

Should Your Kids Celebrate Valentine's Day?

I. The Valentine Detractors

- There are many who shy away from having their kids celebrate Valentines because they're concerned that it's unhealthy to encourage children to focus on things like attraction and romance. All the kiss candies and X's and O's and talk of love and valentines seem inappropriate when we think of our children and teens having these discussion with their classmates and friends . . . many of whom are veritable strangers or people with whom you would not want your children having a relationship. And even if you would encourage a relationship with that person — later in life — you definitely wouldn't do it now. So, what's the value?
- By the way, if you think that people who believe what I just outlined are “taking this thing too seriously” or “going overboard” in their concerns, I want to caution you. I believe their concerns are very biblical and justified.
- From a biblical standpoint, there really is very little value to a young person who is nowhere near being old enough to marry or even close to maturely thinking about beginning the search for a spouse to be distracted by all of the temptations that come with inappropriate relationships.
- And — given that our society has been seeing the very worst that comes from the objectification of women and the explosion of ungodly sexuality and the increased focus on the “acceptability” of pedophilia — I'm not surprised that Christian parents are pulling back from the day. But . . . is that the right response?

II. The Valentine Baby

- It's never a good idea to throw the baby out with the bath water. We like the baby. The baby has value. Yes, it's challenging to take care of a baby. Yes, it's expensive. Yes, it takes time, but the baby is too important to casually toss out with the dirty water.
- There is a very important proverbial “baby” sitting in the dirty water that is Valentines Day whom we would be foolish to jettison along with the paper hearts and ridiculous amounts of candy.
- It's too easy for us to nonchalantly cast out valuable resources. There are at least 5 reasons why:
 - *We have a knee jerk reaction to throw out everything the world creates.*
 - If you remember our “[Teach Your Children to Obey](#)” series, then you know that biblical obedience is doing the right thing in the right way for the right reason in the right power. Well, don't forget that unsaved people are fully capable of doing the right thing in the right way.
 - They may not have the right motivation or be empowered by the Holy Spirit to glorify God, but that doesn't negate the fact that what they are doing or what they have created is truly right.
 - *We've been so personally affected by the destruction something has caused that we have no patience for any discussion applauding its merits.*
 - If there is truly value . . . it shouldn't be rejected. How many false religions and dangerous cults have claimed that the Bible is the rule for their faith and practice?
 - Would it be appropriate for me to say that I'm not going to base my life on the Bible anymore because it's been used by too many people to spread lies and cause destruction?
 - *We're too lazy to find the good.* This is obviously wrong.

- *We're too blind to find the good.* No matter how hard we look, sometimes our a priori assumptions or experiences can blind us to legitimate value.
- *Once we find the good (or once someone shows it to us), we're too lazy to mine it and take full advantage of it.*
 - Those of you who don't like your children participating in Valentines Day may be put off by my suggestions for how we can redeem it and make it valuable for our children. It may seem like too much unnecessary work, and you believe it's better simply to ignore it.
 - And those of you who let your kids participate in Valentines Day because you see nothing wrong with it may also be tempted to be too lazy to realize that there are legitimate dangers that need to be addressed with your kids, and that — perhaps — you should take a little more time preparing them to think biblically about the holiday.
 - May that not be true of us. Intentional, premeditated, disciple-making Ambassador Parents can't be lazy. The moment we get lazy in our parenting, we're no longer intentional or premeditated. We're no longer making disciples. And we're no longer functioning as Ambassadors for Christ.

III. The Valentine Redemption

- The worst parts of Valentines Day are . . .
 - The general godlessness of the celebration, and . . .
 - The overemphasis on romantic love and relationships.
 - It is wrong to leave God out of any facet of our lives, and it's equally as inappropriate to be encouraging children to think romantically about each other.
 - But the answer to the second problem is found in the answer to the first problem.
- So, when it comes to redeeming Valentines Day . . .
 - *Make God and His love the central focus of the day.*
 - What better way to celebrate love than by having a biblical understanding of it?!
 - Remind your kids that we can love only because God first loved us (**I John 4:19**).
 - Remind them that the two greatest commands are that we love God and then love each other (**Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:25-28**).
 - *Invite your kids to show biblical love toward others.*
 - Use Valentines Day to reinforce your family's desire to fulfill the two greatest commandments every day of the year.
 - Teach your kids practical ways they can genuinely, biblically love the kids at school.
 - But don't neglect discussing the dangers of romance. Merriam-Webster defines romance as "*a feeling of excitement and mystery associated with love.*"
 - Romance was created by God to be enjoyed by a husband and wife. It's not an elementary schooler thing, it's not a high schooler thing, it's not even valuable for a college students pursuing a marriage relationship.
 - Each of the groups just mentioned have been commanded by God to love everyone they encounter. But the romantic, physical attraction — which, if we're being honest, deals mostly with sexual attraction — isn't valuable to the relationship in any way.
 - However, once the two are married, romance is exciting and amazing and Christ-honoring if done correctly.
 - And it's very important to teach our children — especially in this sex-saturated world — to understand God's design for human sexuality and to patiently wait for their chance to participate in it while they work on the more important aspects of biblically loving God and their neighbor.