

STUDY NOTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The Counter-Cultural Life” on 5/6/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

LIVING COUNTER-CULTURALLY

We live in a culture that basically says that anything goes. Paul gives some specific directives that shows us that Christians need to live in contrast to that sentiment.

1. Obey God.

To live like Christians, we are called to have an attitude of obedience. Paul even says that such obedience confirms the fact that we are truly saved.

- *Why does obedience have such a negative stigmatism?*

2. Salvation comes from God, not ourselves or others.

Without Jesus taking the initiative, we could not be saved. We wouldn't have wanted to be saved, nor would there be a way to be saved.

- *What does it say about God that he initiates salvation?*

3. Live life in reverence for God.

Christians should be the most humble and grateful people on planet earth. Living as a Christian means that we should remember where we've come from and how Jesus is the one doing the work in our life.

- *What does it do in your heart to meditate on how salvation comes from God?*

4. Serve for the good of God, not self.

It is counter to culture to think that our lives are not our own and that we should serve others for the good of God, not ourselves. We should be seeking to make a name for Jesus, not ourselves.

- *How can you separate serving for the name of Jesus from serving for your own name?*

5. Be grateful for what God has given.

We live in an argumentative culture, yet Paul calls us to not to grumble or dispute with one another.

- *How should we respond to situations rather than grumbling and disputing?*

JESUS MAKES THE PATH STRAIGHT

It is clear that Paul calls Christians to live counter to culture. He calls the culture around us a “crooked and twisted generation”. This doesn't just refer to one generation, but it expresses the ethical and social misconduct which is rooted in ungodliness. **Read Luke 3:4-5.** Jesus came to make our paths straight. He did so by providing that way of salvation. We are now called to go into all the world living as a light to the work that Jesus does.

The church is called to live an examined and obedient life in the midst of an unexamined and disobedient world.

- *What sort of response should we expect by living counter-cultural?*
- *How can we, as Christians, help each other live counter-cultural?*
- *Pray with each other for strength to live counter-cultural.*