

More Money, More Love ?

Good morning teachers and students,

We all know that the 14th of February every year is Valentine's Day. This year, Valentine's Day falls on the coming Tuesday. In Hong Kong, people are eager to celebrate Valentine's Day. However, do you know the origin of such a festival ?

According to one legend (old story), this festival is to remember Valentine, a priest in Rome in the third century. With the ambition to build up a strong army, the emperor of Rome commanded that all soldiers should not marry. Valentine defied the command (challenged the authority) and secretly performed marriages for young couples. When his actions were discovered, he was put to prison. He then died on the 14th of February in 269 A.D.

To remember Valentine, people began to send small tokens of affection or love messages to each other. Then greeting cards were produced for this festival.

Nowadays, many countries celebrate Valentine's Day. In Hong Kong, people send greeting cards or give flowers and diamonds to their loved ones. Some people even invite their loved ones to romantic candlelit dinners at various hotels or restaurants.

When you come back to the origin of this festival, you will probably agree with me that Valentine's Day is supposed to be the time when people show their love to each other. However, because of sales promotions in a commercial society like Hong Kong, more and more people now focus on buying expensive gifts. As a result, many companies make lots of profit from the popularity of Valentine's Day.

Do you know that a bundle of **11** roses will cost you HK\$600 or above? (In other words, you have to pay about HK\$60 for one single rose.)

Do you know that a loving heart ring with a diamond of 0.30 carat on it will cost you HK\$4000 or above? (Here, the weight of a diamond of 0.30 carat is equal to 60 milligrams.)

Do you know that a romantic candlelit dinner for two at a hotel will cost you HK\$1500 or above?

Along with the popularity of Valentine's Day, people tend to spend a fortune (large sum of money) on buying gifts or other tokens of love. Gradually, they develop the idea of "more money, more love." Indeed, the idea is specious (apparently true but actually false). Actually, the idea comes from profit-making companies. When it comes to showing how you feel, there is no need to spend so much money on buying gifts. A homemade greeting card or gesture of love and affection will show far better how much you care for someone. After all, it is the thought (not money) that counts.

According to the Holy Bible, we show our love to each other by showing our patience and kindness to them. Moreover, we must not be jealous, self-important, proud, rude, selfish or easily annoyed; we do not keep a record of wrongs; we are not happy with evil, but happy with the truth. With love in our hearts, we never give up, and our faith, hope and patience never fail.

Valentine's Day is a festival of showing love to each other. When you are going to celebrate the coming Valentine's Day, do not think of spending a large sum of money on buying gifts. Instead, think first of applying the teaching of Holy Bible in your daily lives. Love each other in action. Then, try to make some simple gifts or greeting cards for your loved ones by yourselves. Believe no more in the idea of "more money, more love."

Last but not least, I hope that you all enjoy genuine love from your loved ones in the days ahead.

May God bless you all. Thank you.