

OKLAHOMA SUPPLEMENT

S.K. John E. King, Editor
1128 N. Lee St.
Altus, OK 73521
(580) 471-0636
jek41@sbcglobal.net



MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SWORD BEARER

Valentine's Day, the day when couples celebrate their love for each other, the day when children exchange "Valentines" with each other in school, and everyone talks about love. Expressing your love for another is wonderful, yet in the world we live in it seems that the expression of love can be a bit backwards. How often is love described by what a person does for us, how they make us feel, how they make our lives better? Biblical love is not about getting, it's about giving, and it's about giving without the need of getting in return.

The Bible tells us that:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails." – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7+ NIV

Love here is described by what love does *when you give it away* to another. If you truly want to express your love to someone, then don't just give them a card, or candy, or roses, or a ring, or some other romantic gift. Yes, make the day special, but more importantly, make your relationship special throughout your lives together. Express your love by being patient with each other,

treating each other with genuine respect and honor. If you have two people, and each one is dedicated to the happiness of the other, then there is no need to look after what you should be getting. Focus on giving, focus on truly loving from a Biblical perspective, and the love and fulfillment you will get will far exceed anything you could hope for.

"For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." – Luke 6:38 NIV

Furthermore, we know of the ultimate act of love, "greater love has no man than that he lay down his own life for his friends". And Jesus did that for us. So, as you celebrate Valentine's Day with the ones you love, try to keep the Biblical perspective on love, and don't stop when Valentine's Day is over. Give of your love, and of yourself, each and every day of your life.

With regards to membership, I would encourage each and every one of you to get out and visit with the Master Masons in your area, make arrangements to speak or put on a short program about the York Rite at your area lodges. We have so much to offer to our brethren and many of them may not even know we exist, where and when their nearest Chapter, Council or Commandery meets or how to go about petitioning those Bodies.

As we prepare to move into the New Year, I am hopeful we will be able to hold our annual festivals in one form or another. It would be nice to see Chapters and Councils throughout our State conferring Degrees locally as well. It's a great way to get your membership active and involved and have some fun and fellowship at the same time.

Yours in the Faith,
SK Mark McFadden
Eminent Grand Sword Bearer