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#M035

Free Speech: Use It or Lose It

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*Acts 2:29: Men and brethren, let me **freely speak** unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.*

*Acts 26:26: For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I **speak freely**: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.*

In these two texts, we find both Peter and Paul exercising their right of free speech and noting that they were doing so. One used the term “freely speak,” and the other said “speak freely.” They continued to exercise their free speech for many years until, finally, it wasn’t free any more. They both were eventually martyred.

But one thing for certain: *they made the most of their free speech while they had it!* Yes, they were finally silenced, but not out of fear. Knowing what happened to Jesus, John the Baptist, and many of the prophets of old, they could have adapted a politically correct vocabulary that wasn’t offensive to people, but they chose to simply preach the word of God instead.

The attitude of the early Christians was pretty well summed up Acts 4:19-20. After being commanded to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, Peter and John answered, **“Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”** *They exercised their right of free speech and consequently enjoyed free speech for many more years. That is, they used it so they wouldn’t lose it.*

In principle, it’s no different today. The world is still God’s enemy, and the world wants you to keep your mouth shut about God, the Bible, Jesus Christ, righteousness, sin, heaven, and hell. Or, if they can’t keep you quiet about such things, they at least want to teach you how to address such subjects in the “correct” way. They call it “political correctness,” a communist term originally used to describe people who had been put through special training and conditioning so as to bring them in line with the communist views of their big brother government.

Although America doesn’t have a communist government yet, we are steadily pressing in that direction, and political correctness in speech is a major part of it because (1) it’s a communist tool and (2) it runs contrary to our First Amendment right of free speech.

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads:

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*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or **abridging the freedom of speech**, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

If you know someone who uses the word “gays” instead of “sodomites,” then you know someone who has been politically corrected. If you know someone who uses the term “undocumented immigrants” instead of “illegal aliens,” then you know someone who has been politically corrected. If you know someone who begins using the words “discrimination” and “prejudice” every time a serious discussion arises about racial issues, then you know someone who has been politically corrected. Such people have given up their First Amendment right of free speech without even knowing it.

For fear of being labeled a “hatemonger,” some are scared to say what they really believe. So they no longer enjoy free speech. Others have been brainwashed into believing that politically correct speech is better, so they too have traded away their free speech. They still call it free speech, but the only free speech they really have is the freedom to use their politically correct vocabulary.

On June 14, 2006, *The Fjordman Report* ran a guest-post article on political correctness at the Internet site *Gates of Vienna*. The article was titled *Political Correctness—the Revenge of Marxism*, by Baron Bodissey. The article quotes

Anthony Daniels (pen name Theodore Dalrymple), whose father was a communist businessman, and his mother was a refugee from Nazi Germany who fled to England. This was his take on political correctness:

Political correctness is communist propaganda writ small. In my study of communist societies, I came to the conclusion that the purpose of communist propaganda was not to persuade or convince, nor to inform, but to humiliate; and therefore, the less it corresponded to reality the better. When people are forced to remain silent when they are being told the most obvious lies, or even worse when they are forced to repeat the lies themselves, they lose once and for all their sense of probity. To assent to obvious lies is to co-operate with evil, and in some small way to become evil oneself. One's standing to resist anything is thus eroded, and even destroyed. A society of emasculated liars is easy to control . . .

British freedom writer Doris Lessing once wrote that

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Political correctness is the natural continuum from the party line. What we are seeing once again is a self-appointed group of vigilantes imposing their views on others. It is a heritage of communism, but they don't seem to see this.

Political correctness is a subtle scheme of freedom-hating people to get freedom-loving people to voluntarily give up their Constitutional rights, including the right of free speech.

God forbid that Bible-believing Christians give up their free speech. Like Peter and Paul, we have the duty to make the most of it while we can. Charlton Heston, former head of the NRA, once said, “*They will take my gun away only when they pry it from my cold, dead fingers!*” That ought to be the Christian’s attitude regarding his right of free speech: *They can have my tongue when they cut it from my mouth.* I will not give it up voluntarily.

That’s what the politically correct crowd has basically done, that’s what many Christians are doing today, and that’s what they want you to do—just VOLUNTARILY STOP speaking truthfully and freely.

No thanks. I can’t stop them from shutting my mouth by force, if that time comes, but I don’t have to give up before then. I don’t have to volunteer my services to that crowd.

Believe it not, we still have free speech in America, and, if we will USE it, we might not have to LOSE it, or at least not as soon as the politically correct communists would like. Let me give you a few thoughts on how we can enjoy free speech a little longer . . .

I. USE IT FREELY

If speech is FREE then let’s start acting like it! Why must we look to our left and right and then speak in a low tone every time we utter something controversial? Obviously, we are scared of being heard. We are acting like it’s illegal to speak freely when it isn’t. We are telling the enemy, by our actions, that we’ve been intimidated by them and that we are willing to be “careful” about our speech in their presence. We must correct this flaw or free speech *will* become illegal.

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I know a Christian man who was once at a fast food place with his sons when he looked up and saw two Sodomites entering the building. I can't recall his exact words, but he basically spoke out to his sons and said, "Look over there, boys! Those are queers! You've heard me warn you about people like that, and now you've seen them. You always stay away from queers!" He didn't confront the Sodomites, nor did he address them personally. He simply warned his sons about them. Call that what you want; I call it free speech.

II. USE IT FREQUENTLY

If we expect to enjoy free speech daily, then we'd better start *using* it daily. And I don't mean just in our own little comfort zones where we can "get away with it."

I have a habit of exercising and enjoying my free speech regularly while I preach at my church, something that most preachers know very little about, but I should also speak freely every day in the midst of people who aren't used to hearing it.

When I find myself in the middle of a conversation about global warming, I take great delight in speaking freely against the whole ridiculous movement. We even have these stickers now available through our ministry that read: "*Global Warming? You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet! II Peter 3:10*" Maybe we need to get some T-shirts also. The more free speech the better!

I hear these little sissy preachers (excuse me!) . . . I hear these little sissy *pastors* who proudly proclaim that they don't deal with such political issues because they just preach the gospel. Then they aren't Bible-believers. The Bible addresses many subjects, not just the gospel, and, if we are going to take God's side, then we're going to have to stand on His word and speak freely about it. I know of nothing that frustrates me more than to hear a preacher sound like he's in a prison rather than in a pulpit. I too might be in a prison someday, but not voluntarily!

I believe in frequently exercising my First Amendment right of Free Speech

III. USE IT FACTUALLY

To whom much is given much is required (Luke 12:48), so it is our Christian duty to "prove all things" before freely speaking about them (I Ths. 5:21).

A Christian who is going to write, teach, preach, or witness, must always be factual. People have a hard enough time believing the truth anyway, we sure don't need to present it mingled with error. Like the boy who cried wolf, we can easily lose our credibility.

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While writing *Satan's New World Order*, I omitted lots of material simply because I couldn't prove it. If I couldn't supply footnotes and references to reliable sources then I omitted the material.

I've had Christians and professing Christians tell me some pretty wild things over the years, most of which I never repeat because the stuff is not proven. I've been told that the Internet "www" is really "666." I've been told that President Bush knew specifically that the 9/11 attacks were coming and that he even helped to plan them. For several years, I've had a book in my office that deals with UFO's and alien beings, but I've never addressed the subject from my pulpit or written anything about it because (1) the author hasn't proven anything and (2) I fail to see the need for Christians to be occupied with such matters.

In 1988, a man wrote a booklet titled *Eighty-Eight Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988*. Then when nothing happened, he wrote another booklet in 1989: *Eighty-Nine Reasons . . .* No, I'm not kidding. His name was Edgar Weisnant. The man lost his credibility, and very few even bothered reading the second book.

We must be factual, not foolish, with our free speech.

IV. USE IT FIRMLY

Matthew 7:29 says that Jesus "**taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**"

Sometimes it isn't what we say, but rather how we say it. A man who doesn't sound like he believes in what he's saying isn't likely to cause others to believe what he's saying.

When Patrick Henry said "*Give me liberty or give me death,*" everyone knew he meant it, but when a modern politician speaks it usually means nothing, and everyone knows it.

The same is true with most preachers in the pulpits and with most Christians who make an effort to witness. Their half-heartedness has taken their zeal, and they speak no more firmly about Christ and the Bible than if they were speaking about the weather or the gossip column. Turn on the radio next Sunday morning and you'll see what I mean.

God help us to use our free speech firmly.

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V. USE IT FAITHFULLY

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

God has given us free speech in America, so let's be faithful and speak freely about His most favorite subject, the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you want to speak about politics, go right ahead; hopefully you can contribute some needed words. Speak about finance, about sports, about family, about schooling, about religion, or about anything else. You have free speech, so be sure to use it, but don't forget to be faithful to the One Who gave you free speech. In all walks of life, in all subjects of conversation, do what Peter and Paul did: *speak freely of Jesus Christ.*

FREE SPEECH: USE IT OR LOSE IT.