together.
- Do what your spouse wants before being asked.
- Listen.
- Encourage.
- Call your spouse.
- Hold hands.
- Look your best.
- Apologize.
- Ask, “*What can I do to make you happy?*”
- Reminisce about your favorite times together.
- Pray for your spouse daily.
- Watch sunsets together.
- End each day with a hug.

## A sweet aroma



Everyone likes a good barbecue; the aroma of food cooking over an open flame. And there's a story in Genesis of where Noah, having survived the Flood, now offers to God a sacrifice of some of the clean animals on board the Ark. It's said that his offering was a "pleasing" or "soothing" aroma to God (Gen. 8:21, NIV, NASB).

In later times, God directed Moses that when someone offended God in some way, he was to bring an offering to the priests in order to make atonement. The offering was to be burnt, and it would become an "aroma pleasing to the Lord" (Leviticus 1).

Later still, Jesus' sacrificial life and death on the cross is said to have been a "fragrant aroma to God" (Eph. 5:2).

Now, the things we do can also become a fragrant offering to God, for Paul writes, "having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God" (Phil. 4:18).

So, don't ever think that what you do in the name of Jesus doesn't matter, for it does- to God and to others! Therefore, let your life be a "fragrant offering to the Lord." Please Him in the things you do; for we have but an audience of One!

Therefore, we're called to, "**present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship**"- Romans 12:1.



- Faithful Men **men's breakfast**- 7:30am, Saturday, Feb. 2 @ Rusty's.
- Baskets of Love **food collection**- Sunday, Feb. 3.
- Crockpot Sunday- Sunday, Feb. 3.
- SCC's Wednesday **Bible studies** restart-Wednesday, Feb. 6 @ 1:30pm and 7 pm.
- Cove Christian Camp's Teen **Winter Camp**- Friday evening, Feb. 15- Monday, Feb. 18
- SCC's **Movie Night-That the World May Know**- Wednesday, Feb. 20 @ 7pm.
- **Pulpit exchange**- CLF's pastor Doug Hazeltine here Sunday, Feb. 24.
- **Coming soon**- a study in the book of Philippians during Les' adult Sunday school.

**Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of  
wisdom.**

PS 90:12



*"Show Me A Marriage With Humor  
and I'll Show You A Healthy Marriage."*

Q: What's the best part of Valentine's Day?

A: The day after- all the chocolates go on sale!

*Keep your eyes wide open before  
marriage, half shut afterwards.  
(Benjamin Franklin)*

*Marriage is an institution where two  
people come together to joint solve  
the problems they never had before  
they got married.*

A little boy, at a wedding looks at his mom and says, "Mommy, why does the girl wear white?"

His mom replies, "The bride is in white because she's happy and this is the happiest day of her life."

The little boy thought about this, then replied: "Well then, why is the boy wearing black?"