

## About Valentine's Day

Is there a reason why we, as believers, should or should not, celebrate Valentine's day? I went shopping on the internet and found lots of information on the subject. Below is just a small sample that I copied and pasted that explain how the day was originated in Paganism.

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While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian (?) church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman.

Is there not a huge amount of information in the Bible condemning Paganism, that God calls (spiritual) Idolatry? Yes, and He says it is an abomination to Him!. He destroyed whole nations because they celebrated any type of worship contrary to His instructions. He also says He does not change. So, if He hated it then He still hates it.

Now, we might ask, "what is wrong with doing it if it has nothing to do with worshiping anything, or does it?" Have we not replaced God, "the" God of love, who is known as pure love, with a pagan god, "Cupid" who is connected with the same day?

Cupid, one of the gods in Roman mythology, is the force that controls erotic love. He is the Roman counterpart to the Greek god Eros. His name comes from the Latin word *cupido*, which translates to "passion, desire, yearning, wanting, or longing." However, in Latin, Cupid is known as *Amor*. The Latin word means "love, infatuation, or passion."

One of the few ancient gods that is still a popular part of modern society, Cupid is not regarded in quite the same way that he was in Greek and Roman times. He is widely accepted as a symbol of love, however. Currently, in Western culture, he is sort of the commercial spokesperson for Valentines day and all things romantic.

Icons of Cupid picture him shooting a bow. It is understood that the person who is struck by his arrow will be inspired to fall in love. This piece of mythology is so well known that a heart pierced by an arrow has become another symbol for love and romance.

Our God says He is a jealous God. He does not want His future bride to share her affection with other gods. If we truly love God, we will not want it any other way.

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