

Why Is Grace Posting "Black Lives Matter?"

We have posted "Black Lives Matter" on our electronic signs and on our social media pages. We do so knowing it will make some people uncomfortable, but we also feel strongly that it is important, as a predominantly White congregation, to show support for our Black brothers and sisters.

You may have heard it said, "Why are we saying Black Lives Matter? Don't all lives matter? Don't White lives matter too?" Of course White lives matter. We are all God's children; all lives matter. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case in our nation's history and is still not always the case. Although the horrible, ugly sin of human slavery was ended long ago in our country, the underlying racism upon which slavery was built still lingers in our culture, resulting in the devaluing of black persons.

Because racism still harms black citizens in a significant way, we need to make a point of saying that Black Lives Matter.

We need to acknowledge that, to some degree, we are all racist. Human beings are more comfortable with people who look like themselves than those who do not. This doesn't make us evil, but it does make us very susceptible to treating those who look different from us in harmful ways, even if it is unintentional.

While we may not be actively racist, those of us who have not been discriminated against because of our skin color have benefited from the current situation. Have you ever worried about your skin color when going into a store, applying for a job, asking for a bank loan, or being pulled over by a police officer? If those of us who are not facing discrimination because of our race remain silent regarding the disparities and injustice in our culture, we become complicit in them.

We need to reach out and support our black brothers and sisters. Jesus' Great Commandment calls us to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. If someone is hurting, we should do what we can to help, regardless of whether we caused that situation or not, as in the example of the Good Samaritan. We are called to let people know they are not alone and that we, as fellow children of God, care about them. One immediate thing we can do is listen to their stories.

By putting the words “Black Lives Matter” on our signs/social media, we are reaching out to our black brothers and sisters as a community of faith, letting them know we care and stand in solidarity with them.

If you have questions and concerns we, as your pastor and leaders, invite you to share them with us, so together we can grow closer to Christ.