

# STUDY NOTES

## ANTI-SOCIAL

a series at New City Church

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message “Social Bots and Insta Influencers” on 9/23/18 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: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11b-18

## MAKING MEANING AND FORMING IDENTITY

“Social-media distortion affects America more profoundly than other countries because of the very specific, even unique, way that Americans make meaning. This gullibility is a consequence of the country’s ancient faith in self-determination as an all-encompassing guiding principle. Self-determination is the source of America’s oldest political commitments...In America, everyone is entitled to his or her own vision of the universe. The latest technology has revealed an ancient crisis. The most glorious feature of American life is also a great weakness—a glamorous flaw.” —Stephen Marche, *The New Yorker*, October 2017.

Our country is more susceptible to false information because we think we can form our own realities ourselves. How we see the world influences how we see ourselves. On social media, accounts like Instagram influencers and fake profiles propagate a world that isn’t even real. People begin to form their identity around these false realities. Because we see these influences, we constantly are being bombarded with messages that say, “You are not enough.”

- Describe how you have seen profiles that either propagate an unreal lifestyle (Instagram influencers) or are completely fake (social bots) themselves?
- How have you seen people influenced by what is shared on these accounts? How are you personally influenced by accounts like these?

## LOVING OURSELVES

As Christians, we need to be reminded on the true reality in which we live. If you are in Christ, you are new. You didn’t have to do anything to earn God’s love. The true reality to being a Christian is that God loves you. Understanding how God views you personally is critical to learning to love ourselves. In other words, how I look at myself hinges on how God sees me. The only true way to find your true identity is to first love God, and know that He loves you.

### **You are loved by Jesus.**

- How does loving yourself feel selfish?
- Why do you think that knowing how God sees you is critical to loving yourself?

## LOVING NEIGHBOR

Why is it so important that we love ourselves? **READ Matthew 22:36-40.** How I love myself determines how I love my neighbor. The place in which we love ourselves is the place in which we love others.

### **You do not love your neighbor as yourself, unless you try to draw him/her to that which you are yourself pursuing.**

- If you don’t love yourself, how do you become jealous and try to compete with your neighbor?

## BUILDING ON JESUS

Paul tells us not regard anyone according to the flesh. That includes you personally. Ultimately our vision of love must come from God—through the person and work of Jesus. When we realize that we are free in Christ, we can stop hating ourselves and we can grow in our freedom to love others.

- How do you think the vision of Jesus’s love should influence how you consume social media?
- Why do you need to hear that you are enough in Jesus?
- Pray with each other to find our identity in the love of Jesus.