

For the same reasons that I oppose Oregon considering reparations, I oppose recommending that the Federal do so. My thoughts: I've never owned slaves, nor fostered the idea of anyone else owning slaves. As far as I know, no one in my family ever owned slaves. Even if they had, I certainly didn't profit thereby, so it is unreasonable to think I owe anyone who may have a great-great grandparent, or great-great-great grandparent who was enslaved, any reparation. If someone living now can establish that he or she was bought or sold as a slave, then that person would have reparations due him or her. But they would come from the person(s) who bought or sold him or her. Listen to Dr. Ben Carson, or Pastor Marc Little, and there are many others cautioning against the reparation notion. They point out that the idea makes more division, more notions of victim vs. oppressor, and stifles work ethics, striving for an education, creativity & inventiveness, entrepreneurship, . . . in other words, cripples the recipient. As Pastor Marc said on air last week, "help with education, teach how to write a business plan, and back him by granting of business loans. (Teach a person to fish, as I heard growing up!)"

I suspect this to be far less compassionate than some may think: I think the idea is slavery in a mask. Dreadful. Even mean. Certainly a means of "keeping someone down," not lifting him up.