

In Ephesians 4:2-3 we are told, “Be completely humble and gentle; Be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.”

God: Somebody To Love

First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a happy Valentine’s Day. Today is a very special day for many people. We buy each other cards and gifts like candy, flowers, jewelry, and so on. We plan, we shop, we pay, and then we express our love to our significant others and family members. How many of us are thinking about God on Valentine’s Day, though?

As I mentioned several Sundays back, many of us do not realize that Christ was married. Though we generally think of marriage between two people, Jesus married himself to the church. What I did not mention is that God has also married all of us, and we in turn are married to him.

Our ultimate reason for living in this world, is so we can be reborn again and go to live with Christ. Just as Christ laid down his life for us, we are to lay down our lives for him and follow his words by living our lives and our relationship according to him. God gives us three simple in theory, but not so simple rules to follow when it comes to love. Be humble, gentle, and patient. Not only do these rules apply to marriage, but to all relationships.

I recently found a news story about a newly married couple, who realizes that important of marriage and God.

A North Texas couple who married on January 16, 2016, had a fire break through their apartment and destroy nearly everything except for their Bible and marriage license. The Bible was sitting on a side table that was extremely charred. The cover of the Bible was a little damaged; however, every page was fully intact.

In response to what happened the husband was quoted as saying, “It’s something that I’ll always cherish and it will always remind me of the two most important things in my life, which is my wife and God.”

Though he and his wife realize that things will be difficult after losing most everything, they also know that there is a reason that the fire happened. The husband says, “The only thing we keep telling ourselves is that it happened for a reason. What’s next for us is finding what that reason is.”

The couple has been able to stay positive, and I pray that when they find the reason behind the fire they will find more strength through God. I thought it was very reassuring that when the couple was given the opportunity to talk on the news about their loss they focused on their love and faith. This couple is truly united by God and they are making the effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.

This couple kept Ephesians 4:2-3 in mind, and though this Scripture might sound simple in word, we all know that actions speak louder than words. For anyone who has ever been in a relationship we understand the importance of being humble.

However, being humble is not about being so selfless that you are taken advantage of. It is about giving of your strengths, without expecting anything in return. We can show humility in our relationships by doing little things like helping out with the laundry without being asked, making a special meal knowing how much the person you are making it for loves this dish, helping give the kids a bath when you would rather be watching that ball game, or just taking out the trash when you know your partner/parent has had a long day.

We should all humble ourselves as Jesus did, each and every day when he talked to the people who needed his loving care. Jesus never turned people away and always made sure to give extra care to those whom others would have turned away.

I don't know how many people watch the show NCIS, but there is an actress on the show named Abby. In real life her name is Pauley Perrette and she is a multi-talented lady. One of her passions is giving to the homeless. She believes that all people deserve a chance and that she has the means to give back, so she does. As I was watching The Talk the other day, someone made a good point, that most people do not look at the homeless people as valuable, but Paulie dies. She says, "God bless you," to homeless people as she is giving. Though she has been physically harmed by two different homeless people she is not going to give up on her cause. I don't know that I can think of many situations where more humility has been shown, especially in a place like Hollywood.

After being humble God says we must be gentle. Gentleness is also an essential according to the Bible. I would interpret gentleness to mean we are kind and understanding of one another's feelings.

Unfortunately, it can be easy to take people's feelings for granted. I know I have often brushed my son's feelings aside, such as when he says something is hurting him. As parents we may tell our kids to walk it off, or that he should be a big boy and not cry. I have come to realize that the only reason I dismiss his hurt so easily is because I don't

feel it. I know that I need to work on being more gently so I can show my son that his feelings matter and that everyone else's feelings matter as well. Jesus would never have told someone that they were not hurting as badly as they said, or that they needed to act differently. He would have shown them love to assure them that he would be with them through their pain, and help heal them.

Last, but certainly not least in the Scripture is to be patient. Patience means that we are able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.

Let's just consider for a moment if God were not patient with us. We all know that God sent Jesus to us to die on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus certainly would not have waited for his death on the cross. As he was being mocked repeatedly saying if he were truly the son of God he could save himself. Jesus could have destroyed the world to save himself, but he never became annoyed, staying patient and loving.

With a little patience we can show how much we care and are willing to sacrifice for each other, just like Christ.

Many of us will be showing that somebody we love just how much we love them today. However, some of us might not live up to the expectations that Valentine's Day can present us with. But we must always remember to forgive as we are told in Ephesians 4:32, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

I pray that this Valentine's Day we can all remember that God knows what is best for us. If you are still looking for that special someone or already have someone just remember that God loves us and is the best and easiest Somebody to Love.