



It's Worse Than You Thought

Andy Stanley

We are beginning a brand new series today called *Free*, and before we jump into the content, I want to point your attention to this website really quickly. The entire series will be on this website. You'll be able to watch them online. If you're in a small group or a community group, we would love you to discuss this in your small group, and if you go to this website, you'll be able to download questions free at the *Free* website in order to discuss the content. If you miss a message during this series, all the messages will be there the entire time. If you have friends who live in a different city or a different country, actually, and you're like, "Hey, I think you would really get something out of this message," it will all be right there at www.wecanbefree.org for absolutely free.

Now to begin today, I want to point out something that most of us have learned somewhere along the way, and it's simply this: it is impossible to solve a problem when you don't know what's wrong to begin with. It's impossible; we've all tried to do this. It's impossible to solve a problem if you don't know what's wrong to begin with. When I was a younger man and I would hear a funny knocking or a noise in the hood of my car, in the engine. Or if my car wouldn't stop, I would do what all young men would do. I would pull the latch, go out front and pop the hood, put my hands on the edge of the front of the car, and stare into the engine compartment. And then I would close the hood and call somebody, because I don't know anything about car engines.

I might as well have been looking in the glove compartment. But there's just something about I've got to look in there, but I don't know how it works. And so I would never be able to solve a problem in my engine, because I don't know what's wrong to begin with, because I don't understand that. Now, here's the deal: Many of you have been trying to solve you for a long time. Many of you have spent money trying to solve you. Some of you, your spouse sent you to talk to somebody about solving you, because it's like, "Either get fixed or I'm gone, because you're a problem."

The problem is it's hard to solve you if you're not sure what the problem is to begin with. Now, you're very smart people or you wouldn't be a part of our congregation or watch online. But you have a theory as to what's wrong with you. It's not like you haven't tried, but you can't quite figure out what's wrong with you, so solving you is a big deal. Some of you've lost jobs because you haven't been able to solve something about you. Some of you've lost marriages because you haven't been able to solve something about you. Some of you've lost a lot of money, a lot of sleep, a lot of time. You've lost your self-esteem, you've lost your reputation,

