

Valerie Turner

4858 Bridgewater Circle, Stockton, CA 95219

(209) 957-5425

Email: grandmavalerie@aol.com

That's What Love Is All About

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. . . Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” (I Corinthians 13:4,5,7)

Assignment: Buy valentines for granddaughter Rylan's kindergarten class party, help her address and sign 29 valentines--26 students, two teachers, one teacher's aide.

First Step: Pick out valentines at CVS Pharmacy. Rylan decides we should purchase one kind for boys and one kind for girls, because "boys don't like princesses and stuff like that." Boys get cool jungle animals in 3-D alternating poses and punny captions like 'I'm not lion, I want to be your Valentine,' and 'I'm ape over you!' Girls get puppies and kittens in precious photos with roses and tea sets, and sugary captions like 'Sweet-Tea, will you be my Valentine?' and 'You're the purr-fect Valentine for me!' along with a bonus kitty pencil.

Second Step: Address all those valentines using the alphabetical list of students that Mrs. Lent sent home. Rylan can read the names, and knows if they are girls or boys, but still manages to mess up a few--giving a boy one of the girls' valentines or vice-versa. She chuckles at herself when she makes those mistakes. When we're done, she still has a half pack of the girls' style and about a third pack of the boys' style left.

Third Step: What to do with the leftovers? Well, Grammy Val wants one for sure, and how about sister Kinley, Mommy, Auntie Carrie, Daddy? First leftover goes to Cooper Dog, the family pet. He gets the two puppies, with the caption 'No bones about it, you're my best friend, Valentine!' All the girls in the family are awarded the appropriate kittified, cutified cards.

Last Step (and punch line): I ask her, "What about your Daddy Kyle? You have lots of the boys' valentines left. What animal do you think he'd like?" Deep in thought, Rylan finally responds, "I think I'm going to give him one of the girls' kinds, because he really likes girlie things."

Epilogue: I share this funny story with Kyle when he gets home from work. "Oh no," he says, "don't let that comment get around!" It's ok, Kyle, it should be shared. Daddies of little girls liking girlie things is really what love is all about. They play prince to their princess, manage to put heads back on Barbies, participate in dance parties, root on their budding gymnasts, learn to brush

tangled hair into neat ponytails, and do it in such a spirit that their little girls believe Daddy really likes these girly things. Treasure that valentine, Daddy; it truly says how much your little girls treasure you.

Action Steps: Create a valentine or a love note for your child or your spouse, thanking that person for the special ways he or she expresses love to others. Ask the Lord to make you aware of the spirit and attitude with which you parent your child, whatever the task. Whether supervising homework, directing chores, playing dress-up, or racing toy cars, embrace and enjoy the treasure God has entrusted to you.