

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO

CANCEL CULTURE



Connecting Parents, Teens & Jesus
in a Disconnected World

AXIS PARENT GUIDES SERIES

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A Parent's Guide to Cancel Culture

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You can do something stupid when you're 15, say one thing and 10 years later that shapes how people perceive you. We all do cringey things and make dumb mistakes and whatever. But social media's existence has brought that into a place where people can take something you did back then and make it who you are now.

L., AGE 16,
IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE
NEW YORK TIMES

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A LETTER FROM AXIS

Dear Reader,

We're Axis, and since 2007, we've been creating resources to help connect parents, teens, and Jesus in a disconnected world. We're a group of gospel-minded researchers, speakers, and content creators, and we're excited to bring you the best of what we've learned about making meaningful connections with the teens in your life.

This parent's guide is designed to help start a conversation. Our goal is to give you enough knowledge that you're able to ask your teen informed questions about their world. For each guide, we spend weeks reading, researching, and interviewing parents and teens in order to distill everything you need to know about the topic at hand. We encourage you to read the whole thing and then to use the questions we include to get the conversation going with your teen—and then to follow the conversation wherever it leads.

As Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen point out in their book *Difficult Conversations*, “Changes in attitudes and behavior rarely come about because of arguments, facts, and attempts to persuade. How often do *you* change your values and beliefs—or whom you love or what you want in life—based on something someone tells you? And how likely are you to do so when the person who is trying to change you doesn’t seem fully aware of the reasons you see things differently in the first place?”¹ For whatever reason, when we believe that others are trying to understand *our* point of view, our defenses usually go down, and we’re more willing to listen to *their* point of view. The rising generation is no exception.

So we encourage you to ask questions, to listen, and then to share your heart with your teen. As we often say at Axis, discipleship happens where conversation happens.

Sincerely,
Your friends at Axis

¹ Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen, *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most*, rev. ed. (New York: Penguin Books, 2010), 137.

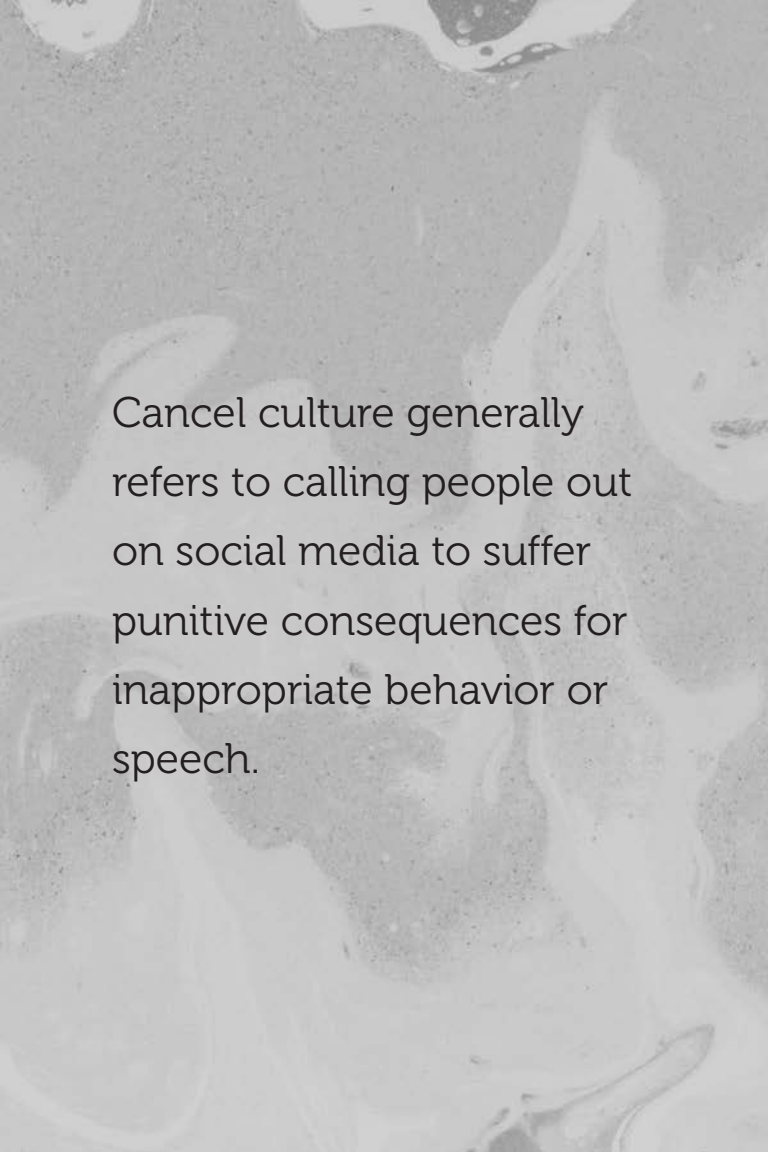
**YOU'RE
CANCELED**

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CANCEL CULTURE

People tend to see cancellation as either wholly good—there are new consequences for saying or doing racist, bigoted or otherwise untenable things—or wholly bad, in that people can lose their reputations and in some cases their jobs, all because a mob has taken undue offense to a clumsy or out-of-context remark. Personally, I think it's best viewed not as either positive or negative, but as something else: a new development in the way that power works—a development brought about by social media.

JONAH E. BROMWICH¹

WHAT IF THE WORST THING you'd ever done was filmed and then shared with millions of people online? What if thousands of strangers judged you based on that snippet of your life? In a time when smartphones can instantly broadcast our worst sins to the world, and when digging through someone's online dirt is as easy as typing a few keywords, the internet can be a strange and frightening place. This is the era of cancel culture, which generally refers to calling people out on social media to suffer punitive consequences for inappropriate behavior or speech. And it's got many people wondering, *"Is cancel culture a mob mentality, or a long overdue way of speaking truth to power?"*²



Cancel culture generally refers to calling people out on social media to suffer punitive consequences for inappropriate behavior or speech.



