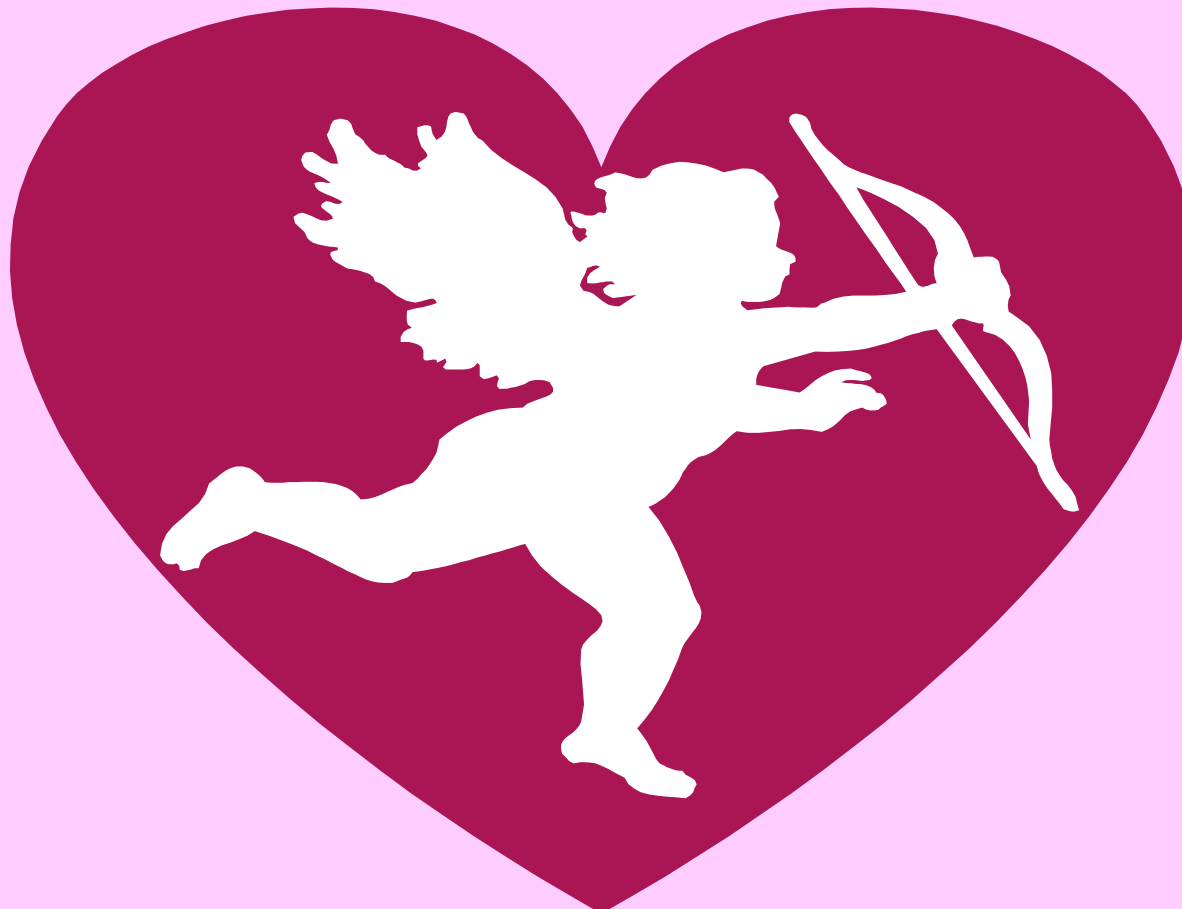


I'm in Love with You



John 3:16

“For God so *loved the world*, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life” *NASB*

[**HEAD KNOWLEDGE**]

John 3:16

For God *so loved* everybody else except
ME !

[**HEART KNOWLEDGE**]

HEART vs HEAD KNOWLEDGE

- In my Head I know that God does love me
- But, my Heart used to override my Head knowledge and not fully accept this truth
- I have struggled with really accepting God's love for me and I am sure others do too
- It is really important to fully take onboard God's love [Head and Heart!]

JOHN 10:2-3

The Shepherd and his flock

“But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the door keeper opens and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by *name* and leads them out.”

NASB

The Shepherd and his Flock

God=The Shepherd / We=The Sheep

God does not just interact with us with one common call or whistle!

But he knows each of us individually, calling each and everyone of us by name.

He knows and loves us intimately!

REVELATION 2:17

“To the church in Pergamum.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a *white stone* and a *new name* written on the stone, which no one knows but he who receives it” *NASB*

A White Stone

- Ancient practice of law, where jurors who would cast their vote to acquit someone by dropping a white stone into an urn
- Symbolises divine favour-acquittal, forgiveness-for those that overcome
- Ancient practice of admission, approval into a group by the giving of a white stone, whereas a black one meant rejection/exclusion
- Signifies acceptance by the Lord and a rightful place among the company of his redeemed

(C.R.Swindoll:
Letters to the Churches)

(Hughes: The book of the Revelation)

A New Name !

- Name = your identity;it was the verbal birthmark of your character
- He will reward us with a whole new identity!
- It is a secret,divinely given name,given to each person who overcomes
- “There will be no confusion of names in the mind of God”

(C.R.Swindoll: Letters to the Churches)

(Hughes:The book of the Revelation)

A White Stone, with a New Name written on it

“The white stone thus inscribed conveys not only the assurance of God’s approval and acceptance but also the message that God does not view the multitude of the redeemed as an undifferentiated mass”

“The name of the recipient indicates the uniqueness of each individual before God and the distinctness of the interpersonal relationship of each with him”

“As the new name is given by the Lord, it also, of course, signifies that the recipient of the white stone is precious to him and his possession” (Hughes)

What does this all mean for us ?

- We will all get a unique name given by God. Not just a common /overall name like over comer or perseveres
- To do that God has to know us all individually and to love each one of us intimately to go to that amount of trouble!
- God must really love me, and you too!, if at the end of time He can spend the time to think about me and what I mean to him, and how special I am, for him to give me a name that he has thought of that only applies to me.

