

The Lighter Side...

After their date, a young man takes his favorite girl home. Emboldened by the night, he decides to try for that first important kiss. With an air of confidence, he leans his hand against the wall and, smiling, he says to her, "Darling, how 'bout a goodnight kiss?" Horrified, she replies, "Are you mad? My parents will see us!" "Oh come on! Who's gonna see us at this hour?" "No, please. Can you imagine if we get caught?" "Oh come on, there's nobody around, they're all sleeping!" "No way! It's just too risky!" "Oh please, please, I like you so much!!" "No, no, and no. I like you too, but I just can't!" "Oh yes you can. Please?" "NO, no. I just can't." "Pleeeeeease?"

At this point, the porch light comes on, and the girl's sister shows up in her pajamas, hair disheveled. In a sleepy voice the sister says: "Dad says to go ahead and give him a kiss. Or I can do it. Or if need be, he'll come down himself and do it. But for crying out loud tell him to take his hand off the intercom button!"

The Perfect Mate

A young lady visited a computer dating service and requested, "I'm looking for a spouse. Can you please help me to find a suitable one?" The matchmaker said, "What exactly are you looking for?" "Well, let me see. He needs to be good looking, polite, humorous, sporty, knowledgeable; good at singing and dancing; and willing to accompany me the whole day at home during my leisure hour if I don't go out. Be able to tell me interesting stories when I need a companion for conversation and be silent when I want to rest." The matchmaker entered the information into the computer and, in a matter of moments, handed the results to the woman. The results read, "Buy a television."

Recipe for a Happy Marriage... whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

- *Philippians 4:8*



Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

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**God grades
on the cross,
not the
curve.**



When I think of love

When I think of love,
I think of roses and red hearts
Quiet walks deep in thought,
And very soft; tranquil music.
I envision an eagle taking flight
on a clear, crisp winter morn,
The first snowflake in February,
And the sound of the first robin
announcing the coming of
spring.

I envision a glorious sunrise
breaking through the cloud,
A spectacular rainbow
reminding me of a faithful
promise;
And stars brightly shining on
the snow clad plain.

But most of all, I envision Jesus,
His eyes radiating warmth, joy
and vibrancy
And the tender feelings in my
heart from His friendly touch.

- *Author Unknown*

Join us each Sunday for Worship...

10:45am worship and praise



Thot: Don't let your worries get the best of you;
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Dear John...

Dear John,

I've been unable to sleep since I broke off our engagement. Won't you forgive and forget? Your absence is breaking my heart. I was a fool - nobody can take your place. I love you.

All my love,

Belinda. XXXXXOOOOOXXXXX

P.S. Congratulations on winning this week's big lottery!



Something to Think About...

Tucked into the midst of our winter weather is the month of February and tucked in the middle of this month is our celebration of love for one another.

How do we use this special time of year to celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour; how do we demonstrate our love for the one who has given us life itself? What if we behaved as the adorned bride of Christ, waiting expectantly for the groom to arrive? In John's Revelation we have the description of the New Jerusalem where he sees, *"the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."* [Revelation 21:2] Of course as a guy, I'm venturing into uncharted waters but I think it's safe to say there are some things we can borrow from our romantic preparations for our weddings here on earth.

One preparation I think is essential if you're planning to marry is to spend time with your betrothed. Dr. Dobson says you have to "date your mate" and this begins even prior to marriage. It means spending time together, exploring what is important to you and your mate. Let the time be "us time". As you spend time with Jesus, read the Gospels and learn who He is. Visit with Him at the wedding at Cana [John 2:1-11] as He celebrates with the bride and groom, turns water into wine, and where He first *"reveals his glory and his disciples put their faith in Him."* [vs. 11] Watch him on the mountainside as He teaches, pouring out his heartfelt lessons for each of us, see him as He touches the sick, the possessed, the broken and the lame giving them back their lives. And yes, visit with him in the home of Mary and Martha, watch how he interacts in the home. Get to know Jesus!

Then, have a heart to heart talk with Jesus. If you are going to spend an eternity with him, let him know how you feel, what troubles you and what you are looking for. Let him know what holds you back, what you fear will change once you've fully committed to being in Christ – truly becoming his bride! Yes, confront any fear, stress, or concerns you have about the marriage! Such anxiety is normal for anyone surrendering their life to Christ. But Jesus wants you to know that *"perfect love casts out all fears"* [1 John 4:18] In the church we call it prayer – speaking to God, but it's first and foremost communication – talking from the heart and Jesus wants to hear from you. Take a look at John 17 and see the way Jesus spoke with His Father as an example of great communication.

Finally, "forsake all others". As a bride prepares herself for her husband, no longer dating others, no longer "on the market" so to speak, we too must be true to our commitment. What was it Jesus said to the church at Ephesus in his letter through John? *"You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love."* [Revelation 2:3-4] First, we hold our vows true because Jesus is true – the Psalmist declares, *"I was young and now I am old, but I have never seen the righteous forsaken"* [Psalm 37:25]. Secondly, we consider what we lose in betraying our Lord's trust and affection. We lose everything!

A tip borrowed from recommendations for brides-to-be is find some solo time – time to just be you and reflect, not freak out on preparations – to breathe in the awareness that you're his betrothed;

Mark your Calendar...

Sunday Feb 1th – Communion

Saturday Feb 14th – Valentine's

Sunday Feb 15th – MBBC Annual Meeting (Everyone invited)

Feb 18th - Ash Wednesday

Sunday Series: *Planting Seeds of Hope*

Wednesdays 7:15pm Bible Study

Thursday Feb 26th - MLHA Council Meeting

to be aware of what it means to belong to Jesus, enjoy the knowledge of the love of God as his Spirit's upon you and leads you each day. Drink in the passion Christ has for you as his bride. God is preparing His "bride" — His "called out ones" — for the wedding banquet of His Son, our Lord and Bridegroom, Jesus. Have you any plans on attending the wedding on that glorious day?