

# Talk It Over

## Centrifugal (Week 2) With Centrifugal Force

### SMALL TALK

1. If you were appointed as an ambassador for your country, where would you like to be sent? Where would you NOT like to be sent?

### VIEWPOINT

2. **READ 2 Corinthians 5:10-21.** What is Paul's motivation for evangelism ("evangelism" means sharing the good news about Jesus with people who do not yet believe in Jesus) as implied by verses 10-11? What is his motivation for evangelism as stated in verse 14?
3. What does reconciliation mean the way Paul used it (5:18-20)? How did God bring about this reconciliation as described by 5:21?
4. What is the interrelationship or correlation between being "convinced" and being "compelled" by Christ's love?

### GETTING PERSONAL

5. Who are you praying for that is far from God? Would you like your group to join you in this prayer effort?
6. If you are too far away from people who are far away from God, what are some possible solutions that might create more interactivity between you and people who need God?
7. Jim taught that a simple step of worship and praising God goes a long way toward evangelism, saying: "When you have made it your practice to lead your life with your lips back to the center, soon your lips will be leading others as well." Do you think this will work for you? Why or why not?

### PRACTICE!

8. Devote Daily, Pursue Relationally, Guide Biblically, Live Authentically, Engage Missionally (3 Qs to help):

October 3, 2021

## Centrifugal

Last week we focused on being A Centripetal Community  
Today's title is **With Centrifugal Force.**

**REVIEW:** "We are a centripetal community with centrifugal force."

- **Centripetal** means moving or tending to move toward a center.
- **Centrifugal** means moving or tending to move from that center with ever widening power.

**How do you raise heaven-bound kids in a Hell-bent world?  
They have to see that you believe it!**

**Here is a story:** One Youth Pastor writes: I'd just entered a convenience store with "Jeff" to pay for the gas I'd put in the church van. It was apparent that the woman behind the counter had been crying. I looked at her and said, "Has anybody let you know today that Jesus really loves you?" Well, Jeff freaked out, took off running, and dived into the van.

As nobody else was in the store, I witnessed, for the next few minutes, to that woman who was going through a very difficult time in her life. After she asked Christ to come into her heart, her whole countenance changed.

When I got into the van, Jeff said, "Don't ever do that again!"

"Don't do what again?" I asked.

"Witness to people like that," he replied. "Did you see how embarrassed that lady got?"

I responded, "Jeff, you got more embarrassed than she did. In fact, I prayed with her, and she received Christ."

I took Jeff back into the store to meet the woman, now radiant with the love of God—a complete contradiction of what she had been just a few minutes before.

*Eastman Curtis, Raising Heaven-Bound Kids in a Hell-Bent World*

Do you know what is both sad about that story? I would have been more like "Jeff" than that "Youth Pastor" in that moment. And I need to hear the message I am about to bring. It is a really important message! The eternal destinies of many people, countless people, countless people outside of this room will be affected by whether you and I hear this message and respond or not. It's THAT important.

## I. Christ followers are outbound **WITNESSES**

*Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

- On a map this looks like ever widening concentric circles starting at the epicenter of the movement.
- Jesus is the center issuing the great commission. The Holy Spirit His Power in and through us.
- This is a centrifugal strategy for reclaiming the World as HIS Kingdom.

Ok....so where do we start? It started in Jerusalem for them. It starts from wherever we are, for us!

## II. Start with a simple **PRACTICE**

*Psalms 34:1 (CSB) “I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.”*

This simple centering practice will shift things inside you.

When you have made it your practice to lead your life back to the center with your lips, soon your lips will be leading others as well.

Start with this simple practice--Lead your life back to the center with your lips and praise God always, in the good times and the bad. He’s got this. This simple practice will deliver far more than what you would expect.

## III. Experience **COMPELLING** returns

*2 Corinthians 5:14 (NIV) For Christ’s love **compels** us, because we are **convinced** that one died for all, and therefore all died.*

- In context Paul wrote in **5:10** that he is convinced in the coming judgment, and in **5:11** explains that is why he tells people about Christ.

- Here (in **5:14**) Paul explains that it is Christ's love that compels him.
- **Only the convinced are compelled by Christ's love.** So if Christ love is not compelling you, you are not convinced.
- The thing undermining your convictions may not be your logic, but something else, and you may or may not be aware of what it is.
  - It could be a thought that undermines your convictions, a thought that takes you off center.
  - A thought can come between you and Jesus.
  - If it does, it is like something has come between you and Jesus, and you are not as convinced. Think of something coming between metal and a magnet. It's like that. Even a thought can do that.
  - An anxious thought that produces fear can do that. It undermines our **"God's Got This!"** conviction, and we are not as convinced He does.
  - Instead the thought dislodges us from "Abiding" in him, our mind wanders into an imaginary future darkness that is a lie. Our mind is now fixated on something OFF CENTER.
  - The answer is to identify the lie, confess and renounce it as a lie, and turn to God and affirm the truth, and your convictions return.
  - And with it the conviction that **"God's got this!"** And Love is once again compelling.
- There is only one fixation that actually fixes us, and it is the center we are made for. Make sure your fixation is Jesus. There is no other fixation that can fix you.
- Every sin takes you off center, and weakens your conviction, and your love. Less convinced, less compelled.

*2 Corinthians 5:15 (NIV) <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

This is not a pressure filled “you should” whether you feel like it or not kind of “you should”, but rather a description of what to expect when you are properly centered! Expect a a fundamental shift of life and purpose. Aim for it. Reclaim the correct center.

Mature love shifts your focus away from self-centeredness toward blessing the person you love.

Mature love for Jesus causes us to want to please him with a love for others that blesses him, and looks like his love. So, we even learn how to love people who are not lovely, or easy to love.

“Abounding” love comes from an “abiding” life.

#### IV. The best DEFENSE is a good OFFENSE

Remember the series “FOR”: We are “FOR the Verde Valley.” We ought to be known more for what we are FOR than what we are AGAINST. Since that series, I included with my faith declarations this one:

I am “FOR” people because God gave himself for me, I am for people, even people who are far from God, or people who are against me.

When the devil tempts you, go on the offensive, turn to worship. The devil hates this. When he tempts you, go on the offensive; pray for someone far from God. Are you praying for people in your life who need God? This is not only a great blessing to their life but to your life as well.

Here is God’s plan for everyone who is a follower of Jesus, look for it:

*2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV) “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in*

*Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."*

## **Spreading the Good New about Jesus is our OFFENSE & DEFENSE.**

It's God's plan for you and me. With Christ's help and the good news of the Gospel, we are releasing captives. Christ is making his appeal through us. By His Spirit, Christ lives in us, and shines through us, and he is rescuing people out of the Kingdom of Darkness. With each rescue, His Kingdom gains one more follower, and the Kingdom of Darkness one less misdirected child of darkness. **The best DEFENSE is a good OFFENSE--**Welcome to a movement that changes the world!

Maybe there is someone here today that is not yet reconciled to God. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God today!

Let me read verse 15 then 17 in the NLT

***2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)** He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.*

***2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)** This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*