

THE MENACE,  
MYTH &  
MAYHEM  
— OF —  
AUTONOMY

**The Menace, Myth, and Mayhem of Autonomy**

Andy Stanley

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 11:1, 3–4, 10–11, 13–15, 26–27

**Idea:** Autonomy is a myth and a dangerous goal with a predictable outcome. You were made for community, not autonomy.

*[Hi everybody! I have great news for all the women in the audience. Today's message is for all the men—those who are married, single, young, not so young, fathers, wannabe fathers, or maybe scared you might be fathers. Anyway, as men, I think we all have something in common. There's an underlying, often overlooked component in our pursuit of success. To be clear, I don't think this is unique to men, but the successful women I know seem to have a better handle on this than we do. This unrecognized component in our quest for...]*

AUTONOMY

*[is to be...]*

**Self-governing**

*[After all, it's part of the American dream. As men, it's pretty much our definition of success, right? To do what I want to do, when I want to do it, and have enough money to pay for it, is an alluring goal. In addition to our ego, several things fuel this.]*

*[First, we've seen it. And we can't "unsee" it. Most of our role models appear to be completely autonomous—corporate heroes, successful artists, and professional athletes. They all appear to operate unfettered by financial or relational restraints. There may be more to it for you. Maybe for you, something else fuels your quest for autonomy. Maybe it was the way you were raised. If you grew up in a home where money was always tight, or if you spent a season or two living with relatives, or worse, autonomy may not feel like a "nice to have." For you, it's a "must have." The thought of returning to that or putting your family through that is terrifying. It's motivating. Again, it's not a "nice to have." For you, it's a "must have." You don't ever want to have to depend on someone or something else.]*

*[Woven into all this is an assumption most of us share. The assumption is: "I can handle it." How hard can it be?" We're baffled by stories of men who've "made it" and then turn*

