

Word of the Great King | the gift of living under authority

Culture that Can't Cancel

Matthew 18:15-20

July 3, 2022

Introduction: We're rightly suspicious of authority. "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely," Lord Acton quips. But one day Jesus met a Roman soldier who understood the power of being under power. "I am a man under authority," he says, and because I am, "I say to one 'Go', and he goes." Maybe today we feel so impotent because we're so intent on throwing off authority and becoming our own. The Bible offers an alternative: to find the authority in our lives under the authority of a great King.

Prayer: Father thank you for being present with us. As we discuss your Word, guide us by your Holy Spirit to find peace with our brothers and sisters. Amen.

Review: What did God reveal to you this week about your identity in Him?

Read: Matthew 18:15-20

Discussion:

1. What sins, errors or mistakes trigger you to want to cancel someone or some organization?
2. What responsibility do we have toward a fellow believer who sins against us? How is this different than cancelling someone?
3. What is the purpose of confronting someone about the way they have harmed you? What is the outcome that God desires?
4. What does this passage say about confronting someone whose sin is not against you personally?
5. Where have you experienced successful or unsuccessful efforts at addressing harmful words or actions with others? What did you learn?

Application: In prayer this week ask the Lord to bring to mind a person or persons with whom you have some unreconciled feelings. Ask the Lord for guidance at working toward reconciliation.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that with your own blood you have opened the way for us to be reconciled with you despite our unworthiness. Help us to be reconciled with our brothers and sisters even though doing so is costly. Amen.