

Valentine's Day
“Sermon Title”
Pastor Dale Campfield – Eastgate Community Church
February 14th, 2010

Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Have you ever wondered how Valentine's Day got started?

Here's the story:

Approximately 250 years after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, there was a priest by the name of Valentine. He lived in Rome. At that time, Claudius was the Emperor of Rome. Some people called him Claudius the Cruel. St. Valentine didn't like Emperor Claudius, and he wasn't the only one! Many people felt the same way. Claudius wanted a big army. He thought men should volunteer to join. Many men just did not want to leave home and go off to fight in wars. They did not want to leave their girlfriends and wives. So, not many men volunteered for the Roman army. This made Emperor Claudius very angry. He had a crazy idea that if men were not married, they would be more inclined to join his army. So Claudius decreed that there would be no more marriages. Young people thought his new law was really cruel. Valentine thought it was ridiculous! One of his favorite duties as a priest was to marry people. After Emperor Claudius passed his law, Valentine kept on performing marriage ceremonies – but secretly. He would whisper the words of the ceremony, while listening for soldiers on the steps outside.

One night, Valentine did hear footsteps at his door. The couple he was marrying escaped, but he was caught. He was thrown in jail and told that his punishment was death.

St. Valentine tried to stay cheerful. Many young people came to the jail to visit him. They threw flowers and notes up to his window. They wanted him to know that they, too, believed in love.

One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit him in his cell. They often sat and talked for hours. She believed he did the right thing by ignoring the Emperor and performing marriage ceremonies.

Well, let's see how our Valentine story ends!

On the day Valentine was to die, he left her a note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. He signed it, "Love from your Valentine." That note started the custom of exchanging love notes on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day he died, February 14, 269 A.D. Now, every year on this day, people remember. But most importantly, they think about love and friendship. When they think of Emperor Claudius, they remember how he tried to stand in the way of love, and they laugh -- because they know that love can't be beaten!

God loved us enough to die for us!

St. Valentine loved God enough to die for God's Truth.

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than to commit or recommit your life to Jesus?

Today's sermon title is: "You and Me God"

Do you remember this song?

"I Got You Babe"

[HER:] They say we're young and we don't know
We won't find out until we grow

[HIM:] Well I don't know if all that's true
'Cause you got me, and baby I got you

[HIM:] Babe

[BOTH:] I got you babe I got you babe

[HER:] They say our love won't pay the rent
Before it's earned, our money's all been spent

[HIM:] I guess that's so, we don't have a pot
But at least I'm sure of all the things we got

[HIM:] Babe

[BOTH:] I got you babe I got you babe

Well... how about this one...?

"I Got You God"

Now You're our God, and we're Your child
You love us so, even when we're wild

Sometimes we're happy, sometimes we're blue
But You've got us, and Father we've got You

God

I got you God

You've got us God

They say our love for You is strong
And we will love You, all day long

Thank You God, for loving us
Your wonderful love, we will always trust

God

I got you God

You've got us God

Cathi and I have a truism..... "as long as we're okay with each other, we can deal with everything else." We believe that this is the way we need to look at life. As long as we're okay with God, we can deal with everything else. But it all depends upon us being okay with God. Being with peace with God. Knowing who we are with God.

We believe that....

"We need an AGAPE love for God and each other."

A – Always

1 Cor. 13:7 "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

G – Giving

...of your time, talent and treasure.

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, 'says the Lord almighty' And see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

A – Attitude

Eph. 4:21-24 "Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from Him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes."

Chorus:

Look what the Lord has done
Look what the Lord has done
He healed my body, He touched my mind
He saved me just in time
I'm gonna praise His name
Each day is just the same
Come on and praise Him
Look what the Lord has done.

VERSE #1

I was born in Washington State
To a family who really loved me

When I was nine, the devil he tried
He tried to kill me

But the Lord my God, had a different plan
A plan to set me free

Now He healed my body and He changed my life
Now look what He's done for me.

Chorus:

Look what the Lord has done
Look what the Lord has done
He healed my body, He touched my mind
He saved me just in time
I'm gonna praise His name
Each day is just the same
Come on and praise Him
Look what the Lord has done.

VERSE #2

I met my bride in 1978
I fell down deep in love

I decided that day she would be my wife
She was sent from heaven above.

I'm so thankful to the Lord my God
Who has shown us His grace divine.

We will never stop praise'n His holy name
For He's the one who has given us life.

Chorus:

Look what the Lord has done
Look what the Lord has done
He healed my body, He touched my mind
He saved me just in time
I'm gonna praise His name
Each day is just the same

Come on and praise Him
Look what the Lord has done.

Come on and praise Him
Look what the Lord has done...

P – Personal

Ps. 86:12 “With all my heart I will praise You, O Lord my God. I will give glory to Your name forever.”

E – Enjoy

Ecc. 3:22 “So I saw that there is nothing better for people than to be happy in their work. That is why we are here! No one will bring us back from the death to enjoy life after we die.”

Conclusion:

With we can have an AGAPE love for God and each other, we’ll be able to be at peace and then we’ll be able to deal with the stuff of life.

As long as we’re okay with God – we know Him, He knows us, we rely upon Him, etc.... then we can deal with everything else.

And as you do...

You watch... you wait... you’ll see!