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## HOUR OF POWER OF 04.11.2007

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O. From the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, join Robert Schuller in an Hour of Power now celebrating our 37th year as the face and voice of positive Christianity to the world.

HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful.." Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day. Amen! Amen! Amen!

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION RAS: Good morning. And welcome to the Crystal Cathedral. What a gorgeous day. It really is a beautiful day to be able to come together and to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. And so I want to invite you right now to welcome those who are standing next to you and behind you, reach out and give them a warm handshake and say God loves you and so do I. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You are a God of new beginnings. You're a God who touches hearts, You're a God who touches minds, You're a God who touches souls and so in this hour may we feel Your touch; the touch of love. And so through that love may we be inspired and motivated and uplifted to do and to be the persons You've called us to be. Thank You Lord for everything, Amen.

HYMN - "God, Make My Life a Happy Song" God, make my life a happy song that comforts all the sad, that helps all others to be strong and makes the singer glad.

God, make my life a glorious flower that gives such joy to all, content to bloom in tent or tower wherever I hear Your call.

God, make my life a holy light within the world to glow, a warming flame that burns so bright wherever I may go. I may go.

SCRIPTURE – 1 John 4:7-12 - Donna Schuller DS: Please be seated. This morning, we need to prepare our hearts for a wonderful message on love that my husband will be delivering in a few minutes. But as I was preparing to read the scripture this morning a thought occurred to me. And that is that actually it saddened me to think that there's many, many people here this morning that are sitting here listening to me right now that probably aren't feeling the love of God and that maybe don't even have Jesus in their life. So my prayer for you today is as you listen to these words from the Apostle John, taken from first John chapter 4 that you would feel the love of Christ in a new and fresh way today. Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. This is love. Not that we loved God, but that He loved us and He sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God but if we love each other, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us. Amen.

ANTHEM - "Shine, Jesus, Shine" Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining, Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us. Set us free by the truth You now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, from the shadows into Your radiance; By the blood I may enter Your brightness. Search me, try me, consume all my darkness. Shine on me, shine with Your light.

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

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RHS THANK YOU TO DON & CHOIR RHS: Thank you choir, you're terrific. Don, you're the best. Thank you for your wonderful music.

#### INTERVIEW – JASON ILLIAN

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RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER JI: JASON ILLIAN

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RHS: School's starting, I guess it started all over and so much buzz on television about My Space and child predators on the Internet, I've never connected with Internet. My guest today was a guest on the Hour of Power earlier this year and he's focused on trying to make the Internet a safety place, and the author of a new book, "My Space for Kids." And the author of the book is Jason Illian, a true renaissance man. How can that be when he's so young? He was, check this, all American quarterback for Texas Christian University. He was captain of the team. He graduated Magna Cum Laude. USA Today named him one of the top twenty students in the United States of America. Are you impressed? I am impressed. JI: You're too kind. RHS: No, I'm not too kind, I'm just honest. These are the records, this is who you are. And you know I don't own a computer. JI: Well we ought to start there. RHS: You think so? Yeah, because I don't know what Internet is and I want to know, am I the only one without a computer? JI: Does anybody else not have a computer? RHS: How many of you do not have a computer? Anybody else? Higher so I can see more than one. Oh a few, see I'm one of about.. JI: Five? RHS: Five/ten in this audience. What's going on? JI: Well you know.. RHS: I don't know what questions to ask you, so.. JI: Yeah, we'll just start.. maybe I ought to ask the questions.. RHS: Yeah, why don't you.. I think we can get more of a reaction from me but.. JI: Well actually, we're in similar shoes. I mean the whole thing about having a relationship with Christ and Christianity is, it's a relationship. It's a living, breathing active relationship. It's not just the

religion, and that's the thing about going on line and having, you know, social networking or My Space or Face Book, is they're on line communities where people build relationships. And that's why people are so drawn to it is it's a chance to connect with people. And that's exactly what Jesus called us to do, is to go and make disciples of the nations. Go and build relationships with people.

RHS: Were you a Christian before all of these opportunities and honors came your way or did you find the faith for the first time if college or after college? JI: Yeah, I found the faith in high school actually. I was at an FCA football camp.

RHS: FCA, many people don't know. JI: Yeah, fellowship of Christian Athletes, football camp and I was there what I thought was to play football. And they gave an award to somebody that exemplified the most Christ like behavior at the end of the week. And to tell you where I was I was thinking, well that must be me. And if you're thinking that it's definitely not you. And they gave an award to a kid from a small school and he came up to pray for us and as he was praying I realized that he had something I didn't. And for the first time it was something I couldn't earn or work for or study for or win. It was a real living relationship with our Savior and from that point on God's just been good and all those awards are His, I just got a chance to enjoy them.

RHS: That's fantastic. What are you into now? JI: Well right now I finished writing a book. I wrote a book called "My Space, My Kids." And the book is here to educate parents more than anything. Your kid already knows how to use My Space and the Internet. Unfortunately you do not. And so I'm here to help educate parents on how to navigate online, how to build community, how to work with other parents and other adults and more importantly our kids because you know when we grew up, and even when I was growing up we only had one computer for the whole school. And now I've seen preschoolers building their own web pages and so we've got to learn how to use this communication tool to touch people all around the world. And it can be, it can be a great tool. So we're certainly writing that book and I've also joined a group out of Dallas called, God Tube and God Tube is building a social network for Christians.

RHS: We had him with us here a couple of weeks ago. JI: Yes, our CEO Chris Wyatt was here.

RHS: My Space, tell us what My Space is. JI: Okay, well for those of you who don't know what My Space is, My Space is a social network. It's a social community right now where over two hundred million people are online and what in the simplest form its simple web pages. Its web pages that you can put up that express your own beliefs, your own thoughts, your own feelings, your pictures. And kids all over the world and adults are surfing My Space and creating pages and it's a way for us to network, to come together.

RHS: What are the.. any problems with My Space? JI: Of course, of course. I mean..

RHS: Tell us. JI: ..you know the Internet has grown so fast and the social networking sites have grown so fast. You've probably seen Dateline, NBC, or these other ones writing about on line predators or pornography or all these things. And guess what: they're real. They're real problems, they're real challenges online. Well if anybody is set and you know armed to deal with these, its Christians because we have a sense of God in our life. You know I was talking to one of my friends in Israel and he talked about what they call the sin of the desert. And the sin of the desert is where you know where water is but you don't tell anybody about it. Well..

RHS: Gee. JI: ..that's a lot how Christians are. We know who our Savior is but so many times we don't tell people about this. Well if all these people are online and all these people are lost, what better place is there for us to be to share our faith? And you know My Space is a tool, Face Book is a tool, God Tube is a place for us to connect as believers and we certainly need to guard against pornography and sexual predators and in my book, "My Space, My

Kids” that’s what I’m doing is helping teach parents to do that, but more than that is use it as a way to connect, as a way to build relationships and so that we can share our faith. RHS: What can we do to protect them? JI: Besides buy my book? RHS: That’s very good. JI: That was a shameless plug, I’m sorry. RHS: No, no I’m glad you did because I was going to pitch it because with your academic background and your knowledge of what you’re writing about, no one could do a better job.. JI: Thank you. RHS: ..of writing the book of that title than you. There is no other book written by a Christian to guide parents on how to protect their children from predators and pornography. So tell us, besides writing the book.. JI: Right. RHS: ..what can we do? JI: Well there’s basic Internet principles that we all need to have. RHS: Why aren’t they the law of the land? JI: Well, the Internet has grown so fast and it’s.. RHS: I mean there’s a law of the land on the networks, television networks that they can’t use pornography. JI: Correct, and there’s no pornography allowed specifically inside of these social networks, like My Space or Face Book. However, sometimes it does get in. And so books like this and the education we’re trying to have is to help parents decide what are your rules. Like keep the computer in an open space where you can monitor what your child’s doing online. My parents always said my house is not a democracy. America is, my house isn’t. RHS: That’s right. JI: I didn’t get to vote on eating my green beans or going to school and your kid does not get to vote on how long he gets to spend online. And so there are some of these basic tools, and you know having other software accountability. We talk about accountability all the time as Christians. Well have accountability in your computer system. I’m thirty two years old and I have an accountability software program that any website that I see automatically sends an email to my friends that are my accountability partners to let them see anything that I’ve seen. So that they can hold me accountable to my faith and as adults we have to model this if we want our kids to live that same type of life. RHS: You’re a young man; you’ve got hopefully another seventy years ahead of you. JI: I hope so. RHS: Quite realistic, it is today. What are your dreams and plans for you to do? JI: Right, well I mean what God’s always put on my heart is about bringing people to Him. It’s about building authentic relationships. You know it’s easy for us to be the church inside of these four walls. And this is a beautiful place, but are you a Christian like that, do you share that same love and faith and connect with them when you leave? And not just to do it on Sunday mornings, but to do it on Monday mornings when we hate going to work and to do it on Wednesday nights and all those times and if we can do this and we can share it through the internet through our movies through television we have a chance to impact the world and make a real legitimate change in the name of Christ and that’s what I care about. That’s what I long for. RHS: What was it that really turned you on to this issue? JI: I guess the biggest thing that came about coming on to this issue was seeing, I’ve been speaking to teens and to parents for years and just to see how lost we felt, as to how helpless we felt. I mean I have my first child on the way. RHS: What month? JI: It’s due in February. RHS: Oh. JI: So I don’t know if it’s a boy or a girl yet. So if you want, you can come to Dallas and help me paint the room. I still have to do that. That’s beside the point we can talk about that later. But.. RHS: Yeah, we won’t but go ahead. JI: ..yeah exactly, thank you. But the really thing is I realized how powerful that relationship is with a son or daughter to his dad and my relationship to our father in heaven. And you know to understand how powerful that is and if we can bring our parents and our kid’s closer together, this generation could do something special. And your church has set a great foundation for that over the years, now how do we perpetuate that into the future? RHS: Say, may I pray for

your little unborn baby? JI: Absolutely, please. RHS: Dear God, the two of us don't know anything about that little life that is already conceived. We have no idea what You included in that recipe. What gifts, what calling, what desires, what dreams will emerge? What power will come through that little developing life right now? First Lord we pray that this little one may have ten fingers and ten toes, oh and two eyes that can see clearly, and a heart that will be emotionally equipped and sensitive to hear, to listen, and to follow the positive feelings that will be coming through strokes and sounds and even scripture. Thank You that this little one is a privileged child being born to a Godly father and a Godly mother and I pray that You will bless this father to be for what he's doing can protect his own child and the children of the world. Born so innocent keep them from being poisoned by sins that are around us. Thank You, thank You in Jesus' name, Amen. A last word Jason? Anything? You got a good audience I can tell you that. JI: Thank you, thank you. You know my last word to you is be passionate about what you believe. RHS: Yes. JI: We are living in a world that is so longing for somebody to stand up and share the truth with them. RHS: Yes. JI: It doesn't have to be today in this room, but maybe it's this afternoon or tomorrow. You don't have to know all the answers but just be authentic and real with those around you and you will change lives. God has changed mine and you will change theirs. RHS: Thank you very, very much. JI: You're welcome sir. It's a pleasure to see you. RHS: God loves you and so do we.

RHS INTRODUCES VICKY BEECHING RHS: In a moment, we'll have one of the finest singers we've ever had. She's a Christian singer, she's a songwriter. Her name is Vicky Beeching. She is performing from her new CD titled, "Painting the Invisible." Wow, what a clever title. And Vicky, you're from England. Live in London. The Wonder of the Cross is one of the songs. Tell me, how do you live your own life under the wonder of the cross? VB: I think it's very easy because when you walk with Jesus every day and you realize His mercy every time you stumble, every time you fail, He picks you back up again and keeps on loving you. That fills me with wonder every day. RHS: Wonderful. Well we're thrilled that you came all the way from London England to our little glass hut in California. VB: It's brilliant to be here. RHS: Sing for us. SOLO – VICKY BEECHING – "The Wonder of the Cross" Oh precious sight, my Savior stands dying for me with outstretched hands. O precious sight, my Savior loves, remembering salvation's day, remembering salvation's day.

Though my eyes linger on the scene, may passing time and years not steal the power with which it impacts me, the freshness of its mystery, the freshness of its mystery.

And may I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross. May I see it like the first time, standing as a sinner lost under the mercy and left speechless watching wide-eyed at the cross. May I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross.

Behold the God-man crucified; the perfect, sinless sacrifice as blood ran down those nails and wounds, history was split in two, History it was split in two.

Behold the empty wooden tree, His body gone alive and free. We'll sing with everlasting joy as sin and death they've been destroyed, yes sin and death they've been destroyed.

And may I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross. And may I see it like the first time, standing as a sinner lost under the mercy and left speechless watching wide-eyed at the cross. May I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross. And may I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross.

SOLO – VICKY BEECHING – “Great is Your Glory” God came down and gave His life for me, and Amen, and Amen. Through flesh and blood He fought for victory, and Amen, and Amen. Crucified, and brought back to life, Amen, and Amen. Seated at the Father's hand again, and Amen, and Amen.

Great is the glory of the Lord Almighty; great is the glory of the Lord. And I will sing with all my heart unto You Lord Almighty. Cause great is Your glory Lord.

Crimson covered over sinless hands, and Amen, and Amen. But nails could never hold the Son of Man, and Amen, and Amen. And now the Father's love flows down on us, and Amen, and Amen. And hallelujah, He will come again, yes He will, yes, and Amen, and Amen.

Singing great is the glory of the Lord Almighty, great is the glory of the Lord. And I will sing with all my heart unto You Lord Almighty, cause great is Your glory Lord.

And You are the One who was, and You are the One who is, and You are the One who is to come. You are the One who was, and You are the One who is, and You are the One who is to come. Singing great is the glory of the Lord Almighty, great is the glory of Jesus. I will sing with all my heart unto You Lord Almighty, cause great is Your glory. Great is the glory of the Lord Almighty, great is the glory of the Lord, and I will sing with all my heart unto You Lord, Almighty, cause great is Your glory Lord. Great is Your glory, great is your glory Lord.

RAS THANK YOU TO VICKY BEECHING RAS: Vicky, thank you. Beautiful music. I absolutely love it, it moved me to tears. The CD is entitled, “Painting the Invisible.” Tell me about that title, painting the invisible. VB: Yes, I know it seems like a bit of a strange title, but I think as worshippers when we talk about God, when we write songs about Him, sometimes we become a bit over familiar and we forget the reverence that is needed and for me when I describe God, it's almost like I'm somebody blindfolded trying to describe a beautiful sunset. We do our best but really He's so far beyond our imagination, we're painting the invisible. RAS: Oh that's beautiful. Well Vicky thank you so much. Thank you for your music. We appreciate it, we love it, God bless you and I hope you can come again. VB: I hope so, too. RAS: Have a good day.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER "Love People" RHS: Well I had a really wonderful summer. I finished my manuscript on “Walking in Your Own Shoes.” This is the dust jacket, I just got that. This book, it's just the dust jacket. The book will be out November 1st. I put the dust jacket on an old book that no ones ever heard.. oh maybe you have heard of this: “The Be Happy Attitudes” by oh Robert Schuller, Robert Harold Schuller. It's just the jacket that's available now. The book will be out November 1st, “Walking in Your Own Shoes: Discovering God's direction for your life.” The other thing I did this summer, our staff spent hours, countless hours, probably about a year and a half we finally concluded basically trying to redefine who we are as a church, as a

congregation, and as a mission to the world. What is it that defines what our mission is and who we are as a ministry and as a church and we boiled it down to three words. It's kind of amazing when you stop to think about how many hours it took to finally come up with three simple words. But they're powerful words and they really define who we are all about. And so last week I started this three part series talking about who we are and redefining who we are as a church and congregation and it starts with knowing. The first word is know. The second word is love, and the third word is to serve. And so we're called to know God, to love people and to serve the world. And as we experience and embrace these three words, we have to realize that you could actually put them in a graph because they all relate to each other. Without looking at this I get mixed up so let me show you how this works. You can know God, know people and know the world. Or you can love God, love people and love the world. And you can serve God, serve people and serve the world. To know, to love, and to serve. Last week I started by talking about knowing God. And how do we know God and what is it like to understand and experience God. And if you'd like to listen to that message or hear that message you can write to me and I'll send you a copy of it. Otherwise you can go online at [hourofpower.org](http://hourofpower.org) and you can watch that message or you can read that message, it's been downloaded on there. The second word that I'm speaking on today is love. What better word is there in the world than love. What does the world need more today than love? A rabbi came to Jesus and said "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" And Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and the greatest commandment. The second is like it; love your neighbor as yourself." And here's the reason why I chose this. Of all the information in the entire Bible that deals with love this is the reason why I chose these specific verses. And Jesus continued saying "All of the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments." That means, when He says the law and the prophets, He means everything within this book the Bible. The entire Bible, all 1,380 pages, all of them boil down to these two verse according to Jesus. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself." I'm in a Bible study and we meet regularly once a week and currently we go through different books and studies. Currently we're going through a book by John Piper it's entitled, "What Jesus Demands from the World." And John Piper is a noted author in the Christian circles and a very brilliant man and he goes through I think there's close to fifty chapters. Fifty commands that Christ gives us. And he of course addresses these commands. And here's what he says about this commands. First of all he gives a word picture to describe what this means. The word picture is the throne of God in heaven and hanging on the arms of the throne of God are two chains that descend to earth and upon these chains are all of the scrolls and all of the laws and all of the words contained within the Holy scriptures that have ever been shared with us and those two chains are these: love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul and with all thy mind. And the other chain is: what is it? Love your neighbor as yourself. Those are the two chains. Then he goes on and he says "All of creation and all of the work of redemption including Christ as our redeemer and all of history hang on these two great purposes, that humans love God with all of their heart and that from the overflow of that love we love each other. It is the beginning and the end." "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy might." And I stop and I look in that scripture and I say God I'm guilty. I am guilty of not having the ability to love You with all of my soul, with all of my mind, and with everything I am. I love You to the best of my ability but

I know it's not one hundred percent. And that thought haunted me when I read these passages, until I read another love passage that I want to share with you. It's from Matthew 5. It's Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. He says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even tax collectors do that, even the pagans do that. Instead be perfect therefore as your Heavenly Father is perfect." And again I said to myself I am not perfect. It's impossible for me to be perfect. I will never be perfect. And if I can never be perfect, if I can never experience the full love of God with body, heart and soul and mind and everything that I am, I am a sinner. And I suddenly realized how much I needed Jesus Christ. And I realized that Christ came to redeem the world; that He came to save me! And He came to save you and He came to save anyone who will call upon His name. So that we work and we strive and we aim and we do everything we can to be the best we can be. To love God as much as we can and when we fail and wherever we fail He comes along and He lifts us up. I've used this illustration numerous times throughout my ministry. It's a beautiful understanding of how the gospel of Jesus Christ works for us. For us trying to earn our way into heaven or lets saying trying to love God with all of our heart and our soul and our mind and to live perfectly as our Father has lived perfectly would be like trying to swim to Hawaii. I think it is physically impossible for anyone to swim to Hawaii. I think most of us would agree. Would you all agree to that? You hop in the water and you start swimming and some people don't know how to swim and they'll get about eight feet and it's all over. And then there's some people who can swim a little bit like me, I don't know what I cannot swim long distances. My legs just start to sink. I have to paddle like mad to keep my feet up. So I paddle and I swim and I paddle and I'm good for maybe a hundred yards and then it's all over. So I'd get about hundred yards off shore and then my legs would start to sink and lets face it I'm not going to make it. And somebody else is a good swimmer like my wife. Man can she swim. She just swims back and forth, back and forth. She'll swim for an hour, in fact she used to do that as a form of exercise, I'm going how in the world can you do this? And she just swims back and forth and she gets out and she dries off, she's not huffing and puffing, it's absolutely nothing! So she'd get out there and she'd swim for a couple of miles probably, maybe three or four, I don't know. Maybe even if her life depended on it, twenty thirty miles, I don't know! But I know this that she would eventually get a cramp or something would happen or her body would wear out and she wouldn't be able to get as far as Hawaii. But no matter where we fail, we put out the effort. We're trying as hard as we can but no matter where we fail, Christ comes along in the life boat and He reaches out and He grabs us and He brings us into the boat and He says I'll take you the rest of the way to Hawaii. And He completes the journey for us. What a challenge. What a challenge for us to reach out and to ignite the world for positive change! An opportunity for us to be able to share with the entire world the good news that Christ is alive today. To love the Lord our God with all our heart, and all our soul, with all our mind. In the Second World War there was a man who had been separated from his troops, a marine. He was on a pacific island and he knew that the enemy was on his trail. So, he did everything he could to conceal his path and found a cave to hide in, in hopes that he might make it through this desperate time. And it wasn't long and he heard the enemy coming and he prayed. He prayed fervently 'Lord I put my hands in Your hands. I pray that You'll save me and deliver me from this enemy, oh Lord.' And as he came out of this fervent prayer on his knees, tears flowing down his face, he looked up and he saw a spider. He thought to himself, a spider, Lord You send me a spider. That's all I

need now is a spider. And then he saw the spider suddenly sink from the top of the cave and swing to the side and pretty soon he saw him crawl up there and swing to the other side of the cave. And then he crawled up there and he swung to another part and he began to knit this incredible web across the entrance to the cave and it became thicker and thicker until he could see the light shining off of this web that this spider had made. And it wasn't long and the enemy came and saw the spider web and knew instantly that he wasn't in that cave. God answers prayers. As we commit ourselves as imperfect human beings, flawed in every way to make it a goal, a dream, a hope, an aspiration to love the Lord our God with all our soul, with all our heart, with all our mind. God answers our prayers. He redeems us. He saves us. Love the Lord your God with all of thy heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. It's the second. It's the next commandment that we have to realize and understand. To love others as God has loved us. When you talk about love and we look through the Bible, we have to realize that there's a couple different forms of love. It's an agape love. In Greek there's actually three forms of love that is very clear and in the English language we have to kind of figure it out. For instance, I did a word search on love people. And do you know what came up? Some funny things. I'll tell you, some funny things came up when I did love people. One of the things that came up was a thing on children and their understanding of love. And every single definition that came up about what children thought love was about, all had to do with relationships with other people, like husbands loving their wives and girlfriends and boyfriends and that kind of a thing. Well those would be in the other forms of love as we would know it. In the Greek, I said there are three kinds of love. There's agape, there's phileo and there's eros. Eros would be considered sexual love, phileo would be considered friendship and agape is rarely used in Greek except for in the New Testaments, and Testaments writings. Agape is above all other love. It is the love of God that flows through us to other people. And this love is one that transcends all other loves. And this is the love that God commands us to have for our neighbors, for our enemies, for God Himself, and for ourselves. To love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. In order to love our neighbor as our self, we have to love ourselves. And how important is it for us to love ourselves. I think it's critically important. And I think the key to loving ourselves is really found in knowing God and knowing that He loved us so much that He planned everything about us from the beginning of time. That God knew as He formed the heavens and the earth, He knew this very moment in history, in time would take place. He knew that you would be sitting right where you are, just the way you are. In His incredible knowledge and realization, He knew what frustrations and challenges you'd be facing this very moment, as you sat here this very time. And knowing all of the sin that we have in this world, knowing all of the problems we have, knowing all the frustrations, knowing everything about our inner being, all of our families, all of our frustrations, guess what: He created the heavens and the earth anyway! That's amazing to me. Knowing everything He still spoke. That's love. He did it because He loves you and He wants a family. He did it because you're significant and you have meaning to Him. He did it because He wants you to call to Him and to embrace Him and to love Him. Now a man went to his oncologist. He was coming to grips with the fact that he didn't have much longer to live. And as he was talking to his oncologist, a Christian doctor, a wonderful man, he started asking him about life after death. He said, 'you know I'm just not sure what's going to happen when I get to the next chapter beyond this. I just don't know what's on the other side. And I'm afraid.' And this doctor

said, 'well I don't know everything. You know I'm an oncologist, I've studied oncology and I don't know what's on the other side either.' He said, 'well if you don't know what's there, how can you feel secure and how can you feel safe and how can you not fear death and dying?' And he said, 'all I know about the other side,' and all of a sudden at that moment you could hear scratching at his door. He said, 'just a minute.' You could hear the scratching and he could hear this sniffing and scratching, and he goes, 'I think that's my dog, just a minute.' And he opened it up and there was this big lab, he came running in and he started lapping him with licks and the doctor is hugging his dog and his wife had just picked the dog up at the vets and brought him over to see him on her way home. And he was.. it was the first time she'd taken the dog to see him at the office. And he was just thrilled to see his dog, and just holding him and hugging him, he says, 'honey I've got to go. What a pleasant surprise to see my dog.' And this thought came into his mind. 'You know this is the first time,' he turned to the gentleman and he goes, 'this is the first time my dog has ever been in this room. First time he's ever gone through that door. He had no idea what was going to be and what it was going to be like when he walked through that door. The only thing he knew was that his master was in here. That's all he knew.' He said, 'you know, I think going on to the next life is a bit like that. I don't know what's on the other side. But I know this much: my master is there. He's going to love me and embrace me and take me in.' Today if you're feeling down, and you're feeling like I don't know if I can really make it through this challenge and problem and frustration that I face, I just want you to know that when the time comes and God calls you home as He will every single one of us on planet earth will go home. And we will make it through that passageway, that one thing we do know is that our master is there with loving arms, a loving spirit and a warm embrace. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You answer prayers, that at this very moment You're continuing to call Your children into Your family. So oh Lord as You call us this very moment, we say yes to You. We say yes to following You, to loving You with all of our heart and soul and mind, and in our imperfection, calling upon Your grace and Your forgiveness. Thank You Jesus, we love You, Amen.

HYMN - "We Are God's People" We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have known it, the love of God outpoured; Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given: O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases Heaven. Yes, we are God's people, Amen!

BENEDICTION - RAS RAS: And now may the love of Jesus Christ, the fellowship of the Holy Father, be with you, go with you and fill you with unconditional love for all, and may you walk in His grace and His love forever, Amen.