



QA: How Can True Love Be Recognised? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: How can “true love” be recognized?

ANSWER: While counterfeit religion gives us a “St. Valentine’s Day;” and worships the mythical pagan gods of “Lupercus,” protector of shepherds and flocks, or “Cupid” (later substituted with the Roman Catholic “Valentine”); and offers commercialized gifts of flowers, candy, or jewelry; **I think of Dorwin Stoddard.** Dorwin and Mavy were childhood sweethearts who in time married others, but when their respective mates died, they retired back to Tucson, Arizona, re-kindled their romance, and married. As Christians who worshiped with the Mountain Avenue church of Christ, they were beloved.

At a public gathering in Tucson, on January 8, 2011, Jared Loughner, whose works were evil (**1 John 3:12**), opened fire on the crowd killing 6 and wounding 13. Knowing that **Ephesians 5:25** said: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,” in a split-second, Dorwin threw himself down on top of Mavy. She was shot 3 times in the leg and he was shot in the head. She survived; he did not. It was not the 17 heart stents that had kept Dorwin alive for 76 years, but his deep, abiding love for Jesus Christ and Mavy.

Mavy will recover from the gunshots and live out her life knowing she has been supremely loved by two men: Jesus Christ and Dorwin Stoddard, both of whom gave their lives for her. While Harlotwood propaganda continues to demean men (with endless “crotch shots,” humiliation, and stupidity) and inflate women’s individuality (fictionalizing them as men’s superiors, or complete without men), suddenly God has thrust into the spotlight a couple who had it right. Mavy was a “helper comparable” to Dorwin (**Genesis 2:18**), and he loved his wife as his own body (**Ephesians 5:28**). Here was a husband who so loved his own wife as himself, and a wife who respected her husband (**Ephesians 5:33**), that he willingly gave his life to keep the best part of him alive.

Do what you wish on February 14, but I think The Day For Love occurred on 1/8/11, when a true “saint” demonstrated before the world what Jesus Christ did for the whole world centuries ago. Indeed, “precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints” (**Psalms 116:15**). Thank God for Dorwin Stoddard.

—-- John T Polk II, for the fellowshiproom.com, February 4, 2011, reprinted 2/7/2021