

Saint Valentine's Blessing

Do you know why we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th? Because the Roman Emperor Claudius banned the marriage of young men in order to force them to fight more passionately, because he had observed that those who were married had less dedication, always thinking about their wives and children. Valentine was a servant of the Church who continued to officiate weddings in secret. When the authorities found out, they arrested him, and he was condemned and martyred in the year 270 A.D. In order to stop the influence of the pagan holiday Lupercalia, celebrated by Romans on February 15th, during the time of the Pope Gelasius, in the 5th century, the day of February 14th was dedicated to the commemoration of St. Valentine. Since then, this is a day when love and marriage are celebrated. In Ephesians 5:22-23 the secret of a happy marriage relationship is presented in the way that God intended. Underline in the text every reference to husband and circle every reference to wife and their respective pronouns.

22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,

30 because we are members of His body.

31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

How does God want every husband to behave toward his wife?

How does God expect the wife to behave toward her husband?

Who is the model of the perfect man and what should every man learn from Him?

From whom, and what, should the wife learn in order to be happy with her husband?

What will be the correct motivation of the man and the woman, so that they can fulfill their roles in the marriage well?

God created man and woman and established marriage. In the Bible He commands the following:

"Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Hebrews 13:4)

What commands does God give?

What do you think it means to hold marriage in honor?

What do you think defiles the marriage bed, according to this text?

How is marriage seen in our society?

How do you see God's judgment manifested in the lives of those who despise and profane marriage?

What will you do to hold marriage in honor?

If you've made the firm decision to follow God and to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, you will receive the Holy Spirit, so that you can live a righteous life. Here are the first few important things you should do systematically in order to grow in faith:

1. . Read the entire Bible. If you've never read it before, read the New Testament and then the Old Testament. When questions come up while reading, search for the answers on the site www.moldovacrestina.md, which was named by one visitor "Biblical Google," and the channel MCTV at the address <https://www.youtube.com/MoldovaCrestinaTV> or write to the address: contact@moldovacrestina.md.
2. Study the Bible. Reading and studying are different things. Reading is just one part of studying. Begin to systematically study the Bible, so that you can live a righteous life. Send a message to the same email address: contact@moldovacrestina.md and ask us to send through the mail a Bible study manual and web address for an online Bible study course.
3. Search in your town for a living church, where people come with a sincere desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and where the pastor gives healthy teaching from the Bible and lives according to this teaching.