

## Listening is Love

Since Valentine's Day occurs in February, it has become known as the month of love. I find it sad that this label follows the month with the fewest number of days—when love is such a strong Biblical command.

Jesus said the two greatest commandments are these: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Also, love your neighbor as yourself (see Matthew 22:37-39).

I believe that today's world has lost a lot of our capability to love because we have lost a lot of our ability to listen. For instance: There is a humorous story about a preacher who came home on Friday evening. It was late, and he had survived a long and very busy week. His mind was on resting and enjoying a Saturday breakfast at home with his wife and kids, whom he hadn't seen much during the week. When he walked through the door at home, his wife was fixing him a light meal. The children were in bed, and his wife was equally tired. She greeted her husband and said, "Dear, I have been so busy all day that I have not had time to go to the grocery. We need a loaf of bread for our Saturday breakfast. Would you please go get one before you sit down?" The husband shook his head yes and headed back toward the door. Then, the wife said, "Sweetie, if they have eggs, get a dozen." He nodded his affirmation before leaving. Shortly thereafter, the husband returned home with twelve loaves of bread.

We get busy. We do not take time to listen. But when we do (if we do), it is a true sign of love.

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