



DATE	February 14, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Power of Touch
SERIES	No one can live without it. If you have everything, but this, you're left with nothing! There is no replacement for it as it's at the heart of humankind's existence. It can be the most difficult word to define, and yet it's essential for emotional health. No relationship can survive without it, and every person can live because of it. Love! So, how do we intentionally love?

1. Review David's three working definitions for love (below). How have these definitions changed the way you love others. Would you say you love more empathetically or sympathetically? Explain.
 - a. To intentionally will someone good
 - b. Enters into the experience and burdens of another person.
 - c. Empathy vs Sympathy
2. Review the 5 Love Languages. Share which two love languages speak love to you. Give an example of you hearing love from another person this past week. If love is spoken but we aren't listening then we may not hear love. How have you become a better listener of love? We are to hear love as much as we speak love.

Share how you have intentionally loved this week. When you intentionally loved was it received, reciprocated, rejected? What more can you do to intentionally love this week that you haven't already done?

3. What are your opinions of this fifth language of love - touch? Do you consider yourself a toucher? If touch isn't one of your love languages, does it matter if you're not getting enough? Share a time when an unexpected touch from someone was beneficial to you. When you touch others how often do you think of your touch as an act of blessing to them? How can God use the power of touch to communicate His love and acceptance toward you?

David shared how the power of touch was not a part of his childhood, so he intentionally made the power of touch a part of his children's lives. Share how the power of touch was treated when you were a child. How has your background impacted the way you presently exercise and respond to physical touch?

4. How can the Church redeem physical touch back to what God intended it to be? Share differences between the world's motivation for touch and Christ's motivation for touch. How does the power of touch communicate we are Jesus Christ's disciples? Read John 12:1-7 & Luke 7:36-39.
5. Walk through each gospel example Pastor David shared for Jesus Christ's power of touch. Affirm each of David's **statements** with an example from your life or one close to you.
 - a. Touch for reassurance (Matthew 17:6-7) – **Physical touch has the power to empower**
 - b. Touch for healing (Mark 1:40-42) – **Physical touch has the power to heal**
 - c. Touch for affirmation (Mark 10:13,16) – **Physical touch has the power to give value**
 - d. Touch for apology (Luke 22:49-51; John 20:27) – **Physical touch has the power to restore relationships**

CLOSING: Why do you think Jesus spent so much time healing by touch when His words alone could accomplish healing? How can the power of touch powerfully communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ?