Leadership Through Freedom

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Leadership Through Freedom

- Why freedom?
- Freedom to lose
  - “Once you know that life is difficult, then life is no longer difficult” (M. Scott Peck – *The Road Less Traveled*)
- Freedom to control your destiny
  - “You can find a million and one excuses in life if you want to. I like the excuse ‘It is my fault, I am going to do something about it’ ” (Stuart Pearce)
1. Freedom To Reject
Managing Your Time

Exercise
Visiting a friend in another city
Reading an extra-curricular article

1. Source: Stephen Covey - *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*
1. Freedom To Reject (cont’d)

*Managing Your Time*

- Write a Personal Mission Statement

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<tr>
<th>The three people I would most like to hang out with</th>
<th>The three people I would most trust in a business relationship</th>
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Source: Prof. Asuka Nakahara (Wharton)

- You don’t *have* to do anything
2. Freedom To Rest

Don’t Just Do Something, Sit There

- Take rest breaks
  - Busyness is a boast disguised as a complaint\(^1\)
  - It takes work to stop working\(^2\)
- Eating on the run vs. sitting and enjoying
- Do not feel guilty if you rest; the world still goes on. You earn rest due to discipline in time management
- Extract from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry – *The Little Prince*

3. Freedom To Savor

*The Breadth, Length, Height, and Depth*

- We are all good at achieving goals
  - Mountaineers “reach the peak, but miss the point” (Chris Warner)
  - Savor the journey: the breadth, length, height, and depth of what you are doing
- Poem by Dale Wimbrow – *The Man in the Glass*
- Savor your team-mates; it is better to be part of a team where you’re picked last than the star player
- “Prepare thoroughly, do the hard work ahead of time, and when the payoff day arrives, savor it”¹
- Extract from Paolo Coehlo – *The Alchemist*

¹ Jimmy Lowe WG ‘14 in an email to me
4. Freedom To Dare

Getting Your Hands Dirty

- Losing is not bad, it’s just part of life
  - Freedom to try something new, outside your comfort zone

- Ties in with freedom to savor. The easiest way not to fall when skiing is to ski on the easiest slopes
  - “It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case, you fail by default” (J.K. Rowling)

- What is the magic formula to avoid failure?
  - “If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up people to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea” (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)
4. Freedom To Dare (cont’d)

Getting Your Hands Dirty

- There is no such thing as talent
  - Matthew Syed - *Bounce*, Malcolm Gladwell - *Outliers*
- I have zero talent for presenting
- How to balance exploring new things with committing to everything that you do?
  - “You can do everything you want to and be everything you want to be, but not all at once”¹

¹ Professor Laurie Hodrick - “Ten Questions” interview in *Financial Times*
5. Freedom To Respond

The Discipline of Contentment

- Between stimulus and response is our greatest power - the freedom to choose\(^1\)
- Reactive vs. proactive people
- Contentment is a discipline; you have to work on being content\(^2\)
  - Society trains us to be perpetually discontent
- Abundance mentality vs. scarcity mentality\(^1\)
- Ties in with the freedom to savor, and your values

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1. “Seven Habits”
2. Jared Ayers, pastor of Liberti Church Center City
6. Freedom To Serve

Giving Gifts of Unequal Value

- Abundance mentality frees us to serve; life does not have a forced curve
- Good middle class living vs. true service
- How can we serve most effectively with limited time?
- Serve the “homeless” of our communities
- Serving seems inefficient
  - But consider the breadth, length, height, and depth of serving
  - Gardening and baking are inefficient
- Ownership vs. stewardship
  - With great power comes great responsibility
6. Freedom To Serve (cont’d)

Giving Gifts of Unequal Value

- Humility isn’t about holding yourself in low esteem, but holding others in high esteem$^1$
- No-one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl
- Like a good analyst, be on the lookout for opportunities to help others
- “The difference between what we are doing and what we’re capable of doing would solve most of the world’s problems” (Gandhi)
- “Few of us can do great things, but all of us can do small things with great love” (Mother Teresa)

1. Professor Clayton Christensen - *How Will You Measure Your Life?*, paraphrased
7. Freedom To Do What You Love

The Fire Within

- Ask a kid what they want to be when they grow up
  - They tell you what they’d love to do
- You’ve already written your personal mission statement
  - See “Finding Fulfillment” talk to learn how to discover your passion (www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqL3vGUhNkg)
Leadership Through Freedom

- Freedom to reject – managing your time
- Freedom to rest – don’t just do something, sit there
- Freedom to savor – the breadth, length, height, and depth
- Freedom to dare – getting your hands dirty
- Freedom to respond – the discipline of contentment
- Freedom to serve – giving gifts of unequal value
- Freedom to do what you love – the fire within