**Cornerstone Saturday Morning Prayer**

**September 17, 2017**

**Host -Jorge Lombardo LOVE**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**All:** Amen

**Leader:** Let us come into the presence of God, who invites us by name.

(Observer a period of silence, allowing the lord to give us his peace)

**Opening Prayer**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Loving heavenly Father, we come to you this hour asking for your blessing and help as we are gathered together this Saturday. Help us to build a community united in harmony of love and service. Watch over our families at home, at work and at school. We thank you, Lord, for everything that widens our knowledge and equips us more fully for the task of life and living. Give us the knowledge and prudence which will enable us to live our life well. Teach us to know our own weaknesses that we may ever be on our guard against them. Teach us to know our own strengths that we may use, to the full, the gifts and talents which you have given us. Help us to share a loving concern for each other at all times. Above all, Lord, help us to really know you, for this is the beginning and end of all wisdom, this is eternal life.

**All:** Amen

**Theme**

Love is one of the hardest words to define biblically. For one thing, it is a very complex concept and cannot adequately be explained in a simple definition. For another, the concept of love has been so perverted by the world that we have to spend quite a bit of time showing what love is not in order to understand it. It is often confused with emotional feelings and physical acts that are not love. In order to understand love from God's standpoint, we must go beyond our human opinions and seek the teaching of God's word.

True Christian love should inspire us all to do both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy:

* To feed the hungry;
* To give drink to the thirsty;
* To clothe the naked;
* To shelter the homeless;
* To visit the sick;
* To ransom the captive;
* To bury the dead.

The spiritual works of mercy are:

* To instruct the ignorant;
* To counsel the doubtful;
* To admonish sinners;
* To bear wrongs patiently;
* To forgive offenses willingly;
* To comfort the afflicted;
* To pray for the living and the dead.

**Reflective Music**

**The Bee Gees, How Deep Is Your Love**

I know your eyes in the morning sun
I feel you touch me in the pouring rain
And the moment that you wander far from me
I want to feel you in my arms again
And you come to me on a summer breeze
Keep me warm in your love, then you softly leave
And it's me you need to show

How deep is your love, how deep is your love
How deep is your love?
I really mean to learn
'Cause we're living in a world of fools
Breaking us down when they all should let us be
We belong to you and me

I believe in you
You know the door to my very soul
You're the light in my deepest, darkest hour
You're my savior when I fall
And you may not think I care for you
When you know down inside that I really do
And it's me you need to show

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**The Word of God**

**The Way of Love (PAUL, Corinthians I, 13: 1-13)**

**1** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.**4** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. **13** So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**The Parable of the Prodigal Son (LUKE 15: 11-32)**

**11** And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. **13** Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14** And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. **17** "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' **20** And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21** And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. **25** "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. **27** And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' **28** But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, **29** but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' **31** And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

**Matthew 5: 43-48**

**43** Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. **44** But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; **45** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? **47** And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? **48** Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

**Reflection Questions**

We hear so much today about love.  What is love, anyway? Is it a feeling, an attraction, chemistry, or what?   Love can certainly be manifested in those ways, for sure, but the real definition of love is that you want the absolute best for someone.  In Christian theology, we are told to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44), so therefore, we as committed Christians should desire the absolute best for everyone, even those we cannot stand.  And what is the absolute best?  That would be eternal happiness in heaven with Jesus Christ.  And Jesus showed us all that love requires personal sacrifice on our part for that to happen, whether it’s by martyrdom, monetary sacrifice, time sacrifice, prayer sacrifice, or the sacrifice of just being there for someone when you would rather be elsewhere.

* What is love? What does "love" mean to you? What does "love" mean in the Bible?
* Does the Bible say to love your enemies? Who are the neighbors we are supposed to love?
* Are we supposed to love people of other religions, nations or races?
* How should we treat people who are sinners?

**Conversational Prayer**

Let us respond out loud with personal prayers and intention, for ourselves, for family members, for friends or anyone/thing else we need to pray for, also making sure to thank God for prayers answered in the past.

Jesus is here We focus on the presence Jesus and welcome Him with praise and adoration

Thank you, Lord Thank Jesus for people you care about, calling them by name.

Help me, Lord Be specific, honest and to the point. Jesus asks: “What do you want me to do for you?” Answer Him by praying for yourself (what are your needs for forgiveness, guidance, healing, growth in your spiritual life, etc.). This part is for you personally.

Help my brother/ Pray for each person by name

Sister, Lord

**Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** We pray that the Lord will bless and protect us and that He will show us mercy and kindness. May the Lord be good to us and give us peace. May the Lord guide our Cornerstone brothers to be living example of the mission. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All:** Amen

Let´s get into our huddle and pray the words that Jesus taught us.

**All:** Our Father…

 Hail Mary…

 Glory be..

**AMEN**