

IN DEPENDENT

Who are you depending on?

Smokey Point Community Church
Sermon Series

DEPENDENT

Who are you depending on?

inDEPENDENT

February 1 & 2 // Jim Johnson

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

TIME WITH GOD: If you don't currently have a Bible reading plan, you can download "Our Time with God" at spcc.tv/resources

REFLECTIONS:

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
(John 10:27)*

Jesus is speaking to you as you read His Word and wants you to respond to His voice. This week, as you spent time with Him in His Word, describe one thing you felt Him talk to you about.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: Is there something that stood out to you in the opening message to the "inDEPENDENT" series?

Independent: "Already you have all you want"

MY PERSPECTIVE: Looking back at your adolescence, describe an event that marked a step toward your independence (Driver's license, 1st job, etc.).

DIGGING DEEPER:

An attitude of spiritual independence was the source of many problems in the Corinthian church.

Read the following verses: Romans 1:21-25; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; James 4:6-10; Revelation 3:17-20. Describe what these verses teach us about being spiritually independent vs. being dependent on God.

Read John 15:5. Seeing ourselves as helpless can be uncomfortable. We often feel more secure relying on ourselves than relying on someone else. Describe why you prefer to be independent over being dependent on someone else.

MY RESPONSE:

We all battle with spiritual independence. Give an example of where that shows up in your life.

Write a prayer, asking God to help you battle against a heart of independence in order to gain a heart of dependence on Him.

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Who are you depending on?

The Gap

February 8 & 9 // Luis Sanchez

1 Corinthians 1:4-11

Listen online at spcc.tv/message-audio

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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What caught your attention during Luis' message this weekend? Did you come away with any questions?

Independent: "are you not of the flesh and behaving in only a human way?"

MY PERSPECTIVE: Think back over the last decade or two. Describe one thing you had hoped to do or be that has eluded you.

DIGGING DEEPER:

“...by this time you ought to be _____.”

Read the following verses: Galatians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14; Revelation 2 & 3. We often fall short of what we ought to be. In fact, the Church has a long history of failing to live out our identity in Christ. Describe one way you see this gap in Christianity today.

Here are three potential reactions to seeing the gap between who I am in Christ and how I live: 1. Pretend: “What gap?” 2. Strive: “I can do better.” 3. Discouragement: “I can’t, so why try?”

Do you see yourself responding in any of these ways? Describe.

MY RESPONSE:

Whether you tend to pretend, strive, or become discouraged as you face your gap, what true thing would Jesus remind you of to help you lean into Him? Find a verse that communicates this truth (feel free to use Google). Share the verse with your Life Group.

Each day this week, do something that helps you lean into this truth from Jesus. You might find a song and listen to it, journal about that verse, read a poem, or reflect on a piece of art. Be creative.

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Who are you depending on?

Us & Them

February 15 & 16 // Jim Johnson

1 Corinthians 1:10-31

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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: Is there something that God impressed on your heart as you listened to Jim's message? What stood out?

Independent: "there is jealousy and strife among you"

MY PERSPECTIVE: clique: *a small group of people, with shared interests or other features in common, who spend time together and do not readily allow others to join them.*

Describe any cliques you saw in high school. Were you part of one?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others. (Proverbs 12:15)

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. In this passage, we see themes of independent arrogance versus dependent humility. In Corinth, independence lead to, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos." Describe a way independent attitudes divide the church today.

Losing sight of our identity in Christ distorts the lens through which we view others. There is no hierarchy at the foot of the cross, no "I'm better than" or "I'm lesser than."

Read the following verses: Romans 12:1-21. Arrogance says, "You're so different!" Humility says, "We're so much the same!" Describe things you have in common with all humanity, particularly with those you disagree with.

MY RESPONSE:

We can maintain the illusion of unity if we only fellowship with people like ourselves.

One symptom of an independent attitude is distancing ourselves from people who are different than us. Reflect on your relationships. Do you have friends who are very different from you (in politics, economic status, beliefs, etc.)? If not, what do you need to wrestle with in order to have these kind of friends?

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (1 Peter 3:8)

Read Luke 18:9-14. Take some time in reflection and prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to search your heart for any “better than” attitudes. If the Spirit reveals something, write out a prayer of repentance and a step you will take toward change.



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Christ Alone

February 22 & 23 // Tim Quick

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: Did God impress anything on your heart through the message this weekend?

*Independent: "If then you received it, why do you boast as
if you did not receive it...Let him who boasts,
boast in the Lord."*

MY PERSPECTIVE: On a scale of 1-10, #1 being having no confidence & #10 being extremely confident, where would you rate yourself? Explain why you see yourself this way.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read the following verses: Romans 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:28-31; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, & Galatians 6:14. Describe what it means to “boast in the Lord.” What are some other things we might “boast” in besides the Lord?

Read the following verses: Proverbs 11:20; Zephaniah 3:17; Luke 15:11-24; Romans 8:31-34. Which is more common for you, feeling like God sees you with delight, or feeling like He sees you with disappointment? If you feel confident in His delight, why? If you sense His disappointment, why?

MY RESPONSE:

Read Philippians 3. It's common for us to connect our spiritual "performance" with how we think God feels about us.

When you lack assurance of God's delight, do you tend to distance yourself from God, or increase your efforts to perform? What would change in the way you relate with God if you fully trusted that you are already in His favor because of Christ?

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Cor. 2:2)

The simplicity of the Gospel: Jesus Christ and Him crucified! The Gospel isn't about us doing; it's done! Choose one of these passages and take time every day this week to reflect on it: Matt 11:28-30; Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 10:14-23. Share with your group what passage you chose and how God spoke to you through it.

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A Humbling Reality

February 29 & March 1 // Jim Johnson

1 Corinthians 2:6-3:3

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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: Did you have any questions about this weekend's message? What spoke to you?

Independent: The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

MY PERSPECTIVE: Did you take a foreign language in high school or college? If so, what? Is there a language, besides English, that you understand well enough to get by with in a foreign country?

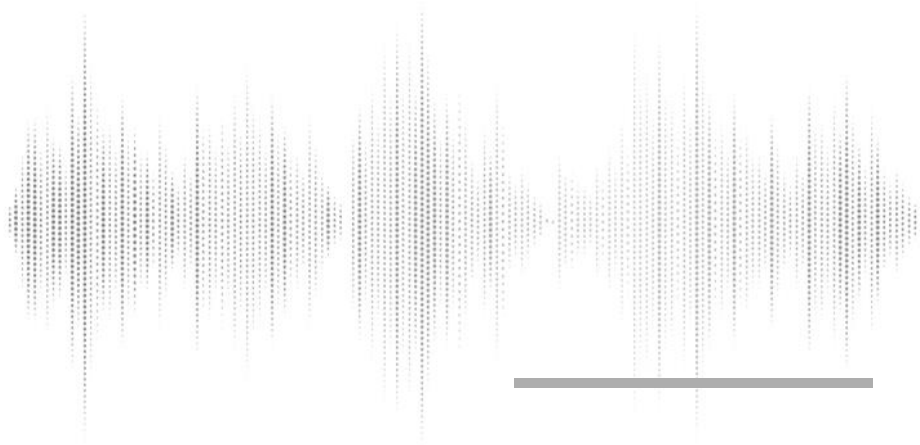
DIGGING DEEPER: Read 1 Corinthians 2:11-3:3 & Hebrews 5:11-14. The Christians in Corinth had the Holy Spirit, but had lost their ability to understand spiritual things. They had become spiritually deaf. How does an independent attitude contribute to this?

Read the following verses: Jeremiah 8:8-9; Luke 18:9-14; 1 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:12. Drifting from humble dependence into independence hinders our ability to hear God's voice. Describe some practices that help us maintain our dependence on God.

MY RESPONSE:

Read John 10:27. Would Jesus say you that you listen more to His voice, or your own? Explain why you answered that way.

With your Life Group, share one practice you can grow in to maintain a humble posture of listening to God's voice.



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Following vs. Favoring

March 7 & 8 // Jim Johnson

1 Corinthians 3:1-4:5

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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What did God impress on your heart in the message this weekend?

Independent: "I follow Paul! I follow Apollos...puffed up in favor of one against another."

MY PERSPECTIVE: Name a leader (past or present) that you highly respect. Describe why.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Have you ever become disillusioned because a Christian leader failed you? Describe. Have you worked through that? If so, how?

Read the following verses: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; 1 Corinthians 4:16; Hebrews 13:7, 17. Matthew 15:12-14. In Corinth, they were favoring one leader over another. What are some things to look out for to keep you from favoring leaders like the Corinthians did?

MY RESPONSE:

Do you believe that you have a proper perspective of the leaders at SPCC? If so, why? If not, why not?

Is there a wound from a past leader that you need to work through? Share this with your Life Group along with a first step you need to take toward healing.



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An Attitude Check

March 21 & 22 // Tim Quick

1 Corinthians 4:8-20

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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What stood out to you in Tim's message? Did you have any questions?

Independent: "be imitators of me...some are arrogant"

MY PERSPECTIVE: Describe a time when someone gave you advice you didn't want to hear.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read the following verses: Proverbs 26:12; Romans 12:3-16; Revelation 3:17-20. The independent Corinthians rejected input because they felt wise and self-sufficient. Describe some reasons why submitting to instruction can be so distasteful.

Read the following verses: Ecclesiastes 4:9-13; Ephesians 5:15-21; 1 Peter 5:5. What does humbly receiving input and instruction look like in these two arenas: 1. Weekend messages 2. Life Group.

MY RESPONSE:

Is there someone you currently receive input and instruction from who knows you well enough to give it? Explain why.

As a Life Group, do you just share prayer requests, or do you practice the kind of dependence where people regularly say, "Here's my situation, I need your perspective and your input"? What can you do as a group to foster a culture where this happens more often?



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“Judge Not?”

March 28 & 29 // Jim Johnson

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What stood out to you in Jim's message this weekend?

*Independent: "immorality among you...and some
are arrogant"*

MY PERSPECTIVE: Is there a time when you felt unfairly judged? Describe.

DIGGING DEEPER:

“Judge not, that you be not judged” (Matthew 7:1) “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37)

Read the following verses: Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; Hebrews 3:12-13. Do these verses contradict Matthew 7:1 & Luke 6:37? Why or why not?

...by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme...” (2 Samuel 12:14)

An independent attitude leads people to say, “My sin is none of your business!” Read the following verses: Romans 2:24; 1 Timothy 6:1; Titus 2:1-14; 2 Peter 2:2. From these verses, why is your sin more than just “your own” business?

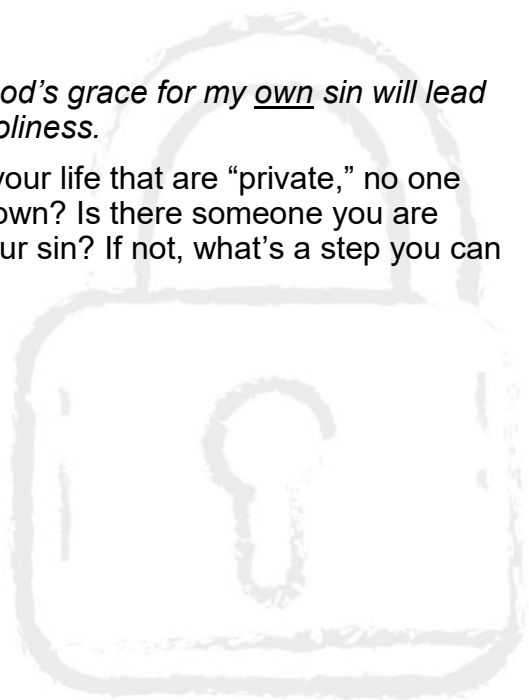
MY RESPONSE:

"The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" (Luke 7:34)

Read the following verses: Luke 15:1-7; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10, 12-13. Arrogant people judge sinners and disassociate from them. In your life, can you see any judgmental attitudes toward "sinners?" If so, describe.

A daily appreciation for God's grace for my own sin will lead to a pursuit of personal holiness.

Are there areas of sin in your life that are "private," no one else's business but your own? Is there someone you are transparent with about your sin? If not, what's a step you can take toward doing that?



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