

STUDY NOTES

THE WAYS OF GRACE

A Series At New City Church

newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Grace Requires Nothing of Me" on 9/8/19 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: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

ADMITTING TO BEING DEAD IN SIN

In this series, we will use a tool called the Enneagram to help us see the ways that we have been impacted by sin. The goal of this series — and the Enneagram, for our purposes — is to shed light on our flaws so that we can better turn them over to God. It is only when we turn over our flaws to Jesus that we can find wholeness in Him. We see this same message in scripture. The apostle Paul is telling us in this Ephesians passage that the first thing that we all have to do is to admit that we are dead in our sins.

In order to be truly alive, we first need to admit that we are dead.

- *In your experience, how has admitting your faults led to you feeling alive?*

FINDING THE ONE IN ALL OF US

As we talk about these concepts every week, we can all find ways that we relate to the specific Enneagram number that's being highlighted. There is a little bit of every number in all of us. This week, we focused on Type One. They are usually labeled as a "Perfectionist." Why? Ones are clean and orderly. They immediately notice when something is out of place. They view being perfect as their mortal duty. Often, they are frustrated because life and people are not how they should be. Some of the greatest sins for a One include anger, frustration, and annoyance.

- *How can these character traits be used in a good way? How can these character traits be used in a damaging way?*
- *How have you exhibited qualities like this? Or do you know others who exhibit qualities like this?*

Trying to make things as good as possible is a godly character trait. However, trying to be perfect because someone's worth is only found in their perfectionism is contrary to the ways of God. Even when we were dead in our sin, God made us alive together with Christ. Our worth isn't based off what we do. It is based off God's grace to us. God offers his grace to us freely.

Grace requires nothing of us.

- *In everything that we do, we are taught that something is required of us. So how does that make this truth — that nothing is required of us — difficult to grasp?*

YOU ARE A WORKMANSHIP OF GOD

Someone who struggles with perfectionism as moral duty probably has the hardest time loving themselves. They realize that they aren't perfect and will never live up to the standard to which they think they are held. They need to see how God's grace is given to them anyway. They also need to see that God considers everyone as a work of His own hands. The apostle Paul describes people as "a workmanship created in Christ Jesus."

- *If you created something as your own workmanship, how would you describe it?*
- *What do you think it means for God to describe you as his "workmanship?"*
- *Pray with each other that everyone in the group can feel like God's workmanship this week.*