

## Think It Over:

This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

**Quick review:** As you review the message guide, what are some take-aways that really touched your heart? Why do you think they registered with you?

## Diving in:

- Have you ever experienced “Cancel Culture”? Were you a recipient or, dare we ask, aligned with it? How do you reconcile the two?
- How do you feel about the statement: “The Christian culture perfected “Cancel Culture” and now it’s coming for us”?
- What do malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander have in common?
- How has social media numbed us to the weight of these sins? How can we fight against these impulses that online dialogue emboldens in us?
- What is the difference between restorative culture conversation, cancel culture conversation, and the speech that goes only with both?
- How should our understanding of what Christ has done on our behalf impact how we treat each other?
- What is the Bottom Line getting at? The Message renders Titus 1:16 this way: *They say they know God, but their actions speak louder than their words. They're real creeps, disobedient good-for-nothings.* Yikes! How do we avoid hypocrisy as we look to be involved in God's restoration of one heart at a time?

**Next Steps:** In moments that invite us to wrestle with malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander, what are some ways we can sincerely love instead? In what relationship(s) does that need to happen this week? Will you try it or give excuses? Why?

**Changing Your Mind:** Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.

If you missed a message, go to [senecacommunitychurch.com/messages](http://senecacommunitychurch.com/messages) or request an audio CD at Guest Services.



Dave Spencer, Lead Pastor

February 2, 2025

<sup>22</sup>Now that you've cleaned up (purified) your lives by following (obeying) the truth, you can love one another deeply, sincerely from the heart, as if your lives depended on it. 1 Peter 1:22 MSG, NIV, E2RV, DFS

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup>now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:1–3 NIV

Cancel culture is the modern social attitude that controversial speech or behavior must be punished through public shaming, silencing, boycotting, firing, bankrupting, de-platforming, etc. The result is that the offender's influence, presence, and/or reputation is "canceled out."

Esther 3:1-15 NIV page 345

<sup>15</sup>At the king's command, the couriers took off; the order was also posted in the palace complex of Susa. The king and Haman sat back and had a drink while the city of Susa reeled from the news. Esther 3:15 MSG

The Christian culture perfected “Cancel Culture”  
and now it's coming for us.

## A Cancellation Culture\*

1. Cancel culture is impulsive.
2. Cancel culture is spiteful.
3. Cancel culture is judgmental.
4. Cancel culture is unforgiving.

<sup>1</sup>So clean house! Stop doing anything to hurt others. Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk. <sup>3</sup>You've had a taste of God. <sup>2</sup>Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God. 1 Peter 2:1-3 MSG

### Everyday sins of the lips

and keyboard are a form of cancel culture.

<sup>1</sup>So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 1 Peter 2:1-3 ESV

↗ Put away - change your clothes (Romans 13:14; Ephesians 4:22-32)

↗ Malice - a sin of the heart where you have an evil posture toward others, a desire to hurt people or see harm come to people

↗ Hypocrisy - wanting people to think you're something you're not (Matthew 7:3-5)

↗ Envy - not wanting others to be blessed or succeed and wanting that only for ourselves (Exodus 20:17; Proverbs 14:13)

↗ Deceit and Slander (Proverbs 10:12 NIV)

<sup>18</sup>People sometimes lie to hide their hatred, but saying bad things about someone is even more foolish. Proverbs 10:18 E2RV

<sup>10</sup>Give a warning to all those who cause arguments. If they continue to cause trouble after a second warning, then don't associate with them. <sup>11</sup>It's obvious that such a person is out of line, rebellious against God. By persisting in divisiveness he cuts himself off. Titus 3:10-11 E2RV, MSG

<sup>15</sup>You cannot convict anyone of a crime or sin on the word of one witness. You need two or three witnesses to make a case. Deuteronomy 19:15 MSG

<sup>10</sup>Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. Revelation 12:10 NIV

<sup>17</sup>The first person to speak always seems right until someone comes and asks the right questions. Proverbs 18:17 E2RV

## A Restorative Culture\*

1. Jesus came to cancel sin, not people.
2. Jesus calls us to be recruiters, not prosecutors or judges.
3. Jesus died for His enemies; all He asks is that we love our enemies.
4. Forgiveness is not an extra-credit option.
5. No one is too broken to be redeemed.

### Bottom Line:

### Cancellation for thee, but not for me.

\*For more about Cancel Culture, including Scripture references and explanations for the points in "A Cancellation Culture" and "A Restorative Culture", go to [senecacommunitychurch.com/esther](https://senecacommunitychurch.com/esther) to download the message guide and watch or listen to our message from 2022, *Esther – Part 4A: Canceled*.

Often Dave uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don't hesitate to contact Dave at [daves@senecacommunitychurch.com](mailto:daves@senecacommunitychurch.com).

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the "Think It Over" section on the back.