

Racism is stupid. I am naming it. Calling it what it is. Racism has no place in the world and especially in the church. If you are truly a follower of Jesus, you must accept that premise otherwise you need to read your Bible again and reflect on whether you are following the right Jesus. Genesis is clear that we are created in the image of God. ALL of us. There are no peoples on this earth that are any less human than anyone else. Our DNA is similar and therefore, when biology is taken out of the equation, the issue of race ceases to exist, at least you can't make a logical case for it. Therefore, if there is no race then racism is a moot point, yet, racism exists and therefore people are just plain, well, you know. Let's move on, before I get too feisty here.

Enter Jesus. Jesus was not a racist. Jesus didn't view people anything less than what they were. Jesus saw all people as God's children; precious in his sight. Jesus actually commended the faith of a couple individuals who were not Jews and used them as an example of faith (A Centurion and a Canaanite woman). Jesus was not racist and therefore, a Christian white supremacist is an oxymoron. I saw a tweet, recently, that read, "Hey Christian white supremacist, Jesus was a dark-skinned, middle eastern Jewish man, and his mother was also Jewish." I'll just leave that quote right here.

The previous two paragraphs were from the sermon I preached on August 20. I thought it was worthy of sharing with a wider audience and maybe even tempt your appetite some. If you want to hear the whole message, go to my congregation's website at: www.livingwordlutheranchurch.com. On the bottom left, under media, click the sermons link. This particular sermon will be listed on the bottom.

I wanted to share these paragraphs for another reason. This whole issue of racism has been weighing heavily on my heart recently. I wish it had done so earlier. It's sad that it takes an event like Charlottesville to get people moving. Racism has always bothered me but I never really spoke much about it. I thought about it. I knew it to be bad, but I never really got fired up before. You see, this issue is not going away and therefore we need to take a stand now, and do something. We need a renewed understanding of who people really are. We need to understand that we are all created equal, beloved in God's eyes. We need to take a stand and only kneel when it is crying out to God in prayer. Raising awareness is one thing but speaking out and leading others to action is another. Kneeling and pointing to an issue is not enough. We need to be the solution. Teach your children to respect others. We may not be able to

change this generation but we still have hope for the next. Get on your knees to pray but then stand up and get to work.