

COVENANT — OVER — CANCEL CULTURE

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Summary

Building on David and Jonathan's covenant friendship in 1 Samuel, this message contrasts shallow fellowship with deep, God-ordained covenant relationships — and confronts the modern "cancel culture" instinct to cut people off at the first offense. Using Paul and Barnabas's sharp disagreement over John Mark (Acts 15) as a case study, the message shows that even the greatest spiritual leaders clashed and separated, yet were later restored to honor one another. The takeaway: offense is a poison we drink ourselves, and God calls His people to guard covenant relationships rather than throw them away over a single bad moment.

Top Points

1. **Covenant is deeper than friendship.** God's declaration that "man should not be alone" points beyond marriage to the need for covenant relationships — committed bonds within the body of Christ.
2. **Jonathan's covenant with David cost him everything** — his robe, armor, and rightful claim to the throne — modeling the selflessness real covenant requires.
3. **Fellowship can grow into covenant.** Like two "fellows" on a voyage, relationships deepen through shared time, communication, and bonded experience — but that voyage will always include storms.
4. **Cancel culture is a spiritual trap.** The quickness to cut people off at the first offense robs believers of the very relationships God intended as gifts.
5. **Even Paul and Barnabas had a sharp falling-out over John Mark** — proof that disagreement and hurt happen even among the godliest people.

6. **Restoration is possible after rupture.** Years later, Paul commends Mark as "profitable to me for the ministry" — showing reconciliation was real.
7. **Offense is self-inflicted poison.** Holding onto offense harms the offended person more than the offender.
8. **Wisdom distinguishes God removing someone from you removing yourself out of hurt or pride** — believers aren't given authority to simply cut people off.

Quotations

- *"Offense is like drinking poison and expecting them to get hurt... it really is hurting yourself."*
- *"You and I have no right to ever be offended at people."*
- *"Don't overlook or forget the good because of one bad moment."*
- *"A covenant friend is somebody that's not going to get offended or hurt if you forget a birthday."*
- *"Make sure it's God removing them and not you making the decision to remove (them)."*
- *"Fellowship is a union... but a fellowship is a group of people that can turn into covenant and go deeper."*
- *"[In covenant friendships] Now his fights have become my fights, and his victories have become my victories."*