



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal church speaks frequently of love, and posits that much of the social unrest we see throughout our nation right now is a symptom of a lack of love in our society. I have often bemoaned what I called a loss of basic respect for

others, but that respect, at heart is an expression of that love of other and self that we are called to live as Christians. After all, when Jesus was questioned as to which commandment was the greatest, his response was that all of the commandments were framed by the two centered around love: Love the Lord your God above all other gods, and love your neighbor as yourself.

As we struggle to determine how we can respond to the undeniable wrongness of what we see happening in other areas of our nation, perhaps we can move forward in love, remembering that all human beings are beloved children of God and so are to be treated with the dignity and respect due any such being. This means every human being regardless of race, skin color, sexual or gender identity, or any other label we might put on one another. And yes, that means police officers as much as it does grocery store workers, and health care providers, and teachers and preachers, and all sorts and conditions of man.

Please pray with me.

Dear father in heaven. You made us each and every one. Stir our hearts, O Lord, and remind us that we are all brothers and sisters in your sight, called to love you and one another. Guide us that we might see the path forward to act in love and bring your healing grace into this broken world. In Christ's name do we pray. Amen.

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