

## A LASTING LOVE

BY ERIN DRODDY



Valentine's Day is nearly upon us. Whether you approach this holiday with heart and mind set on a special someone or are content in your solitude, Valentine's Day is universally recognized as a holiday dedicated to celebrating love. As reflected in this holiday's festivities, our day-to-day view of the concept of "love" tends to lean more to the temporal side. Now don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with chocolates and roses, but there are a few important questions that lie underneath this common word love. What is love? How do we obtain and experience it? And is love merely an emotion, or could it be something more?

The Oxford Dictionary defines love as "an intense feeling of deep affection." However, a feeling is something that ebbs and fades with the passage of time. Instead, the Word of God offers us a far more permanent definition of love. John makes the bold statement that not only does love come from God, but God Himself is love (I John 4:7-8). To accompany such an audacious and concrete statement, John goes on to explain how love can be embodied entirely in one being: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:9-10). From the very beginning, God had planned the redemption of a creation that didn't want Him. We rejected His love outright, yet He was not content to leave us. And to offer us redemption, He made the greatest sacrifice: to send His Son to be made in the image of creation and take on the fullness of a holy judgment so that we might have again the opportunity to be called His children.

Once defined, the next question is where do we get this sort of love. How can we have a day-to-day experience of God's love in our lives? Jesus summed it up into two simple commandments: love God and love others (Matthew 22:37-40). He expounds upon those two commandments in John 15: "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love ... These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment: that ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:9-12). Humanity experiences true love through a reflection of the love of God. We should constantly demonstrate the patience, forgiveness and goodness God has expressed toward us. And when we do, we find our lives filled with the joy that Jesus mentions, something far beyond anything the world could ever offer.

Finally, in addition to the definition and experience of love, we are faced with the question of love's substantiality. God reminds His people while they were in the midst of persecution that "I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn thee" (Jeremiah 31:3). He spends the rest of the chapter elaborating on the blessings He will provide for them and reminding them that His faithfulness will endure forever. His love is never based on what we have or have not done; it's not based on a feeling. Solomon includes a bit of love poetry in the Bible, in which God says of us, "You are altogether beautiful, my love: there is no flaw in you" (Song of Solomon 4:7). No matter how we meet Him, that is His opinion of us. We are made perfect in His eyes, washed clean by a perfect love. And that love is something that is worth talking about more than just one day a year, something that all of creation will echo for eternity.

YOU  
SAID IT

What gift do you want  
from your Valentine?



**Maddy Pfaffenroth**  
Flowers and a note



**Luke Bomar**  
I would love some tea!

**Edward Miller**  
A butterfly knife



**Gavin Keller**  
Actually good chocolate  
that costs more than \$2

## WISE GUYS: DON'T STRESS!

### Guys: The Trauma of Asking

Guy 1: Speaking from experience, it is really hard to ask people especially when you are facing societal and parental pressure to ask. I mean, come on Mom, I know you want me to overcome my social anxiety, but bringing back the Spanish Inquisition just so I get a date is a little excessive. And for your information, yes I did ask, and yes I got rejected . . . twice. I still haven't emotionally recovered, and I don't know if I ever will.

Guy 2: Girls decide to just go to Jr-Sr with friends a lot, so why should guys be judged for doing the same? Maybe I have bigger priorities than spending one night on a date that won't even matter in a week? Maybe I don't want the pressure of risking ruining someone else's night by barely stepping out of line! And there are similarly fantastical expectations for the invitation itself. Somehow we're expected to be calm, cool, and collected and avoid any semblance of awkwardness or weirdness while asking someone out? Like, have you ever met any guys?

### Girls: The Trauma of Not Being Asked

Girl 1: Even with the knowledge that the probability of my never getting asked to Jr-Sr is at about 98%, that 2% chance that someone will ask is what keeps me up at night. I want to avoid teenage drama as much as the next reasonable person, so the opportunity of a male friend asking me to a formal banquet and finding out he wants to be more than friends when I'm happy where we are is the scariest thought. Then I get to be that horrible monster who friend-zones the poor guy, ruining his life and inevitably our friendship. Or worse, someone asks who gives me the creeps for various reasons, whether it's the constant stare in my direction or the excessive, awkward laughter at my dumb jokes. He may not be a bad guy, so I don't want to crush his soul when I reject his invitation. Then there's always that one guy who I hope will ask me, but I can't help but think he has eyes for my best friend... not like that's happened before or anything...

Girl 2: It's not the end of the world if you don't get asked. There's no need for tears and lamentations! Don't get me wrong—it's wonderful and lots of fun to go with a date, but there is nothing life altering about sitting next to a guy while you eat your food instead of sitting next to a girl who you are probably way better friends with than you are with the guy. Ultimately though it comes down to whatever you are most comfortable with. If you think it will be awkward to go with a guy, make your life easier and go with friends! And if you think you might die if you don't get a date, just make sure to hint to your special someone that you're wanting to be asked. We don't want any tragic misunderstandings to happen!

# Dr-Sr Survey Results





# — TRIANGLE —

## SPIRIT DAYS & SENIOR NIGHT









## HALF AGONY, HALF HOPE

BY SUSANNAH FARR



“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife” (Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*). From Austen’s endearing Mr. Darcy to Shakespeare’s charming sonnets, classic romantic literature has stood the test of time. Even as recent as the 20th century, lines such as “Mawage! Mawage is wot bwings us togeder today!” from William Goldman’s *The Princess Bride* have been fondly remembered and quoted. And although there are examples of romantic literature that are quite sub-par, the tried and true works written by the masters are not to be missed.

First on the list is *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. It does have a bit of a slow start; however, the book is a rollercoaster ride full of plot twists and turns. With scandalous secrets, tragic events, and an ending of satisfaction and happiness, *Jane Eyre* is a fantastic read. Another book that claims a spot among the romantic elite is *Emma* by Jane Austen. This Victorian novel tells the story of Miss Emma Woodhouse, a young woman who lives at her father’s estate and has the mischievous hobby of matchmaking. Throughout the book, feelings are hurt and satire is hurled, but it all comes together with love prevailing in the end. Finally to be mentioned is *The Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux. While this work is more commonly recognized as the popular Broadway musical, *The Phantom of the Opera* did in fact originate as a novel. This riveting story tells of a musician’s young daughter, Christine Daae, who is brought up singing at the Paris Opera House. After her father dies, she continues to sing, and is trained and protected by a mysterious “angel of music” who is never seen but heard. She longs to meet her angel of music, though when she does it only begins a disastrous spiral of confusion and hurt for the phantom who, though madly in love, will never be able to have Christine as his love.

Romantic works such as these are ones worth time and attention. Nothing beats a good story of romance and drama, especially when there is humor and satire thrown in the mix. Much of what is called “romance literature” today often falls far short of the depth of love of bygone days.

Recommendations from the English department:

*Mark of the Lion Trilogy*  
*Redeeming Love*  
*A Tale of Two Cities*  
*The Scarlet Pimpernel*  
*Little Women*  
*Sense & Sensibility*



# “DATING” ADVICE FROM MR. NIC

BY JONATHAN ROSE



For this issue, we sat down and interviewed Mr. Nic to hear what he thought about Junior-Senior and high school dating. Here is what he had to say.

Question #1: In your opinion, what is the best way for a guy to ask a girl to Junior Senior?

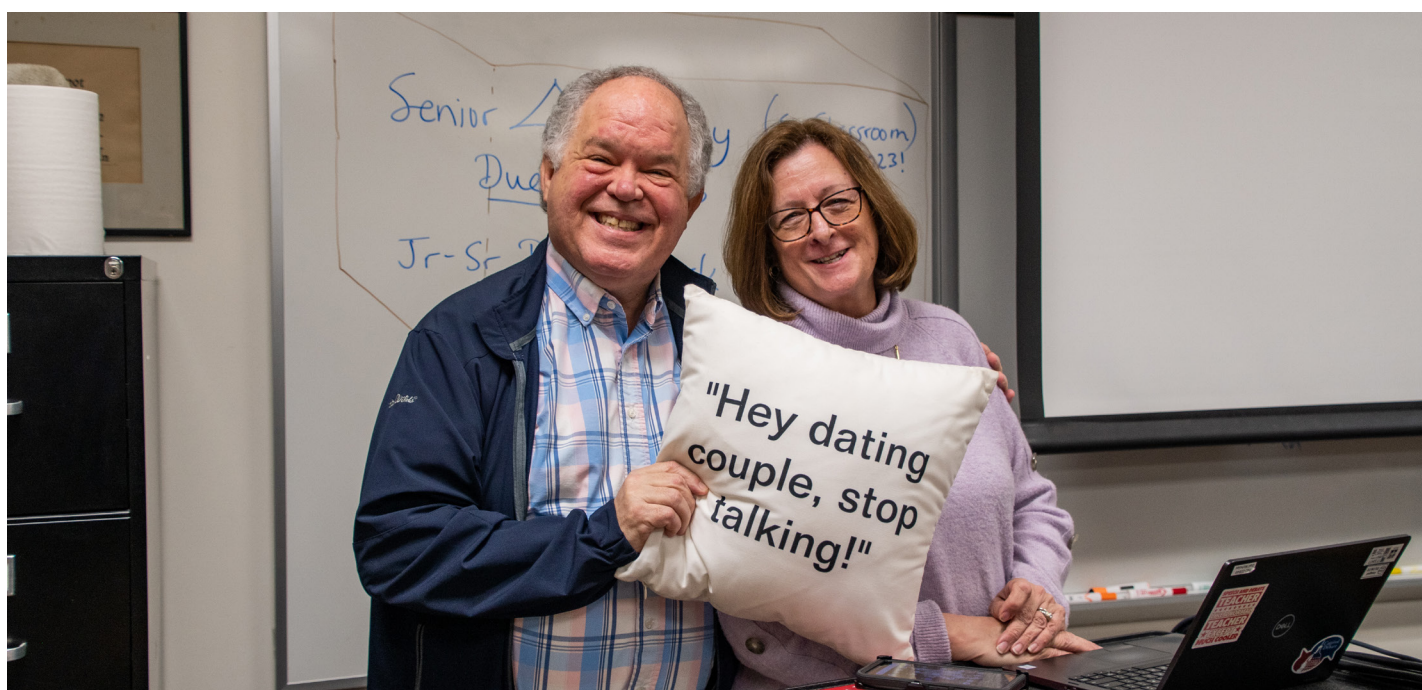
First off, ask a girl you know personally. Don't just ask someone you don't know, that's awkward! Second, ask her in a private setting and not in public like it's some spectacle for everyone to see. Third, ask her in a personal manner. You can either ask her yourself or send her a note, but don't just text or call her! Fourth, give her time to respond; don't just ask for an immediate reply. Fifth, be ready for the possibility that she will say no. And finally, remember you are the girl's escort to Junior Senior, not their boyfriend or fiancé. Just because you asked someone to Junior-Senior doesn't mean you two are going to get married.

Question #2: What are your thoughts on high school dating?

High school dating should NOT be done in a way where you are completely JOINED SOLELY TO JUST A SINGLE MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX. Familiarity breeds contempt. Don't specialize in pleasing just one. Work at socializing and learning social graces in many different group settings. Focus on being with a variety of different people in a variety of different events. Date, if you must, in groups on varied and sundry occasions and activities. Remember to keep an open mind. One of my youth pastors wisely said, "Remember the person you date now as a teen is probably not the person you will date in college."

Question #3: Do you have anything else to say on either of these matters?

Learning how to handle experiences with the opposite gender is a very important life lesson. Junior Senior is a great way to practice that. Also, in today's society, we don't dress up as much, so Junior Senior is a chance to get comfortable while being dressed to the nines (for those who don't know what that means . . . Google It!).





## Today's BIRTHDAYS

On this day in 2000, the last original "Peanuts" comic strip appeared in newspapers. Charles Schulz, the cartoonist of the beloved comic, died the day before on February 12th, leaving fans saddened and curious about the future of "Peanuts." Though as iconic as it was back then, its popularity has grown immensely in the years following. The "Peanuts" franchise has spread to television series, movies, clothing, and more. As we continue our journey with Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and co., we can look forward to a strong future for the "Peanuts" comics. And to finish out with a Valentine's Day quote from the wise mind of our friend Charlie Brown, "Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love." True words, sir, true words.

Mrs. Whitcomb	2/12
Aiden Payne	2/13
Jon Crosby	2/14
Matthew Hotchkin	2/14
Jada Webb	2/14
Jillian Webb	2/14
Darrell Daulton	2/16
Noah Hicks	2/18
Seth Atkins	2/21
Will Chetta	2/21
Jack Davis	2/21
Jared Helreigel	2/21
Katelyn Tolson	2/22
Miss Buiter	2/24



Next month, right after spring break, the Academy Seniors will be serving in one of three fields of ministry: (1) an orphanage in Monterrey, Mexico, (2) the Anchorage Bible Camp in North Carolina, and (3) various areas of the Greenville community. Our seniors and their sponsors would greatly appreciate our prayers as they plan and seek to raise support over the next couple of weeks.

T	X	J	P	V	C	U	P	I	D	U	A	M	S	Q	R	N	M
P	J	H	U	M	P	H	F	E	N	F	S	D	E	Y	V	P	F
X	P	E	T	A	E	J	O	L	F	H	F	A	R	U	S	J	R
D	Z	A	Q	R	Y	L	J	C	A	M	R	T	U	I	R	C	I
A	C	R	C	R	U	V	A	T	O	O	T	I	E	D	O	H	E
O	Q	T	A	I	E	L	X	Z	M	L	C	N	I	U	S	A	N
R	L	S	R	A	R	O	F	Q	F	I	A	G	P	X	E	R	D
I	K	F	D	G	S	V	K	E	O	L	A	T	C	I	S	I	S
Z	V	C	S	E	I	E	B	Q	S	T	C	L	E	Q	U	T	H
G	Q	Y	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	S	I	C	U	Y	I
D	U	I	X	R	P	S	J	B	O	U	Q	U	E	T	U	X	P
V	Z	M	P	W	T	C	O	Q	I	G	R	C	B	G	U	K	C

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

BOUQUET  
CARDS  
CHARITY  
CHOCOLATE  
CUPID

DATING  
FRIENDSHIP  
HEARTS  
LOVE  
MARRIAGE

ROSES  
VALENTINES