

Where Do We Go from Here?, Lesson 6

- ☑ Cancel used to describe what we did to a magazine newspaper subscription, but today it is what people do to other people.
 - ☑ In our society, canceling someone is punishment for doing something, saying something, or even thinking something that is disagreed with.
 - ☑ If you violate a set of unwritten rules that are currently in play throughout much of the liberal world, you get canceled. Three stages:
 - 1) An attempt to publicly humiliate.
 - 2) Then the person is pushed mercilessly to apologize (simply to be accused means that an apology is necessary).
 - 3) Regardless of whether there is an apology, attempts are made to remove that person from public office, forums, media, and conversation, permanently.
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- ☑ As a result, people have been fired, mocked, threatened, de-platformed, and de-legitimized in every way.
 - ☑ "There is no single accepted definition of cancel culture, but at its worse, it is about unaccountable groups successfully applying pressure to punish someone for perceived wrong opinions.
 - ☑ What does it take for a person to be canceled? No one knows; no one knows what will come across the attention of just the right person who will take you to task.
 - ☑ Do you think the Bible has a problem with this?
 - ☑ There are few things less loving than publicly raking people over the coals, trying to get them fired, shamed, or silenced. All for the sin of daring to disagree with you!
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- ☑ Jesus spent a lot of time in His day with people who had been canceled by the conservatives! **It's not just a liberal phenomenon.**
 - ☑ The woman at the well (female, Samaritan, immoral) but Jesus approached and accepted her.
 - ☑ Jesus touched the untouchable lepers, welcomed sinners who were outcasts, blessed children.
 - ☑ He cast demons out of the local crazy man and comforted a thief who hung on the cross next to Him.
 - ☑ Jesus never canceled anyone, always held out mercy and grace, even washed the feet of Judas Iscariot.
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1. It would be nice to think that the cancel culture is a temporary phase that our culture is going through.

- ✓ But our society is becoming more intolerant and polarized by the day.
 - ✓ Cancel is spitefulness common to all human nature; children on the playground cancel each other all the time.
 - ✓ Current culture is a product of our evil human natures plus an over involvement in what's going on in our world with no way or desire to verify or understand what is really happening.
 - ✓ The result is a hysteria over lies, half-truths and misinformation that is used to clobber people and put them on public trial with no witnesses, recourse, or due process.
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- ✓ **Matthew 7:1-5** Our media preys upon our desire to know things and judge things before we know the facts or have even tested the source, they are controlling us through our own sinful natures.
 - ✓ News and Social Medias are the bully in the playground who makes up a lie about a person and then sits back and laughs while the other children abuse and marginalize that person.
 - ✓ They are smart enough to know that all they have to do is turn us on each other and they can control us, and we are dumb enough to let them do it.
 - ✓ **Matthew 24:5-9**, the birth pangs; **11-13** (this is the apostates)
 - ✓ **Matthew 24:10** Is this the Cancel culture we are currently in?
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- ✓ When everyone hates each other whether justified or not, we are in chaos, and *chaos gives rise to those who should not be in power*.
 - ✓ The ethos of cancel culture is that of offense, everyone is offended.
 - ✓ How many groups or products have had to change their names, their symbols, their mascots out of fear they might cause offense and be cancelled?
 - ✓ How long will it be before someone sees you reading a Bible while waiting on a plane or in a public place and feels uncomfortable?
 - ✓ How long until they are offended by your prayer before a meal at a restaurant or the cross you wear around your neck?
 - ✓ **Being easily offended is linked by Jesus to hating one another** and betraying one another.
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- ✓ "Betray" in this case does not mean in terms of turning on someone who used to be your friend as in the case of Judas.
 - ✓ Betray means intentionally revealing or exposing something that is hidden, like betraying a secret; like the Germans betraying the Jewish identities of their neighbors to the SS in the 1930's.
 - ✓ Nazi Germany was an efficient cancel culture.
 - ✓ The end times will be marked by people who actively look for ways to expose people around them for the sake of their harassment or destruction.
 - ✓ Cancel culture is dependent on betrayal.
 - ✓ People intentionally dig through other's pasts to find any shred of inflammatory information and then put it out there for the world to see.
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- ✓ These past incidences now are what define the person. No one actually knows them for who they are now, they know only what they have seen from their past.
 - ✓ Cancel culture is defined by disdain:
 - Deception about others has never been easier than it is today.
 - We know so little, but we think we know so much, and we disdain others based on almost no facts at all.
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- ✓ Cancel culture is a culture of disconnection:
 - The next logical step when there is betrayal and disdain is withdrawal from society.
 - People are after you and are trying to hurt you, so you hide—you build a compound either emotionally or physically or both.
 - **Matthew 24:12** Cold and indifferent toward each other
 - In cancel culture, a single mistake is perpetually unforgivable, because it isn't just a mistake anymore it is their identity.
 - The culture that leads up to and into the tribulation will be characterized by coldness and indifference.
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- ✓ We so desperately need small groups and to involve ourselves in them. The enemy's goal is to separate us, so our goal needs to be to come together.
 - ✓ Sheep only have defense in groups never individually; the wolves are trying to isolate us through distrust and hatred.
 - ✓ There may come a time when they say we can't meet in our churches anymore, but they can't stop us from meeting in our homes.
 - ✓ As our society becomes more and more friendless, Christians need to run against it, becoming accountable to a small group of believers and dedicated to fellowship.
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2. Where do we go from here?

- ✓ It is not easy to live as members of God's Kingdom in a world that is growing increasingly hostile.

Four un-cancelable concepts:

- 1) Wisdom, it takes wisdom to live in the world like the one we are in today.
 - ✓ "Wisdom is what wisdom does," doing the right thing without a precedent, no example to follow.
 - ✓ We live in times that nobody has seen before, so we don't have previous learning to fall back on.
 - ✓ We ask for wisdom, we believe that God will give it to us, and then we follow what He leads us to do.
 - ✓ **Colossians 4:6** We need saltiness (correction, truth) but it needs grace woven all through it.
 - ✓ In a culture where people are killing each other with their words, posts and tweets, there should be something very different about us.
 - ✓ We don't return evil for evil; we are interested in reconciliation not spouting our opinion; we are careful to give our opinion because we know that we don't have the whole picture.
 - ✓ **Proverbs 17:28**
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2) Courage **Joshua 1:9, Acts 4:31**

- ✓ Jeremiah remained faithful even though they tried to cancel him, **Jeremiah 18:18**.
- ✓ The mob will mock and malign us, and society will shame and slander us, but we must have courage and stay at our posts, stay faithful to live as representatives of our Savior.

3) Forgiveness, in a world where the mistakes of distant past are fair game for the present, forgiveness is an anomaly

- ✓ **Colossians 3:12-14**, when we forgive two great things happen: a person gets forgiven, and we get released from the bitterness and disdain in our hearts.
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4) Love

- ✓ Cancel culture is laser-focused on judgement and accusation and vilification, the goal of the cancelers is to broadcast the sins of those they target.
 - ✓ On the contrary, Love covers a multitude of sins. When we love somebody, we don't turn a blind eye to their sin, but we don't publish it outside of our relationship either.
 - ✓ Because the love of others has grown cold, <cancel> is the option that is more and more chosen not realizing that what goes around will eventually come around.
 - ✓ Love will be more needed than it ever has as the fallout of everyone cancelling everyone else grows.
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