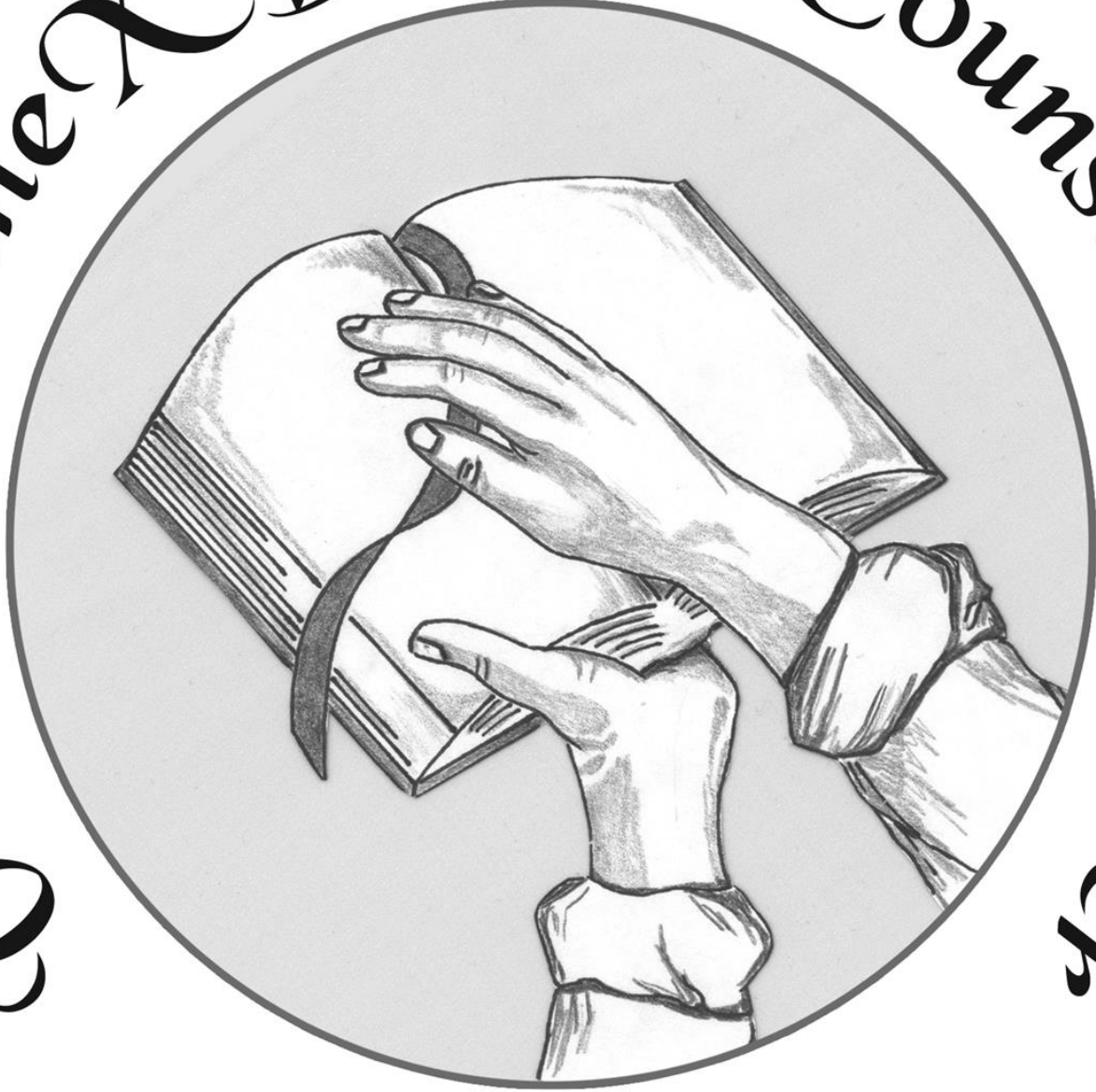


Valley Connect Biblical Counseling Center



# Shepherding Children Through Crisis: Independence

# The myth of independence

Independence has the connotation that one is totally sufficient within himself or herself and thus requires very little or no outside influence and accepts no accountability.

# The myth of independence

- <sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” Psalm 14:1a (ESV)
- <sup>15</sup> The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. Proverbs 12:15 (ESV)
- <sup>5</sup> A fool despises his father’s instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent. Proverbs 15:5 (ESV)

# The myth of independence

- <sup>24</sup> The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. Proverbs 17:24 (ESV)
- <sup>26</sup> Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. Proverbs 28:26 (ESV)

# The myth of independence

- <sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”  
Luke 12:16-21 (ESV)

# The myth of independence

- <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Genesis 3:4-6 (ESV)

# The Bible presents freedom as the key to a full and productive life.

- <sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32 (ESV)
- <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36 (ESV)

# The Bible presents freedom as the key to a full and productive life.

- Freedom begins with a relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10 (ESV)

# The Bible presents freedom as the key to a full and productive life.

- Freedom continues by learning to recognize sin and avoid it or turn from it.
  - <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. John 8:34 (ESV)

# The Bible presents freedom as the key to a full and productive life.

- Freedom continues by learning to recognize sin and avoid it or turn from it.
  - <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)

# The Bible presents freedom as the key to a full and productive life.

- The difference between the popular concept of independence and the scriptural teaching about freedom is the reality that we only have the freedom to choose which master we will serve.
    - **<sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification...**
    - **<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.**
- Romans 6:19,22 (ESV)**

# Some key areas of instruction and correction we need to know to live in freedom.

- Wisdom and integrity in financial matters
  - Proverbs 6:1-5 (See also Proverbs 22:7)
- Sound work ethic
  - Proverbs 6:6-11 (See also 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)
- Integrity in all relationships
  - Proverbs 6:12-15
- Sexual purity
  - Proverbs 6:20-35 (See also 1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

# Areas of immediate and dire threat to living in freedom.

- Proverbs 6:16-19
  - Pride
  - Dishonesty
  - Violent injustice
  - Undisciplined mind/Unexamined heart
  - Rash, reactionary behavior
  - Enemy of healthy relationships

# The bottom line

- Live as free people under the Lordship of Christ.
  - <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 1 Peter 2:16 (ESV)