

CANCEL CULTURE: WILL THE CHURCH BE A TARGET OR THE ANTIDOTE?



Series Purpose:

Colossians 4:5-6

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Cancel Culture provides a chance for
Church Culture to assess how
we respond to challenges in the world.

Today: Cancel Culture

1. Understand it
2. Reflect on ourselves and how it sees us
3. Understand how to live in light of it

Cancel Culture is...



IS IT TIME FOR THE
CHURCH TO CHANGE?





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**We listened.
We learned.
We're changing.**

Moving forward, Uncle Ben's
will be known as **Ben's Original™**.

Ben's
Original.

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(I see) Three Parts:

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1. Justice toward protected, bad behavior

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2. **A challenge to structures that could be seen as exclusionary or demeaning**

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1. Justice toward protected, bad behavior
2. A challenge to structures that could be seen as exclusionary or demeaning
3. **An awakening to the real power of words ideas, and symbols**

Cancel Culture is...

“...the popular practice of withdrawing support for public figures and companies after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive. [It’s] generally discussed as being performed on social media in the form of group shaming.”

- Dictionary.com

Cancel Culture is...

“A collective attempt at ruining the reputation and livelihood of an individual or organization in response to a problematic or harmful action or opinion.”

- Well + Good

Cancel Culture is...

My Definition:

A mass effort that desires social and economic growth for underrepresented groups and aims to achieve it by removing established voices that are believed to have encouraged their oppression.

Cancel Culture Is...

- What it hopes to achieve:

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 - **Accountability** (good)

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 - **Sensitivity** (good)

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- What it hopes to achieve:
 - Accountability (good)
 - Sensitivity (good)
 - **Inclusion** (good)

Cancel Culture Is...

- How it tries to achieve it:

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- How it tries to achieve it:
 - **Guilty until proven innocent** (not so good)

Cancel Culture Is...

- How it tries to achieve it:
 - Guilty until proven innocent (not so good)
 - **Remove anything that might cause negative feelings** (not so good)

Cancel Culture Is...

“If words can cause stress, and if prolonged stress can cause physical harm, then it seems that speech – at least certain types of speech – can be a form of violence.”

- Lisa Feldman Barrett

Professor of psychology and
emotion researcher at
Northwestern University

Cancel Culture Is...

- How it tries to achieve it:
 - Guilty until proven innocent (not so good)
 - Remove anything that might cause negative feelings (not so good)
 - **Only two sides - Us vs. Them** (not so good)

Cancel Culture Is:

“Interpreting a campus lecture as violence is a choice, and it is a choice that increases your pain with respect to the lecture while reducing your options for how to respond.”

- Jonathan Haidt

*The Coddling of the
American Mind*

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**This is a response to
pain and suffering**

**Unhealthy responses
to pain and suffering
create an unhealthy cycle**

**The Church is not immune
to unhealthy responses
to pain and suffering**

This is part of an unhealthy cycle

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- **We experience pain and suffering from seeing God's creation not show him honor**

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- **We passionately fight for what we believe in**

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- We are seen for our missteps:
 - **Demanding everyone play by our rules**



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CHURCH TO CHANGE?



This is part of an unhealthy cycle

- We experience pain and suffering from seeing God's creation not show him honor
- We passionately fight for what we believe in
- We are seen for our missteps:
 - Demanding everyone play by our rules
 - **Inconsistent behavior vs. what we demand from others**

How we can break this unhealthy cycle:

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless

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Romans 12:9-21

and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but

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Romans 12:9-21

leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written,

“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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- **Come alongside people and meet them where they are (no matter how messy)**

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- Lovingly stand for what is good in God's eyes
- Handle pain and suffering with hope and patience
- Come alongside people and meet them where they are (no matter how messy)
- **We respond to hurt in a way that astonishes the broken world**

**How do we live this way
in light of the challenges that
pain and suffering create?**

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**How do we live this way
in light of the challenges that
pain and suffering create?
We trust that God has this too.**

communion



John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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- **In love, we work through our hurt because of our hope**