

Marriage: LOVING YOUR LOVER

The following information comes from FamilyLife Ministries on their website, www.familylife.com.

Dennis Rainey's favorite date:

" One of the most romantic things Barbara has ever done for me came in the form of an invitation to join her for a secret getaway to a bed and breakfast. She sent the invitation well in advance of the rendezvous. Then told me that she would meet me at the airport as I arrived home from a business trip. She met me there with a big smile on her face with her bags packed and mine too. It was a weekend of fun, conversation and many surprises...all planned by her. It was indeed a true memory maker."

- ❖ Rent a romantic movie. Push the furniture out of the way and spread a blanket out on the floor. Make sure to have plenty of pillows.

- ❖ Take a drive out in the country to a predetermined spot. Set up a picnic ahead of time, with sparkling grape juice and candles. Watch the sun go down or enjoy stargazing.
- ❖ Go to a coffeehouse and read poetry to each other.
- ❖ See a movie at the theater. Sit in the top row at the very back. See where it takes you.
- ❖ Have a candlelight dinner in the comfort of your own home. Get your favorite restaurant dinner to go and have it on the table when your spouse gets home from work. You could even dress up for the occasion!
- ❖ Send your loved one on a scavenger hunt for small gifts and novelties that you've hidden.
- ❖ Go on a day hike or camp overnight somewhere secluded.

Extravagant Love on a Small Budget

Bob Lepine, co-host of "FamilyLife Today":

" When we were dating, I bought a box of 28 valentines - the kind that kids used to pass out to each other in elementary school. I wrote a special note on each card, addressed the envelopes and put a stamp on each one. I mailed them all so that on Valentine's Day, she would have 28 different valentines cards in her mail box, each with a different love note on it."

Other Ideas:

Gifts for Men

- ❖ Send a candy bouquet and romantic card to his office.
- ❖ Get a picture of you and your husband and create a special card for him. Include a Scripture that you feel describes him. (ex: Acts 11:24 "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit)
- ❖ Go to the store and buy him some nice aftershave or cologne and leave it in his car with a romantic card.
- ❖ Take him on a shopping trip designed exclusively for him! Give him a gift certificate to a store where he can buy something for his favorite hobby. Allow him to determine the places and length of time to shop!
- ❖ Buy your husband a new shirt or tie and leave it on his dresser with a card telling him you love him and are proud to be his wife.

Gifts for Women

- ❖ Place a rose on her dresser (or somewhere else she is sure to look) and include a note telling her how much you love her.
- ❖ Count down the days to Valentine's Day by giving her small gifts from February 1st - 14th. On Valentine's Day take her to a special restaurant for dinner.
- ❖ Leave several notes around the house telling her all the many things you love about her.
- ❖ Buy her favorite perfume and leave it on the bathroom sink with a romantic card.
- ❖ Take her out to lunch. While she is with you, arrange for a maid to clean the house from top to bottom.

Some ideas were taken from *Simply Romantic Tips*.

Adapted from "One Day is Not Enough" by Jim Priest

I'm not very good with numbers. That's why I went to law school. They told me there wouldn't be any

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math. But accountants know about numbers and when my accountant, Mike, talks numbers, I listen carefully. Mike recently told me, "One is not enough. You need fourteen." "Fourteen what?" I asked numbly, assuming he was referring to something like fourteen tax exemptions. "Days", replied Mike. "One day is not enough to tell someone you love them. You need the fourteen days of Valentine." Here are some ideas that might work for your fourteen days of Valentine:

- (1) Give words of affirmation. Each day from February 1 through the 14th give your loved one a note that tells one thing you like about him or her.
- (2) Give one flower each day for the fourteen days. Attach a note with a complimentary word that describes your loved one.
- (3) Give gifts with a theme for fourteen days. One man gave his wife a bracelet that said "Always" on it. In the days that followed he rented the movie "Always", gave her the song "Always and forever", sent her balloons with the word "Always" on them and bought her a desk plaque that read "Always". After fourteen days she got the message!

Mike is right. One day is not enough. This year, let's celebrate Valentine's Day for two weeks.