

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love. —Albert Einstein



Valentine's Day is coming up on Thursday. Millions of people will be expressing their love for someone. They will send gift cards, boxes of chocolates, red roses, balloons and much more. Perhaps, the couple will go out for a romantic, candlelight dinner. School children might make Valentine's cards in their classrooms using construction paper and paste.

Have you ever heard these professions of love?

- I love you more than a dog loves his bone.
- I love you more than the Cookie Monster loves cookies.
- I love you more than a turkey hates Thanksgiving.
- I love you more than a flower loves its bloom.
- I love you more than Romeo loves Juliet.
- I love you more than a rhino loves his horn.
- I love you more than Baskin loves Robbins.
- I love you more than waffles love ice cream.
- I love you more than you will ever know.
- I love you more than I love myself.
- I love you more than words can say.
- I love you more than a cat loves catnip.

God loves us, as you well know. But God did not send a box of chocolates. God did not give us gift cards or balloons. God did not give us red roses, but thorns, and the color red was involved.

The Bible says (and I am paraphrasing) that the "proof of God's amazing love is that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The cross of Christ is an amazing profession of love. In fact, Jesus said that "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Jesus gave his life for us.

When you see a cross, remember that — much more than a red rose, candy cane or box of chocolates — it is the supreme symbol of love.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: *Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving the world so much as to give your life for it. Accept my gratitude and praise. In your name. Amen.*