

The Patio Pulpit For April 7, 2021

The Sinister Culture

I remember waking up one morning not terribly long ago with a “scratchy” throat thinking it will go away in a few minutes, right after I have my first cup of coffee. It didn’t. Within the hour it had gotten intolerable. I was having a very difficult time swallowing and talking and I suspected then that I might have strep throat. It was bad enough that I called my doctor’s office and got an appointment to see him that day.

His nurse did a throat swab and told me she would let me know the results as soon as they came in, and she did and sure enough, I had strep. The nurse had taken the sample from my throat and sent it to the lab and it had grown a strep throat culture, some kind of living organism grown in a petri dish that showed I had strep throat. My doctor called in a prescription of some kind of antibiotic, amoxicillin, and after a day or two I was doing better. In the meantime I was miserable. Strep is like that.

Most of you watching this video remember how our doctors once treated such infections. A shot of penicillin delivered by means of a huge syringe with a foot-long needle. The treatment was almost as bad as the illness. Ouch! I definitely prefer the capsule.

After being inducted into the US Army in May of 1966, I immediately came down with a particularly nasty case of strep upon arrival at Ft. Jackson, S.C., and spent my first week there in a base hospital where I was given a daily dose of penicillin. That was my first awareness of this thing called culture.

3: the act or process of cultivating living material (such as bacteria or viruses) in prepared nutrient [media](#) *also* : a product of such cultivation

This past week in preparing for this lesson on The Patio Pulpit, I went to my hard cover copy of Webster’s New World Dictionary and found several entries on p.337 that addressed the word culture. I saw this, “cultural anthropology,” “cultured pearl,” “culture medium,” “culture shock,” “culture vulture,” and “culturist.” Elsewhere I found “cultured taste,” “body culture,” “voice culture,” “cultured behavior”

and “cultured institutions.” Cancel culture came along much too late to make it into my dictionary edition.

Unless one has been hiding under the proverbial rock for the last couple of years or so, one cannot possibly have missed all the news reports and general chit chat about one of the more sinister phenomena or movements to be born on our shores ever known as “*cancel culture*.” As the name implies, this is a new kind of subculture much like the hippie culture and the biker culture and the LGBTQ culture.

The thinking (or lack thereof) of the cancel culture’s membership is illogical and twisted. What is the logic behind a man spreading his feces on a statue of Abraham Lincoln? Or destroying businesses of long standing owned by American citizens who for the most part paid for their success in blood, sweat and tears only to lose those businesses at the hands of the enemies of peace and prosperity, the cancel culture anarchists.

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 who are subject to this ostracism are said to have been “**cancelled**”.

This is a quote from an article I found by googling cancel culture. “Cancel culture” came into the collective consciousness around **2017**, after the idea of “canceling” celebrities for problematic actions or statements became popular. Lisa Nakamura, a professor at the University of Michigan who studies digital media's connections to race, gender, and sexuality, told The New York Times in 2018 that cancellation was a “cultural boycott” of a certain celebrity, brand, company, or concept.” End of quote. So in the minds of the cc’ers if anyone from any time period in our nation’s history ever said anything that don’t like, then it’s ok to destroy any memory of them, even if it means murder and mayhem. And recently such evil menaces to society as Dr. Seuss and Pepe La Pew have been cancelled by these people who have made themselves Grand Censors and judge, jury and executioner.

You can be sure that somewhere out there someone has already set his or her sights on the Bible with all its talk about homosexuality and slavery.

“Staff members within the [University of Oxford’s](#) music department have reportedly suggested removing sheet music from the school’s curriculum because of its supposed connections to a "colonial past."

Professors said that music notation has not "shaken off its connection to its colonial past" and that sticking with it would be a "slap in the face" for students of color, according to documents reviewed by the British outlet [The Telegraph](#).”

The same faculty also reportedly questioned whether the current curriculum was complicit in "white supremacy," pointing to the program’s focus on "white [European](#) music from the slave period" – composers like Mozart and Beethoven.

The professors further suggested that certain classical music skills – like playing the piano and conducting orchestral arrangements – ought not to be required given that they "structurally center white European music" and cause "students of color great distress." I never knew that students of color are so utterly fragile mentally and emotionally that America’s academia must protect them and guard their minds and ears from ever hearing the likes of Beethoven or reading the likes of Hemingway and Steinbeck.

And one more nascent culture being labeled “woke culture.”
Woke Culture “Woke” culture is a subset of the social justice movement arising out of black America. You are “**woke**,” or “awake” if you believe in a certain set of beliefs agreeable to extreme liberal progressive politicians and pundits.

This is a quote from a site called “Freedom Defence Canada:”
“First there was political correctness. Now there’s “woke” culture. For the last 20 or 30 years these two influences have damaged and weakened the foundations of western culture and removed our freedoms. The most common statement I hear regarding “wokeness” is “I can’t believe this

exists. What's going on?" People are stunned by the speed and efficiency with which our Judeo Christian culture has been attacked and its values inverted. They are shocked and terrified to find themselves moral and cultural refugees in a world where decent values have been reversed and repugnant practices have become the norm. How did this happen?"

That's the question I will address tonight, "how did this happen seemingly overnight and why?"

First, "It came from the mind-set of the children of 'the prince of the power of the air,' the devil."

Ephesians 2:1 *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (Eph. 2:1-2 NAU)*

I confess to you that I came into this lesson tonight with a bit of confirmation bias. I came in this tonight with my presuppositions. I know what I believe and I know why I believe what I believe and it is all the result of my best efforts at rightly dividing the word of truth. And as Paul said to the Corinthians, *and I think that I also have the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 7:40 NAU)*

This is what Paul wrote to young Pastor Timothy, **1 Timothy 4:1** *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,*

³ *men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.*

⁴ *For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;*

⁵ *for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.*

⁶ *In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, (1 Tim. 4:1-6 NAU)*

2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

² *For men*, mankind in general, don't get offended, in other words what Paul is about to lay out for us describes the characteristics of end times culture, *for mankind will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,*

³ *unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,*

⁴ *treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*

⁵ *holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. (2 Tim. 3:1-5 NAU)*

Can you imagine such a society and culture as the Spirit just described? Of course you can. We live in such a culture.

And read this,

Again, that describes a sinister culture that will pretty much dominate the landscape of this entire planet in the last days. The reason I point these things out to you is to let you know what to look for in our culture and society.

And listen to this from Paul's letter to the saints in Rome. ¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (Rom. 1:18 NAU)* This is cancel culture at its worst. They have cancelled out the truth of a Creator who according to the word of God is none other than Jesus Christ Himself. And woe unto any who follow the "Man" Jesus Christ.

Cancel Culture is a manifestation of the wrath of God being poured out on the earth. God has given these people over to do as they wish, suffering the consequences of their actions and their choices.

Second and I close with this, "How can the church treat this demonic infection? By taking a spiritual throat swab and applying the divine amoxicillin of the truth of the word of God."

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⁵ Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test? (2 Cor. 13:5 NAU)

This self-examination is to assist the one who professes faith and life in Christ to have the proof of that profession or lack thereof to come back from his own lab, if you will, either positive or negative.

For those who are genuinely in Christ, no culture, cancel or otherwise, can cancel his or her justification/salvation and eternal life.