

## *The Best Freedom of Speech*

*1 John 3:21-4:12*

Like our Bill of Rights, God's word guarantees freedom of \_\_\_\_\_ to believers in Jesus. But the free speech we are promised is \_\_\_\_\_ and more \_\_\_\_\_ than that protected by our Bill of Rights according to 1 John 3:21-24.

“Confidence” is the translation of a word that literally means, “\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_” – the freedom to say everything with no fear of \_\_\_\_\_. Our free speech in Christ is better because it is God, the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of the whole universe, Who accepts our relationship and communication with Him. And unlike the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment which only guarantees speech, not a \_\_\_\_\_, He promises that He hears us in 1 John 5:14-15.

This confidence, this “free speech,” comes because the \_\_\_\_\_ of God affirms our close relationship to God when we keep His commandments and live a life pleasing to Him. John narrows the requirement of keeping the commandments to these: \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of His son, Jesus Christ, and \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

Our confidence before God only comes when we accept Who Jesus is according to God's word. Only a fully \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus can be your substitute, paying your penalty for sin on the cross. Only a fully \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus can be your advocate with the Father. Minimize who He is, and you will never speak freely before the Father. Your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with God will be enhanced by accepting with confidence that Jesus is Who He said He is.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> requirement to have confidence, to freely speak before God, is that we love one another. Loving one another is the way His love is made \_\_\_\_\_ in us. Somehow loving one another completes God's love in us—you \_\_\_\_\_ He loves you.

When you accept that Jesus is Who He said He is—the member of the Trinity Who carries the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father and God in the flesh Who \_\_\_\_\_ for you, you will have the confidence to speak boldly, and His \_\_\_\_\_ that passes all understanding will be yours.