



CANCEL CULTURE: Real or Imagined?

"The further a society drifts from truth, the more it will hate those who speak it."

—George Orwell

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

Two views of Cancel Culture:

"It's an online coliseum now, where the mob throws those it disagrees with to the lions, while being entertained by the social bloodshed."

—Behavioral Scientist, Steve Maraboli

"Cancel culture is a right-wing term, crafted to gaslight and vilify progressive voices. There is no such thing as 'cancel culture'. It's 'consequence culture' that aims to deplatform a person's social capital until they make meaningful change."

—Progressive Writer, Annastacia Dickerson

So, what do you think? Should people be silenced until they fall in line with *your* idea of correct thinking? Does the Bible have answers to the hot button issue of cancel culture?

INTRODUCTION

Aaron Rogers and the "cancel culture mob."

Cancel culture gets a lot of airplay these days. Exactly what does it mean? Is it fair in a country that boasts about our inalienable rights to free speech? What does it mean for Christians in a nation that is increasingly hostile to biblical faith and values?

FIRST, SOME DEFINITIONS

Cancel Culture: The popular practice of withdrawing support from public figures or companies after they've done or said something considered objectional or offensive to enough people. Cancel Culture is usually generated on social media in the form of group shaming, and a demand for punitive action against the offender.

Woke: African American slang as in, "I woke up to the systemic racism in our country." In popular culture by an active awareness of systematic injustices and prejudices, especially those related to civil and human rights. It is often used to describe those who are the self-appointed guardians of political correctness and are sometimes referred to as the Woke Mob.

ALARM BELLS FROM THE LEFT

An open letter from 153 moderate progressives in *Harper's Weekly* to the Left, warning that cancel culture will lead to a tyranny where opposing voices are silenced. The response from the left: swift, bitter, and unexpected. The culture wars are here to stay, as is cancel culture.

The devastating effect of cancel culture: on college students, celebrities, and the rest of us.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. THE DARK SIDE OF CANCEL CULTURE.

- *Political Correctness*: An attempt to minimize social offense by policing speech, forcing the use of certain words and banning others.

Is it Orwellian when the cultural elite impose what they think are "desirable" attitudes by removing what they think are "undesirable" words from our vocabulary? Like "Newspeak" in Orwell's, *1984*

- *Postmodernism*: all claims to speech are subjective and "tolerance" is a supreme value. An irony: the more "tolerant" culture becomes, the more intolerant it is toward anyone who it perceives as intolerant. This poses a great problem for those who proclaim biblical values that are pronounced as hate speech by the majority who are postmodern in their views.
- Postmodernism produces cancel culture, and the two together produce unbiblical actions. Even evangelicals can become the cancel culture mob. Beware of the following:
 - a) **Cancel Culture can be reactionary, often quick to judge and quick to anger.** [Proverbs 18:17, 16:32; James 3:17&18]
 - b) **Cancel Culture is too often vindictive, taking justice into its own hands.** [John 8:7-11]
 - c) **Cancel Culture is quick to incite lynch mob action.** [Exodus 23:2]

d) **Cancel Culture often levies sentences disproportionate to the Crimes.** [Luke 12:47-48]

2. A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO CANCEL CULTURE

1) **Cancel Culture can be "Consequence" Culture** [Genesis 50:19&20; Romans 8:28]

2) **To be Counter-Culture is to invite Cancel Culture.** [John 15:18-20]

3) **Our Words and Actions will have Consequences.**

4) **We Shouldn't join the Cancel Culture Crowd on the Right.**

5) **We should see Persecution as an Opportunity to Grow.** [Psalm 16:8; James 1:2&3]

6) **We should seek God's Favor rather than Culture's Acclaim.**

7) **Engage Culture with Truth and Grace** [Ephesian 4:15; 1 Peter 2:1; Titus 3:2]

IN CONCLUSION

The ultimate issue is always Jesus, the Gospel, and The Great Commission [2 Corinthians 6:3]