

96-11

# High Speed Love

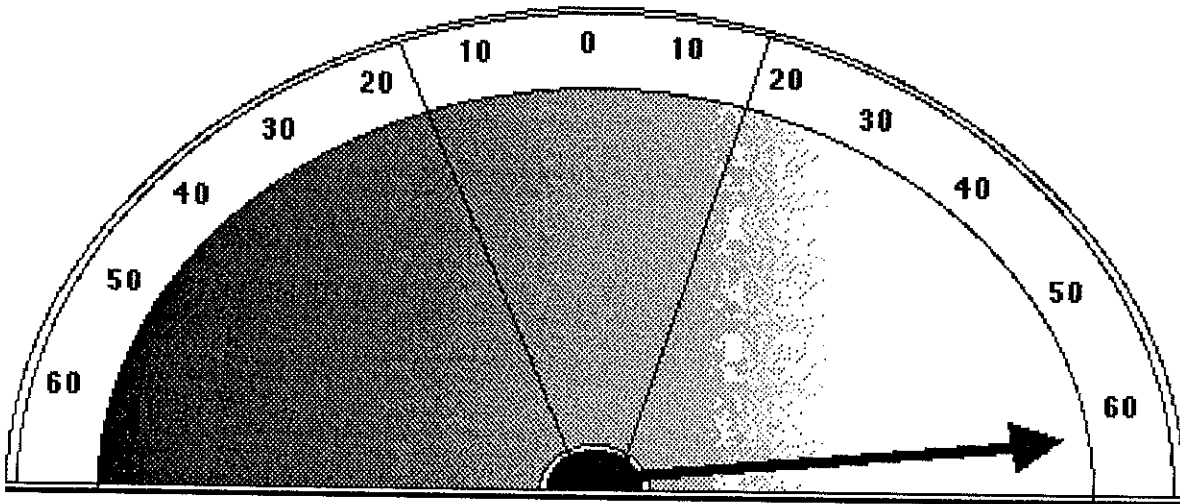
*Committing Ourselves to Love Like Jesus*

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1 John 3:14-18 -----> 14) We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15) Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. 16) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17) If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18) Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. (NIV)

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## 1. The Biblical Love Meter (vv.14-15)



## 2. Pushing the Love Limits (vv.16-18)

A. *Keeping Up With Our Leader* (v.16)

B. *Low Drag* (v.17)

C. *High Speed* (v.18)

# Discussion Questions

These questions are provided to further your application of Sunday's message and to prepare you for PCC's small group discussions.

1. Pastor Mike suggested that if this passage were taken seriously and earnestly applied it would transform the dynamic of our church. In what ways do you envision this changing our church if every Christian moved beyond indifference and actively set out to love each other the way First John 3:14-18 teaches?
2. New relationships for the non-Christian usually begin in the "indifference" category. They move to "love", "hate", or stay in the "don't care" category based on an evaluation of the benefit derived from the new relationship. How does the nature of Christ's love for us stand in stark contrast to this approach?

How do we as Christians put God's model to work in our relationships with other Christians?

3. Our passage states that when we see this kind of *agape* love in our lives for other Christians it is a sign that we have passed from death to life. Are you seeing this kind of "love evidence" in your life that shows that you have genuinely passed from spiritual death to spiritual life? Without bragging on yourself, take note of some concrete examples of this kind of love in your life.
4. Like our previous study in First John 3, just because real Christians are incapable of living a lifestyle of chronic hate or indifference, it does not mean that we will not be tempted and occasionally fall into these two categories from time to time. Be honest and evaluate what situations you most likely to fall into indifference?

What about the category of "hate"? Don't forget how easy Jesus said it is to qualify for this category (see Matt.5:21-22).

5. John teaches us that we know about the quality of this love by examining the life of Christ. Jesus demonstrated His love for us came with a high personal price tag. His sacrifice of Himself would have been impossible if Jesus were concerned about His rights, His comfort or being fair. Study Philipians 2:3-7. What is it that jumps off the page regarding Christ's attitude in the giving of Himself?

How can you work to develop this in your life? What will need to change?

6. According to verse 16, the extent of this God kind of love is that we "lay down our lives for our brothers". God is talking to us in ultimate terms and I suppose that in everyday life it is rarely necessary to go to this extreme. But it is almost a daily experience that another Christian could use our help. Why is it that for many of us it is easier to talk about "giving up our life" than actually giving up our time, another night of the week, a chunk of our weekend, or a portion of our savings account? In other words, why does it seem easier to lay our life down all at once rather than a piece at a time?
7. Being as practical as possible, what do you plan on doing differently as a result of studying this topic from First John 3:14-18?

How can your small group help you do this?