



Sermon Main Idea:

As an Evangelical Covenant Church, we **affirm a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit**. It is the Holy Spirit who enables our obedience to Christ and conforms us to his image, and it is the Spirit in us that enables us to continue Christ's mission in the world.

Introduction:

1. What do the words "conscious dependence" mean to you? How does it differ from "unconscious dependence"?
2. What are some examples of things that win our dependence over the Holy Spirit?

SORP:

Scripture | read Ephesians 2:11-22

Observation | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. Verse 11 begins with "Therefore." Read verses 1-10 and discuss the context of "therefore" (i.e. what is the "therefore" there for?).
2. What is Paul asking the Ephesians to remember (verses 11-12)? Why might he be drawing their attention to these things?
3. What do you think it means that Jesus destroyed the barrier "by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations" (verses 14-15)?
4. How many times do you see the word "peace" in verses 14-18? What is the significance of peace in this text?
5. What does it mean to be "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (verse 20)?

Response | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. What are some things we need to "remember," in order to recognize God's grace in our own lives?
2. What are some distinctions that we find in the Church today that can be barriers or dividing walls of hostility?
3. Why do you think that hostility is something that we can feel, even towards others in the Body?
4. How might God be calling you to be a conduit of His peace in this world? In the Church?
5. What role does the Holy Spirit have in reconciling all to one new humanity?
6. What might you need to do to develop and practice a *conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit*?
7. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

Prayer | ask God to help you live out your response