

✝ Pastoral Column:

For Husbands Only

By Pastor Steve Fenton

Valentine's Day reminds us that we're a nation rooted in ritual. Ritual reminds us of the things we must not forget ... and men, you'd better not forget this Friday -- the one day of the year you are **required** to tangibly express your love for your spouse.

Why is it that men find it so difficult to do so? Simple. Growing up we were taught that love is something you feel. Remember asking your mother, "How will I know she's

the right one?" "You'll know." So we waited until one day our sweetheart swept us off our feet. "I'm in love -- she's the one -- mom was right." For love, we were taught, is a feeling and either you have it or you don't. Now we are married, settled down and so have our feelings. When it comes to celebrating Valentine's Day we feel hypocritical. It's more a memorial service where we "remember when" we felt so in love. But somehow things today aren't the same.

It's been said, "There's nothing like being married." "If you're happily married there's nothing like it," and "If you're un-

happily married there's still nothing like it." I don't know in which category this Valentine's Day finds you, but if it's more a celebration of days gone by rather than a reflection of the passion in your soul for your sweetheart, I believe I can help.

Our Western mind set concerning love has been corrupted by the Greek philosophy which teaches, "What people think and feel determines their actions." So, if you "feel" in love, act accordingly. If you don't, don't. Sad to say many a Romeo and Juliet of yesteryear are now strangers who happen to live at the same address.

There is help if you want it. It comes from God who created you and created marriage as an institution, where the love between two people is to be so close that the "two become one flesh (as one person)." God has given us a blueprint for our relationship with Him and one another - the Bible. In there we find a very different definition of love. For scripture indicates that love is not a feeling, love is a commitment, an action ("for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life") - John 3:16. "God demonstrates (shows and proves) His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" - Romans 5:8.

Did you get that? Action, not feeling, and commitment not emotions. Herein is the secret that arises from this concept - you do loving things and you will experience loving feelings.

I'll prove it, sir. This Valentine's Day, make a list of five loving things you could do for your sweetheart, then do them! You take the first step. You demonstrate your love and commitment to her. And your actions will bring alive those feelings laid dormant so long.

Scripture states, "God is love." If you do not have a personal relationship with the source of all true love, before you make that list, why not commit your life to God and allow Him to shed His love abroad in your heart. Then, make and do the 'love list' and I'll guarantee this will be the best Valentine's day you've ever had.

Pastor Steve Fenton leads the Asbury Church, Assemblies of God, located on North Triphammer Road.



Mildred Philip, 78, formerly of Lansing, died Monday, February 3, 1997 in the Cayuga Medical Center.

Born April 19, 1918 in Milton, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Otto and Mae Kriner Emmenegger, and widow of Samuel Philip who died in 1974. Mrs Philip is survived by three daughters, Linda J. Strauf of Locke, Donna Katzenstein of Gillet, Pa., and Jennifer Merrill of Freeville; three sons David Hans of Pittsburgh, Pa., James Philip of Elizabeth City, NC, and Tony Philip of Minneapolis, Minn.; 17 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held in the spring in Pine Grove Cemetery, Lansing. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the S.P.C.A., 1640 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

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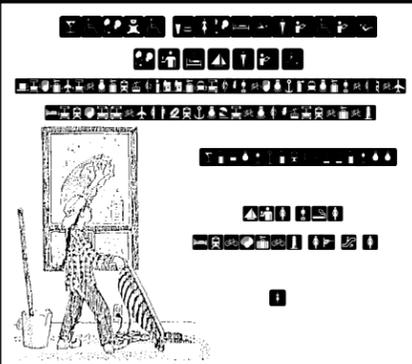
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