



Cornerstone's Top Three

Learn what's happening right now with the three most important things for you to know this week at Cornerstone.

1. **Easter is two weeks from today.** It's time to give up *not* inviting people to church for Lent! Invite your friends and family to check out CornerstoneNH.org online and join you at church On Site March 31st or before!
2. **Our Annual Meeting Celebration is today!** Right here On Site, right after today's service, celebrate God's faithfulness in the past and look forward to what he may have for us in the future. Lunch will be served, new members will be welcomed, and our 2024 budget & priorities will be presented. CornerstoneNH.org/Events
3. **Teaching Cohort begins April 7.** Fear of public speaking still ranks towards the top of all-time phobias, but effective communication—spoken and otherwise—is a key skill not just in church but for life! If you want to communicate more effectively at work, in school, and especially in church settings, join Pastor Brian for a teaching cohort after church beginning the first Sunday in April. We'll go over the framework and process he uses to develop and present Sunday's messages. You'll gain greater confidence and develop skills that can be applied at church and beyond. Join the Teaching Cohort at CornerstoneNH.org/Cohort for updates and details.

OUR MISSION & VISION

We **inspire** & **equip** people to follow Jesus **wholeheartedly**, because we believe that following Jesus makes **life better**, makes you better at life, and brings glory to God.

OUR OBJECTIVES



CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mail: PO Box 1011, Concord, NH 03302-1011

Voice or Text: 603-225-2550

Email: contactus@cornerstonenh.org

Give: CornerstoneNH.org/give

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY



Your name: _____

Check in! You matter to us! We want to know who's connecting at Cornerstone. Open our **Church Center app** (search for it in your app store) and click the **Check In button**, or text **hereto 603-225-2550**. For WiFi connect to **cornerstone** with password **Sayyes2003!**



YOUR GROWTH GUIDE FOR

CORNERSTONE ON SITE & CORNERSTONE ONLINE

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

“How can Jesus ask us to love those people?”

LIKE & UNLIKE

TODAY'S MESSAGE

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

A STUDY IN _____ – PART NINE

TODAY: MERCY • MATTHEW 5:43-48

THE BOTTOM LINE

FOR YOUR _____, TRY LOOKING _____
INSTEAD OF _____.

In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. – Matthew 5:45 NLT



FULL FILLED // SERMON ON THE MOUNT PART FOUR

JESUS SHIFTS OUR FOCUS FROM **SUPERFICIAL**
CONFORMITY TO RADICAL **TRANSFORMATION**.

“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!”

– Matthew 5:20 NLT

OUR _____ IS JESUS' _____

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. – Matthew 5:43 NLT

Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.
– Leviticus 19:18 NLT

The Lord spoke to Moses: "Speak to the entire Israelite community and tell them: Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy. – Leviticus 19:1-2 NLT



But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! – Matthew 5:44 NLT

On mercy: "The active expression of this virtue may include not only abstaining from hurt but also helping the needy." (Keener 2009: 169)

SO LOOK _____

In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.
– Matthew 5:45 NLT



NOT _____

If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.
– Matthew 5:46 NLT

If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. – Matthew 5:47 NLT



But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect. – Matthew 5:48 NLT

"The wording of this summary recalls the repeated formula of Leviticus, "You are to be holy, for I the Lord your God, am holy"...The use of teleios (perfect) instead of "holy" may derive from the requirements of total loyalty to God in Deut 18:13, where the Hebrew tāmîm (complete, unblemished, blameless, perfect) is rendered by teleios in LXX. It is a wider term than moral flawlessness, and is used for spiritual "maturity"... (France 2007:228)

"Yer not old, you're just growned up!" – Yosemite Sam

Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.
– Leviticus 19:2 NLT

But you must be blameless before the Lord your God.
– Deuteronomy 18:13 NLT

"When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. – Deuteronomy 18:9 NLT

But I say, love your enemies!...In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:44-45 NLT

Remember: look up, not around. Jesus sums up the call to a greater righteousness by encouraging us to draw our inspiration and example, our "standards of conduct not from what everyone else is doing, but from your heavenly Father." (France 2007: 224)

"Others may; you cannot." – G. D. Watson

Saying "YES" to Jesus? Let us know by checking in on the app, double-circling "say yes" on your Check-In card, or text YES to 603-225-2550. Let us celebrate your decision with you & resource you for your new life in Christ.

NEXT STEP: SAY YES

**DO _____ FOR SOMEONE
_____ YOU OR WHO DOESN'T
_____ YOU**

1. Surrender to Jesus.
2. He fills us with his love.
3. We love like Jesus.

LIVE IT OUT

Answer these questions on your own or preferably with others to reflect upon and apply what you've heard.

1. Which part of today's message stood out to you and why?
2. Describe the difference between the common understanding of "Love your neighbor" as Jesus' contemporaries understood it, and how God loves as Jesus explained it.
3. Who are the people in you life that are unlike you? That don't like you? What are the needs in their life and how could you meet them?