

## THE SOUL OF A WARRIOR #4

### FIGHTING FOR OUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH

#### Introduction

America's founding fathers understood the unbreakable connection between freedom of religion and freedom of speech and guaranteed us both in the 1st Amendment. Today, both are under attack. If we fail to fight for these freedoms now we may soon lose both.

The modern American Marxists now running our government know this:

#### Benjamin Franklin

**Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freedom of speech.**

This is being done right under our noses and it's time to turn it around.

So tonight I would like to do 3 things:

- What is freedom of speech and how is it connected to religion?
  - How is it under attack?
  - What must we do to prevail?

#### I. Introduction to the Concept of Freedom of Speech

##### A. Freedom of Speech is Fundamental in a Free Society!

#### Lord Hailsham (British Parliament)

**I regard freedom of expression as the primary right without which one cannot have a properly functioning democracy.**

1. Freedom of speech is fundamental to freedom; no nation can remain free without it.

#### Winston Churchill

**A state or society where men may not speak their minds cannot long endure.**

2. Freedom of speech is the foundation for all our freedoms!

**Benjamin Franklin**

**In those wretched countries where a man cannot call his tongue his own, he can scarce call anything his own.**

3. This is why our founding fathers guaranteed our freedom of speech in the first amendment to the constitution. One has to wonder why we have forgotten what it means.

**B. Just What Is ‘Freedom of Speech’?**

1. Here is one of the simplest definitions:

**Freedom of Speech**

**The right to express any opinions without censorship or restraint.**

2. America’s founding fathers were particularly concerned with limiting the power of government to suppress our freedom of speech, expressed in this definition:.

**Freedom of speech**

**The right to express information, ideas, and opinions free of government restrictions based on content and subject only to reasonable limitations, as guaranteed by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.**

3. Why were our founding fathers so careful to conserve our freedom of speech? Because they knew what we have forgotten...

**C. The Unbreakable Connection Between Freedom of Speech and Religion**

**Kirk Cameron**

**I believe that freedom of speech and freedom of religion go hand-in-hand in America.**

1. He is right. Our founding fathers put these 2 at the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment’s list of 5 fundamental freedoms:

**1<sup>st</sup> Amendment**

**(1) Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; (2) or abridging the freedom of speech,**

**or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

a. The Constitution connects freedom of speech and freedom of religion. And even though the terms 'freedom of speech' and 'freedom of religion' are not found in Bible, the connection is found many places. Examples:

2. During the earthly ministry of Jesus, His political enemies sought to use His words against Him:

**Luke 20:20**

**So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.**

a. Ungodly government always seeks to silence the freedom of speech because this is how we preach the Gospel!

**Mark 16:15-16**

**And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.**

b. Jesus presumes freedom of speech and religion when He gives us the command to speak.

c. This is what they were doing in the Book of Acts when the political powers sought to suppress their freedom of speech.

3. This is what was happening in the Book of Acts, chapters 4 and 5.

a. In Acts 4, Peter and John had a healing miracle that upset the system.

Acts 4:13-14

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

#### **Acts 4:17-18**

**“But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.”**

**So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."**

4. Notice the connection between freedom of speech and freedom of religion. We find a similar situation in Acts 5, where Peter and some other apostles were brought before the Council for preaching the Gospel.

#### **Acts 5:27-29**

**And when they had set them before the council, the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."**

5. Notice that obeying God rather than men might cost you!

#### **Acts 5:40-42**

**And when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.**

**And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

6. In Acts 26, the Apostle Paul is arrested by the civil authorities for preaching the Gospel and has to appear before King Agrippa.

#### **Acts 26:19-21**

**"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared...throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they**

**should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.**

7. I'm giving all these examples to come to the bottom line: There is an unbreakable connection between freedom of speech and freedom of religion. If you attack one you attack the other.

9. And many of God's people have not yet realized how far the suppression of free speech in America has come in our culture.

## **II. The Escalating War Against Our Freedom of Speech**

### **A. Political Correctness and the Cancel Culture**

1. The suppression of free speech in America has accelerated from the days of 'political correctness' into its more toxic form, known as 'cancel culture'.

#### **Cancel Culture**

**The popular practice of withdrawing support (canceling) of those who have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive.**

2. Cancel culture punishes people for exercising their freedom of speech; one example is in regards to the social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

a. Life management coach Sergio Sarkis says..

#### **Sergio Sarkis**

**Freedom of speech is one of the fundamental pillars of Western Democracy. It gives people the right to stand up for themselves and voice their beliefs. But over the past few years, we have seen an increasing amount of rules and regulations within the popular social media platforms to keep society 'safe' from violence and misinformation.**

3. Almost all the social media platforms lean left and have teams of people who punish the free speech of those whom they disapprove.

a. God's enemies can speak; God's friends suppressed to silence.

### **Senator Rand Paul**

**The Taliban is on Twitter. So is Iran's Supreme Leader. But a former U.S. President is banned. We must put a stop to this unholy alliance between big government and big tech. It is the greatest threat to our freedom and liberty.**

4. Senator Paul is not saying America's enemies aren't entitled to a Twitter account; free speech in America is a right to everyone; including former Presidents with whom you disagree.

5. You may not care about social media; but you should care about our freedom of speech and what it means when people are punished for expressing their opinion.

a. In a Supreme Court case some 50 years ago, Associate Justice Hugo Black said this...

### **Hugo Black**

**Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, 1937-1971**

**Freedom of speech means that you shall not do something to people for the views they have, or the views they express, or the words they speak or write.**

6. The Constitution forbids 'cancel culture' that seeks to punish those who disagree. But the Constitution guarantees...

### **B. Freedom of Speech For All**

1. When we speak of 'fighting for our freedom of speech' we mean *everyone's* freedom of speech; including those we disagree with.

### **Neil Boortz**

**Freedom of speech is meant to protect unpopular speech. Popular speech, by definition, needs no protection.**

2. Freedom of speech is never in any danger as long as everybody is saying the same thing. The problem comes when one side shuts the other side down.

### **Winston Churchill**

**Everyone is in favor of free speech. But some feel they are free to say what they like but if anyone says anything back they call it an outrage.**

3. This is modern cancel culture. Agree with the narrative, or else!  
Regarding sexuality.

- Gay is OK-if you disagree you're a homophobe
- A female can be male; a male can be female; case closed
- All white people are racist; case closed

4. Cancel culture is working overtime regarding the virus.

- Masks work (Do they really?)
- Vaccines work (Do they really?)
- Refuse to wear a mask or take the shot means you're killing people

5. Opposing opinions to the party line are castigated or canceled; any evidence that contradicts the cultural narrative is suppressed. (Example)

**Charlie Kirk 8/27/21**

**The latest Delta variant studies out of the United Kingdom show this: People who have had both shots of the vaccine are in worse shape than people who do not have the vaccine. The unvaxed survive the variant more than the vaxed.**

**Charlie Kirk**

**This is from the UK's equivalent of our CDC. But you are not allowed to even mention this on social media. I have 1000's of emails from people who took the shots who lost their parents, have had blood clots and heart attacks, and can no longer walk. Social Media cracks down immediately on these reports.**

- 80% of those dying from COVID in the UK are fully vaccinated
- The vaccines are failing in Israel, where 85% have taken the shot

6. Some will mishear my message. I am NOT telling anyone to take the shot or not take the shot. It's not even about the shot. It's about fighting for the freedom of speech that hears from all sides and leaves every American free to follow their conscience.

7. Which set of Doctors is right? I don't know! I do know 90% of Americans are only hearing one side of the story because freedom of speech is being suppressed.

8. Christians need not fear competition in the marketplace of ideas!

**Bill Bennot**

**Truth is never afraid of robust examination because its nature comes from God, not human prejudice, opinions and whims. It is falsehood that shrieks at the light, and it must attack and censor all challengers because its existence depends upon the ignorance of its host.**

- a. Why is the cancel culture so vicious against those who resist masking and vaccine mandates? And threatening to shut them down socially?
- b. Why can they not be heard?

**Laurie Anderson**

**Censorship is the child of fear and the father of ignorance.**

8. America's founding fathers were not afraid of free speech to all sides and trusts the people to make their choice.

**John F. Kennedy**

**A nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.**

### **C. Our Current Condition**

1. We have come to this sad state of affairs because the Christian church in America can't face the fact that it's become impossible to speak the truth without offending people!

**Rachel Witherspoon of Young Americans Against Socialism**

**It has become nearly impossible in the land of free speech to have a conversation with a person who holds an opposing opinion without them somehow invoking the idea that your opinion causes some sort of emotional harm and therefore cannot be discussed further.**



2. Speaking the truth about sin is now hate speech; preaching on personal freedom like we do will always involve offending someone!

**Ricky Gervais**

**I see offence as the collateral damage of free speech. I hate the thought of a person's ideas being modified or even hushed because someone somewhere might not like to hear them. Outside actually breaking the law or causing someone physical harm, hurting someone's feelings is almost impossible to objectively quantify.**

**III. Conclusion**

**A. Review**

1. Our founding fathers gave their lives for our freedoms, the first 2 being freedom of speech and freedom of religion, which we showed you are biblical.

a. Freedom of religion cannot exist without freedom of speech.

2. The new American Marxists now running our government know what we've forgotten.

**Benjamin Franklin**

**Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freedom of speech.**

a. This is why they have come to control the press, the mass news media and the social platforms.

3. The Church has freedom of speech but is not using it! We are watching the fulfillment of a prophetic warning from the late great Billy Graham:

**Rev. Billy Graham**

**Freedom of speech means nothing to a people who are too weak in their convictions to speak out against the evil that is eating at the heart of the nation like a cancer.**

4. Once again we've come to a crisis where the fate of the nation hangs in the balance. Back in the beginning, the great patriot Patrick Henry spoke up:

**Patrick Henry**

**“Should I keep back my opinions at such a time as this, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself guilty of treason toward my country.”**

5. We have freedom of speech. Will we use it? If we do not, what does it tell us?

**Voltaire**

**To learn who rules over you simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize.**

Closing Prayer

**Title**