

John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)
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Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com

QUESTION: "What was the issue about 'free speech' the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled (6-3 vote) on June 30, 2023?"

ANSWER: To summarize, website designer, Lorie Smith, refused to create a website for an LGBT (homosexual) customer because it violated her (Lorie's) religious convictions. SCOTUS ruled in her favor. It has protected personal religious belief over business concerns!

1. Free Speech Is Not A License

Not all speech has a moral right to be offered. Just because we can, doesn't mean we should. "LORD, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph? They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves" (**Psalm 94:3-4**). Wicked censorship is forced upon people, but Christians are considerate. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (**Colossians 4:6**).

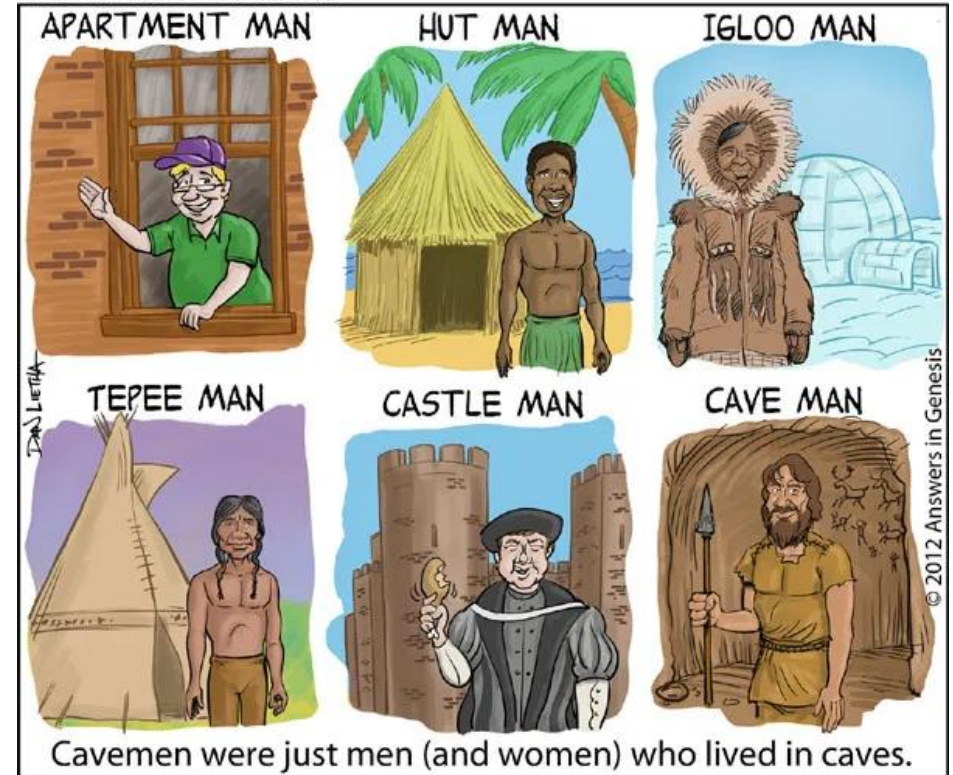
Christians will "speak freely" about Jesus Christ, as Paul did (**Acts 26:24-28**), because Christians know "since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech—" (**2 Corinthians 3:12**). Christians "are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth" (**Colossians 3:8**).

2. Freedom To Obey Christ

There is no such thing as complete freedom. The American Revolution cast off abusive law for the freedom to establish our own law. Since sin is universal, Jesus' Gospel invites all everywhere to cast off their shackles of sin for the freedom to serve under Jesus' Law. "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (**Romans 6:16-18**). No one can be freed from sins to do as they please. Liberty is not license or lawlessness! Christians must "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*" (**Ephesians 5:11**). At least, for now, SCOTUS has protected this principle for Christians. Hallelujah!

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LET THERE BE TRUTH



Free Article: "Were Adam & Eve Real Or Just A Story?"

<https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/Were-Adam-and-Eve-Real-Or-Just-A-Story.pdf>

Salted Speech **Colossians 4:6**

- ~ An atheist and a skeptic is one who when he sees the handwriting on the wall, claims it's a forgery.
- ~ When you reject the Word of God, you reject the God of the Word.
- ~ Discussion is an exchange of knowledge . . . Angry argument is only an exchange of ignorance.
- ~ Evolution is making a monkey out of you.
- ~ If it wasn't for the optimist, the pessimist would never know how happy he wasn't.
- ~ Freedom is not only the right to use your own judgment, but the obligation to live with the consequences.



By Robert Lupo

"Humble Yourself?" Not as Simple as You Think

One of my favorite songs we sing in worship is "Humble Yourselfes." It is extremely simple, focusing solely on a single phrase in each verse. As we join together to sing, we admonish one another to know our place in the presence of the Almighty God.

You may already be aware that the lyrics to "Humble Yourselfes" comes directly from Scripture. In James 4:10, the Bible says, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." In this passage, James explains that if we relinquish our pride and give our lives over to the Lord, He promises to glorify us. But, there is much more to this message in its context.

In verses 1-5 of James 4, we are told of the unavoidable outcome of pride. Whether your pride is carried out in the acts of war, lust, murder, covetousness, or adultery, none of these things will profit you. You will always be left wanting. All you succeed in doing is making yourself an enemy of God (v. 4). But, there is an alternative: humility. In verse 6, James quotes Proverbs 3:34, saying, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Pride gives you nothing in the end, but humility gives you the favor of the Lord.

So, if we are going to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, what should that look like? In verses 7-9, James gives

us nine imperatives for humble living.

Submit to God (v. 7a). Who is the master of your life? Stop letting your pride cause you to pick and choose what you like and dislike in the Bible.

Resist the devil (v. 7b). Do you find yourself giving in to the same temptations? Stop letting your pride cause you to be comfortable with your pet sins.

Draw near to God (v. 8a). Do you spend time with the Lord in prayer and study? Stop letting your pride cause you to think you can do this on your own.

Cleanse your hands (v. 8b). Have you removed guilt from your life? Stop letting your pride cause you to live with the sins of your past. God has promised that baptism washes away sins. Live like you believe it.

Purify your hearts (v. 8c). Do you still enjoy the sins of the world? Stop letting your pride cause you to resist the new heart Christ promised you. Abhor what is evil.

Lament, mourn, weep, and turn (v. 9). How do you feel about sin? Stop letting your pride cause you to feel apathy for transgressions. Let godly sorrow change your mind to agree with your Lord and change your actions.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up.

Pride gives you nothing...but humility gives you the favor of the Lord.

What Does Real Faith Involve?

In that great chapter on faith, Hebrews 11, we can gain a clear picture what real faith involves. From the examples given in verses 4-10 we can see that real faith is much more than belief alone.

Real faith involves the word of God. Abel "obtained witness" from God (v.4). Enoch had "testimony" from God. Noah was "divinely warned" (v.7). Abraham "was called" (v.8) by God. They all looked to God's revelation as the basis of their faith – so should we.

Real faith involves trusting God. Noah's trust in God caused him to be "moved with godly fear" (v.7). Abraham "went out, not knowing where he was going" (v.8) in full reliance upon God. He also "waited for the city which has foundations" (v.10). They all fully trusted in God – so should we.

Real faith involves obedience and action. Abel "offered to God" (v.4) exactly what God wanted. Noah "prepared an ark" (v.7) when asked to do so. Abraham "obeyed when he was called to go out" (v.8). They all got busy with their faith doing what God desired of them – so should we.

- Edd Sterchi

Looking to the Cross

1 I saw One hanging on a tree,
In agony and blood;
He fixed His loving eyes on me,
As near His cross I stood.

Refrain:

O, can it be, upon a tree
The Savior died for me?
My soul is thrilled, my heart is filled,
To think He died for me!

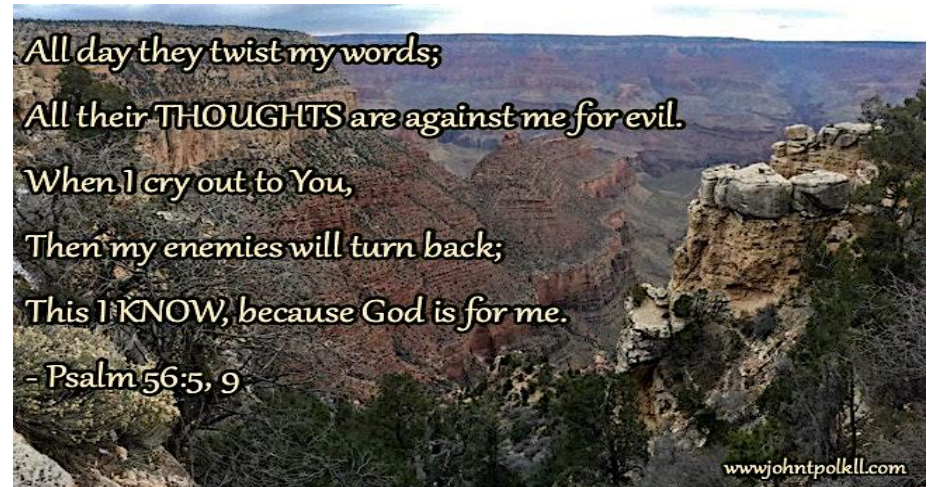
2 Sure, never to my latest breath,
Can I forget that look;
It seemed to charge me with His death,
Though not a word He spoke. (Refrain)

3 My conscience felt and owned the guilt,
And plunged me in despair:
I saw my sins His blood had spilt
And helped to nail Him there. (Refrain)

4 A second look He gave, which said,
"I freely all forgive:
This blood is for your ransom paid,
I die that you may live." (Refrain)

- song written by John Newton

All day they twist my words;
All their THOUGHTS are against me for evil.
When I cry out to You,
Then my enemies will turn back;
This I KNOW, because God is for me.
- Psalm 56:5, 9



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