

Jesus and the Cancel Culture



- ✓ **'Cancel culture refers to the popular practice of withdrawing support for (cancelling) public figures and companies after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive' ([dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com))**
- ✓ **Usually takes the form of social media shaming**
- ✓ **Its goal can be to take away someone's platform, fame, business, company, job, power, popularity because of something that's seen as unforgiveable behaviour, either past or present**
- ✓ **Cancelled: Ellen DeGeneres, J K Rowling, Piers Morgan, Lance Armstrong, Tucker Carlson (and other Fox News Reporters), Michael Richards, Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake, etc.**
- ✓ **But not just celebrities**

- ✓ **People need to be held accountable for their words and actions. Whistle-blowers should be encouraged to come forward and lift the lid on corruption or abuse**
- ✓ **But cancel culture runs contrary to the gospel:**
- ✓ ***It's malicious.* To select a person for cancellation is to target that person with hate. Cancel culture is then fueled by a pack mentality**
- ✓ ***It is judgmental.* 'We are right, you are wrong.'**
The cancelled are given a label or identity
- ✓ ***It is unforgiving.* It is a very toxic culture that encourages people to be quick to cancel and reluctant to forgive. Rehabilitation and restoration are not the goal of cancel culture. The goal is to keep the cancelled in exile. The road to redemption is blocked by an angry mob**

Jesus And Cancel Culture

Cancel culture is not new

People were cancelled in Jesus' day

Jesus was always on the side of the cancelled

'Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them"'

(Luke 15:1-2)

'The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector'

(Luke 18:11)

**Jesus is countercultural
He cancelled the cancel culture**

He did not erect barriers, He broke them down

**Jesus called 'cancelled' people his friends -
Crooked tax-collectors, prostitutes, outcasts,
betrayers, etc.**

No one was irredeemable

**This is more than amazing grace...it is
scandalous grace**

'Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner"'

(Luke 7:36-39)

'And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little"

(Lk.7:40-47)

- **The Pharisee thought his judgment cancelled the woman and disqualified Jesus**
- **But though Jesus knew about her He didn't cancel her. Instead, He judged the Pharisee who was attempting to take the speck out of the eyes of others yet had a log in his own eye**
- **The Pharisee saw her sin but did not realize the full extent of his sin, lurking within – pride, self-righteousness, judgmentalism that leads to cancelling others**
- **People are ultimately judged by how they see Jesus. The Pharisee saw Him as a Teacher. The woman saw Him as a Saviour. She knew her sin and embraced His forgiveness**

***'Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."
And those who sat at the table with Him began
to say to themselves, "Who is this who even
forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman,
"Your faith has saved you. Go in peace"'***
(Lk.7:48-50)

**Jesus cancelled the cancel culture by receiving
all who came to Him**

**He was willing to lose His reputation
and go out on a limb for it**

How could He do that?

He cancelled the things that cancel people

'...having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross'

(Col.2:14)

Exaleipho = to blot out, obliterate, destroy, wipe out, etc. Many translate this word as 'cancelled'

He cancelled the very things that people are cancelled for

'I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more'

(Heb.8:12)

**Jesus' culture of grace and unconditional love
confronts the cancel culture**

**It says to those who are uncomfortable with
dealing with the log in their own eye:**

'You who are without sin, cast the first stone'

**An unforgiving, vindictive attitude has no place
in the Christian life**

Christian culture sees no one as irredeemable

**Repentance and change are always possible
With Jesus there are no lost causes**

***'Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass,
you who are spiritual restore such a one in a
spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest
you also be tempted. Bear one another's
burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if
anyone thinks himself to be something, when he
is nothing, he deceives himself'***

(Gal.6:1-3)