

Get Out Those Ol' Love Letters... and Read' em Again!

by: -- 'The Rab,' G.R. (Ricky) Gray

With the coming of February we are easily reminded of 'love,' especially in regards to *romantic* things. And that's certainly alright. We've all 'been in love' at some point, and it was a good experience truth be told for most of us. Some of those times were better'n others to be sure, but we all learned something through them which has helped us become better people. I believe that has been my experience at least, and I doubt most others are that much different from me. I do truly realize some folks have *been burned* by such encounters and would never fully agree with my view. I can respect and understand that, but I still believe my conclusion has reasonable merit. I've had folks come through some mighty tough experiences in life, e.g., divorce, and still smile in remembering some happier times in their earlier days even with (that) person.

Back in 1970 before Cricket and I 'tied the knot,' we bought a couple of popular books back then for potential lovers which to this day still have merit. I really haven't checked lately to see even if they're still being sold in bookstores; however, if they are, parents ought to get them for their kids to (hopefully) thumb through, and even older couples could likely yet profit from the numerous love lessons that's found within their pages. What are they entitled? Well, the one for guys is *Letters to Philip*, and the one for girls is *Letters To Karen*. Both were written by Dr. Charlie Shedd. Both of the books are filled with numerous practical pointers for young folks on how to understand and better relate appropriately to the (other) sex. And most everything suggested towards those objectives are still applicable for older folks and couples for sure. For instance, he suggested to guys they should always make sure 'the female in their life' should be so treated as *number one*, period! She needs to be respected and honored for *who and what she is* by God's design and purpose. And he suggested to the women they make sure 'their guy' is complimented often for who he is in their lives and for what he does. Just simple, common-sense advice, isn't it—but needed by all in any age. Now, (all) of us could find reasons to keep from doing those types of things; however, when we do them, we help repair a lot of interpersonal 'broken things' which happen in life, and the whole relationship between the couple is made stronger and better.

If you're still married or in a significant relationship, (somehow) get a copy of those books, read them, and put their lessons into your life's usage. Check for them in a bookstore, go on-line and order one from something like *Amazon*, visit your library, or stop in a used bookstore which might have copies. Chances are, if you do, your life will be 'sweeter than it has been in a long, long time.' And that'd be worth more than a bouquet of flowers, box of chocolates, or (else) you might get this *Valentine's* month. At the least, dig out that shoe-box of 'old love letters,' and laugh (together)... again!