

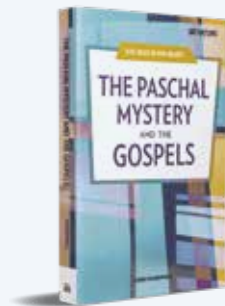


Authentic Love Is Power

BY CHRIS WARDWELL

Jesus' use of power is always focused on love. Some people would say that love is not powerful, that it makes a person vulnerable and weak. How often have you heard a villain in a book or movie say this to the hero? But the Paschal Mystery teaches us the opposite. It reveals that true strength is power used in and with love. Nowhere is that more obvious than in Christ's choice to die on a cross (see Matthew 27:33–51, Mark 15:22–38, Luke 23:32–46, John 19:17–30). Through his sacrifice—which at first seemed like weakness to many—he makes God's saving love available to all people. Through Jesus' words and example, he taught us that love is the only true measure of our actions and that death is not a failure. The cross reminds us that our biggest failure comes when we fail to love one another.

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