

Date: August 2, 2026

Series: Own the Mission: Belong, Become, Be Sent

Title: Dependent versus Self-Sufficient

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 and Colossians 2:6-7



INTRODUCTION

Question to Ponder: Are you truly living in dependence on God or on yourself?
How do you know? What does the evidence actually say?

Note: Cowardice, worry, the fear of man, the fear of conflict, and people-pleasing do not flow from dependence on God—they reveal dependence on self!

Big Picture Point: Only when we are confident in Christ, convinced of His love, and rooted in His abiding presence and grace can we rightly “own” the mission!

I. BLESSED, BEAUTIFUL, LIBERATING DEPENDENCE

2 Corinthians 3:1-4 -

1) True dependence on God BEGINS with confidence in Christ!

(Romans 8:38-39 and 1 John 2:1)

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 -

2) We have a sufficiency that isn't self-made. It is a right, a privilege, a standing, a calling, and an empowerment given to us by God Himself!

*“Run, John, Run, the law commands,
But gives us neither feet nor hands.
Far better news the gospel brings:
It bids us fly and gives us wings.”*
(John Bunyan)

(Galatians 5:1, 13)

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 -

3) We can stop doubting and questioning our place and our usefulness in Christ's kingdom. We are imperfect but empowered servants of Jesus! Through the gospel we proclaim, the Spirit does His beautiful, transformational, life-giving work!

(Acts 14:19-23 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

Colossians 2:1-7 -

4) We can flourish—owning the mission and abounding in thanksgiving—only when our roots run deep in Christ, drawing daily nourishment from His presence and grace.

(1 Corinthians 15:10; 1 John 3:1)

“...abounding in thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2:7c)

Questions for Further Study and Reflection:

1. What is the connection between confidence in Christ and dependence upon Him?
2. What regularly hinders and threatens your confidence in Jesus and in His love?
3. How will you know if/when you're living in dependence on Christ? What will the fruit/evidence be?
4. What are some signs of sinful, ungodly self-sufficiency? What does it look like?
5. What is the “sufficiency” (2 Cor. 3:4-6) we've been given by God? What should we do with it?
6. In Colossians 2:1-7, what does Paul desire for us “to have” and “to do”?

Achievable, Advantageous Action Steps:

1. Spend time reflecting on 1 John 2:1 and 1 John 3:1. Write out three observations from these texts that should encourage confidence in Jesus. Spend time praying through and rejoicing in these truths.
2. Take two minutes, at the beginning of your day, to pray that God will open your eyes to see opportunities to live in joyful dependence on Him. Ask God to help you live with confidence in Jesus.
3. Share with a trusted, fellow believer some of the ways that sinful self-sufficiency can show itself in your life. What does it look like (attitude, actions, words, thought patterns) when you're not living in dependence on Christ?
4. Identify one area of your life where you're doing well when it comes to living in confidence in Christ and dependence upon His grace. Praise the Lord for this evidence of His grace and power!
5. Identify one area where you see a need for growth and improvement when it comes to living in confidence in Christ and dependence upon His grace. Ask God to help you grow, and share this prayer request with a trusted believer.