

Chart of “four dynamics” that attract us

The Dark	Ego	Humanity	God
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Movement toward (examples – but not limited to this behavior)

resorting to violence	pleasure seeking	courteous	mercy
constant bitterness	obsession with power	respectful	justice
cruelty/meanness	addictive behavior	careful of other’s goods	compassion for all persons esp. the weakest
abusive speech/ behavior	focus on money	caring of others especially at times of common reflection	peacemaker
looking for revenge	always needing to be first, best, or on top	Willing to accept that others have greater gifts and talents	patient and attentive of others and rejoices in the strengths of others
takes delight in the suffering of others	impatient of other’s differences esp that inconvenience oneself	tolerant of differences	prayerful
uses sex for violence and/or abuse	uses sex for own pleasure only	considerate of other’s sexual needs	experiences sex as God’s gift to be experienced in “right” relationships

Movement away (examples but not limited to this behavior)

recognizes violence and alienation is destroying one’s humanity	recognizes one’s self centeredness is leaving one alienated and alone	growing self centeredness	self-righteous,
Actually meets someone other than self (and evil) to care for	addictive behavior is destroying any possibility of relationships of love	less and less interest in the needs and concerns of others when they conflict with one’s own	growing anger or resentment
Has a personal crisis – physical or mental that forces person to deal with the direction of his/her life	“wakes up” to the hole that pleasure seeking is taking one down	may become attracted to pleasure of something so much that relationships get lost	ceases to pray
Is assaulted by someone more evil than oneself and is helpless to do more than stand by and see it happen – causes one to “face reality.”	feels “wasted”	gradually becoming racist, sexist, or other exclusionary behavior because of bad experiences	impatient or disrespectful of other persons and their needs
	confronts the possibility of death and is terrified	Begins to act in ways that are self and other destructive	less just, charitable or merciful – even acts against another’s person’s well being.

Insights drawn from *Choosing Christ in the World: Directing the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola According to Annotations Eighteen and Nineteen: A Handbook* by Joseph Tetlow, S.J. St. Louis: Institute of Jesuit Sources, 2000. Chart developed by Dr. Eileen Burke-Sullivan, S.T.D., Creighton University, Omaha, NE