**From Cancel Culture to Reconciliation Culture: Win the Person, Not the Argument.**

One of my brothers is one of my favourite non-churchgoers. He was militantly against the Catholic Christian faith. When I came back to faith in my early twenties, I was determined to teach him the truth of the Catholic faith.

We argued many times over a few years.

In one of our many arguments, his friend told him: "stop being an idiot, of course God exists". My brother replied, "Ok, God probably exists..."

I was stunned. I was doing spiritual cartwheels. He just admitted God exists! He has to start believing now!

But then he said, "…But it doesn't mean I have to believe."

He was not really asking the question, "does God exist?"

He didn't want God to exist.

I realised I had to make him **want** God to exist first, through love.

All this time, I was trying to win the argument. Not the person.

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We live in a "cancel culture".

If someone thinks or says the wrong thing, does something we disagree with, or hurts us, the response is to de-platform them. Unfollow them. Block them. Stop speaking to them. Stop whatsapping them.

We need healthy boundaries. We need to feel safe.

At the same time, we need to move from a "Cancel culture" to a "Reconciliation Culture."

We need to stop trying to win the argument, but losing the person.

To win the person, through loving discussion.

Otherwise, darker forces might emerge.

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God wants humanity, you, me, and us, to move "**From a Cancel Culture to Reconciliation Culture."**

God wants to **"Win the Person, Not the Argument."**

He wants to win humanity, you, me, and us, today.

Through Jesus.

In this Mass.

To do so, Jesus teaches you, me, and us to:

**Go.**

**Talk.**

**Listen.**

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**Go** - Jesus says, "If your brother sins against you, **go**…"

You do not need to be perfect before you can come into a personal relationship with God.

God goes first.

God sent Jesus to die for you and me and us, while we were still wounded sinners.

If you feel like you are not worthy of God's love… join the club! Me too!

God **goes** to you in your unworthiness.

Is there someone in your life who has hurt you, you don't like, who you expect to make the next move?

**Go** first.

Still maintain necessary boundaries, for safety.

Even then: Pray for them, be polite, kind, smile.

**Go**. **Win the Person, Not the Argument.**

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**Talk** – "**tell** him his fault".

In Jesus, God speaks truth in love.

The truth is that you and I and we are wounded.

You and I are sinners. We do wrong.

Jesus came to call **sinners**.

Be honest to God with your wounds and sins.

God will reveal His love in a greater way.

If someone has hurt you, don't minimise your pain, or pretend it doesn't hurt.

Don't "cancel" them either.

Speak truth in love: when you said 'x' (e.g., you never help), it made me feel 'y' (e.g., angry/depressed because other people made me feel useless when younger). I'd appreciate instead it if you could say 'that you are feeling overwhelmed and would appreciate my help'.

**Talk. Win the Person, Not the Argument.**

**Listen** – "If he **listens** to you, you have gained your brother."

St Peter said, "Unload all you worries onto Him, because He cares for you."

God listens. God cares about you.

If you do something wrong, God does not want to win an argument.

He wants to win the person: you.

Listen to Him speak to you. Read the bible every day.

Challenge: Read the Sunday Gospel reading during the week next week.

When you speak the truth in love to someone, don't do so to condemn them.

Do so to **listen**.

Get curious.

Reaffirm your needs, if necessary.

**Listen. Win the Person, Not the Argument.**

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Friends, Jesus says if the brother does not listen, "let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

How did Jesus treat Matthew the tax collector?

Jesus didn't **cancel** him.

Jesus **reconciled** him to God.

Jesus didn't seek to **win an argument** against him.

Jesus **won the person**.

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Help humanity move "**from Cancel Culture to Reconciliation Culture."**

**"Win the Person, Not the Argument."**

- **Go (make the first move)**
- **Talk (truth in love)**
- **Listen (with curiosity not condemnation)**

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**Prayer**

Lord thank you that you do not cancel me.

You reconcile me to you through Jesus in this Mass.

Jesus, thank you that you do not come to win an argument.

But to win me back to God.

Jesus come into my heart.

Help me to **go**: make the first move to reconcile with others.

Help me to **speak** the truth with love.

Help me to **listen** to them.

Reconcile them to God through you too.

In Jesus name, amen!