

THE NEW NORMAL #11

“Cancel Culture Needs to be Canceled”

“Cancel Culture” is a term used to describe the recent trend that has emerged in American life that has been very harmful to some people. Not only is cancel culture wrong and against values that most Americans hold closely to their hearts, but cancel culture is not something new. Secular culture has tried to cancel Christians ever since the days of Jesus and before. The world and Satan have always tried to cancel God’s people. Today’s teaching will discuss some of the characteristics of cancel culture and address how Christians should respond to the same.

#1. CANCEL CULTURE DEFINED?

- A. What is political correctness?
- B. What is cancel culture? **Definition:** Cancel culture refers to the popular practice of withdrawing support for (canceling) public figures and companies after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive. Cancel culture is generally rooted in social media.
- C. What is “woke” cancel culture?

#2. CANCEL CULTURE – SOME SECULAR EXAMPLES

- A. Goya CEO Robert Unanue
- B. ABC canceled Roseann Bar
- C. Josh Hader – pitcher for the Milwaukee Brewers
- D. Getting fired – Grant Napear Broadcaster Sac Kings
- E. Cancel culture is malicious
- F. Cancel culture eliminates debating issues

#3. CANCEL CULTURE HAS ALWAYS TARGETED GOD’S PEOPLE, John 15:17-25

- A. The community of believers must love each other, v. 17
- B. The world: human society that rejects God, v. 18
- C. The disciples are chosen out of the world, v. 19
- D. The world persecutes Jesus & his disciples, v. 20
- E. The world will have some that obey Jesus teaching, v. 20
- F. The world hates Jesus & believers because they don’t know God, v. 21, 23, 24-25
- G. They have no excuse for rejecting Jesus, v. 22
- H. To reject Jesus is to reject the Father, v. 23-24
- I. They hated Jesus without reason, v. 25, Ps 35:19, 69:4

#4. CANCEL CULTURE – SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- A. Cain killed his brother Able, 1 John 3:12-13
- B. They wanted to stone Moses & Aaron, Num 14:10
- C. Pharaoh & Herod, Exo 1:16, Mat 2:16
- D. Nero canceled Christians, 1 Peter
- E. Peter – obey God rather than men, Acts 5:27-42

#6. CANCEL CULTURE IS ACTIVATED WHEN CHRISTIANS ENGAGE THEIR CULTURE, vv. 26-27

- A. Believers are in the world but not of it, v. 19, 1 Pet 2:11
- B. Believers engage culture by testifying about Jesus, v. 27
- C. Believers testify in the power of the Spirit, v. 26, John 16:8
- D. Believers must be wise in their culture, Col 4:5-6
- E. Believers must follow the example of Jesus 1 Pet 2:21-25

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE

John 15:17 - 16:4: This is my command: Love each other. ¹⁸If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. ²³He who hates me

hates my Father as well. ²⁴If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'
²⁶"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.
²⁷And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:1-4: "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. ²They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. ³They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

John 16:8-11: When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

1 John 3:10-13: This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. ¹¹This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹²Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.

Acts 5:27-42: Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." ²⁹Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead-- whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³²We are witnesses of these things, and

so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."
³³When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵Then he addressed them: "Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." ⁴⁰His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴²Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Colossians 4:5-6: Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What is your take on cancel culture?
- #2. Describe the connection between John 15:17 and what follows.
- #3. Why does the world hate Christians?
- #4. What does it mean to live in the world yet not be part of the world? John 15:19, 1 Peter 2:11
- #5. How should Christians engage their culture? Col 4:5-6

#6. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the world. John 16:8

#7. Sometimes Christians want to cancel other Christians over minor disagreements? What's your take on that?

#9. What conclusions can you draw from the response of Peter and the apostles to the Sanhedrin? Acts 5:27-42

#8. Discuss the temptation to compromise Christian standards and assimilate to the world's views.

#9. In what way(s) should Christians follow the example of Jesus in a hostile world? 1 Pet 2:21-25

#10. What is your takeaway from this teaching?