



# The Good News

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## ***Combating Racism***

By Michael McCleary

For those of us who have been watching the news lately, we have been seeing a great deal of unrest, riots, and civil uprising at a level that hasn't been seen in our country in over 50 years. The spark of the powder keg was the killing (deliberate or accidental has yet to be determined) of a handcuffed black man by white police officer. This incident has taken on the embodiment of the injustices at the hands of white people that many in the black community perceive have been perpetrated on them over the course of the last 150 years. While it is not our intention to discuss socio-political aspects of racial justice, I'd like to consider that while people go round and round debating policy changes and dismantling police forces, **you cannot police and regulate people loving other people.** That change cannot be forced on others, it can only happen by transforming the heart. That transformation can only happen through the Gospel.

Consider what Paul says about love in **I Corinthians 13:4-8**, and consider how these attributes would help our society as it pertains to racism and loving one another:

v.4 – Love suffers long and is kind: Love reminds me to be patient and kind in dealing with others. The opposite would be mean-hearted, cruel, and impatient.

v.4 – Love does not envy, parade itself, or puff itself up: Love reminds me that I am not to be jealous of the good that others have, particularly with regards to my brethren. I am not to be a braggart, vaulting up myself in pride, or making myself out to be better than everyone else.

v.5 – Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked: Love reminds me that, as with being kind, I am to consider how my words and actions might impact others, thus polite instead of rude. This term “rudely” also carries the implication of that which is “unbecoming”. Therefore, I must al

ways have a mind to what example I set in my conduct. I do not seek my own hidden agendas or plot to have my way. I am not easily brought to angry outbursts.

v.5-6 – Love thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth: Love reminds me to always keep my thoughts in check regarding that which is evil and sin, and also to never make assumptions about others. I also rejoice in the truth of God's word, and never in sin. Thus I always stand against evil alongside my brethren.

v.7 – Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things: Love reminds me that in all trials and hardships I am to bear my burden in service to God. I also bear with my brethren, even if we don't always get along. I believe all things of the Gospel, and I believe and trust my brethren, always, unless I have proof that I should question their word. I hope in salvation and the things of the Gospel through all hardships. I trust in my God to always be in control. I endure through all hardships out of love for my God and for my brethren.

v.8 – Love never fails. As long as all parties have love and edification in their hearts, all manner of issues can be weathered.

While the issue of racism in our society will most likely continue to rage on, people of faith must not be part of the problem but part of the solution. We must love our neighbors. Do black lives matter? Of course they do! (All lives **should** matter) But there is something more important than emphasizing lives. **Souls.** Souls matter. And souls don't have a skin color. God doesn't delineate between black souls or white souls. And neither can we. So, let's love our neighbors, not because they are white or black, but because they are souls that Jesus died to save.