



Love in the Time of Coronavirus

In 1984, the band *Foreigner* proclaimed, "I want to know what love is." A decade later, *Haddaway* asked the question, "What is love?" *Van Halen* asked "Why can't this be love?" Bob Marley asked, "Is this love that I'm feeling?"

As people we've always had questions about love. Even Jesus was asked about love, and what it looks like. When Jesus told a young expert in the law about the most important commandments, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might... and love your neighbor as yourself," he returned with his own question about love: "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus responds to his question with the parable of the Good Samaritan. (You can read the whole thing in Luke 10:25-37 if you'd like.) In this parable Jesus demonstrates that our neighbor isn't necessarily the people we are friends with, people that we like, or even people who live in proximity to us. Jesus uses the Samaritan as an example of a neighbor who was very different from his audience. Samaritans had a different religion, spoke a different language, and were ethnically distinct for Jews. Jesus explained that our neighbor can be the person who is most different from us.

Jesus tells us we are to love our neighbor, and he tells us who our neighbor is. Now we just need to figure out how we do that in our time, in our place, in our context. How do we love our neighbor in a time like this? I have a few ideas, and I'd like to share them with you, but please know that this is by no means an exhaustive list:

1.) Wear a mask and social distance in public.

When all of this started we really didn't know much about Coronavirus, but as our doctors and researchers have had time to study the virus they have discovered some very important things about preventing it. One thing they've discovered is that the virus has an incubation period of up to 14 days where a person can have *and spread* the virus without having any symptoms. Another thing they have discovered is that wearing a mask significantly reduces the likelihood that a person will spread the disease. This means that if everyone wears a mask, whether they feel sick or not, infection rates will drop. Wearing a mask doesn't protect you so much as it protects your neighbor. I know of no better way to love your neighbor right now than this simple act.

2.) Be intentional about reaching out to people.

Humans were not made for social distancing. When God created the universe, you may recall the first thing that was *not* good in His creation was when he said, "It is not good that man should be alone." Human beings were made for community, and so it is more important than ever that we make connections with one another. I've shared this before and I'll say it once again: if someone comes to your mind, give them a call! It may be that the Holy Spirit has put that person's name on your heart.

3.) Find ways to safely support local and struggling businesses.

I'll be the first to confess that the economy is not as important as human lives, but we also know that lack of money or employment can cause significant problems in a person's life. Do what you can to intentionally support businesses, particularly those that are small or locally owned, to help keep them afloat during this difficult time. This is a great way to show that our church cares about our community.

Please everyone stay safe, keep praying, keep reading the word, keep reaching out to one another, and keep loving your neighbor. God's blessings to all of you!



KIDZONE NEWS

Hey Kids-

Wow!!-where has our summer gone and school is

starting soon. As you begin this school year, it will be different. This has been a challenging year but we must always remember that God is with us. Pray and give your worries to God.

We have missed seeing all of you and will be praying for you each day.

Stay safe, stay well and...
Hope to see you soon.



Ms. Debbie & Ms. Marty

TITHES & OFFERINGS...

Mail your checks to SSUMC, 319 N. Main St. in Sand Springs, OK 74063 or give online at: <https://sandspringsumc.org/>

Click on the "Giving" link in the top right hand corner and fill out the information and click "Continue."

Roof Checks: Memo: "Roof Repair" on the check.

"The Prayer Box"

Philip Comer, Maureen Gibson, Sylvia Johnson, Ralph Rand, June Brown, Shawn Cole, Martha Scudder, Betty & Linda Lund, Wava Burt, Ralph Ward, Bob Hula, Gordonna Fisher, Jim & Vi McAllister, Barbara McClintock, Montie & Betty Box, Bruce Warren, Prayer Chains & Unspoken Requests

THANK YOU!!!

You have donated \$27,000 of the \$30,000 needed to begin the new roof! We have 2 more weeks to raise the last \$3,000 and anything over that will reduce the debt we have to take on to complete the project.

You constantly demonstrate your dedication to the church and this is no exception! We can continue to look forward to Sunday school and worship together in the near future no doubt!!

Let'S REMEMBER IN prayer...

our STUDENTS, teachers, and administrators

as they Start back to SCHOOL IN new and creative Ways!

