

Voices of Faith #58

“Today is St. Valentine’s Day. According to your faith tradition’s philosophers / prophets, doctrine, etc., what is the nature of love in its best and most pure form?”

The Bible has much to say about love. It says definitively, “God is Love.” (1 John 4:8, 16), that is to say, his nature is love, and love is inherent in all he does.

The Bible also teaches that love is the essence of what God demands of man. Jesus said that all of the commands of God can be reduced to two, Love God above all, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:37 – 39).

The Bible also gives a beautiful statement on the nature of love. You can read it yourself in 1 Corinthians 13.

But above all, the nature of love is found in the love of God for sinners. This love led him to send his only son to become a man, live among men, and live a life of perfect love toward God and man. Then, though not guilty of a single sin, he died the shameful death of the cross, bearing the sins of mankind, all in order to reconcile God and man. “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends” (John 15:13), “God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

This, then, is love in its best and pure form, that the holy God would go to such lengths to obtain for mankind salvation from sin, available to any who will call on him in faith.

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