

Our Right To Free Speech Must Not Be Abused

I. Introduction:

A. On December 15th, 1791 this amendment to the US Constitution was ratified [signed; made valid]: “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” (https://www.usconstitution.net/xconst_Am1.html).

1. Some will take the fact that we are to obey civil law (**I Peter 2:13-17**), and go too far in thinking that means you should just keep talking.
2. Is civil law our standard to live by (**Luke 4:4**, **John 6:63**, and **II Timothy 3:14-17**)?

B. Aren't we supposed to be wise and in a position of understanding what the will of the Lord is (**Ephesians 5:14-17**)?

1. The world is watching and listening (**Psalms 37:32**).
2. The Lord is watching and listening (**Proverbs 5:21** and **Proverbs 15:3**).
3. Therefore, we must behave ourselves wisely (**Psalms 101:2-3**).

II. Body: If You Love Life And Good Days... (**Psalms 34:12-18** and **I Peter 3:8-17**).

A. We are expected to act and speak in a way that charges cannot be rightly levied against us (**Titus 2:7-8** and **I Peter 2:12**).

1. What were the prudent instructed during an “evil time” (**Amos 5:13-15**)?
2. Think of how we ought to answer (**Colossians 4:5-6**).

B. One false teacher said that a person should speak his or her mind because thoughts are chaotic and speaking them aloud, to others, allows for organization of those thoughts, debate, etc. Whereas the word of God says to control our tongues (**James 1:26**).

1. Think about the many lessons we learn about controlling our tongues (**James 3:1-18**).
2. We will be judged for every word (**Matthew 12:33-37**).
3. We are not permitted to speak any corruption (**Ephesians 4:29** and **Colossians 3:8; 17**).
4. Our words can cause much good OR harm (**Proverbs 18:21**).

C. When your thoughts are heavy, keep the matter in the heart (**Daniel 7:28**).

1. What does much talking present (**Proverbs 10:19** and **Proverbs 13:3**)?
2. Think about what a person who talks too much is (**Proverbs 29:11**, **Ecclesiastes 5:1-3**, and **Ecclesiastes 10:12-14**).
3. Think before you speak (**Proverbs 15:28**).

III. Conclusion: Jesus had the RIGHT to talk, but He was cautious (**I Peter 2:21-23**).