

What About the Valentine's Day?

If anyone come up with this question during the so-called biblical discussion; what about this Valentine's Day? As special day custom on February 14th where people celebrate this cultural tradition. Cultural tradition of LOVE by showing the appreciation to the people who we care about. Family and friends, by giving them cards, small gifts, or even just saying nice things to let them know how much they mean to us; it's a day to spread love and kindness? Isn't this good as what the scripture teaches?

Answer is NO...

First of all, nowhere in the scripture book mention about a special honoring day like Valentine's Day. And, this so-called Valentine's Day isn't one of the lists appointed time holiday. According to TORAH, there are eight 'Sabbatical' appointed time:

1. Seventh-Day (Shabbat)
2. Day of Gladness (New Year)
3. Sacrifice of Peace Offering Day (Kurbanot of Shalom Minhah)
4. Festival of Unleavened Bread (Chag HaMatzot)
5. Festival of Harvest (Chag HaKatzir)
6. Day of Trumpets (Yom Teruah or Rosh Hashanah)
7. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
8. Festival of Ingathering (Chag HaAsif)

Seven of those Sabbatical appointed time holidays happen once a year, while the weekly Shabbat Day, the Seventh-Day (Shabbat) is only a weekly holiday. So, we don't see Valentine's Day lists here, the same for the so-called Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter Day.

Where did the Valentine's Day custom come from?

A lot of people in America do not know the origins of Valentine's Day customs. Don't know how this roots from the ancient Roman practices. The modern American celebration of Valentine's Day evolved from these origins through the Christian's world. They developed its own unique characteristics.

Origins of Valentine's Day

This holiday's roots traced back to the ancient Rome festival called "Lupercalia" was celebrated in mid-February. This pagan festival involved fertility rituals and the pairing of young men and women. However, the direct connection between Lupercalia and modern Valentine's Day is debated by historians.

The Christian church later established St. Valentine's Day on February 14th, named after one or possibly two martyred saints named Valentine. Legends about St. Valentine's connection to love and secret marriages began to circulate, though these stories are not historically verified.

Development of Valentine's Day Traditions

The romantic associations of Valentine's Day began to take shape in the Middle Ages:

1. Geoffrey Chaucer, the 14th - century English poet, with first linking love with St. Valentine's Day in his works.
2. The custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day emerged in the 1500s.
3. By the late 1700s, commercially printed Valentine's cards were being used.

Valentine's Day in America

The Valentine's Day custom reached America through English cultural influence:

1. Americans adopted the English tradition of Valentine's Day as a way of belonging and maintaining a connection to English culture.
2. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s.
3. The holiday grew more secular over time, focusing on love, poetry, and gift-giving.

American celebrations of Valentine's Day evolved to include:

- Exchanging cards, candy, and flowers (particularly red roses)
- Romantic dinners and gestures
- School activities for children, such as exchanging valentines with classmates

Today, Valentine's Day in America is a significant cultural event, blending romantic traditions with commercial aspects, reflecting the values and practices of modern American society.

Many Christians do incorporate their understanding of biblical love into how they approach Valentine's Day. Here's how they often connect the two: Love as a Core Christian Value: The Bible emphasizes love as a central theme, particularly in verses like John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world...") and 1st Corinthians 13, which beautifully describes the characteristics of love (patience, kindness, etc.). Christians who celebrate Valentine's Day often see it as an opportunity to put these teachings into practice.

Expressing Agape Love:

People today along with Christians use Valentine's Day to express different types of love described in the Bible. Agape love, a selfless and sacrificial love, is particularly important. So, instead of just focusing on romantic love, they might extend acts of kindness and generosity to friends, family, or those in need, reflecting this broader understanding of love.

Focusing on Relationships:

Some Christians use Valentine's Day as a reminder to nurture all their important relationships, not just romantic ones. This can involve spending quality time with loved ones, offering support, and showing appreciation. Avoiding Worldly Excesses: Some Christians are cautious about the commercialization of Valentine's Day. They might choose to celebrate in a more modest way, focusing on heartfelt gestures and meaningful connections rather than expensive gifts or extravagant displays.

The troubling with this, people are influence by what the world teaches us what the New Testament books like John 3:16 or 1st Corinthians chapter 13 tells us aren't ﷻ's (I AM – YAH) teaching. Since the New Testament books are all false books that isn't from ﷻ's teaching.

Once again, this so-called St. Valentine's Day is originated from the ancient Roman festival called "Lupercalia," a pagan celebration involving animal sacrifice, random matchmaking, and a ritualistic whipping of women with goat hides, which is why some consider its origins to be "dark" or "evil"; despite the name, the holiday is now associated with a Christian saint named Valentine, who was martyred. We should be honoring ﷻ's instead of man's loving way that isn't ﷻ's way.

According to the scripture, ﷻ is considered "jealous" when people honor other teachings of love and kindness that are originate from HIM, as this is interpreted as diverting worship and devotion away from the source, which is ﷻ himself; essentially, it's about giving proper credit and allegiance solely to HIM as the ultimate source of love and goodness.

Key points to understand this concept:

Exodus 34:14:

"For you shall worship no other Creator ONE, for **אלהים**, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous Creator ONE"

When the scripture describes **אלהים** as jealous, it's not meant in the same way as human jealousy, which is often driven by insecurity or possessiveness. Rather, it signifies **אלהים**'s deep love for humanity and his desire for a complete and devoted relationship with them. It disgraces for those who done that against HIM, with less or no honoring.

The point is, all good things, including love and kindness, ultimately originate come from **אלהים**, so when people attribute these qualities to other sources without acknowledging **אלהים** as the ultimate giver, it can be seen as a form of disrespect. Because HE created a set of rules of law about the appointed time holiday as memorial to HIM only.