

Roses for the Bus Rider

An old man got on a bus one Feb. 14 carrying a dozen red roses.

He sat beside a young man, who looked at the roses and said, "Somebody's going to get a beautiful Valentine's Day gift."

"Yes," said the old man.

A few minutes went by, and the old man noticed that his young companion was staring at the roses. "Do you have a girlfriend?" the old man asked.

"I do," said the young man. "I'm going to see her now. I'm taking her this." He held up a Valentine's Day card.

They rode along in silence for another 10 minutes, and the old man arose to get off the bus. As he stepped out into the aisle, he suddenly placed the roses on the young man's lap and said, "I think my wife would want you to have these. I'll tell her that I gave them to you."

He left the bus quickly, and as the bus pulled away, the young man turned to see the old man enter the gates of a cemetery.

Love – for those present and those departed – can be expressed in many ways.

Today, romantic love, it seems, has taken Valentine's Day hostage. That's not a bad thing; in fact, it's a good thing. But there are other kinds of love – filial (or love for family) and agape (love of God), which is the highest and purest expression of love, the kind that Jesus showed when He went to the cross for the sake of mankind.

So while I certainly encourage an outpouring of romantic love through various creative means today (and I had better practice what I preach, for Lola is reading this, too), it is recommended that expressions of these other forms of love also be shown, such as:

- Writing a note to a family member (parent, sibling, grandparent, uncle or aunt) to tell that person how much he or she has meant to you.
- Stopping by the room of a resident in a nursing, assisted living or retirement center to spend a few moments in conversation.
- Placing a telephone call to a former teacher, schoolmate or mentor to express appreciation for how that individual has influenced your life.
- Helping an associate accomplish a difficult task during a busy day.
- And don't forget to tell God you love Him.

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me (Proverbs 8:17 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter