

## Canceling the Cancel Culture

*What do we do if we disagree?*

Romans 14:1-14; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 8-9-20

### Cancel Culture

Have you heard of ‘cancel culture’? This is nothing new. We’ve been ‘writing off’ people who offend us with their opinions for a long, long time. And we can see that in Romans 14.

*“Canceling and cancel culture have to do with the removing of support for public figures in response to their objectionable behavior or opinions. This can include boycotts or refusal to promote their work.” – Miriam-Webster*

*How are we to respond to ‘disputable’ or ‘debatable’ issues during a pandemic?*

#### ► ***Distinguish between moral and non-moral issues.***

*A ‘moral’ issue is an issue of right and wrong as defined by the clear teaching of the Word of God.*

– Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 7:19

*A ‘non-moral’ issue is an issue that is not commanded or forbidden explicitly (by specific commands) or implicitly (by general principles) by the Word of God.*

– Mark 7:5-9; Romans 14:2-3, 5, 21

*A ‘non-moral’ issue becomes a moral issue for an individual if that individual believes that it is wrong.*

- Romans 14:14

#### *Questions to Ask*

- Is \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) a moral issue?
- Isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ a moral issue if the government tells us to do it or not do it?
- Shouldn’t we \_\_\_\_\_ anyway since it might be helpful and it might make other people feel better even if we question whether it does any good?

#### ► ***Exercise your freedom with necessary restraint.***

*Freedom is to Be Preserved*

– Romans 14:4-5, 22

*Except When It Would Cause Someone to Sin or Reject the Gospel*

– Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; 9:19-23; 10:32-33

*But We Do Not Give Up Our Freedom Simply Because People are Offended*

- 1 Corinthians 10:28-31; Matthew 15:12-14

*Questions to Ask*

- Is the issue something that involves leading people to sin against their conscience?
- Is the issue something that is hindering people from giving the gospel a hearing?
- Is the issue simply something that causes people to be offended?

► ***Check your heart toward those you disagree with.***

*The Key Exhortation is to 'Accept' or 'Welcome' One Another*

– Romans 14:1-3; 15:7

*We are not to look down on those who are 'unnecessarily limited' in our opinion: those who are doing what we do not think needs to be done.*

– Romans 14:3

*We are not to condemn those who are 'irresponsibly free' in our opinion: those who aren't doing what we think needs to be done.*

– Romans 14:3

*We are to live to please God to Whom We Will Give An Account*

– Romans 14:10, 12

*Questions to Ask*

- Am I judging or condemning those who do what I wouldn't do?
- Am I holding in contempt and thinking less of those who do what I think is unnecessary?
- Am I accepting and welcoming whole-heartedly those who disagree with me on disputable matters or am I keeping them at arms-length and avoiding them?

**The Good News**

Jesus lived and died and rose again to rescue us from sin and to free us to live to please God, without the burden of trying to earn our salvation or trying to please men. – Romans 14:7-9