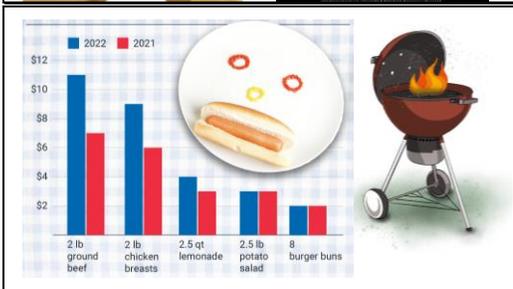




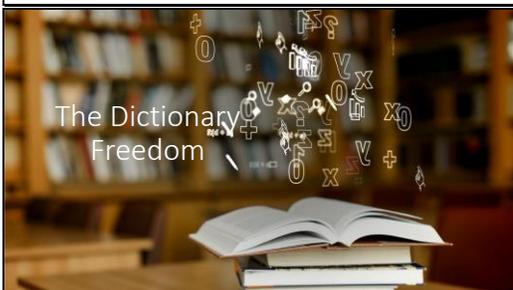
Shocked  
Under the category of "You think you've got it bad..."



Wanted Posters



4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout



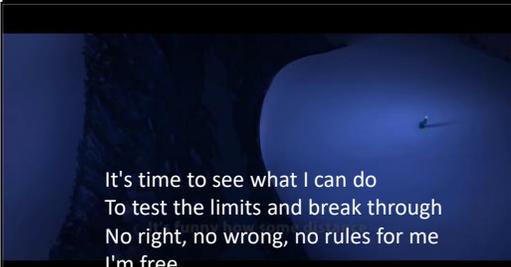
Church



Woodstock – Richie Havens. At 5:07 p.m. he opened the festival. All the while he received applause; Richie played 6 encores until he ran out of songs that he knew



But it's not just in rock concerts



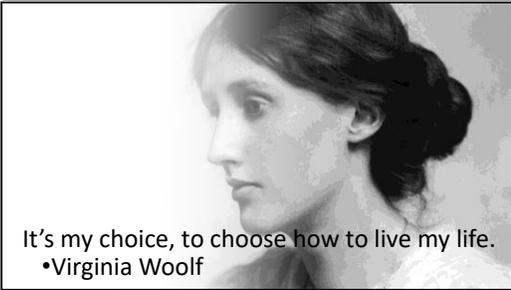
It's time to see what I can do  
To test the limits and break through  
No right, no wrong, no rules for me  
I'm free

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Freedom

The one and only rule – I get to choose and do whatever I want.



It's my choice, to choose how to live my life.  
•Virginia Woolf

It's my choice, to choose how to live my life.

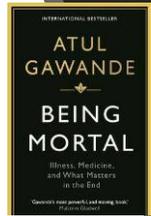


It just doesn't work – example...



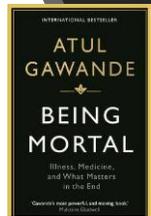


Want to do what he wants, eat what he wants  
 Wants to live – desires and freedoms contradict



There are different concepts of freedom (autonomy.) One is autonomy as free action — living completely independently, free of coercion and limitation. This kind of freedom is a common battle cry. But it is... a fantasy

There are different concepts of autonomy. One is autonomy as free action — living completely independently, free of coercion and limitation. This kind of freedom is a common battle cry. But it is... a fantasy



Our lives are inherently dependent on others and subject to forces and circumstances well beyond our control. Having more freedom seems better than having less. But to what end? The amount of freedom you have in your life is not the measure of the worth of your life.

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This is not popular at all – we’re told to go inside and find out who we are.

Tim Keller has a story about this.



Choose between desires  
 Not just freedom but freedoms



Choosing to lose some freedoms and choosing to gain the liberating freedoms



We are saying no all the time throughout our lives, to all sorts of things



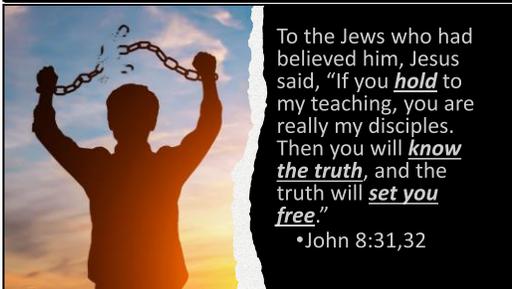
How did you learn? Said no to all sorts of things so you could find the freedom in your art form.



If you try and live any way you want, you'll quickly die. And you'll never know the great freedom of a loving relationship



How do they work? You give up all kinds of freedom. Leave town, play golf, buy plants. Jesus talks about freedom in John 8



To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will **know the truth**, and the truth will **set you free**."  
**Hold** – stay with, live with, remain  
**know the truth**, - not just in your head, but personally experience truth,. Truth takes what's hidden and brings it to light so it can be examined in the light of day  
**set you free** – liberate, set free from slavery or bondage  
 True freedom, letting go of the freedoms that will chain you and choosing the freedoms that will release you  
 This sounds off the wall to our society



One thing Jesus seems to be telling Nicodemus is that he must **recognize his own insufficiency** -- that he will have to turn his back on his autonomous, seemingly happy life and be reborn as a human being who **understands his dependency on something greater**. "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). That seems a **radical challenge to our freedom, and it is**.

• Getting Religion, Mark Lilla

Mark Lilla, Professor of Humanities at Columbia University

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Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a **slave to sin**."

• John 8:34

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a **slave to sin**." **slave to sin** – someone with no rights, no freedoms.



We are never free. Everybody in the world is either a slave of sin and Satan or else the slave of Jesus Christ.

• David Martin Lloyd-Jones

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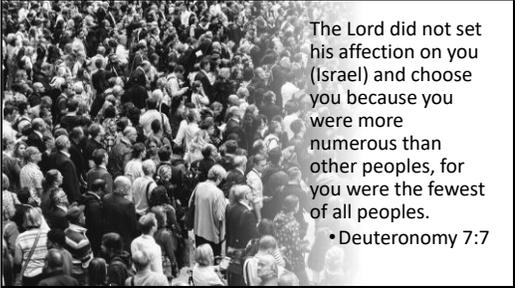


Freedom to love

Love is not based on what they can do. Tennis. Smart. In 1962, the Contours answered this deep and burning question



You broke my heart, 'cause I couldn't dance  
 You didn't even want me around  
 And now I'm back, to let you know  
 I can really shake 'em down  
 God's love is completely different



The Lord did not set his affection on you (Israel) and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

• Deuteronomy 7:7

The Lord did not set his affection on you (Israel) and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

But it was **because the Lord loved you** and **kept the oath** he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

• Deuteronomy 7:8



But it was **because the Lord loved you** and **kept the oath** he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.



We didn't choose him, he choose us.

You did not choose me, but **I chose you** and **appointed you** so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

• John 15:16

You did not choose me, but **I chose you** and **appointed you** so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

**I chose you** – not accidental, but deliberate, we are his heart-preference.

**appointed you** – he has assigned us to go and produce fruit.



Jesus, the ultimate free person doesn't waste his freedom on himself. Instead, he freely chooses people that he loves, not for who they are or what they can do, but out of himself.

