

**Pacific Coast Church**

April 21, 1996

First John 4:7-11

Pastor Mike

96-16

# **This is a Test!**

## *Evaluating the Quality of Our Love for One Another*

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1 John 4:7-11 -----> 7) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9) This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10) This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11) Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (NIV)

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### **1. Pass or Fail: What's at Stake?**

A. *This Will Tell Me* \_\_\_\_\_

B. *This Will Tell Me* \_\_\_\_\_

### **2. The Dreaded Questions**

A. \_\_\_\_\_?

B. \_\_\_\_\_ *Do I Love?*

C. \_\_\_\_\_ *Do I Love?*

D. \_\_\_\_\_ *Do I Love?*

# 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. Share an example from your life when you have been on the receiving end of real *agape* love from another Christian.

Why was this so memorable and important for you?

2. It is probable that there have been times in your life when you have felt unloved by others. Without slamming anyone, what kinds of things (or lack of them) resulted in you feeling that way?

Though we are often afraid of taking our eyes off of our own needs and desires, the Bible is clear that our primary concern must be others. How can you work to insure that the way you felt when you felt unloved does not become something you contribute to in the life of someone else?

3. *Agape* love meets needs. Sometimes it is easy to love in a way that we like to love instead of really thinking about how it would be best to love someone else. In what ways do people you know need to be loved that are difficult for you?

How can you stretch yourself to love in ways that are difficult for you?

What will you do about this in the next seven days?

4. *Agape* love extends itself even to those who are unlovely and difficult to love. Why is this so important for us to do?

Looking honestly at your own life, have you noticed patterns of avoiding those who are difficult to love and majoring your attention on those you enjoy loving? What did Jesus say about this in Luke 6:32-36?

5. Often we can take a message like this and work hard at applying it to people "out there" in our workplace or in our church. Why would it be wise (and important) to work also at applying this at home?

How often do you find yourself extending *agape* love and loving courtesy to those outside your home while giving your family less than loving words, attitudes and actions? What can you do to avoid this kind of hypocrisy?

6. How is God expressing His *agape* love toward you right now at this point in your life?

How does this motivate you to "love one another?"

What practical changes are you committed to making this week as it relates to loving others as God does?