

My First Experience of Falling in Love

As a teenager I attended a boys boarding high school in my home country, Ghana. Because it was a boys school the school regularly arranged for us to have extra-curricular activities such school debates, and plays, and so on with various girl schools across the country so that we wouldn't grow up completely ignorant of girls and their ways.

So, on one of these occasions, at the age of 16, I met this very beautiful girl from one of those Girls' schools, and I had an immediate teenage crush on her. So, as shy as I was, I mustered the courage to go and talk to her. Those were the ancient days when there were no mobile phones or the internet, or anything like that. We wrote actual physical letters that you mailed off to someone through the post office, would you believe it? So long ago, it seems!

So, this beautiful girl and I promised to write to each other, and sure enough, when she went back to school, the following week, I received a letter from her. In her letter she told me how much she liked me, etc. I couldn't believe it! I thought: *Wow, she likes me, she likes me!* I was ecstatic. I must have read that letter a million times, at least! I put it under my pillow and read it every day.

My school friends would sometimes frown at me and ask me: *Why are you smiling like that?* I wasn't even aware that I was walking around smiling like that! The whole thing was just surreal, I tell you, this feeling of first being in love.

So, why am I telling you this story about when I first fell in love?

Well, it's because as I meditated on this text we've reflected on this morning, it occurred to me that, if this teenage *eros*, this youthful infatuation that passes away, had such an effect on me, and on some of you when you also first fell in love, just think how transformed we would be if we truly fall in love with Christ for what He has done for us, and we come to experience the *agape love* of God like that, as the Apostle John did? Wouldn't that be wonderful?