



1

My _____, My choice

Think about our many divisive cultural issues:

- Abortion
- Assisted Suicide/euthanasia
- Vaccinations/Masks
- Education
- Others?

2

What gave rise to this belief in our culture?

- First, it's not new. This is something that is as ancient as Eden. In fact, in the garden was really the only time that people truly had a choice!
- Jefferson vs. Hamilton. How does man's inherent goodness or evil effect the idea of choice?
- Jean Paul Sartre - "We are our choices"
- Roy Bennet - "Beliefs are choices. First you choose your beliefs. Then your beliefs affect your choices."
- Steve Maraboli - "How would your life be different if...You stopped allowing other people to dilute or poison your day with their words or opinions? Let today be the day...You stand strong in the truth of your beauty and journey through your day without attachment to the validation of others"
 - [Life, the Truth, and Being Free](#) The fabric of pluralism and a definition of freedom that gives us a way to forge our own paths.

3

Why is this sensible, powerful, and profound?

- **It feels good** to believe that we are in control.
 - "We are our own masters"
- **It helps us cope** with failure, feelings of helplessness, shame, and low self-esteem.
- **It is empowering** to feel that we contain our best intentions; we know better, we are exercising real freedom.

4

What can we learn? Any common ground?

- It can shape our attitudes
- It can encourage morality wisdom, accountability
- It insulates us from being judged and judging others.

5

Where could these ideas lead?

- To immorality, an excuse for a lack of wisdom, no accountability
- Away from God and toward self-idolatry.
- Post-modernist chaos

6

What spiritual issues are going on?

- The Bondage of the Will Luther vs. Erasmus

“This false idea of ‘free-will’ is a real threat to salvation, and a delusion fraught with the most perilous consequences.”

“If we do not want to drop this term altogether – which would really be the safest and most Christian thing to do – we may still in good faith teach people to use it to credit man with ‘free-will’ in respect, not of what is above him, but of what is below him. That is to say, man should realize that in regard to his money and possessions he has a right to use them, to do or to leave undone, according to his own ‘free-will’ – though that very ‘free-will’ is overruled by the free-will of God alone, according to his own pleasure. However, with regard to God, and in all that bears on salvation or damnation, he has no ‘free-will’, but is a captive, prisoner and bondsman, either to the will of God, or to the will of Satan.”

7

What do the Scriptures say?

- **“Choice” in the OT**
 - reshith - beginning, first, choicest, best
 - meged – excellence
 - naphal – idiomatic – Ezekiel 24:6 = “not have fallen down” (into the pot)
 - bachar – to choose – greater emphasis on divine choice
- **“Choice” in the NT**
 - eklego – 22 occurrences – the verb “to select, choose”
 - Never used in an autonomous way – almost always God choosing
 - Luke 9:35, John 15:16, Acts 1:24, Acts 6:5, Acts 13:17, Acts 15:17, 1 Corinthians 1:27-28
 - Luke 10 - A chapter of choices
 - Read Romans 9:15-16. How do these words from Jesus and Paul shape the Christian definition of “choice.”?

8

Questions to discuss together

- How does the biblical definition of freedom differ from our cultural definition of freedom?
- Is there really such a thing as freedom of choice? And if so, who has it?
- When it comes to spiritual matters; is human choice ever without a master shaping it and influencing it? Why or why not?

9

10