

The Holy Kiss
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Clare Tomie told a Detroit jury she didn't feel anything when she kissed her husband, and the jury decided the lack of sensation was worth \$275,000. Claire claimed a dental operation left her lower lip and jaw permanently numb, causing a strain in her marital relationship. The jury awarded her \$260,000 and her husband \$15,000. Some would say that it was a frivolous suit. Others would say that was a fair settlement. I guess it depends on how much you value a kiss. Kissing is good for our health. According to the Academy of General Dentistry, lip locks help prevent tooth decay by stimulating saliva flow, which provides teeth with the calcium and phosphorous they need to build strong enamel.

If you want to be happy, healthy, and live longer, give your spouse a kiss before going to work each day. Psychologists working with a group of German insurance companies found a positive correlation between husbands kissing their wives and job performance. Their studies showed that men who kiss their wives before going to work each morning are affected in a positive way for the rest of their day. They drive to work more efficiently and safely. And check this out: kissing husbands live five years longer than their less romantic counterparts. The studies showed that men who don't kiss their wives goodbye are apt to be more moody and depressed and in their jobs. To be fair, kissing may be more a consequence than a cause of a happy life situation. Researchers say this subject warrants continued investigation by every husband and wife. So people, get with it! The Apostle Paul, in many of his letters, encourages the believers to "Greet one another with a holy kiss." As a young single Christian, this had me all excited until I came to understand that this style of kissing had nothing to do with romance. Actually, the holy kiss was a regular part of the worship service in those days, and although not romantic, was special.

The early church understood itself to be a family. They were brothers and sisters in Christ, and took it literally. They took care of one another. They lived out, "They'll know we are Christians by our love." People noticed.

We live in a world of cheap and tawdry kisses; kisses whose aim is to use people, not to love, honor, or respect them. We are those who have been set apart to engage in holy kissing; sharing gestures of genuine love, honor, and respect. If we love, honor, and respect Christ, our next job is to love, honor, and respect one another, as well as the world for which Christ died. We are the family of Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters in Him. People notice. Greet one another with a holy kiss.