



To my non-black friends who I love and respect dearly, I feel I need to write something in response to the messages and reposts, and tweets giving black people advice on how to move forward. Or those asking why we black people are out looting in the streets.

Thank you for sending me so many positive messages, the encouragement, the questions and even the jabs. I just wanted to take a moment to respond to them. For many of you I have personally responded because nothing changes if we aren't able to have the conversation.

First, I just have to say 100% of course I wholeheartedly disagree with any violent protesting, the looting, stealing from businesses black or non-black. To destroy our towns and cities over our anger and frustration that has boiled over is never okay and anyone who has engaged in that dangerous, violent and illegal activity should have consequences appropriate for their actions.

Now.

Realize that these protests have 4 types of people in them:

1. The good people: All the people who started the protesting, engaged in peaceful assembly to share their concerns and speak out against injustice. It is their first amendment right to engage in this activity. Black and non-black people have come together to express their outrage over this issue. (Is this young man talking to these people?)
2. Liberal and white nationalist outside groups: in every city, people in protests have seen them. They step in especially later in the day to aggravate and intensify the situation (they are left and right-wing groups engaging in this activity to destabilize our nation and turn a peaceful situation into chaos.

3. The Knuckleheads: these are the people who are young and dumb, engaging in criminal activity to take advantage of a bad situation, looting, rioting, damaging this effort and black and non-black people are working so hard to improve.

There are so many types of people who are engaged in these activities, but the protestors are not the looters and the rioters. Don't confuse the two.

Racism

Everything gets thrown into the term racism, if I'm white and don't like black people I'm racist, if I'm black and I don't like white people I'm racist.

1. Not liking someone of another race isn't racism, it's prejudice. Everyone in the world probably has some kind of prejudice unfortunately and it's not okay either.
2. But that's not racism. Racism is when a group of people or organization IN POWER uses that power to bring down another group that is NOT in power. This is unfortunately why living in America; a white person could be looked at as racist if they engage in that kind of behavior. A black person can be prejudiced (and there are plenty who are) but racist? In America, that's not possible. If I live in Africa and I create rules and laws that hold back non-black people from advancement and freedom, then I or other black people could be racist because in many parts of that continent, Black people are in power.
3. Racism runs deep: If you think about America from the time you were born, the laws and rules in America were developed in some parts of the country to force black people into submission so that they couldn't achieve the same level as others. Even though the vast majority of the law has changed, the effects of it are still in black communities, in public school systems where property tax pays for schools. There is still a disparity that is affecting people to this day. That's for a much longer conversation.

Good people don't want riots. White, Black, Latino, Asian, Native, whatever. No good person wants the violence.

Also, for those who are rioting. There are black people, and non-black people are engaging in it. Depending on what news outlet you watch, you'll see a different perspective of who's involved in the looting and everyone skews is in whatever direction their viewers want to see.

It's not ever okay.

Black men dying at the hands of police is not okay

But it happens and it appears that no one cared that people were peacefully protesting for years now. Most people were annoyed that the protest was happening. Now, many are protesting louder and some (very wrongly) are choosing illegal activity.

This is much longer than I intended for it to be.

My fingers are cramping.

Please talk to others.

Don't argue.

Find out how you can help make a difference.

Show love in everything that you say and do.

Find out from a black person you know how/or if racism has affected them. I promise it's not an if.

Help preserve unity in a time of such horrible division.

To my friends. Your friendship is so dear to me. I hope that this note builds an even stronger bridge between us and doesn't divide.

We can talk anytime.

Take care.

Emil

