

SLIDE	NOTES
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Having previously finished our discussion on how justice regulates errors with equality, in this module, we discuss the principles related to how justice regulates liberty (or freedom). * In our discussion here, Liberty, Freedom, and Agency mean exactly the same thing. We will use them interchangeably.
2	<p>LIBERTY, FREEDOM</p> <p>As you can imagine, a word so powerful and valuable as Freedom has been confused, and conflicted to mean many different things.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Greg Wright</p> <p>Anim2: Three Types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mortimer Adler who was the director of "The Institute of Philosophical Research", spent 8 years with a large staff looking through all of the literature from Western Civilization to come up with a meaning and definition of Liberty or Freedom. * They came to the conclusion that there are 3 different broad categories or types of freedom * It is CRUCIAL to understand the differences between these meanings to avoid the many misunderstandings that may pop up. <p>Anim3: The 1st is what is called NATURAL FREEDOM</p> <p>Anim4: This is the metaphysical nature of mankind in which we have the ability to choose between various options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Due to human conceptual intelligence, we have potential to act, and not be acted upon like the other animals. The fact that humankind are rational animals, differentiates us from all the other animals on the planet. Fish don't have metaphysical agency, because they do not have the capability for abstract thought. * Free Will simply means options...If I chose A, I could have chosen B, C, D or E. * In a gospel sense we call this Agency. <p>Anim5: 2nd is what is called moral freedom.</p> <p>Anim6: This is the ethical nature of mankind which gives us the ability to desire what we ought <i>after</i> acquiring sufficient knowledge (epistemology).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * You are free to act, but are not free from consequences. The moment you act you are tied to reality. * In a gospel sense, this is called Moral Agency... That we can choose between options AND we are morally accountable for what we actually choose. * In ethics, this is Right choices. <p>Anim7: 3rd is what is called circumstantial freedom.</p> <p>Anim8: This is the freedom of an individual living within a larger society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * This is the meaning of "freedom" that is of interest to us in this class on politics. * Circumstantial Freedom takes two different forms: <p>Anim9: Individual freedom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * This form is the freedom of an individual to act, or move freely within the larger society. * They can walk the streets, purchase in the shops (if they have the means), and converse with other people. * A slave in chains, or a prisoner in prison does not have this form of liberty, even though they may have the previous two types of liberty. * People living in an authoritarian state such as North Korea or the former Soviet Union do not have this freedom. <p>Anim10: Political freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * This form is the citizenship of an individual to participate in the affairs of the state.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In the pre-civil war period of the United States, Slaves did not have this freedom. * Citizens of authoritarian states such as North Korea do not have this freedom. * Prior to the 19th amendment (in 1920) Women were limited in their Political Freedom. Prior to the 19th amendment, women were granted citizenship, but not suffrage. <p>Anim11: Quote Mortimer Adler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The first and second definitions of liberty (freedom or agency) belong in lower philosophical branches. Consequently the word "Justice" does not apply to them. * Justice does not apply to Natural Liberty...It is an unchosen freedom inherent in our natures. * Justice does not apply to Moral Liberty...We either cultivate moral liberty inside of us or we don't. * But, the 1st and 2nd definitions of liberty need to be understood first, so as to properly differentiate them from the 3rd form of liberty that belongs in our discussion of politics. The 1st and 2nd definitions are assumed to be present <i>before</i> we talk about the 3rd type of liberty. * When we discuss the political primacy issue of liberty and justice, the liberty we are talking about is the 3rd definition = external freedom <p>We will go through each of these in more detail.</p>
3	<p>1st: NATURAL FREEDOM (metaphysics)</p> <p>Natural liberty goes by other names such as Free Will, Freedom of Choice, or Agency. In Eternalism, we can also call it Metaphysical Liberty.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Mortimer Adler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Without the inherent ability to choose between various options there is no such thing as justice. * Justice assumes human agency or freedom of choice. * Without agency, there could be no heaven or hell .. Accountability requires abstract consciousness and the ability to choose between options. <p>The opposite of Free Will is Determinism:</p> <p>Anim2: Quote (Google Definition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Determinists theorize that all events are predetermined since the beginning of the universe. * They say that all actions we perform are actually not under our control, but are just as a consequence of cause and effect from variables occurring long before we were even born. * Determinism undercuts freedom, moral agency, accountability, justice and everything else that assumes mankind is able to act and not be acted upon. <p>Q: Otherwise, how do you hold accountable someone who isn't capable of choice and couldn't have acted otherwise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * It is <i>because</i> mankind has metaphysical freedom built into our natures that all of the other political concepts we have been discussing come into play. * Free Will is an unchosen part of our human nature. Only infants and the mentally ill are not capable of exercising metaphysical freedom. <p>The theological version of secular determinism is called predestination.</p> <p>Anim3: Quote Bruce R. McConkie</p>
4	<p>2nd: MORAL FREEDOM (ethics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Moral liberty goes by other names such as Inner Freedom, and Acquired Freedom. * In Eternalism, we can also call it Ethical Liberty. * It is our inner compass telling us what we ought to do. * Depending on how your own personal compass is set, you can earn this freedom for yourself, or be enslaved by your own wrong ethical impulses. <p>Anim1: POTENTIAL, VIRTUE, VICE</p>

	<p>We all have this potential freedom inside us, but we earn it through virtuous actions or become enslaved by vice. Either way the potential is in our own hands. Moral freedom doesn't just happen. It's not a natural endowment, it must be earned. Vice is also acquired bondage.</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Mortimer Adler This freedom is perfectly in our own control.</p> <p>Anim3: Quote Spinoza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No one can give this inner freedom to us, nor can anyone take it from us. Each of us has to earn it for ourselves. * Though we be thrown into prison, we can still be in control of our own desires. * People who burn out their conscience no longer have it to guide them and are no longer ethically free. * Moral Agency can be lost due to addiction because consequence is enforced by reality, not conscience. <p>Anim4: Quote Mortimer Adler Anim5: Quote President Brigham Young Anim6: Quote Elder Daniel Wells Anim7: Quote MIND/HEART</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * This freedom is essence of our Mind over Heart primacy issue * It is about reason controlling passion, but is not only about getting the mind right. It is also about getting the heart right, in the ethics of desire.
5	<p>3rd: CIRCUMSTANTIAL FREEDOM (politics): INDIVIDUAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * We now come to the 3rd liberty (Circumstantial Liberty) pertinent to our discussion of politics. * The first form of circumstantial freedom describes external freedom <i>within a societal environment</i> or simply "freedom of external action". <p>Anim1: Quote Mortimer Adler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Freedom of choice or agency may be constricted, but is still there within the available choices of the environment. * Moral liberty is also still under the control of the person, through the desires they choose to cultivate. <p>Anim2: Quote Mortimer Adler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Individual circumstantial freedom isn't just about confinement...It also has to do with enabling means (Rich, Poor, Old, Young, Educated, Uneducated, etc.) * Word of Caution: "Enabling means" can be falsely construed by some people as the false concept of economic rights, and egalitarianism. No one has an inherent right to dine at the ritz. They only are able to dine at the Ritz if they have earned the means to do so. <p>Anim3: Quote Mortimer Adler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Circumstantial freedom can be subjective, changing, and variable. * Circumstantial Freedom requires effort, and is always tempered by justice. A thief dining at the Ritz with stolen funds is acting unjustly.
6	<p>3rd: CIRCUMSTANTIAL FREEDOM (politics): POLITICAL</p> <p>The other form of circumstantial freedom is the right to have a share of sovereign ownership in the government. This means being granted citizenship and suffrage under a constitutional government.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Mortimer Adler</p> <p>All other freedoms are exclusively within the control of the individual...Only citizenship is beyond the control of the individual, being granted (or denied) by the greater society as a whole.</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Elder Erastus Snow said: God gave mankind revelations on proper government, to preserve our freedom, not to restrict it.</p> <p>Anim3: Quote Mortimer Adler</p>

- * Citizenship in a just, representational government necessarily means agreement to accept the principle of majority rule.
- * When we exercise our voting rights we voluntarily agree to abide by the majority outcome.
- * Majority rule cannot be taken in the absolute sense...Even the majority are not able to vote away, or trample upon the natural rights of the minority.

...Which brings us to righteous King Mosiah who said:

Anim4: Quote

- * Wise King Mosiah from the Book of Mormon understood the principle of majority rule...That it is required to be used wisely or else it inevitably leads to the destruction of society.
- * The judgments of God he is talking about are not necessarily fire falling from heaven with God punishing the society.
- * It is when reality asserts itself, expressing destructive consequences from tyranny of unrighteous men in power.
- * It is not common for the majority to become corrupt, but it is possible.
- * As long as the majority is righteous then the society is safe. If the righteous majority flips to unrighteousness, then the nature of the society also flips to become tyrannical, taking away minority rights.
- * So we accept majority rule only with the understanding that minority rights are protected. And our first means of redress is at the ballot box, not armed conflict.

7

SUMMARY: 3 tier meaning of liberty

Q: So are these three types of freedom to be found in our scriptures?

With our understanding of the 3 various different meanings of freedom (or liberty)...We are now prepared to clear up some of the confusion around the word "Freedom".

Anim1: Consider the following scripture...

Quote D&C 98:8 Jesus Christ

Q: Why three uses of the word: Free, Free, Free?

- * Initially this scripture seems redundant and repetitive, until you notice a couple of curious words "I make", "ye are", and "law a/so maketh"
- * This is hinting at 3 different different definitions of freedom in three different contexts.

Q: At this point can you describe the three different freedoms mentioned here?

Anim2: Metaphysical Freedom

- * This is the metaphysical nature of free will, or agency in mankind where God said "he makes us free".
- * God can never violate this principle of agency or he would cease to be God because he would be acting contrary to reality.
- * All other freedoms pre-suppose metaphysical free will (natural liberty, or freedom of choice).
- * Without it (as the determinists and predestinationists claim) there is no such thing as liberty, morality, justice, or the need for laws to regulate our conduct,

Q: Why have societal laws at all to hold accountable anyone who isn't capable of choice and couldn't have acted otherwise?

Anim3: Ethical Freedom

- * When God tells us that we are free indeed, he is warning us that control of our ethical appetites are exclusively up to us to personally control.
- * Because we are free to choose through our natural agency, we are also morally accountable for our choices.
- * We are free indeed to choose between liberty from virtuous actions or bondage from vice.

Anim4: Political Freedom

- * When God says "the law also maketh you free"... It pre-supposes they are just laws. Unjust laws do not make you free.

Q: Again, if we couldn't have chosen otherwise, and we were not capable of controlling our passions, what is the point of laws to regulate our conduct?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Political freedom also assumes a standard for determining just actions.* Because freedom of choice can lead to unethical actions that conflict with other people's societal freedom, justice must have primacy over liberty and regulate Societal Freedom.* Laws do not restrict freedom as the anarchists, and libertarians claim...Just laws enable freedom.* Only license is rightly restricted by just laws. For this reason, justice must temper liberty or it devolves into license. (which we will discuss in the next module)
8	Questions?