

Just to be clear, these verses are not referring to the Ten Commandments. They are referring to the precepts and principles that God has communicated to us through the Bible that should determine what we think and what we do. That means, if we want to be God's Valentine, we can't say, "I love God, but I have my own plans for my life." We can't say, "I love God, but I'll do what I like." We can't say, "I love God, but I don't have time to study the Bible so I can know what He wants." At least, we can't say these things without being a hypocrite. Being God's Valentine is not a once-a-year event celebrated with sugar cookies and heart-shaped candy. Being God's Valentine is a

serious, life-long commitment—a life of resolve and discipline. Not only does being God's Valentine involve loving God, it means we have to love his children. Whoa! Wait a minute! Where do you get that? Take a look at I John 4:7, "**Dear friends, we must love each other because love comes from God.**" Verse eight says, "**The person who doesn't love doesn't know God.**" After reminding us that God sent His Son to die for us because He loves us, he concludes in verse 11, "**Dear friends, if this is the way God loved us, we must also love each other.**" Jesus considered this such an important matter that He told His disciples, "**I am giving you a new**

that redemption. But Ephesians 2:10 tells us that the fact that we are saved is solely an act of a loving God, not the result of anything we have done. "**God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. It's not the result of anything you've done, so no one can brag about it.**" So, what does it mean to be God's Valentine? It means we show our love for Him. How do we do that? The Bible makes it very clear: "**To love God means that we obey his commandments.**" (I John 5:3a) The apostle John repeats this truth again in his second epistle, "**Love means that we live by doing what he [God] commands.**" (II John 1:6)

**commandment: Love each other in the same way that I have loved you. Everyone will know that you are my disciples because of your love for each other.**" (John 13:34-35) The love we show for our brothers and sisters in Christ is a testimony to a lost world that we belong to Jesus. That means we can't say, "I hate \_\_\_\_\_" (Insert the name of a Christian that you do not love.) This does not mean that we have to like everything that some Christians do, but we do have to love them. Remember that love is not a cozy feeling and remember that Christians also sin—none of us is as likable as we might think. If, however, we want to be God's Valentine, we do well to make sure

a person can choose to do. It is a matter of our will rather than a matter of the chemical stimulus prompting a rush of hormones in our bodies. When God decided to send His Son to earth to redeem mankind from the penalty of its sin, He did not do so because we were so lovable. It was because He saw our need and chose to show compassion to us. I John 4:10 puts it this way, "**This is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the payment for our sins.**" In fact, the Bible reminds us that "**Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us.**" (Romans 5:8) And it is through our faith in Jesus Christ that each of us experiences

that we not only show our love to God but also to other people. In fact, if we are not showing love to others, we are disobeying God's command; and, if we are disobeying God's command, we are not showing love to Him. Fellow Believer... Be God's Valentine.



Wait a minute! The Bible tells us that GOD IS LOVE. [I John 4:8] Why should He want me to be His Valentine? If anything, I should want Him to be my Valentine. I can use all the love I can get. First of all, we need to understand that God does not NEED our love. While He WANTS our love, He is completely fulfilled without it. Second, we need to understand that "love," as it is used in the Bible, is not an emotional thing. It is not a "warm fuzzy feeling" a "flash of passion that makes the heart rate increase and the palms sweat." The kind of love that God wants to receive from us and wants to give to us is much more stable than that. It is an intellectual matter, it is something

# Be God's Valentine

