

Is It Love, or Romance?

An old story reminds us of the humor of romance ...

A man was going to the county fair one day with a pig under one arm and a chicken under the other arm and a basket on his head.

He came to a crossroad and didn't know which way to turn. While he stood there deciding, a young woman approached him, heading in the same direction.

"Please ma'am, I'm on the way to the county fair. Can you tell me which way to go?"

"Yes," she replied. "I'm on my way there, too. We'll go right down this way about a mile, turn left about a mile and a half, left again about a mile, and we're right there."

The man said, "Wait a minute ... down here, turn left and left again? Couldn't we save a lot of time by walking through these woods?"

She replied, "Yes, we could. But I couldn't walk through those woods with you. Why ... you might try to kiss me!"

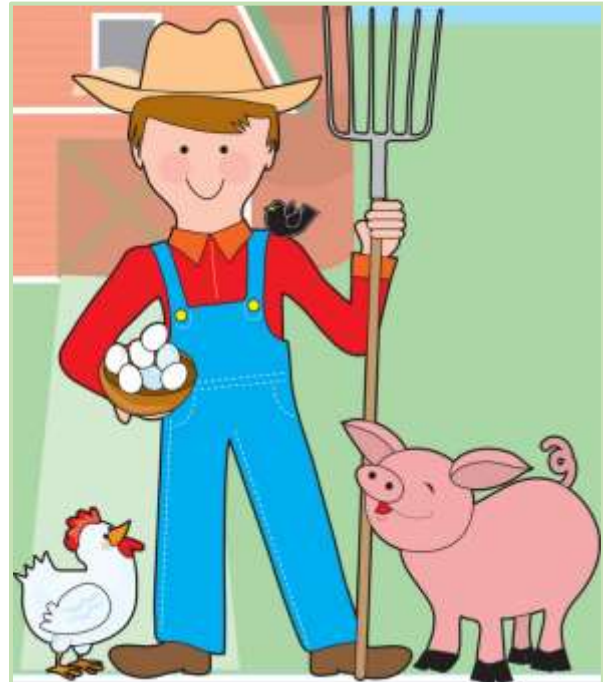
"Listen," he said. "How could I possibly kiss anybody with a pig under one arm, a chicken under the other arm and a basket on my head?"

"Well," she said, "you could put that chicken on the ground, turn the basket upside down over the chicken, and I could hold that little bitty ole pig."

The story proves, I guess, that where there is love, there's a way.

Although, one would be hard-pressed to define a romantic attraction as love. They are really not at all the same things.

These two – on the way to the fair – may have felt a romantic attraction for each other, but that is nothing at all like love. And as nice as it is to keep romance in our lives, in the end isn't it love that we are really after?



(more)

The late Marjorie Holmes, best-selling Christian author of 134 books – including *Two from Galilee*, a love story about Mary and Joseph – pointed out the difference between love and romance.

“Romance is seeking perfection; love is forgiving faults. Romance is flying; love is a safe landing. Romance is the anguish of waiting for the phone to ring to bring you a voice that will utter endearments; love is the anguish of waiting for a call that will assure you someone else is happy and safe. Romance is eager, striving always to appear attractive for each other; love is two people who find beauty in each other, no matter how they look.”

Authentic love finds many expressions – the kind of love shared by spouses; love felt by longtime friends; love of a parent for a child; the unselfish, self-sacrificing love practiced by associates in Life Care and Century Park for those they serve.

Real, genuine love is deeper than the often-fleeting feeling of being “in love.” And so much better.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter