

THE DIABOLICAL SPIRIT OF CANCEL CULTURE

John 3:19-20

INTRODUCTION

- Cancel Culture is the ostracising or boycotting of an individual or group that is deemed to have acted or spoken in an unacceptable way, leading to their loss of reputation and income
- If the contemporary moral arbiters who wield influence especially through social media deem your views to be “objectionable”, they will use their power to “cancel” you through public humiliation, loss of employment/income, and if possible, through litigation.
- There is a legitimate place for “cancelling” or removing certain individuals from a society
- In a just society, those who break certain laws (and in a just society, they will be based on God’s law), must be removed either by incarceration, banishment or execution
- But cancel culture seeks to remove people for ideological and political purposes
- The cancellers are fanatical zealots who pursue their prey with a religious fervour, and will not cease their attacks until their victim is crushed and demoralised
- Increasingly, the targets of cancel culture are those who hold views in harmony with the word of God
- It is vital that we as Christians understand what this movement is, in order that we can respond to it in a biblical way

I. THE GENESIS OF CANCEL CULTURE

- A. Cancel Culture is a relatively new term to describe a very, very old phenomenon
 1. Ancient Greece’s *Ostracism*, Romanism’s *Inquisitions*, Communism’s *Struggle Sessions* all served the same purpose of reforming or removing ideological opponents
 2. Who started cancel culture?
 - a. Was it the social media juggernauts of Facebook and Twitter?
 - b. Was it the civil-rights movement of the 1960s?
 - c. Was it the Nazis?
 - d. Was it the communists?
 - e. Was it Islam?
 - f. Was it Catholicism?
 - g. Was it any of the ancient world empires?

3. It goes right back to the earliest days of history, back to the devil himself, who from the day of his first act of rebellion against God, has sought to “cancel”, to destroy all and every trace of truth, beauty and goodness from the creation
4. Cancel culture is not a mere oddity of the modern age, but is the modern manifestation of the great cosmic war that has been engaged by the kingdom of darkness against the kingdom of light for the past six millennia

B. Satan is the father of cancel culture

1. The first sin ever committed was when Lucifer in pride sought to take the place of God (Isaiah 14:12-15)
2. His original desire and aim to depose God from his throne and take it to himself, has not changed
3. His hatred of God extends to man, who is made in God’s image (Genesis 3)
4. Satan has a multitude of devils under his command, and a multitude of humans also (1 John 3:8)

C. Cancel culture must be understood as a *spiritual* phenomenon

1. There is a “spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:1-3)
2. This spirit is “not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist” (1 John 4:3)
3. As this is a *spiritual* issue, and not merely political, so-called “secular conservatism” is completely inadequate to combat it
 - a. They can only deal with symptoms, not the root of the disease
 - b. Because the world-view of secular conservatism has no objective, absolute truth undergirding it, it will gradually become more and more godless and anti-biblical, just a bit behind the “progressives” who are at the forefront of the downward spiral
 - c. Both “progressive” and “conservative” politics are atheistic, and antichrist at their root
4. The great warfare being engaged is not flesh and blood, or even an intellectual battle, but a spiritual one (Ephesians 6:12)

II. THE GOAL OF THE CANCELLERS

- A. Satan opposes God and everything related to him (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
- B. Satan has a plan for humanity

1. He wants all to worship him (Matthew 4:9)
 - a. Anything other than submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ is idolatry
 - b. Idolatry is the worship of devils (Deuteronomy 32:16-17; 1 Cor 10:20)
 2. He wants to corrupt humanity through sin (Genesis 6:11-12)
 3. Through his temptations and attacks, he seeks to devour man (1 Peter 5:8)
 4. He wants to wipe out every child of God, and every vestige of righteousness from the earth
 5. Satan's human agents fulfil his will in the world
- C. The cancel culture is Satan's tool to effect his plan for humanity
1. The foundation cancel culture is *hate*
 - a. Their chief hatred is not Christians or Christianity, but Christ himself; they want to cancel Christ (Psalm 2:1-3; John 3:19-20)
 - b. They hate God's servants who proclaim the word of God (1 Kings 22:8)
 - c. Ironically, the haters in cancel culture accuse God's people of "hate speech"
 - d. Christians do not hate the ungodly, but rather love their enemies (Matthew 5:44)
 - e. The examples of Christ and Stephen praying for the forgiveness of their murderers show the contrast between the Spirit of God and the spirit of the world (Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60)
 2. Every good and true thing that God has established and that the Bible teaches, they want to tear down
 - a. Marriage
 - b. Two genders
 - c. Distinct male/female roles
 - d. Sanctity of life
 - e. Private ownership
 - f. Independent, distinct nations
 - g. Beauty in arts/music

III. THE GOOD FOR THE CHRISTIAN

- A. Throughout history, God has permitted the saints to undergo severe trials for their faith
 1. Darius commands, "Pray to no one but me" (Daniel 6:7-9)

2. Nebuchadnezzar commands, "Bow to the image" (Daniel 3:4-6)
 3. Rome commands, "Offer incense to Caesar and confess Caesar as Lord"
 4. Popery commands, "Confess the wafer to be God"
- B. Such trials are used of God to perfect the faith of his people
1. A faith that has not been tested is faith that cannot be trusted (cf. Matthew 13:20-21)
 2. We ought not think such trials as strange, but expected, and rejoice in them (1 Peter 4:12-14)
 3. God works patience in his people through these trials, and ultimately their perfection (James 1:2-4)
- C. We may count it a privilege to be called to suffer for the name of Jesus Christ
1. The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name (Acts 5:41)
 2. There is a Martyr's Crown for those who suffer tribulation and death for Christ's sake (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10)
 3. We are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses – the multitudes of Christ's lambs who went to the slaughter and who now stand before him in white (Hebrews 12:1)
 4. If we could ask them now, they would gladly seal their testimony with blood all over again

CONCLUSION

1. There are only two sides in this great spiritual battle – darkness and light
2. If you are not Christ's, you are by default in Satan's camp
3. Receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord is nothing short of a declaration of war against the world, its god, and those under his charge
4. Even if you don't quite realise it, the devil does and the world does
5. The world wants to cancel your voice, your ability to witness, your testimony, your finances/possessions, your fellowship with believers, your access to the truth, and ultimately your life
6. But do not be discouraged, for "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4)
7. May God give us grace to stand firm for Jesus Christ against the satanic cancel culture of our day!