



A Phrase and A Movement (Part I)

24 June 2022

Folks who really know me, know I have fought race and gender discrimination now for 3 decades in a military context. This has been “in the trenches” interaction with practically every race and gender to ensure impartiality, equality, and fairness were attributes within my sphere of influence and when applicable the organizations I led or commanded. I’ve also taught my children to be “color-blind” and treat everyone with dignity and respect. Very proud of them for the mature and inclusive young man and woman they have become.

I have now had dozens of people that I fought with and for, reach out to ask me my thoughts on current matters. I offer the following as a researched viewpoint to potentially help those struggling with how they should approach some important and sensitive topics.

THE PHRASE The English phrase “black lives matter” must be broken down to truly understand its meaning and set the stage.

Black - this is a color on the visible spectrum that has been assigned to categorize a race. It implies that you have some African American genes in your historical DNA. Realize that not all Black DNA came from Africa and not all Africans are Black. Of greater importance is this...Your race, and your use of the term “Black” to define yourself is a personal decision. Still there?

For example, Tiger Woods has an African American father (Earl Woods) and an Asian mother (Kultida Punsawad Woods). Former President Obama had an African American father (Sr) and a “white” mother (Ann Dunham). Tiger could have selected either “Black or Asian” and Pres. Obama could have selected “Black or White” respectively on their demographic info. In essence...It’s up to the individual in this phraseology to determine their “race of preference.” If you have X, Y, and Z type of DNA in your past, you are allowed to either choose X, Y, or Z as your demographic.

Note: You are allowed to identify as and check a demographic block without offering proof or evidence. It’s purely personal. So far, there are not a lot of “DNA Police” that



determine if “you are who you say you are” regarding demographics...Not counting the self-inflicted policing of yourself per Elizabeth Warren.

Lives - In this context, this word focuses on living human beings - In essence, it is “living” things, most accurately people. The loss of ANY life due to senseless violence, police brutality, hate crimes, excessive use of force, avoidable circumstances, etc. is horrendous. “Lives,” as a word, does not imply any particular race, gender, age, ethnicity, nor orientation. “Lives” only means those who are living.

Matter - While open to broad interpretation, this word usually implies care, value, importance, or many other such terms of concern to the speaker/object/subject. In this phrase, “matter” carries an implied characteristic of equality - where one life is not valued or more important than another life - they all “matter” the same.



In case you’re wondering...I wholly and completely support and believe in the PHRASE “black lives matter.” I also wholly and completely believe, equally, “Asian lives matter” - “Native American live matter” - “Hispanic lives matter” - “White lives matter” - and “ALL lives matter” (where the word ALL includes all races, ethnic groups, genders, etc...No one is excluded).

Any decent human (and IMHO especially a Christian) should support the true literal meaning of the PHRASE “black lives matter” in the context of caring about ALL other



humans. It does not hurt me to use that phrase...But, it should also not hurt anyone's feelings for me to express concern for my fellow brother and sister regardless of race, gender, etc.

Part II next...

Strength and Honor - Lance

