

The Gravitational Pull Of Love



Love mysteriously draws us, much like gravity. And Jesus' love radically draws us to him.

I often wonder about our love. Do we really draw others by our love? Or sadly, are they repelled instead by how we relate poorly to them? I have a quote that has stuck with me for months about love's power to draw. Dr. Dallas Willard convicting statement says: "The simple program of Christ for winning the whole world is to make each person He touches sufficiently magnetic enough with love to *draw* others." We don't have to love perfectly, thankfully, just touched sufficiently by Christ to reveal God's holy, powerful love through our ordinary lives (II Cor. 4:7).

Of course the heavy, gravitational presence Jesus demonstrated with this divine love was the Cross, the full expression of his ultimate self-denial and sacrifice for redeeming the world. Jesus invited people into a love relationship with God that healed the broken hearted and restored them. While this act is what drives our love, it is not the bar we have to reach in our actions. Our acts of love do not always have to be in extraordinary, preplanned circumstances, but in the ordinary day to day interactions.

Our staff was privileged to have one of my former graduate professors, Mike Cusick, come and assist us in professional training with assisting people that struggle with compulsive sexual addictions. Mike made this thought provoking statement about Jesus' loving, holy power we can miss in everyday lives: "Holiness is not centrifugal, but *gravitational*." In truth, we either repel or attract others every day.

Sadly, religious legalism has an opposite effect on those we hope to reach in our cynical world. The image of a washing machine uses a centrifugal force that spins them away. I have often encountered those outside of faith see Christians more often repulsive, unloving. Jesus so often warned against the religious legalism that repelled people by being self-righteously *mean*.

My old church chorus line still mysteriously haunts me: "And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love." So do they know our love? Are we patient or hard; forgiving or hold grudges; willing to bear one another's burdens or ignore those in need of soul care? As we reflect on our lives, are we becoming more like Jesus in our capacity to love? Do you and I draw others to God by how we love them? If we but draw near to Jesus, he will make us magnetic with his love. And the world is watching and still waiting.

Warmly in Christ,

Dave

Executive Director