



A PRAYER FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION

from HCC Elder, Bill McCurin

“Oh God You are the Creator of the universe and all that is in it. You alone in the universe are unique. You are not the greatest God among many or a few; You are the only God. There is no God but You. You are not accountable to anyone. You are the Creator and everything else is creation. You are the Divine Cause, everything else is effect. You were alone are eternal, self-existent, self-sufficient, self-sustaining and unchangeable. You are the same yesterday today and forever. You do not need anyone or anything. You are dependent on no one but Yourself. No one can add to Your being or subtract from it. We cannot increase or decrease Your glory. You alone are autonomous. You are answerable to no one but Yourself. You have always been, and always will be, God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You are righteous and You dwell in righteousness. There is no truth or righteousness apart from You. You alone are truly just. You are impeccable. You are unstained untouched by sin. You are right and all Your doings. You zealously guard Your promises and keep all of them. You do not lie or exaggerate because You are truth.

I do not enter Your presence on my own merit, for I have none. By right You should destroy us. I am utterly detestable before You. But because of Your lovingkindness and mercy You have clothed me in the righteousness of Christ. It is by His righteousness that I am allowed to enter into Your presence and address You as Father. I have no righteousness of my own. The only righteousness I have has been imputed it to me by Your precious Son. He died for me that I might live in Him and in Him stand before You throughout eternity. He is my God. He is the Savior of my soul. He is the Ancient of Days who has lifted me up from the dust and made me joint heir with Him of everything in the universe. I come only in His name, and not in the name of another.

I come on behalf of all Americans. I confess and repent for the terrible institution of slavery which existed for centuries in this country. When it ended I and my forebears were responsible for systemic racism which was designed to oppress and suppress Black people. And when systemic racism ended I persisted in the allowance of negative racial attitudes to exist and thrive. I've benefited from them. We kept our mouths silent. When we spoke, we spoke feebly. We did little or nothing to relieve the misery of our brothers. We have refused to admit the existence of racism in our own hearts and in the hearts of our forbearers. We refuse to humble ourselves before You. We have refused to see or admit any wrong. We have denied the command that we love one another or do unto others as we would have them do unto us. We have regarded those as one-sided Commandments. We have a right to claim them, but no obligation to perform them. We have stopped turning to You. We have sought our own way. We want to be autonomous. We have refused to listen to You. We have no room for You in our hearts. We have inclined our ear to other voices. We have given our affections to another. We have denied the reality and power of Jesus Christ. We celebrate Christmas gifts, but not Christ who is the Divine Gift.



We are not entitled to mercy. We are only entitled to Your divine judgment. And yet, Jesus Christ, we are able to plead for mercy because You are the God of lovingkindness. You have bent the arc of the universe in order to express Your kindness and love to us. Open our hearts to all people regardless of race, ethnicity, culture or background. Cause the love of Jesus Christ to flow in us and out from us to others. You are not a respecter of persons, please make us likewise. Please give us courage to speak out. Please give us the humility to admit our own sinfulness and prejudices. Please lift us above these that we might see men as You see them.

I also come before You on behalf of Black people. I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell among a people of unclean lips. We used to be a godly people. In our suffering and oppression we turned to You; we cried out to You and You visited us. You saved us in great numbers. We saw in Jesus Christ the Master of our freedom from slavery. We were made slaves involuntarily, but He became a slave of His own volition in order to free us. Men put shackles on our hands and feet, and we were powerless to resist them. But You, Omnipotent One, set aside Your power and allowed Yourself to be chained, then beaten, and then crucified in order that we may be free and have a relationship with the living God for all eternity. You became a slave like us so that we could live in freedom with You for all eternity. There was a time when we understood this. Our churches were filled with people who cried out to You, who believed You, who knew Jesus as Savior, Lord and Redeemer. But we have turned away from You. Like sheep we have gone astray. We have tried to push You off Your throne which we cannot do, but we have built our own thrones and placed on those thrones politics and welfare and social programs. We have decided that we do not want Your help. We want to be our own savior. We want to say, "Look what I have done!" rather than look at what our God has done for us. We have refused to look at the cross, and instead look to the marketplace and to government. As a result of this, we have done great evil. As men we have abandoned our wives and families. We have sex with women who are not our wives. When they get pregnant we abandon them. We think we are doing them a favor, if we come around once or twice a year with some paltry gift. We have not been husbands. We have not been fathers. We have bragged about our sexual prowess. We are like the Canaanites who sacrificed their children to Moloch. Our gods have become self, worldly success and worldly approval. We address women by the "B" word. We address ourselves by the "N" word.

Since *Roe vs Wade* we have aborted more than 20 million black babies. In 2019, oh God, more black babies were aborted in New York City than were born. We are killing ourselves. We are drinking our own poison we make with our own hands, and we dance while doing it. We have let the government take away our manhood and our fatherhood. We have blamed others for all our problems. We have surrendered ourselves to the worst evils. We are making Canaan look like a righteous country by the number of black babies we have murdered. We have allowed our women to think it is better for them to have babies out of wedlock supported by the government through welfare than for us to be fathers in the home and to raise our children under Your hand.

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Now our women have babies and take money to have babies and the government pays them to have babies and the government pays them to make sure that our babies have no father in the home. We are killing ourselves! We are rowing furiously to the waterfall, not seeing the utter destruction that awaits us. We row ever faster to the end, singing as we perish. The waterfall is getting closer and we're still rowing, still singing. We do not turn to You. When You reach out Your hands to us, we slap them away. We cry out "Black Lives Matter"! While we kill each other in our own neighborhoods. We murder each other. Like Lamech we brag about our violence, we revel in it. We are bound for destruction unless You intervene to stop us. Please have mercy upon us! Do not take Your hand from us. Lead us from this self-destruction and bring us into the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Cause our men to love and support our women. Cause our women to be in union with their husbands. Cause us men to be loving, attentive and faithful husbands and fathers. Cause our children to submit to the authority of their parents. Calls us to cry out to You, and not to the government or anyone else. Save us from ourselves. Oh God, You who are utterly faithful, open our hearts so that we plead for Jesus and long for Him, so that we don't want anyone else but Jesus to govern our lives. Cause us to put our wills into His loving hands so that we may seek to obey Him in all that we do. **Oh God, please rescue us!**