

S01E02 Cancel Culture

SPEAKERS

Ray Abel, Peace Ike, Gretchen Hurd

Ray Abel 00:00

Hello, and welcome to research the news. This week's episode is brought to you by Samoa Girl Scout cookies. And the reason why it's brought to you by small girl scout cookies is that even though we're too new to actually have a sponsor, I for the first time ever, at a small Girl Scout Cookie this week, and what I found was that I absolutely loved them. So, until we are big enough to have real sponsors, we're just going to pick people we like. And that is what we're going to do for the first few weeks of research the news Alright, Gretchen Are you there with us? How are you? How are you? I'm doing well.

Gretchen Hurd 00:42

I heard alright. Samoas and I adjustments.

Ray Abel 00:47

What is your favorite? Uh, no, I'm not. I'm not great with Girl Scout Cookies again. It was my first time but what is your favorite Girl Scout cookie?

Gretchen Hurd 00:54

Then mints? 100%.

Ray Abel 00:57

All right. Is that what is that? What is I don't really know what they are. They're

Gretchen Hurd 01:00

what minty cookie covered in dark chocolate. How could I not move? That?

Ray Abel 01:05

Sounds good. All right. I'll try them out sometime. All right. Okay, so we had some interesting things happen after our first episode. Last week, I had one that was special to me. Gretchen, do you want to tell everyone what we had happened to us? Last week?

Gretchen Hurd 01:22

We had our first troll. Yes, exciting.

Ray Abel 01:26

So I know it was really exciting. And I'm actually pretty it made it right. When you have trolls, you've made it. Unfortunately, they've actually I think that's most of the internet at this point is just trolls. So it's not actually that great, unfortunately. But to give the quick background to everyone. We actually had on

our YouTube page, post the video and someone called us out for hating white people and hating ourselves. And I And he called us like angry self hating progressives. And I nicely explained to him that two of the three people on the episode were not progressive, and the one person that was made no jokes about how she hates herself. Yeah, and thanks. Yeah, yeah. And then he said, actually, like, Well, you were more nuanced than most progressives, but you still like a replace your jokes. And they're, they're racist. And it was like, I don't know, if you replace jokes with racist jokes are gonna be racist. But I actually tried to use as a teaching moment where I suggested that he come on the show and tell us where we were being, you know, self hating. And then he deleted the comment, which was pretty sad, because we had a nice little dialogue back and forth, I thought, but Oh, well. Something else that happened, we actually finished up our research the news.org and initial version of our Wikipedia page. So you can go there any of the articles we talked about on the show today, will be posted there. So you can do some research of the news that we're talking about. And it's also available through research news.com. And you can even go to research the dot news if you want to save a few clicks. So with that being said, we're gonna bring on our first guest here today. Pease, how are you?

Peace Ike 02:56

Hi, guys. Thanks for having me. I'm doing really well.

Ray Abel 02:59

Good. And you know what, we're so echo free right now. It's amazing. For those who are watching the live stream, we're we're back now we got the audio problems fixed for anyone listening to the podcast, you missed 17 minutes of terrible footage. So lucky for you, if you're listening to the day after and not one of our hardcore supporters. You missed all the fun, but so and I actually now that we already did one version of this, I feel like I was proud before because I told piece that I wanted to introduce her and I actually had most of the details, right? Unfortunately, now, it just looks like I've pre planned this, but um, do you want to do the intro again? Or would you like to do your own intro?

Peace Ike 03:35

Why don't you go for it again.

Ray Abel 03:39

So piece is I was born in Pittsburgh. That's where I met her. So much better off the cuff than I am planning things. I'm gonna give it over T

Peace Ike 03:56

Yeah, thanks for having me. So I although I wasn't born in Pittsburgh, I am from Pittsburgh. So raised in Pittsburgh, went to school in Pittsburgh, and that's kind of Ray we both went to University of Pittsburgh and kind of ran in some of the same circles. I was doing some music out there with some other musicians and I think some of them were friends of Ray and, and that way we were connected. And then now I live in Philadelphia Ray still in Pittsburgh, but I think just we've distantly kind of kept in touch and kept an eye on on each other social media pages and, and things like that. So by trade by day, I'm a physical therapist, that's what I do for a living. And on the side, I do music part time and I also do a lot of community community mobilization, I would call it and just I have a have a community space that I run out of my house and we do all sorts of fun things to bring people together. So

Ray Abel 04:49

that's awesome. And I actually like that you change it in my initial one. I actually said that I stalked her on Facebook posts, which sounds much worse than we kept tabs on each other. Yeah. So that was a much better way of putting it. So thank you for even though I just throw myself under the bus again, so totally okay. So today we want to talk about canceled culture virtue signaling. And what I'm going to do is we're going to start out we're going to pull up the there's a post that piece made about a week and a half ago that I really resonated with. And Gretchen wasn't really a huge fan of apparently I didn't, I didn't know this until we do here. Yeah, but we do here in the show, as we want to have different ideas, we want to be able to talk to each other. And so before we do that, we always want to talk about our biases. So basically, PCE had a post that you can actually check out on research news.org, if you go there, the link is available. I'm also going to just throw it up here, so you can see what it's all about. She was frustrated, and I'm gonna let her explain it better than I am. But basically, it was frustrated about some of the things were happening with media and people attacking each other and not being able to talk openly. The thing that really stuck out to me was number five, which says I'm sick of people no longer having honest conversations out of fear. And there's a list of 17 here. And so you can check that out on the page. But I think number five, like I said, really resonated with me and something I wanted to talk about. So before we get into it, a game we play here piece is what's your bias, since you're the new person here, Gretchen, I'll go first. But we want to do is we're going into these conversations, we want to let our listeners know where we are biased. And if we agree, if we disagree, if there's anything we want to just point out just to show that we all have biases, and they're okay to have them as long as you're aware of them and are okay with changing them once you get new, better information. So I'll start off by saying that I again, I agreed with most of the posts here, if not all of it. I'm very frustrated by the idea of canceled culture and the idea of people being shut down just for having different ideas. And I think that's, we're gonna define what canceled culture means before we get into the questions for each of us. But I'm actually I'm biased in the sense of I'm pro pro peace. Oh, I never. Come on. I'm on Team piece here. So, Richard, well, who's your bias going into? I

Gretchen Hurd 07:14

think, well, I like a lot of people. I think when we read text, we tend to put our own spin on what we're reading. And I think when I read your posts, that's what was happening for me. I think a lot of people when they read text, they tend to either read into more than what the writer was trying to get across. Or they can misconstrue, you know, what was being read? So I think for right now, the way I read it is I was reading it with an inflection that I I think that's where my questions are gonna come from. But I think my, my bias is that I don't really think I you know, there's there's different versions of canceled culture. And we're going to talk about that. And I think, yeah, when I critically think about canceled culture, and the way it's kind of, it's like a buzzword right now. And so whenever it comes up, I could I'm more critical of it. And I, I wonder how much of it is personal responsibility. So that's what kind of my bias comes from. And I kind of want to give people the benefit benefit of the doubt before I do you know what I mean? So that's where it's coming from. Totally cool.

Ray Abel 08:24

piece. And, obviously, you're gonna be the most biased here since it's your post. But if there's anything you want to say about Kancil culture in general, or if you want to explain your post better than I did,

because I was just recapping, but you know, much better than I do anything you want to say before we get started on the questions. Feel free to throw them out there now.

Peace Ike 08:41

Yeah. Yeah, generally speaking, I mean, everything that I kind of feel on this topic, I did kind of throw into that post, and I'm sure we'll dive into it. But certainly, I think that it's been a growing, growing frustration of mine, just to see how the tone of my conversations with others has changed over the last year. Specifically Year Of course, it's been this way for a little while longer than that. But um, yeah, when when it really hit me, we do a series out of out of out of the gathering place, which is my organization called dinner and discussion. We do those every month on Thursday nights, we have everyone bring a dish and we sit down together and we talk about really heated topics, everyone pulls the topic out of the hat and they just they're so rich. Well, we did one in the height of the election season. And then it was like, it flopped. Like no one was no one was on like no one felt safe enough to be honest. And I remember leaving that night so frustrated and so dissatisfied. So that kind of goes into where all of my frustrations come from so yeah,

Ray Abel 09:47

yeah, I think so I think going into it I think I'm obviously that's why we restarted This podcast was I'm very frustrated with not being able to talk and, and in general, I think virtue signaling that which is also there kind of two things that are Often interlinked. And so what I, when I looked when I was looking up the definitions, like I like to do in the actual dictionary, I found a good, good what I think is a good definition of virtue signaling. But I also want to get our definitions of canceled culture because I think that's different things to different people. So just quickly here, I'm going to go over what I read his virtue signaling. For people who may not have heard may not have heard that term before or may not be familiar with it who's listening, I'm going to give my brief interpretation of what it is. And virtue signaling is, according to the dictionary, the action or practice of publicly expressing opinions or sentiments intended to demonstrate one's good character or the moral correctness of one's position on a particular issue. And I think the key to me in that definition is that it says one's good character, or the moral correctness of their position. And I think one of the things I want to talk about is, where does that moral compass come from? Because if we have a culture that's cancelling based off a moral compass, what is that moral compass? So we'll get into that later. That's one of my questions. Yes. But basically, for a dumbed down version. And correct me if you think I'm wrong here, things like wearing a maga hat would fall into the lines of moral correctness of one's position. So you're saying like automatically, you look at someone in the Magga hat, and you can kind of read into what they believe, or on the flip side, someone who's posting, like, during, during the Floyd things that happened this summer and BLM protests, they had that black square that people would post their Facebook picture, and it was showing that you cared about black lives. And if he didn't have that post, then it was kind of assumed in a lot of ways that you just didn't care about black lives, or you saw no issues. And so it's kind of here's what I believe in, here's what I stand for. I'm going to make it very public. So everyone can see how good of a person I am. And it doesn't doesn't fall into one spectrum. It can be liberal, conservative, moderate, all kinds of different things. So any, any additions to that? subtractions, you want to tell me I'm totally wrong. Feel free to do that as well.

Peace Ike 11:54

Yeah, I think you nailed it. Yeah, that's exactly how I see it.

Gretchen Hurd 11:58

I would go even further, though, because it's more, there are different levels of it. I think that's kind of the part. The part that I'm having a problem with it is it's a buzzword right now. So people are saying virtue signaling is this bad thing. But it's something we do constantly. Like we do it constantly. Like we do it subconsciously, too. So it's like, you are going to change the way you talk to somebody and say things differently, and even bring up different things to different people. So every you know, we were talking about that Ray and I were actually talking about this. And whenever, when we were talking about like, why do we do it in we're pack animals. And we're we want to be part of something that's bigger than ourselves. So I think we virtual sit we you know, we virtue signal to be accepted. And so yeah, so whenever we look at like, you know why people are doing it? I think that's where the gray area is.

Peace Ike 12:53

Mm hmm. Yeah. And you don't know you don't really know someone's intentions. Yeah. Easy. The loop everyone into the same category. Right? Yeah, right. Yeah.

Ray Abel 13:03

Well, peace. And I think, I think why don't you give us your definition of the Kancil culture, and then just kind of jump in? Because one of the things you just said that I'll throw in there that I don't know, actually, I was going to Google this term. But as I was thinking about it today, I thought of virtue projecting should also be a term because I think it's not just signaling. So if someone for example, is wearing a maggot hat, you also project onto that person, what your belief system, so it's not it goes two ways where you're signaling hey, look, I'm wearing a maggot hat. People are assuming different things, whether if it's someone agrees, I like yeah, it's a patriot, and they love America. And if it's someone who's liberal, they're tending to think, well, that's a racist, and they hate, you know, they hate anyone doesn't look like them. And so there's all this projecting that happens that I don't know if that's actually a term. If not, I think it should be, but it's something that we do so right,

Peace Ike 13:47

yeah. When you say virtue projecting, are you talking more about your interpretation of what someone's doing? So it's more of like, a, you know, with virtue signaling might be active, whereas virtue virtue? Objection, projection might might be I guess, more passive or internal? Is that kind of what you're saying?

Ray Abel 14:05

I mean, you're you're you're giving a better definition than I am. So yeah, that's, this is still an unformed thought. For me. It just kind of counts. I think what you're saying is right on. So if you see that, yeah, you may not yell at that person, or you may not, but you automatically assume a lot of things. Yeah. Yeah. And I think that's initially started out pretty small. Like, I mean, there's big things if you're, you know, if you're wearing a maggot hat, for example, that's a big thing, but then it kind of reached out into well, who did you vote for? And what are you listening to and what TV shows you watch? And it's like, if you watch a certain show, you might be considered someone who is liberal or conservative based on if,

if someone watches Sean Hannity or Rachel Maddow, you probably think, Oh, well, that person is, you know, conservative liberal based on that could be someone who just wants to be informed, but you are putting your projections on that person, whether you say it or not, and saying, All right, well, this person is a flaming liberal or a racist, conservative or whatever word you want to use. And just to be clear to our listeners, I am not saying that that's everyone. That's not my terms for it. I'm saying what exactly as projected upon it. So is that part of your frustrations you had when you went to this post that you put out there? And what are your some of your frustrations with virtue signaling Kancil culture in general? And maybe what a definition is for you?

Peace Ike 15:13

Yeah, you know, I'm, I don't have as much of a problem with formulating opinions about other people. Because the thing is, as much as it's, it's a nasty thing to do, we all do it. And I think that's a part of human nature is that we all have our preconceived notions, we all have our stereotypes or judgments. And part of being a responsible human is knowing when to keep those internal and not actually allow those to then influence how you then treat that person that you have those judgments against, and also allowing yourself time to be proven wrong. But that's a lost art now. So we're a very reactive society where now we make those judgments. And then without even giving that person an opportunity to explain or justify or whatever where they stand, we then enact a response. And that's what we got wrong. We've gone wrong. But yeah, so for me for for me virtue signaling, or is it Kancil culture? You wanted me to define more? Define?

Ray Abel 16:09

Because I think that's I think we kind of talked about virtue signaling now, just kind of what your definition of Kancil culture is, because I think that means to ask different people, some people don't, yeah, some people think it's overbearing, right?

Peace Ike 16:19

Yeah. For me, Kancil culture is enacting a punishment on somebody who's committed, something that you would deem a crime or a wrong, but the point that punishment is devoid of the opportunity for redemption. So almost like a capital punishment, you know, death, cultural death, a cultural death. And I think that removing the opportunity for someone to redeem themselves, is like one of the worst sins you can do. Like, if you're telling someone you're beyond, you are beyond help. There's nothing more we have no use for you. You're stripping someone of their humanity. I think so. That's what I think that canceled culture is so dangerous. Yeah. Yeah.

Ray Abel 17:11

I was just gonna add to that, I think that that's the without redemption part. That's a tough thing, because we do it in the court of public opinion. And oftentimes, we don't have all the facts. And when I say right, just society in general. And then the problem is, even if other facts come out, people are already set in their ways. And it's like, well, no, but that that person is clearly a terrible person, but it may not be true. And I will just say on a side note. I am so glad we didn't have like Facebook and Snapchat when I was like 20 years old, because like, oh my god,

Gretchen Hurd 17:36

first of all, I went to college, I would just

Peace Ike 17:40

do it. I don't know. World. Yeah,

Ray Abel 17:44

I feel so bad for the kids coming up now. Because like, I mean, you know, I do I do watch some tic TOCs and Instagram lives. And I'm like, Well, that's good. Well, so yeah, I interrupted you guys.

Gretchen Hurd 17:54

Um, well, I was gonna ask so I think the the big thing for like, the canceled culture is like another like it word right now cancel called right? I think, right? It's like this, like, swell of outrage about two separate things. So there's canceled culture, which is like what you said, like such a person that specifically as being like, dealt with in a way that that divides them of their humanity, and like, it ruins their life, basically, because they made a bad decision, or said something stupid or whatever. But then canceled culture is also being used in more corporate senses. So like Mr. Potatohead, and Dr. Seuss, and that kind of do you feel that those are two separate issues? And or do you feel that they are both canceled culture? Just in different ways? I guess is my question.

Peace Ike 18:45

Yeah, I think there are two different forms of canceled culture. I think that really anything where you're eliminating the use or purpose for something, whether it's, that thing can be used to teach a lesson, that thing can be used to educate us that then can be used to help us see our wrongs. So we don't commit it again. Or whether it's a person giving them the opportunity, as I was saying, to redeem them be valuable. Again, I think both are different forms of canceled culture, and not that you don't have the right I think, I honestly think they're both I disapprove of both, but I do think that canceling people is more damaging than canceling literature or TV shows, you know, are those types of things because, you know, people are fragile and I think they need to be dealt with fragile, you know, people people are, they're hurt easily. And I think that we should never throw someone away the damage that that can do. And I've seen, and I think maybe I speak from this place of compassion because I've seen it happen to people in my own circle, and I know that oh my gosh, it took them to like lows of depression and things like that and Are we just have to deal kindly with one another? I think. So. Yeah. I didn't think that something's that Yeah. Oh, God. Good. Well, I was saying that I think that sometimes also the punishment doesn't always fit the crime. I mean, we have situations like Harvey Weinstein, Bill Cosby, we know that those are people who are dangerous to society and need to be removed, because of what they are doing or what they have done. And then you have someone who just expressed an opinion, that may be offended some people, but we have the same punishment, something doesn't seem something's very off about that. Yeah.

Ray Abel 20:38

I think it's, um, and this is I think we got a lot of side tendons here. I'm gonna make this quick. But I will say I actually did an episode about Bill Cosby on the last version of this podcast. And I said in there, I think that growing up, I'm not a celebrity guy in general, I don't really care what most celebrities think. But there were two celebrities I really had a lot of respect for and I was Mr. Rogers, and Bill Cosby. And

so when that happened, I was like, oh, no, like, come on. This can't be true. And I didn't want to, but it seems like it's unfortunately true. But it was were two amazing people. That was really disappointing to see. But I think what you're saying that is exactly right. And what I think, you know, there was a an anchor on the news this week that made the comment that was actually kind of funny and said, I can't believe as a grown man who has spent his life trying to get into journalism and get on the air and is now as a natural national audience. I am talking about the genitals of a toy potato. And I just think this is absolutely ridiculous. And so, like you said, I think a lot of times, there's things like that, that don't really affect people. And I never really thought of it that way before making that difference in two different kinds of canceled cultures. But it is much more difficult when it's a person and if you look at the history of recent canceled culture, people, it's it's amazing how many people kind of skirt by and you look at someone like Bill Clinton, who, you know, I think he was an amazing politician, which is how he's got through all of this, no matter what you think about him as a person, politician wise. He's one of the greatest in history, because he's been able to skate by with almost no repercussions. But if he did that today, I mean, I, I'd be interested to see what the reaction would

Peace Ike 22:02

be. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. And

Ray Abel 22:05

I think Gretchen, you had a question, though, you said there was some things in the post that seemed to maybe conflict with each other? I want to talk about that a little bit, because I didn't necessarily agree with the way you were saying it, but I want to see pieces. Pick it up here. Look at it again. While you're looking that up, I would actually there's I think one thing that's kind of a weird overlap piece, though, with some Kancil culture of things versus people. I'm just gonna bring this up in this example is something that happened recently. Lando lakes butter. Are you familiar with Lando likes butter? At all? Yeah. Is that it's rap? Yeah. They used to have a female Indian chief or a Chief Chief? Oh, yes.

Peace Ike 22:47

Yes. On the on the Yeah. The container? Well, they

Ray Abel 22:51

apparently got rid of that Indian woman about a year ago. And it's one of those things that gets interesting where it starts bringing in today's situations with actual, with logos and people in the past with people from today because the guy who actually did I do a little research into the the logo was a guy named Patrick Patrick, Dr. Les and he was an Ojibwe American Indian artist. And wow, what he wanted to do his goal in life and his son said this in an article about it, which is also linked on research, the news.org. His son said after after the labels removed, he said his dream was to teach non Indian people about the beauty and dignity of the Ojibwe traditions. And that's one of the things gets tricky, because it's a bunch of people that are not Native Americans are not indigenous Americans. And they're saying, Hey, this is an offensive thing. And they're removing it a son of the guy who created a saying his whole goal in life. I think it's Wisconsin, there's a whole exhibit of the work that Patrick days Ray has done. And we're just erasing it from history because we as someone who is, I'm guessing a white person said this is offensive, and we're gonna get rid of it. And that's where it starts crossing

lines. Now, this guy who was very proud of his father just saw his father's history of race, which is a tough thing to see. So

Peace Ike 24:07

totally. Yeah, yeah. I don't know if we want to go back to what Gretchen was going to talk about. Yeah, I honestly, you know, in my for my experience as a African American, but I it's I'm also I'm, I'm a child of immigrants. So I'm first generation Nigerian American. So I kind of have a perspective from two different sides being black in America and also being a child of immigrants. But, you know, I have these conversations with my parents and sometimes this is the honest truth. We laugh at a lot of this, because we just say to ourselves, we're not concerned about this stuff. Like my parents, you know, honestly, my parents came over to the US almost 40 years ago from Nigeria, and when they hear about Dr. Seuss book, a Dr. Seuss book being canceled. And I know that you know, the term is it's not really canceled. But whatever. Right. And one of the reasons is that the character who was who was Black was wearing a skirt made of was it like a grass skirt? Yeah. Like, do they know that Africans were grass skirts like? A lot of this because they, they they see America as and I don't mean to generalize everybody, obviously we never want to do that. Right? Yeah. But they see a lot of American culture as very. I'm trying to think of a kind word. Like, they're like, they'll grow a pair. And also, it's like, if anyone is gonna have an issue with it, let it be us. If we don't have an issue with it. Why do you have an issue with it? And that's not everybody, right? No, I mean, but yeah,

Ray Abel 25:54

well, I think that stuff and I mean, even going past that, like this, this just happened yesterday. This is a this is the newest breaking cancel culture, apparently. And I just learned this new fun fact this week, Speedy Gonzalez from the Looney Tunes. Are you guys familiar with Speedy Gonzales, he's the mouse for Mexico. They started a trend on Twitter to cancel Speedy Gonzalez because he's offensive to Mexicans. They said that it meant he was lazy. And he had this really thick accent. And I didn't realize how big of an icon Speedy Gonzales is and Mexican culture. And so they were like no, they he's basically outsmarting these other people. And like he's

Gretchen Hurd 26:29

ran so fast. How could he be lazy was a lazy? Yeah,

Ray Abel 26:33

apparently, in general. That's the theory. And so basically, people are like, no, if you come after speedy, we're coming after you. It was a big thing on Twitter yesterday, but it's the thing we have to go back to it's a bunch of people that are interpreting for other people. What's wrong? And I think that goes back to the question of where does this morality come from? And who is the arbiter of? Well, okay, Speedy Gonzalez is offensive. Is it people who are actually Mexican? Or is it people who see that as a bad character caricature? And also, at what level? Does it become something that is cancelable. And I think, when you look at things like the Washington football team, that also there's a guy named Walter Wetzel was a former Blackfeet tribal chairman and past president of the National Congress of American Indians, who designed the logo for the Redskins was supposed to honor the culture. And at one point, there was a survey that like 86, or 80% of Native Americans weren't offended at all by the the logo, but a bunch of other people were and they said, That's offensive, get rid of it. But it's one of those things to

me. And this is probably a bigger issue. And we probably want to get to some questions after this. That I have here. But one of the things that it reminds me of, it's like, we now have the Washington football team, so the Redskins name is erased. We don't hear it anymore. If you say it, you're considered racist. But we still have terrible conditions and reservations in America. It's like, it reminds me of when George Bush was in front of that mission accomplished sign during the Iraq War, and that aircraft carrier like two years into the war, but then it was basically saying, we're done. We already fixed this. And here we are, 20 years later, and we're still there. It's like, okay, we're gonna solve the problem of this racist logo, which if it is racist, and it's offensive, okay, let's get rid of it. But when it comes down to it, we still have these actual real problems in American American Indian culture, and we don't really talk about them. It's not a forefront issue. We don't talk about that terrible, the the level of alcoholism, the lack of proper schooling, what happened on the Trail of Tears, all these bad things, but we solved the logo problem.

Gretchen Hurd 28:30

So I think it can be like, you know, talk all about small victories. You know what I mean? Like, it's a small step, it but it's a step. I mean, even though some people might not have been, I don't I understand what you're saying, though, about, like, why don't we talk to the people who are actually affected by it. But when you're looking at a sports team, Dr. Seuss enterprises, Mr. Potatohead, whoever makes Mr. Potato Head, those are free market companies that are making decisions for their companies based on their bottom line and based on public opinion. So what they do is what they want to do, if they don't want to change their product, they're not going to and, and, you know, Dr. Seuss books have jumped, they have skyrocketed in price, you know, people have been buying them like crazy. So it's like, that might have been a calculator, who knows? It might have calculated, you know, decision on their mark, because they, you know, I don't know, who knows, right. I'm not trying to make an accusation. But you know, it's like, you think like, there could be totally more reasons for why people make the decisions that they do. Like, there's some virtue signaling, you know, so

Peace Ike 29:38

I wonder about that. Like, what, what decisions go into that and it because I think that a lot of times when when corporations and businesses do that, where they kind of call themselves out, you know, where we don't like we're gonna change this about ourselves. I think it's a preventative measure, because I feel like that in this society, where it's almost like Like, they're they're on the lookout, you know, we're Oh, yeah to at first Yeah. be called out call yourself out. Yep. So I think that that in a way I don't when people say, Oh, well, it's not really canceled they did it to themselves. I don't think that holds a lot of bearing if indeed that's what's going on because it's still societal pressure. Sure that's leading them to make that decision if that's what happened. Sure. So sure.

Ray Abel 30:23

I think it's one of those things where like the two examples you used, or that I use that you were talking about, I don't have a problem with the Dr. Seuss organization getting rid of it. I'm a free market guy. I think that's fine. Right. But yeah, it's weird to see that eBay is banning the sale of those books, but they're not sales.

Gretchen Hurd 30:39

I saw them but

Ray Abel 30:41

Amazon did, but they're still selling mine comp, eight of Hitler's book. So it's like one of those things where like, yeah, okay, so you can sell a book by Adolf Hitler. But Dr. Seuss is now not a lot. And it's, it's the level that they're going after this is just it's strange to me. And I and I think it becomes an untenable situation. Because when you talked about the Redskins, that wasn't really a free market decision in my mind. Because there were protests we are going to cancel I mean, the

Gretchen Hurd 31:04

deal are still gonna go to football games, they're not going to stop.

Ray Abel 31:08

But it causes an untenable situation in the sense of like, now that he did get rid of the logo, the logo, and the name, there are a lot of people that are upset at him because he caved, and he caved to the canceled culture. And then there's people are like, Yeah, we won. But at the core of it, like there was no real, no real way out of it. And even when you read even before this all happen, the news, blogs, the sports blogs, a lot of them only call it the Washington football team. They refuse to say Redskins, and they call it racist. And it's interesting, because I mean, I'd like to your opinion on this piece. We kind of joked I think Greta and I were talking and you look at something like that Notre Dame Fighting Irish logo, and it's this drunk leprechaun with his ugly beard, and he's balding. And I'm Irish. I think it's, I mean, whatever. He's making fun of our culture. And that's like, okay, to me, but again, I think this is my question to you piece is, where does this moral code come from? And I'm gonna ask you the same question Gretchen after but I think when we talk about this, it's like, what is offensive? To some people? What's the level that has to be offensive is everything you can find a fence and pretty much anything in society? So if we are going to this level, if it's offensive, get rid of it? What is that? What does that barrier? And where does that code of offense come from? And I'd like to ask that to your first piece.

Peace Ike 32:22

Yeah. So I think that there's a lot of things in society that can be found offensive. I mean, you could probably be offended by everything from an attack on the wall if you really wanted to. But But I think that the question is, does it serve a greater agenda? And that's another hot topic word. Alright. So I know you know, but right now there is a real Okay, another hot topic word woke right. There's a whole woke ism agenda. And you're talking to someone I told this to Ray the other day, I am recently conservative minded. I mean, I got this tattoo. And it's a it's a scale and across as a as a Sukkot to you too, when Donald Trump got elected, because I was like, because I was so offended that Christians that would vote for Trump that was a Don't you know that Jesus stands for justice. It Trump is anti justice. I'm getting attached to that. Yeah. So when I say that I'm now a conservative, you have to realize like this, like something changed. So I say that all that to say that there is a real agenda of like, I'll call it woke ism, that involves everything that you guys talked about last last episode, were critical race theory, and writing a lot of wrongs, which do need to be righted. History does need to be told accurately. So I think that the the foundation of the movement of all of this is so good, but you can ruin a good thing by taking it too far. And so where does that where does that come from? I think right now that we are only responding to things that are offensive if they fall in line with that specific agenda. And that's why no one's doing anything about my incomes. And that's why no one's doing anything about

the Irish drunk, bald guy with a big belly. And you know, that goes on to just two days ago, I was watching a different world. And I don't know if you guys know about that show back. Spin Off The Cosby Show, right? Yeah, definitely. So like late, early 90s, late 80s. I forget exactly where it was. But

Ray Abel 34:37

myself, so I've seen it in reruns. We'll say that.

Peace Ike 34:42

So it was a marathon I forget what station? I watched about four episodes in a row. And can I tell you that in each episode, there was something very sexist that was said by a male to a woman like girl go go go make my breakfast or something very you know Justin joke jokingly but Still would never fly like should never fly in, though in the world we're living in, right? Is anyone gonna try to pull a different world? What do you guys think? Now, you know why? Because it's black television. And this is where the double bias comes in. Because that doesn't serve the agenda. Eliminating black television is not on the agenda. And this is where we have an issue, because we can't just say it's offensive, if it affects this person, that person, that person, that person, but it's not offensive, if it serves the agenda we want. And I have a real issue with that.

Ray Abel 35:29

And I want to come back to you Gretchen for your your, where the moral code comes from. But I think two things that you said piece that really resonated with me. Number one, when you said history doesn't need to be told. And I think that's important because we we talked last week in the show, and I brought up a quote that basically someone was saying you can't change history, you can't make it better, you can only learn from it. But if you erase it, you can't learn from it, you can't grow. And I think that's so important to do. And we're trying to just anything that's bad, let's get rid of it. But I think the the second part there when you're talking about, like it doesn't fit the agendas I what I like about you and you say you kind of went to being a conservative person, you seem to have the mindset of what I think a conservative person this mode is, I don't want anything canceled. I hate Nazism. I hate the idea that people could think that white, white racist, white supremacist scream to the black race, there's a lot of things out there. Now that black race is superior. There's all these things, we're worse period because of our race only. And there's so many things I don't like and I'm just I hate hearing. But I think we should be fighting to be able to hear it because again, where that moral code comes from right now, it may be okay to talk like this. But in the future, if we kind of cave to the idea that you have to only go with what's socially acceptable, and you have to start limiting what you say, to meet those standards, that becomes a standard that can adjust to and from. And I think that's the problem, I have been with conservatives that they come back and say, well, let's go cancel this person. And it's like, oh, here, we're going to show you we'll do the same thing to someone from your end. And it's like, with Andrew Cuomo, for instance, you know, he has some serious sexual allegations against him, I think they should be investigated. And if they're true, he should be either tried civilly, or tried from a legal perspective, from a criminal instance. But it's at the core of it. What I hope for him is that he has a fair trial, just like I hope for anybody because I think that's the thing. And there's so many people that I've seen, say, alright, well go get him because that's what happened to Brett Kavanaugh. And it's Well, great. Like you complain about it, then you should be complaining about it. Now, if that happens, and that's the issue I have with, you know, what if we just kind of step aside and say we're gonna go attack that other side? So

Gretchen, do you think that is a? Where does that moral code come from? So when you think something is offensive, where does that come from? For you? Like, are you are you bringing that from? What society is saying what you know, from talking to people kind of where do you say, Alright, I'm going to get up, I'm going to get frustrated. Not sorry, that seems very patronizing. I'm going to rephrase that. And I apologize. What I'm saying is, if you see something you're offended by, what is it typically that makes you offended by that thing?

Gretchen Hurd 38:01

Um, I feel like, okay, there's multiple plays, places that it's coming from, I think my main, it's more of a gut. I, it's a feeling of uneasiness. And when I, I'm somebody who does not like confrontation, so when I feel confrontation coming on, I can get re I can shut down. And whenever I see things that have to do with race, or gender, or someone being mistreated, or someone being misrepresented that uneasiness comes in to me and I think it's my empathy. Quite honestly, I think I'm we were talking about this last episode, I'm, I have like a really high empathy. Thanks mom a lot. Um, but I, I feel a lot and so and you know, they they joke a lot like liberals are really like, just bleeding hearts, and we're all like, just all about feelings. But for me, it really is, I really have a lot of emotion when it comes to seeing people in hurt situations and stuff like that. So I often look to people and and try to hear what their feelings are. And I not that I take on their, their emotions and their their concerns, but I listen to them. And I think I take on some of that feeling from from them. So I think that's just really where a lot of it comes from.

Ray Abel 39:27

So with that being said, that's the problem that I have, oftentimes with going based off of feelings because when you're going based off of feelings, if one person is and that's what I've heard even about, like the situation with the Redskins if one person is offended, then that's too much. Yeah. And to me, that's not really a great way to think about it. Because if one person was offended by anything, and we had to cancel it, everything is canceled this exciting. Yeah, I think a lot Well my question would be like, what what level is it and then we haven't talked about this before, but like, what is it so the gut feeling that went and helped me If I'm if I'm looking at like, Okay, this is something that's happening because you know, 20% of people 50% doesn't have to be a number, but what level does it get to the point where you're like, I'm uncomfortable enough to say, Dr. Seuss should be gone or the Redskins should be gone, whatever it may be, or this person who did something should be gone. What what is what makes that switch to you are you're uncomfortable with it, and you just feel for that person versus I want to get rid of

Gretchen Hurd 40:22

that. I can't even quantify that. It's just because there's so many different situations. I think when it comes to like the football team, it's like, why is it even called that? Like, I never understood. I mean, even when I was a kid, I was like, there's a football team called the Redskins really like when I was a kid. So it's like, getting older and then having people go, this isn't okay. And I'd be like, Okay, I always kind of thought it wasn't okay. I mean, I went to a school that the mascot was the Raider. But it was a chiefs head. Like it didn't make any sense. Like the logo didn't make any sense. But I mean, and, you know, we did things I was telling Ray about it, too, we had a conversation about this, um, we did like an Indian dance where we like, did the whole thing, and everybody's doing the tomahawk chop, and they got rid of a lot of it, you know, over the years, but they still do the dance. And they, you know, it's so

there's still elements of it that exist, but they, I think it's like, whenever you get to the point where you can make a conscious decision that it's okay to say we're wrong, and to change. Like, I feel like that's what people are afraid to say that they're wrong.

Ray Abel 41:23

Well, I would say one thing, I'm just gonna jump in, because one of the things you brought up was interesting. You said, I don't even know where that came from, why they would be okay saying the Redskins. So

Gretchen Hurd 41:32

they were the that they had made the logo based on which I didn't know that as a kid, though, like,

Ray Abel 41:38

well, so that was in like 72 or 78, that they changed that logo. But initially, they were the Boston Braves. So football teams used to move around a lot, actually. football history is one of my grandfather had a book about pro football history that we read together. And I love pro football history. But they were the Boston Braves and they moved to Washington and the owner at the time had a coach who was Native American. And so when they moved, he still wanted to keep the American Indian theme, but he wanted to avoid because there are some other Braves around like baseball teams and other places. So he changed it to the Redskins to honor the coach. So initially, even back then it was as an honor to someone on the team. And then when they redid the logo back in the 1970s, it was done with tribal chief and someone who was very involved and was on the National Tribal Council. So that's where it gets tricky for me. It's like, I hear you and like yeah, there's a there's a there's that saying that I actually hate because I feel like it automatically shuts down conversation. But it's the whole facts don't care about feelings or facts don't care about feelings. Well, in this I actually am I do care about feelings. I do care people are hurt. But I think part of it is just we get so upset. We get this mob going and like the Redskins are bad. And then you don't look at why they were actually formed in the first place. I wonder

Gretchen Hurd 42:47

why we don't have more conversations like critical thinking conversations, because it's like something comes out like that. Why isn't there a huge campaign by the company saying this is why we do this, like Lando likes talking about that.

Peace Ike 43:00

Because yeah, I was just getting it gets censored. There's so much information out there where and not even just information there are people there people do come combat that I guess fake news. I don't know. It's weird to use fake news in that frame of mind.

Ray Abel 43:18

80% of the listeners who just stopped listening. We just got demonetized.

Peace Ike 43:28

Like two years ago, these used to just be words. Yeah. Carry such weight. Can't they just go back to being words but anyways, right. But yeah, but And it even regardless of the fact that there, there are

news, there's information with it with a spin. I mean, every every every new source has a spin these days this way, it's whether you're on the right whether you're on the left, yeah, but it's really hard to wade through the opinion, the public opinion to get to the history. Yeah, cuz even now, like history is not coded and opinion, you don't get to formulate your own opinion. It's so hard to form an opinion. Yeah, anymore.

Ray Abel 44:07

And that's what we hope to do here is dig a little deeper and that's the thing like I you know, as a as the progressive co host here, I want to hear your thoughts about like, why I should be thinking more about the feelings behind things. But the goal is to get some of these these facts out. And I think that's the problem I have, like, when you look at the history of Aunt Jemima, there's like a debate in history. That's the thing where you try to find I've heard stories that she was a former slave who was at a National Fair promoting pancakes and then became like the first and Jemima character was set for life. And you know, she had really enjoyed the role and there's some interesting things that you can kind of pull from that. And then I've also heard that's not true and she died penniless. And it's like, I just want to know the truth of it. I think that like, if I mean I think that's one of those things where going back to what you said though, where you talk about feeling uncomfortable. Like when I look at the when I look at a lot of things that are canceled, I go. Okay, that doesn't seem that bad to me. Or like, I look and see the people are actually defending and like the Speedy Gonzales thing. But like Aunt Jemima, that was always one that it felt a little weird to me. Like, I don't know why it's like one of those things where I just, but I think that's where we have to have a real discussion about it, it's funny that we have to have a real discussion about a pancake spokesperson. But if there is actual pain being caused from that, and if there's a history, and it's a racist caricature, like I'm not for getting rid of it, but what I don't trust is that we're actually having honest conversations about these things that aren't biased, because I mean, even just something simple, like the Redskins football team, like the news, sports, you I think the assumption would be that if you're reading sports websites, they're probably these men that are just conservative, and they're just like, the old school, you know, we we hate that they're changing. But every pretty much every article I read was, we need to change us, we need to change us. And that shows like how prevalent you know, the liberal viewpoints are in the media. And that doesn't mean they're wrong. If it actually is offensive, let's talk about it. But let's get to the truth of what it is.

Gretchen Hurd 46:03

I agree with that. 100% I don't think that, you know, we shouldn't be getting rid of things that people you know, if it's a like the antivirus stuff, you know, things like that. But I think like whenever you're looking at canceled culture, in the sense of like, the the lens that we're looking at it through, whenever you we have to differentiate what is actually canceled culture and what is holding people accountable for their actions. Do you know what I mean? So even like just thinking about, if somebody is coming out, and they're really doing some awful crap, yeah, we should probably, you know, that's the capitalism in our country, we should be able to make the choice to not support or support. But even then, it's like going back to Dr. Seuss. Like they're making a lot of money right now. So it's like, they're taking a chance? Yeah, pay it off, you know? Yeah. And I think they're, I think they made a calculated choice. And their bottom line is not so bottom anymore. Yeah.

Ray Abel 46:53

Well, I think that's

Peace Ike 46:54

good to know. I was like, I wish there was a way to poll the people that are truly affected by it before you just make it because in a way, another loaded term white savior complex, because in a way, and this is this is the confusion of, of well being being so I had this I asked this question on social media months ago, like, can you be so woke, that you're asleep, where you're trying so hard, and people are trying so hard to fix the racism, fix the racism, that they are making decisions for people who actually have a voice? You know, you know, I know the character in the Dr. Seuss book, the one I guess he was Chinese, and his eyes were slanted, and he had the chopsticks. And I'm like, well, are are Chinese individuals offended by this individual by this character? illustration? Are they, you know, one could say, let's say they drew the character's eyes more, more, more circular? Well, then they could be accused of European Ising. It's not a word, I just made it up the Chinese finger, like you can't win either way. That's because if they're not offended, then don't take this into your own hands to decide what's offensive to these people. When they have a voice. They have a voice, and we have a voice, you know, and and in some ways, being an immigrant of Africans. I almost feel like Don't, don't you want to ask us, you know, what our culture is like, what it's like in Africa, do people in indigenous areas in Africa where these things would you like to know? But no one wants to know anymore?

Ray Abel 48:32

Yeah, yeah. And I think the second part of that, like you would talk about how we need to tell history and we need even if we find something is offensive, so I think it's important to actually talk about why it's offensive. So when I saw these things coming up, about Dr. Seuss, it was like one guy on Twitter. I think Twitter is a cesspool, but I always like to get some basic idea of how the cesspool is working, but someone posted an actual questions and I'm not trying to be offensive here. I just wonder, like, someone said, they're eating with chopsticks. They said, Why is expensive these they're eating with chopsticks. And in the initial versions of the book, The their skin was yellow. And he was like, um, he was like, a serious question. Why don't they eat with chopsticks? Like, is that not a thing? And they were like, well, if you're too racist, and it just became this whole thing of like him asking a question became a racist thing. And if you just say to someone, I think that's really important. Like, I think there are a lot of people that if you explained why if someone who was Native American not someone who is has a white savior complex, like he talked about comes in and says, Hey, this is why it's offensive to us. Let's talk about it. I think that's I think it's a great conversation to have and you can have some dialogue about it. But it's now just okay, you're canceled and and you're wrong or you're a fascist? Yesterday. This was another situation that came up time canceling people. I one of the one of the guys and Mumford and Sons. The band posted a tweet about Andy nose book who if you're not familiar with him, he's does a lot of research on an Tifa what's happening in Portland and people towards the left Haytham people towards the right like him. But someone wrote like we're gonna we're that's it like no one I'm not buying his music anymore I'm not I'm not gonna talk to him. He's a fascist now we've always known he's a fascist. And I always when when I hear people calling people fascist and saying we're gonna shut you down, we don't want you to speak. I think about Princess Bride, that scene where it's like, I don't think that word means what you think it means. I feel like the whole term Fascism is like not letting someone with a different point of view speak. And it's that's what's happening with canceled culture. And so to me, that's the big issue there. There's no dialogue that shuts down opportunities. And

I think what you said piece that was that really stuck with me is you said it's an acting a punishment, but it's devoid of the opportunity for redemption. So at the core of it, I don't think Mr. Potatohead feelings are going to be hurt, or and I think it's kind of a silly debate that we have about Mr. Potatohead. But things like Mumford and Sons now becoming a I mean, I haven't heard of that band in two years. And all of a sudden, now they're hot topic, and he's a fascist who hates anyone that looks different. And and so I think that's where it comes into, can we actually have a discussion read a book anymore? And that's they're literally saying you can't read that book, or else you're a fascist? So is Yeah, I mean, I think with that being said, Gretchen, I think, like, should we cancel even if we do think something's bad. So we may have to cancel certain logos, if everyone comes to agreement that it should be or it just makes people feel uncomfortable, but things like books that are offensive? You know, even Dr. Seuss? Should we cancel things so people avoid the discomfort or should we keep them and learn from them? I think from your perspective, where do you fall on that spectrum?

Gretchen Hurd 51:33

Um, I have to one, I think, again, that we should be okay with saying that we've made mistakes. But on the other hand, that I actually this is kind of cute. I when I was leaving my hometown today, I saw my one of my fifth grade teachers. She gave me a whole bunch of antiques. And but I was telling her about podcasts. And she said, and I asked her what she thought and she said, when it comes to books, she draws a line. Because she feels like not only that, its history, but that we can learn from our mistakes or learn from the mistakes that were written. And then when we go when we, when we stop, and we take them away. We just it goes out of our memory, and we never think about it again. And I believe both I think it's okay to say you know what, maybe we just don't want to have this book around anymore. I think that's okay. But I think it's okay to say, Yeah, we want to have this background and learn from it. I think it's a per book basis. I think that like, you know, mine Kampf or mine cough. It's, it's it's a history book to understand what in the world was going on in his head? Right. For Dr. Seuss. It's a little kid's book, you know, so for Dr. Seuss, the company making that decision? I mean, I'm okay with a little kid not seeing a stereotype of an Asian person running a zoo. You know what I mean? Like, I think I just think it's a per per issue basis.

Ray Abel 53:04

No, but so that takes the opportunity, though. And I think there's something I want to ask you about peace. So that is saying that we as a government or whatever body that's yeah, we have now Yeah, yeah. But even like, even if you're not doing it from a governmental perspective, even if you say like you have this culture that's built, whether whether we want to call it Kancil culture, if there's a whole this giant machine that's working against Dr. Seuss. does, is it up to the hands of the publisher? Should we even make the publisher stop selling it? Or should we just allow parents to decide like, Is this something I want my kids to read? And I think that question goes to UPS? Where do where do you draw the line on whether it's governmental oversight, or the mob meant I don't say mob mentality, that's very leading the crowd mentality of canceling, versus like, allowing individuals to say, Hey, I, I want my kids to read this, because I think at the core of it, I think that's where it gets a little tricky, because like piece of saying, yeah, she doesn't really find that offensive. So why should we say you, as a black woman aren't allowed to show this and an immigrant from Africa, aren't allowed to show this book to your kids, because it is a bad character of Africans. But I'm a white person saying that it just seems weird to me. So, piece again, that's a loaded question. But you can do whatever angle you want.

Peace Ike 54:17

Totally. And I would say though, on top of, to add to that context is helpful too. Yeah. So I think that sometimes we don't always have to jump to the extreme of canceling, we can just give context. Hey, not everybody in Africa dresses like this. A lot of people do. When you're in the village you're gonna see it when you're in the big cities you won't you know, but that's just like simple context could fix a lot of this stuff, you know, but um, honestly, I think that I think I'm trying to give a well rounded answer here. I don't really think government censorship is ever a good thing ever, ever. And I hope we can all agree with that. Yes. Okay. But I think it's very it is a There's sandable, to allow individuals to make a decision with what's best for them and their families, and to allow corporations and businesses free market to make the decision on what they want to put out there and what they don't. So I mean, that's just the way the world works. But But wow, what's happening is like you have, okay, you have the product, and you have the receiver, you know, and but what's getting in the way in the middle is the mob mentality. So you actually are in allowing these individual decisions to be made, because the influence the cultural influence is, so it's such a force. Now in this day and age that the suggestive powers the the peer pressures that be you know, those things are influencing decisions that maybe these individuals wouldn't have made if they just use their own critical thinking facilities. And same for these corporations and businesses, maybe they wouldn't have made if they didn't fear that they'd be put out of business. So that's where this all of this stuff that's happening in the middle, this mob mentality, which I think is a great word that he's used Ray is getting in the way, it's not helpful whatsoever, I don't believe it's helpful. I think that people at the end of the day, have the ability to decide what's good for them, and what's not good for them. But I see us slowly creeping towards making decisions for people really stripping them of their autonomy to decide what's best for themselves. And I don't know for yet I mean, we're definitely going. You know, I think we're certainly moving in a direction of more and more government control. I think that's kind of where things are headed. And we may not all agree on that. But I do feel that way. But I think what, what the step we're at, that's before that step is big tech censorship. Right? Now, we may even argue that they're more powerful than the government in many ways, they certainly have more influence. So that's where the danger is, I think right now.

Ray Abel 57:01

And I think that goes back to even with your timeout, gretchin. With like, there's different forms of it. I think that's one of the problems I have is that you can basically cancel whatever, whatever whoever you want to. And like Donald Trump, I don't it's like, I'm gonna go back to something, I think, number one rule of politics, from what I heard from a couple of former White House press secretary as recently as you, you should never compare things to the Nazis. Once you do that. It's just kind of like it's a bad thing. But when you I think that's kind of always been the standard where it's like, all right, like in Germany, I am all for the government having no censorship and not not censoring anything. I think it should be open and free. And if you look through history, problems come in when governments start censoring things. But in Germany, I have a rule that you can only display Nazi symbols, if it's an historical setting, you can actually display them, but it's just like, you can put them in a museum, but you can't distribute pamphlets. And it's one of those things where I'm like, Okay, I love free speech. I think everyone should be able to do whatever they want. But in Germany, I understand why they wouldn't want to have that. But I think that's kind of like the litmus test for me where it's like, okay, should the government say you shouldn't have Nazi symbols, even in America, I think we didn't have

the same problems as Germany. So I'm like, again, I dislike you people with all of my heart. And I think you're misguided. But how about we talk about it and explain why you're wrong as opposed to saying don't do shut it down? Because I think that actually hurts the problem more than it helps. But we've moved to this the same I think that Nazis are always kind of like, okay, that's one exception, Nazis, okay. I can be for like shutting that down. But now we keep moving the bar lower and lower and lower. And I just, it's exhausting. I don't want to have to think about which fast food place I'm allowed to eat at. Because, you know, one has one political view in one doesn't one person donates to this person one doesn't. And I think that's where it gets that gets where gets real tricky. And I think in general, I think a lot of people are finally getting upset and frustrated enough to say, hey, like, Let's tone this down. And I think the pendulum often swings back and forth. And this isn't new. This isn't a liberal only thing. I think right now, Kancil culture tends to be liberal. But when you look at the initial Kancil culture in America, it was during like, the whole time of communism, and it was the McCarthy hearings. And it was anyone who, you know, you could just say someone was a communist, and that person will be canceled, there's blacklist in Hollywood. But when you look at history, and you see what happened in that time period, the same things are happening. Now, the only problem is you also have big tech, like you talked about, that can back up any of those things that are happening where then you still have conversations, you still talk to your neighbors, and now it's like, okay, well, you're off Twitter, because you said something that is offensive. And that's where we start running into problems. So I don't know. I think that we should censor nothing, if possible, and just let people decide. Because I think I think this is all like I think this is oftentimes bleak. And people get if you read that cesspool of Twitter, you just get very discouraged. I know I do. But at the core of it, I am always shocked at how many people there are in the world. How many people we have in America, how diverse we are, we are one of the most diverse countries in the world. And yet we still have relatively few problems. And when I'm not talking about problem, I'm not talking about systemic racism. I'm not talking about any of those issues, we can talk about those in other show, I'm talking about person to person communication. Everyone's going to have terrible people that do terrible things. But the fact that we have 360 million people in this country and we don't every day have some kind of giant bombing is actually shocking to me that we have people that are generally can self, you know, self discipline, and I'm all for letting those people you know, navigate ourselves and trying to get government out as much as possible. But I think that's where it kind of overlaps a little bit with government versus people. And I feel like I just rambled for 10 minutes. So Gretchen, there's a lot there that I said, did anything stick out that you thought, Oh, I agree with that, or I hate that.

Gretchen Hurd 1:00:39

Well, yeah, I mean, I think now we're living in a, this digital age where we're, everybody can post exactly what they're thinking and there's little repercussion. There was little repercussion for a really long time. And people were putting some pretty heinous stuff on the internet. And I think it's caught up with people. I actually, I was threatened to be canceled, because I brought to someone's attention that we could read what they wrote. They read to me, it was a really random post on one of the Pittsburgh news stations. I can't even remember what it was about. And I, I was reading through the comments. And I was like, This is insane. Like, this was not like long ago, this was probably about six, eight months ago. And I was reading these comments, and they were just awful. And all I wrote was, you guys know that we can read what you're writing, right? And this guy, he went to my page, took a screenshot of my Facebook page that had my jobs, because I didn't like I wasn't really on Facebook, you know, took a

photo of my, my screen, just screenshot of my whole Facebook page with my work. And he's like, here she is everybody. Let's cancel Gretchen. And I was like, What the crap? No. And it's like, and he's like, she works at all these places. And I was like, Oh my gosh, are you kidding me right now. And I took screenshots of everything. Because I was like, dude, and he was close. I was like, You're not that hard to find either. Like, and I found him on LinkedIn, with his jobs. And I was like, you. It's like, I would never ever, ever do that to somebody ever. But the fact that he was just so quick, it was that quick. And for no reason. So a reason

Ray Abel 1:02:37

worse things than that. So I mean, I'm shocked that I've been my, my co founder has sent me a text, he can't get on to the video. And he said his wife said, it looks like we got canceled, so I can't watch it. She assumed that Facebook shut us down.

Gretchen Hurd 1:02:52

They're like, it's too long. You guys are running around.

Ray Abel 1:02:54

You guys messed up. Once I said something about Nazis. It's done. It's all over. So I think we I think we probably should start wrapping up here. And I think one of the things we want to do is talk about what's next what we learned today. So if you guys want to think about that, one thing I'd say to you Gretchen, though is what when you just said there about getting canceled. That's the problem. I have to as if we don't as a society stay say, Hey, this is not okay. We need to have actually due process, just like what he said at the beginning. I'm gonna say one more time because I loved it enacting a punishment, cultures and acting and punishment, but the punishment is devoid of the opportunity for redemption. Yeah, problem is today, no one alive today will be woken up in 2016. If we keep going at this rate, so all of us are going to end up being canceled. And so I think that's the thing where we have to come to a conclusion if there's like I said, there are things that are actually need to be cancelled. I'm, I'm all for it. And there's things that I've seen that I go, Oh, now that you've explained it to me. Now I see why that's offensive, but the conversation is important. And that's, that's actually what I'm going to talk about in my what's next. So wrapping up here, before I don't, I just had the last word because I just started speaking, but I'd like to say if you guys have any last words, feel free to throw them in. And then I'm going to ask you what you might have learned and what's next for us. So Gretchen You go first. Anything else you want to add to that? Or?

Gretchen Hurd 1:04:13

No, I think you pretty much summed it up. I feel like you know, in a lot of these conversations, we all want the same outcome. It's just how to get there. I think for me, my what's next is I I want to and I said this actually last week too, which is kind of weird that I'm saying it again. But I want to utilize more. More people in my circle to gain insight into things that I don't know about. Yeah. And even just talking to my elementary school teacher, like put that into perspective about the books like I'm like nobody even knows what those books are. Why Why would anybody care? And she was like when it comes to books that's like where I draw the line and she's like, I would read that To my, you know, kids every year and she says, we read three of those books, you know, in the Dr. Seuss series. So, you know, and it's like, I didn't even think about that. So sometimes just talking to other people and gaining perspective

into someone else's view on a subject can really, I don't want to say alter your perspective, but it can widen your perspective and you can, and I feel like what we're going through right now it's fluid, we're, we should be okay to meander down this little river that we're on, because it's gonna, it's gonna, it's going to keep changing, and we're going to keep evolving, and, you know, new problems are gonna pop up and things are going to resolve. But, you know, we all have to remember that we're all part of a bigger thing, and we have to care about each other. And oh, my gosh, I'm so corny. I'm

Ray Abel 1:05:53

glad you love each

Gretchen Hurd 1:05:55

other. Yeah, but I do really feel that I feel like when we stop caring about the person that's on the other side of that screen, it's the dehumanization of the person in the text. So yeah, we end up putting our own thoughts and like I was gonna say about your stuff, like I was putting myself in, you know, and what I was getting from it and for taking you out of the out of the mix, you know, so it's like, I have no idea where she's coming from. So I'm putting my own thought, right. So that was the problem. And so when we don't know people and we're reading it, you know, we we tend to, it just becomes convoluted. And we we get lost so I think it's

Ray Abel 1:06:35

I think it's important when you can see people face to face because the things that she was saying about you behind your back

Gretchen Hurd 1:06:47

on T for all last week,

Ray Abel 1:06:49

I was I was

Peace Ike 1:06:50

wearing black.

Ray Abel 1:06:53

Well, we both are so I guess provoking. But I think at the core of it like I am obviously joking for people who don't pick up on sarcasm, listening. But I think it's one of those things. It's very hard, even if you are frustrated by someone when you see them face to face. And that's yeah, that's a whole nother episode we can talk about with social media rots the brains, but oh my god later, he's anything you'd like to say to wrap up?

Peace Ike 1:07:21

No, I mean, you said it all. gretchin. I think that's, that's the problem. We just have to remember that. You know, there's humanity behind every post every tweet, you know, whatever. Every Instagram, whatever. Instagram seems to be the safest place to be though.

Gretchen Hurd 1:07:37

The only place I live? It's actually because of my Instagram.

Peace Ike 1:07:43

Seriously? Oh, my gosh, yeah, I agree. Yeah, but I mean, that's, unfortunately, like the most heartbreaking thing about what we've been going through last year, in a couple months, or a year and a month or so is that we haven't had the opportunity to see each other face to face. Oh, man, it's like, you know, and this is everybody, I'm sure, to an extent is guilty of this. But when you are not seeing someone face to face, and you're interacting with them behind a screen, the things that you are able to say that you would never say to someone or her you would never never say now are sometimes appalling. And so I think that as we get I mean, I honestly, this is probably one of the most hopeful thoughts I've had in a while because I haven't had a lot of really hopeful thoughts about where we are as a nation. But I think that as we get back to be able to see interact with people, I do hope that some of this will begin to even itself out. And then we'll see more pacifying of the situation. But yeah, just remembering that humanity, humanity within each other, I think is, is where we go from here. And we just keep that at the forefront of our minds. And we realize that we're not as different or on the opposite end of the spectrum, as we think, you know, it's actually like it's a facade. I want to tell people like Don't believe the hype. No, don't believe the hype, you know, and then you could have a whole nother podcast on media and there, and all of this. Yeah, but you know, I just,

Ray Abel 1:09:14

oh, Titian's politicians. Yeah. I just Oh,

Peace Ike 1:09:17

my gosh, terrible. They are literally writing the narrative as we sit back and just, yeah, oh, my gosh, I'm actually I wrote Well, that's another situation. But anyways, yeah, we just eating it up. And we're and we're like, yeah, they're right there, right. And before you know it, you know, you've, you've formed a whole new worldview, you know, so we just have to be really careful about what we ingest, what we watch what we listen to, and I tell people, like the best thing you could do is just, you know, unplug the TV and take a fast from social media. And just remember who you are, again, without being influenced by all these other voices. Yeah, but I really do believe and I it's kind of a catchy phrase now, but I feel like I hope I was one of the first to say, I don't think so. But I always say canceled culture will cancel itself. It has to, because if people on the right are getting canceled, people on the left are getting canceled. And it is happening on both sides. No. accent. Yeah, but it certainly is. And I'm certainly seeing both sides begin to speak up about it. So eventually, if you cancel everyone, there's no one left. Someone said that earlier. So I do think that's where we're headed. And I think it's a really good thing if that happens. So

Ray Abel 1:10:29

Well, I think I think you summed up the what's next question? Great. So I think I think what I'll ask you to what you may have learned today from each other, probably each other, probably not me. But anything you guys learned. And then I'm going to finish up with just what what my next step is, and what I learned from you guys. So Gretchen, you want to start out with something you learned today on this podcast. Um, that's not a good start.

Gretchen Hurd 1:11:01

I was kind of like I'm always like, my brain is going 30,000 miles a minute, um, I, I really, I'm going to come back to just listening and opening my mind. And I feel like more people need to do it. Even just like I was talking to my mom, actually, this morning about everything like this. And my mom is very conservative, too. And she, it was It was wild listening to her, like converse with me for the first time where she didn't get upset. Sorry, mom. Sometimes she gets upset when we talk about politics. It just happens. And this was the first time where she was like, I just, you know, just want everybody just to be happy. And is everybody have to be so unhappy with every mommy. Yeah,

Ray Abel 1:11:53

you know, but I think that's what most people want. They have different ways. But the end goal is still

Gretchen Hurd 1:12:00

I want everybody to be happy. I don't want anybody to hurt. Yeah.

Ray Abel 1:12:04

Yeah. What's something you learned today?

Peace Ike 1:12:08

Um, you know, what I learned? This is kind of an introspective moment. But that things are more hopeful than I think. Yeah, you know, and we were going through this roller coaster. Definitely. I have like, super hopeful days, but I'm just like, it's gonna be okay. And other days, I'm like workout going to have me and I'm realizing now that every time that I have a conversation with someone on the opposite end of the spectrum that goes really well. I am just infused with like, Joy. Like, answer. Yeah, but this is where we, how we do it. So I'm really grateful for this opportunity.

Ray Abel 1:12:50

Yeah, well, I'm going to I'm going to cut that part out and use it as the commercial for our show. We did not just be clear, we didn't pay her to say that. But yeah, she's saying that this is the best podcast in history that's coming. So just, we're gonna say,

Gretchen Hurd 1:13:08

famous liberal ever.

Ray Abel 1:13:12

So what I learned actually, it was from you, Gretchen, because I'm in no offense to UPS, we just agreed on most things. But I think Gretchen when you I think there's something that I often overlook. And maybe this is the same case now for the formerly liberal now conservative piece that I often dismiss the field test. And when you talk about I think that's something I've overlooked, where it's like, if it doesn't, it doesn't seem like it should bother someone, oftentimes, I'm kind of like, well, why are we even talking about this, but I feel like I need to get better at being addressing my feelings more. And I you know, that's that's what I want to focus on. And I think in general to this is I talked about virtue projecting, but I often do that not even to the sense I love talking with people who disagree with me, I

love it. Like it's, it's I thrive on it. But there are some times where I won't talk to someone because I think not because I have a different viewpoint. But I think they're going to be someone that won't be open to having a conversation. So it's not that they're there. They have a different viewpoint, it's that they wouldn't want to talk about their viewpoint in a way that's reasonable. And now I've run into people who I thought would be reasonable and who weren't and vice versa. But at the core of it, I need to stop virtue projecting, which, if that isn't a term, I'm going to, I'm going to trademark it and start using that in our premises as well. But thank you both for being on here. We're going to wrap up with we had we're doing one good thing for everyone. But for the length of time I'm just gonna wrap up. I want to tell you both the story I think I told Gretchen this already. But when we talk about this goes back to what you said piece about like having hopefulness. My best friend's five year old son loves playing the video game fortnight and he's been getting myself his dad, his older brother, his uncle. We've all been playing fortnight with him several times a week he wants to play every night but we can only fit some in this he's five grizzled, sweet little kid. And in this game, you're trying to have a team and you're trying to get rid of the other team. And if you're not familiar with the game, there's this thing called the storm. And so as people exit the game, when they're knocked off, the storm gets smaller and smaller because they want to keep the the less amount of people in an enclosed space. So if you get stuck in the storm, your life starts dropping. So that being said, he and I were running, we got caught in the storm. We weren't fast enough. We were we're just kind of dilly dallying. And I was ahead of him. And he was behind me. And he had a little bit more life than me. But I died like my character passed out, basically, but in the game, you can revive someone. But you can't do it in the storm. And so I told John, he was like, I told him, I said, go forward run. I said, don't stop for me. And he's like, No, No, Uncle Ray, I'm saving, you know, and it was one of the most emotional moments I felt like I was in like an old war movie. But I was like, no, he's like, I'm carrying you. And he picks me up. And he starts trying to run with me to get me out of that storm. And we ended up both dying, but that my heart was filled because it was in like the emotion and happened in a video game, which normally just like I let's play and have some fun, I was moved and it's actually stuck with me all week and seeing the five year old have that kind of concern, not for himself, passion or other people that compassion, I'm going to save you on board and just ran with me. It was it was it was a it was a great thing to see. And so when I think about hopefulness, that's the kind of stuff I think about. So that's the one good thing for this week. But yeah, so I want to say thank you to both of you for being on here. Please. Thanks for taking time out of your schedule. Both times we started this podcast for those listening. Whether it's on the Facebook that I'll be reposting or whether it's live in the podcast, please feel free to share this podcast with friends if pieces supportive ours isn't enough. I'll say it too. This is we're gonna change America. I know that sounds very politician II I'm going to stop that that was creepy. We appreciate when people share we're brand new. So we want to have more trolls making fun of our YouTube videos and we want to we want to eventually have them on the show and if you want to be part of the show, go to research the news.com you can fill out a form we'll contact you if you have a topic you want to discuss. And other than that, I want to just say thanks again for being on here and we're gonna wrap up for the week so Gretchen peace we'll talk to you soon - this research the news