

STEWARDSHIP

Proverbs 16:20



One of the best known days in February is Valentine's Day. Some people are tempted to call February 14th "Hallmark Holiday." Little wonder because in our country over 7,000,000,000 valentine cards are purchased each year. Most of these cards say "I love you" in one way or another. But what does "I love you" mean?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV) describes agape love in this way: ***"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."***

The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:1 (NIV): ***"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!"*** Good and godly children imitate the positive characteristics of their good and godly parents. As the children of God through Jesus Christ we imitate the love of our Father in heaven. ***"We love because He [God] first loved us."*** (1 John 4:19 NIV) What does our Father in heaven delight in doing? John 3:16 (NIV) says it so well: ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***

God delights in loving and giving. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are God's children, God's disciples, God's stewards. There is no better witness to what it means to be a child of God than for us to use all of life and life's resources in a way that brings glory to God and blessings to those whose lives we touch. May our "I love you" always be God's kind of love, God's agape love.

In Christ!
Doug Stacy