

## THAT FIRST KISS

At the end of their first date, a young man takes his favorite girl home. Emboldened by the night, he decides to try for that important first kiss. With an air of confidence, he leans with 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 please, please, I like you so much!!"

"No, no, and no. I like you too, but I just can't!"

"Pleeeeeease?..."



Out of the blue, the porch light goes on, and the girl's sister shows up in her pajamas, hair disheveled. In a sleepy voice she says: "Dad says 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!"

## TRUE LOVE

If you love something, set it free. If it comes back, it was, and always will be yours. If it never returns, it was never yours to begin with. If it just sits in your living room, messes up your stuff, eats your food, uses your telephone, and takes your money, you either married it or gave birth to it!



## TEN MILLION DOLLARS

Jack's grandfather left him ten million dollars, and the next week his girlfriend, Diane, agreed to marry him.

After three months of married life, Jack noticed his beautiful wife ignored him more. Whenever in public, she flirted with other men. Finally, he decided to confront her. "Diane," he said, "was the only reason you married me was because my grandfather left me ten million dollars when he died?"

"Don't be ridiculous," she replied, "I don't care who gave you the money!"



## THE PERFECT MATE

A young lady at a dating service asked, "Can you please help me to find a suitable spouse?"

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. 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 all her information into the computer and handed the results to the woman. It read, "Buy a television."



**First Baptist Church Strathroy**

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



# GETTING CONNECTED

*Publication of...*

**First Baptist Church Strathroy**

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## I Saw the Vision of My Soul

Having my coffee on the porch  
Just basking in the morning light  
A peaceful time until my eyes  
Were drawn above by light so bright

Thousands of previous mornings  
Never once took my breath away  
As I gazed up in amazement  
On this illuminated day

I saw the vision of my soul  
A breath, a glimpse as pure as gold  
The light illuminates my mind  
In God's tender love I unfold

I closed my eyes to better see  
My heart was open, lips are sealed  
Right to an inner higher place  
Where new perspectives are revealed  
In the innermost part of my being  
I prayed to let go of any resistance  
And I felt such peace washing over me  
As I recognized love behind all existence  
~ Terry Jordan



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loved & everyone is family!



**Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.**

**20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario**

**Thot:** "Love pays attention. Love listens to the fears and the doubts of others and treats them with respect. Love accepts others the way Jesus accepts you." ~ Rick Warren

## THE WOMAN OF HIS DREAMS

A young man called his mother and announced excitedly that he had just met the woman of his dreams. Now what should he do? His mother suggested, "Why don't you send her flowers, and on the card, invite her to your place for a home-cooked meal?"

He thought this was a great strategy and arranged a date for a week later. His mother called the day after to see how things had gone.

"The evening was a disaster," he moaned.

"Why, didn't she come over?" asked his mother.

"Oh, she came over, but she refused to cook!"



## CHRISTIAN BREAK-UP LINES...

- "I'm sorry, I've found someone more spiritual."
- "I'm sorry, it's just not God's will."
- "I got a lot out of our Bible studies together."
- "I think God wants us to just be prayer partners."
- "I do love you, but it's just agape now."



### Something to Think About...

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another." ~*  
John 13:34.

What does Jesus mean when He tells us to "love one another"? Jesus gives us His answer in the next verse, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another". When we read the two verses together, we understand that Jesus is calling us to behave in the same way that He has loved us, and we're to act in the way that He acted toward us. David Jeremiah writes, "Love is worthless unless it acts out, unless it's expressed in deed and behaviour."

God's Word at Romans 5:8 explains this love in that, "God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us". Because of His great example, Jesus isn't only summoning us to respond to an authoritative order as He commands us to love, He's instituting a new law, a law to replace the law of Moses, the law of love!

All who would call themselves a disciple of Christ, all who would receive the blessing in salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus who bore our sins and carried our shame to set us free and restore us to our heavenly Father forever, must then love one another as Jesus has instructed, indeed, commanded, us to do. That is a tall order!

Jesus is speaking of 'agape' love – the Greek word for the fatherly love of God for humans, as well as our reciprocal love for Him – when issuing the command. This love is to love like God loves; it's the highest form of love and is contrasted with *eros*, or erotic love, and *philia*, brotherly love. It's the

command that we would love as God has loved us! How has God loved us? John 3:16 is often recited, so I'm certain you've heard it but let me refresh your memory – "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life". God could well have sent His Son into the world as a judge against all humankind and destroyed every rebellious sinner. We all bear the fruit of the fall – Romans 3:23 tells us, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". The whole world's been bitten by sin and Romans 6:23 says, "the wages of sin is death". But God chose to send Jesus to us as the ultimate expression of His love! Without love we're unable to stand against the evil that pursues us.

Love for God, and subsequently for one another, is the key to our living as overcomers in relationship with one another, exemplifying Christ's wondrous gift of life. We certainly need this love in the times of rubbing shoulders with one another when we don't see eye to eye, when we fail to understand where those around us are coming from, or when confronted with those who belittle us, deride us or outright persecute us for our faith.

Can we find our way to treat one another as Matthew 5:43-44, the Beatitudes, say, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"?

Today God's inviting you to a new experience – to enter into what has been important to God throughout all time – to love and be loved as He has loved us, to cease to be 'worn out' in heart, to love one another because of the death of Christ on the cross at Calvary which has broken every barrier between humankind and God, and opened every heart to love one another without fear or judgement or condition.

So then, we must love one another. But who is our "one another". Do we love only those who believe in Jesus? Do we love other Christians more than those in the world? Jesus was clear when He said in Matthew 5:46-48, "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect". So then let us love one another!

### Mark Your Calendar!

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> – Communion

Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – Men's Breakfast (8:30 a.m.)

**Ladies welcome**

**Wednesdays 1:30pm**

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

**162<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Service**

**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 11 a.m.**

**Special Guests – Wayne, Wendy & Grace**

**Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> – FBCS Annual Meeting**  
*(follows morning worship)*

**Message Series**

**Tools for Living Triumphant**  
**Christian Lives** *(continues)*



**ALL WELCOME!**