

Cancel Culture: God's Kingdom Culture

August 29, 2021 – Pastor Jason Yarbrough

TRUTH always provokes a response.

Acts 19:23-36 *23 About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way. 24 It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. He kept many craftsmen busy. 25 He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows: "Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. 26 But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't really gods at all. And he's done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! 27 Of course, I'm not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!" 28 At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 29 Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. 30 Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn't let him. 31 Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater. 32 Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. 33 The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. 34 But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 35 At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. "Citizens of Ephesus," he said. "Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven. 36 Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash."*

MY NOTES

People don't know why they're here.

JESUS created the first CANCEL CULTURE!

Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT) *13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

When we function in a "works" based culture instead of a "grace" based culture, we easily lose our passion for the Kingdom of God.

Revelations 2:1-5a (NLT) *1 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus... 2 "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. 3 You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. 4 "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! 5 Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first."*

LOVE is the culture of God's Kingdom! It cancels our sin and allows us to live without fear!

If we're going to SPREAD a Cancel Culture – a true Kingdom Culture – we have to first truly accept it.

If you're still here, then He's not done!

PASTOR'S BLESSING:

- Be blessed in knowing that your sin is forever canceled, never to be remember again.
- Be blessed in knowing that God's love for you is so great, you never again have to live in fear.
- Be blessed in knowing why you're here on this earth – because God has a Kingdom plan and purpose for you!
- Be blessed in knowing that if you're still here, then He's not done working in you and through you.
- Be blessed as you spread the true cancel culture to those around you.
- Be blessed today in Jesus' name...