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Written Statement on Reparations
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Over the past year, many things have become HOT TOPICS. Reparation sits at the top of the Hill. My approach is Biblical, in which I live by forgiveness. How can I ask my Heavenly Father to forgive me if I cannot forgive my brother? Not to put down anyone's religion, but my religion teaches togetherness. Reparation teaches separation.

The definition of reparation means making amends for the wrong one has done or helping those who have been wronged. Even the courts required a convicted offender to make financial reparation to his victim.

Here, we are saying – myself and other blacks are inferior to the other races. Who is the guilty party? *Ezekiel 18:20* – The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffers for the iniquity of the son.

Today, America is a melting pot of many races, so would the money come from all other races except black taxpayers? Now the question is, who is black and what percent of an individual is considered black to receive reparations? Do we go to *23andMe* or have a DNA test to determine the percentage of blackness?

Some American ancestors just got to this country 80 years ago. Their ancestors weren't even here during slavery. Also, some black immigrants from Africa weren't here during slavery nor their ancestors, as some states didn't even have slavery.

Years later, after slavery, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech stated after signing the Emancipation Proclamation is a great beacon of light, but hundreds of years later, we are still not free because of segregation and discrimination – which today, I call reparation.

We, as Black or African American, have always wanted what the Constitution stated – All men, black and white and today, Latino, Asian, Italian etc. All men should be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Dr. King spoke of brotherhood...Brotherhood means an association of common interest – a feeling of kinship.

We cannot try to use Black Power to create white guilt on our brothers. Not one, single Black American alive today, can say they lived in slavery, nor any white American I know or heard of alive today has owned slaves.

I had an opportunity to ask my mom who is in here mid-80's, what she thought about reparations. Her words, "I do not believe in reparations, because who are you going to give the money too? Has anyone thought about paying the families who lost someone who fought in the Civil War to free the slaves? Your dad and I taught you (speaking of me) to provide for you and your family through a good education and hard work."

Now, I go back to the saying – 'You give a man a fish and he feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.' Reparation is only feeding someone for a day. It's removing the sign stating, "*FOR WHITES ONLY*" and replacing it with a sign stating, "*NO EDUCATION HERE*".

I'd like to take you on a journey of slavery. Slavery was a worldwide institution which every race experienced some time in their ancestry. The crime of slavery goes to the offender which happened when black men sold the Black American ancestor into slavery. The guilty party goes back to the beginning. I will not stop there, because Black American ancestors were brought over to America on boats only to be sold again to some White American slave owners who had no luck making Native Americans work the land, they took from some of the Native Americans. The Native American kept running away and because White Americans could not find them. It was easier to own African American ancestors who did not know the country, people, religion, or language, so only a few ran away. Even when slavery ended, many of the slaves stayed because with no money or education, what would they do and where would they go?

Now, we are in the years 2020 and 2021, talking about reparations, not equal education. If you want to help any race, give them an education that helps to incentivize through opportunities with responsibility, which helps generations in the future.

As I fought shoulder to shoulder in football with my other race brothers, I saw the struggle they went through the same as I. I also heard them speak to their parents of the same problem my family was having to deal with. If the black players were given something different than the other players, that would have created problems within the team – "Separation".

If reparation is a fee to be paid that correct the offer sins of slave owners by taking from a non-guilty party. It will only create division with the different races which I feel continue to tell us we are African American rather than just an American.

If reparation or atonement is outside of Jesus Christ, you are no preaching the "*Word of God*".