

GREATER LOVE

In this age where all things have to be either numbered according to the tangibles or dismissed as fluffy whimsicality, saying “God loves you” or “Jesus loves you” may most probably bring about a bout of laughter of dismissal at the very least... or an acknowledgement of concern at most.

Be truthful to yourself this Valentine’s Day.

Have you not ever longed for love?

Think about the things keeping you sane in school... the lectures? Tutorials?

No man (or woman) is an island. We’re all in need of company – some of us enter our senior years not knowing the challenges that lie ahead of us... then in come orientation. We suddenly feel that the world is a better place knowing that we’re not really alone in this race. School begins to take on a different dimension other than the tones of work that loom ahead – you find yourself going out everyday, mixing with company whom you start to wish will last forever. Sometimes it’s not even the things you talk about... sometimes it’s just the company that makes you feel at home.

Then suddenly you find yourself hanging out more frequently with certain individuals... it could have been a calculated move after a certain attraction you feel for some, or it could genuinely happen naturally as you find yourself getting along really well with the person/s. You have found for yourself an outlet, a place for solace where you can open yourself up, speak your mind and know that you’ll be heard and cared for.

You start to wonder if he or she’s the one. All the better if he or she comes up to you and asks you out.

Infatuation happens. You find yourself having this tingly feel-good sensation every time you hang out with a particular someone. For the girl, he gives you a feeling of security and happiness and for the guy, you somehow can’t get her looks off your mind... and you look forward to all the times she’ll come pour her mind to you.

You have found your potential love... and suddenly those times spent build up to an official date... and then you found your hand

holding his or hers, marking for yourself the start of a relationship.

At the back of your mind, you know that a relationship requires commitment... but somehow with all the things happening so fast, you find yourself unable to see beyond the present and hope to stay on cloud nine for as long as it lasts.

Then you start to know the person more and more and realized that there are quite a number of differences between the two of you. You begin to question if he or she is really the one for you in the first place... the worst case is when one of you decides to throw in the towel to the relationship. The times spent... the gifts given... the love... the heartbreaks... are they really necessary?

The *gungo* will say that at least I’ve tasted love.

Is *that* love in the first place?

You might have heard it from your friends, or you have read about it somewhere in books or the internet, or you can even be a believer... but somehow you’ve always dismissed the “concept” or thought that you are created to be in a really intimate love relationship with your Creator.

This Valentine’s Day, I pray that He in His sovereignty will keep your heart tender even as you read this... and that He will allow you to really take a step back in your own life to ponder, make informed decisions and own them.

The Bible mentions that “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)” I have to confess that I take it for granted that the people around me know who Jesus Christ really is and what exactly He has done... do you?

You are created for a purpose... you are created for a relationship with God. The word “sin” may conjure up many different images in your mind... you may have heard of Adam and Eve and the forbidden fruit, you may know the story of Jesus Christ inside out even, but somehow it just doesn’t connect to you that God is relational and He’s constantly reaching out to you.

That is one effect sin has on us. God is light (1 John 1:5) and we’re in the darkness as a result

of sin in our lives. This great divide prevents us from even understanding what it means to be in a relationship with God.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)”... and that includes myself. It doesn't seem as bad as it seems, but the Bible also writes that “the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)”. We all know that death is a certainty, but do you know that it is not how it is originally intended to be?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)”

That is the promise God has given us in His Word. You will most probably know that Jesus Christ died on the cross... You may think that His death on the cross may not concern you... but as a matter of fact, He died for you. He paid the price of sin in our lives so that we may re-establish the relationship with Him and live this life on earth with purpose till we enter the other side of eternity.

History records that Jesus died and was buried in a roman tomb heavily guarded with roman guards. Nothing amazing about that. The amazing thing is that history also records that He came back to life three days after, triumphing over death.

Friend (if you'll allow me to call you that), I am not commissioned by any church or organization to write this piece of crap to satisfy quantitative growth of any kind. I write because He has laid in me a burden for people your age, an age where everything may be looking normal outside, but deep inside you are crying out loud for love and satisfying relationships.

I write as one who has tasted His love... and until you have personally tasted of that love, you may stand to disagree with whatever that's written here. Yes, I am currently attached with a wonderful girlfriend... and that in itself is a wonderful story carved from this love that God has given. God willing, it will be the greatest joy for me to be able to share this story with you in the future face to face. His invitation for you to return to this relationship with Him is ever open. This Valentine's Day, will you consider receiving Jesus into your life and note the remarkable differences in the days to come?

You are only a prayer away. The Bible says that He's not only our God... but also our friend. There are no specific words to use in prayer – converse as you will to your best friend:

Dear God, thank you for your love that you have for me. There may be things I still cannot comprehend, but I am taking this step of faith to believe. I admit the wrongs that I've done in my life... and I thank you for what you have done for me on the cross for my sins. Teach me as I live this life afresh and attuned to you from this day forth. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

You may have picked this up somewhere... or a friend may have passed this to you. Do approach your friend whom you know is a Christian and talk to him or her... and if you have prayed to receive Jesus into your life, I'm sure your friend will be more than glad to share the joy with you. ☺

Just in case any one of you will want to contact me, or if you want to verify that this letter's not written by a dodo or a robot or an intellectual retard (highly subjective... haha...), you can view this same writing at the following address:

http://galvin.worshipsingapore.com/archives/2007/02/greater_love.php

I can also be contacted via email at galvin.sng@gmail.com.

God loves you. You can either laugh about it and dismiss it, or you can choose to believe and enter a journey you'll never regret.

I personally wished that I would have believed earlier.