

Come and See 2

John 4:29-30 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

Matthew 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14 "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. NLT

Matthew 5:13-16 "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. 14 "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. 15 If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. 16 Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand — shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. The Message

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." NLT

John 13:34-35 So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.** 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." NLT

Matthew 24:10-14 **And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other.** 11 And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. 12 Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come. NLT

Cancel Culture

- The practice or tendency of engaging in mass canceling as a way of expressing disapproval and exerting social pressure. (Webster Dictionary)
 - Cancel culture or call-out culture is a modern form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles – whether it be online, on social media, or in person. Those subject to this ostracism are said to have been "cancelled".
Wikipedia
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In our society, canceling someone is a punishment for doing something, saying something, or even thinking something that violates a set of unwritten rules currently in play throughout much of the liberal world. These punishments are typically carried out in three stages:

1. There's an attempt to publicly humiliate the person by flagrantly exposing the supposed wrong he or she committed.
2. Once the person has been exposed, he or she is pushed mercilessly to confess and apologize. Whether that person has actually done anything that requires regret is irrelevant. Simply to be accused means a retraction and an apology is expected.
3. Regardless of whether the accused apologizes or not, attempts are made to remove that person from public life and from all public conversation once and for all. As a result, people are fired, mocked, threatened, de-platformed, and delegitimized in every way.

- o by David Jeremiah, from *Where Do We Go From Here?*

You don't have to be famous to be canceled.

Cancel Culture – Old School Revisited!

The greatest display of “Cancel Culture” was when humanity sought to cancel Jesus by nailing Him to the cross at Calvary!!!

Jesus had no place in His heart for the cancel culture, but He was wonderful at demonstrating God's love and grace to everyone.

Cancel Culture is: **Mean**
Vengeful
Unforgiving

Cancel Culture and the Church - *“If you disagree, just unfriend me now.”*

‘What does it take to make a winning team? 3 Things:

1. Get players in right condition (right with God/Salvation)
2. Teach them the fundamentals (Discipleship)
3. Teach them to play together as a team (Unity)

Jesus and the Winning Team

John 13:34-35 So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.** 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." NLT

John 17:20-26 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! 25 "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. 26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."

Paul and the Cancel Culture

- Romans 14:1-12 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.
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6 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. ESV

Tensions in the Church

Paul knows that the church cannot be unified behind him in the spread of the gospel if they're not one with another in daily Christian living.

We have a problem!! **Legalism – Liberty**

The key to understanding Paul's directive is the last word/phrase in verse 1.

- The NIV renders it “disputable matters.”
 - The NKJ translates it as “doubtful things.”
 - And the ESV calls it “opinions.”
 - The original Greek word is *dialogismos*. You might hear our English word dialogue, in there. Its original meaning was reasoning that is self-based and therefore confused. **The term implies one confused mind interacting with other confused minds, each further reinforcing the original confusion.**
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What Paul is talking about here is **discerning what is right/wrong in matters that are neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture**. They're matters of personal preference and historic tradition, which, when imposed on others, inevitably cause confusion, strife, ill will, abused consciences, and disharmony

Does this problem exist in the modern church? You better believe it. Just think of the areas that have been “hot buttons” in the 20th-21st century church:

- King James only version of scripture
 - Christians opposed the radio because Satan is the god of the air.
 - Forms of recreation like TV, movies, dancing, and playing cards, use of dice, etc
 - Length of hair and what to wear,
 - Styles and manner of worship (screens vs. hymnals),
 - Christian school, homeschool, and public school,
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- Modes of baptism (dunking, sprinkling, infant, believer)
 - Ownership of luxury items,
 - Use of tobacco, consumption of alcohol,
 - Tattoos and Piercings
 - To reopen or remain closed, to mask or not to mask.
 - Vaccinated or no vaccine

Romans 14:1-11 Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

2 For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume all Christians should be vegetarians and eat accordingly. 3 But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. **4 Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.**

5 Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

6 What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. 7 None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. 8 It's God we are answerable to — all the way from life to death and everything in between — not each other. 9 That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

10 So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly — or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. 11 Read it for yourself in Scripture:

"As I live and breathe," God says, "every knee will bow before me; Every tongue will tell the honest truth that I and only I am God." The Message

