

God's Law Regarding Reparation

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According to some politicians and activists, the present generation should be paying reparation to certain ethnic groups based on actions that were taken against these same groups by a generation that lived many decades or centuries ago

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/which-americans-should-get-reparations/2019/09/18/271cf744-cab1-1/>).

Reparation: *payment for harm, loss, or damage that has been caused to a person or an organization, or the fact of making such a payment* (Cambridge Dictionary).

However, according to the word of Almighty God, descendants of those who commit a crime are not responsible in any manner for the conduct of their predecessors, including capital offense cases.

*The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, **nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers**; a person shall be put to death for his own sin* (Dt. 24:16; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; emphasis added).

In an expanded discourse on this same subject, Ezekiel was inspired to say the following regarding a child whose father was a robber and/or a murderer:

If, however, he (the robber/murderer) begets a son who sees all the sins which his father has done, and considers but does not do likewise; ¹⁵Who has not eaten at the (pagan) mountain shrines, nor lifted his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, nor defiled his neighbor's wife;

*¹⁶Has not oppressed anyone, nor withheld a pledge, nor robbed by violence, but has given his bread to the hungry and covered the naked with clothing; ¹⁷Who has withdrawn his hand from (oppressing) the poor and not received usury or increase (Lev. 25:35-38; Ps. 15:5), but has executed My judgments and walked in My statutes – **he shall not die for the iniquity of his father; he shall surely live!** ¹⁸As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, robbed his brother by violence, and did what is not good among his people, behold he shall die for his iniquity* (Eze. 18:14-18; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Therefore, anyone guilty of a crime will pay the penalty and not someone else at a future date, or time. However, many in this present generation have either forgotten, don't care about, or have rejected, God's law regarding reparation. Therefore, instead of respecting what God has said on this subject, these proponents of reparation are claiming that tax payers, who had nothing to do with the wrongs of previous generations, should be penalized for something they had nothing to do with. In essence, they are saying something very similar to the following scripture:

Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?' (Eze. 18:19a; emphasis added).

To this, God responds as follows:

*Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and done them, he shall surely live. ²⁰The soul (living being) who sins shall die. **The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself*** (Eze. 18:19b-20; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

This does not mean that the wrongs of our forefathers have no effect upon future generations. In many cases there are consequences for sinful behavior, and these can have a negative impact on others for generations to follow:

*You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters under the earth; ⁵you shall not bow down to them nor serve (worship) them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, **visiting** (punishing) **the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me** (Ex. 20:4-5; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

One example of this would be a man who abuses his wife, which is against God's law, and then his children follow that same example and abuse their spouses. This behavior can continue for many generations of those who hate God, and express this hatred by breaking His law (Eph.5:25-29;cf.

www.urbanchildinstitute.org/articles/features/do-mestic-violence-an-unwanted-family-legacy).

In the case of hatred toward certain ethnic groups, this behavior can also be learned from one's parent, or parents. Sadly, this attitude can continue for generations, and the following adage needs to be considered in situations like this, "*You are 'who you are' because of your parents, and **it's your fault if you stay that way.***"

In other words, at some point, negative family characteristics have to be changed by someone who is willing to stand up, recognize they are wrong, and then take constructive steps to change course. This includes teaching children of

the next generation the same value system that Abraham taught his children and grandchildren.

*For I (God) have known him (Abraham), in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they **keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice**, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him (Gen. 18:19; Dt. 4:9-10; 6:5-9; 11:18-22; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but **bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord** (Eph. 6:4; emphasis added).*

*And that **from childhood you** (Timothy) **have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2Tim. 3:15; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

After the Second World War, God's values were gradually eroded in the Western world. Part of this included a casual attitude toward extra marital relationships, followed by an increase in the divorce rate. These changes in society contributed to a form of "violence against children" because the traditional family unit began to break apart. Sadly today, single parent households are commonplace, and this contributes to many societal problems that were not seen in previous generations. To prevent the breakdown of the family unit, Almighty God created specific laws to protect and preserve it. Therefore, it is not a coincidence that Jesus Christ reaffirmed his Father's law regarding divorce, and immediately after that he blessed some little children (Mk. 10:1-16).

"Generational poverty" can also be "learned behavior" which causes harm to both physical

and mental health. In other words children, whose parents live off government assistance, follow the same example rather than developing a skill that can improve their standard of living when they grow older. Again, it requires someone to call it out, say "enough is enough", and then take the steps necessary to change course.

*For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: **If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*** ¹¹For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, **not working at all**, but are busybodies (2Thes. 3:10-11; emphasis added).

*Slothfulness casts one into a deep sleep, and **an idle person will suffer hunger*** (Prov. 19:15; emphasis added).

Going back to the main subject of reparation, this generation needs to stop distracting from its own sins and problems by shifting blame to the shortcomings and sins of previous generations. Almighty God sees no difference between one generation and another in this matter.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Who can say, "I have made my heart clean (i.e. by my own efforts/actions), I am pure from my sin (Prov. 20:9; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Upon closer analysis of the motives behind the reparation movement, many are attempting to justify their own shortcomings and sins by portraying previous generations as being much worse, but this is completely untrue as confirmed by Jesus Christ, and is a form of self-righteousness.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰*and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.'* ³¹*Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets* (Mt. 23:29-31).

Also he (Christ) spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰*"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'* ¹³*And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner!'* ¹⁴*I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted"* (Lk. 18:9-14; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

In Matthew 23:31, Christ was making the connection that the current generation is no different than previous generations that murdered God's prophets. Next, Christ detailed what the current generation would do after his death and resurrection.

Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵*that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar* (Mt. 23:34-35).

What's needed today is good leadership to ensure that the problems of the past do not return, or continue. At the very least, we need good "role models" including, but not limited to, parents, leaders in society, and teachers who influence the next generation. Today, we can see the results of a lack of good leadership in all of the aforementioned areas. Central to our current problems is the marginalization of God's word, including His law and commandments. Therefore, it is just a matter of time before society breaks down, and completely fails. This is the message that Jesus Christ gave when he compared building a foundation on rock as opposed to sand.

*Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:** ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶Now everyone who hears these sayings of mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall (Mt. 7:24-27; cf. Mt. 4:4).*

Therefore having respect, and a proper fear of Almighty God and His word, is essential for any society to prosper and survive. If this is taught from childhood, respect toward other authorities will come more easily. This is the starting point for peace and harmony, which is becoming increasingly rare today.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; **a good understanding have all those who do His commandments...** (Ps. 111:10a; cf. Jas. 1:22; emphasis added).*

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and

instruction (Prov. 1:7; cf. 1:8-19; 9:10-12; emphasis added).

Unfortunately, our youth are unduly affected by the antinomian values espoused by many in authority, including those in teaching positions. These intellectuals "look down their nose" at the thought of a "higher authority", in a realm that cannot be seen, that is much wiser than they are.

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,** ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,** even His eternal power and Godhead (divine nature), so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, **they did not glorify Him as God** (no respect for His wisdom, power, and authority), nor were they thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²**Professing to be wise, they became fools** (Rom. 1:18-22; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Not only are so many "authorities" dismissive of God and His laws, they have tainted the minds of those under their influence and some of the consequences are summarized as follows:

*For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use (Gr. *chresis*; sexual act) for what is against nature. ²⁷Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which is due (Lev. 18:22; 20:13). ²⁸And even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,** God gave them over to a*

*debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*²⁹*being filled with unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,*³⁰*backbiters, **haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,***³¹*without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;*³²*who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them (Rom. 1:26-31; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Those who push the agenda for reparation are going against God's law because they are rejecting what He commanded on this subject. This lawless trend will continue, on many fronts, until one day there is a universal rejection of God's law and commandments. When this comes to fruition, Jesus Christ will return to rule this planet before we destroy ourselves. He described lawlessness as one of the main indicators associated with his return.

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold (Mt. 24:12; emphasis added).

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened (Mt. 24:22; emphasis added).

Following the return of Jesus Christ, all nations will be re-educated and the foundation of their education will center on learning God's law and commandments, including the truth about reparation.

"The son shall not bear the guilt of the father" (Eze. 18:20; Isa. 2:2-2-4; 30:20-21).

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