

STUDY NOTES

THE WAYS OF GRACE

A Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Jesus Wants You” on 11/3/19 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 4:25–32

TURNING OUR FLAWS TO GOD

The Enneagram offers nine mirrors for self-reflection. The goal of the Enneagram is to help you let go of the walls you’ve built because of sin and fear. It should guide you in learning to be more comfortable with your flaws and turning them over to God! The Enneagram type 9 is the “peacemaker.”

THE PEACEMAKER

The peacemaker wants inner stability for themselves, but they also want that deeply for others. This makes most peacemakers fairly likable. In their health, they can be patient, steady, easygoing, receptive, content, comforting, and idealizing. Their basic desire is for inner peace — both for themselves and others.

- *Do you know a peacemaker? What is it like interacting with that person?*
- *How have you seen the peacemaker’s character traits used for good?*

MAKING FALSE PEACE

The command to make peace is all throughout the Scripture. However, we all have to wrestle with whether or not we are pursuing true peace. Peacemaker types can have a hard time being honest with others in difficult conversations. They have a

tendency to bottle up their emotions or avoid honest conversations. This usually continues until they snap in anger.

Avoiding the truth inside not only hurts yourself, but also ends up hurting everyone else around you.

- *How have you been hurt by someone who held things in internally and then externally snapped?*

When we avoid the truth, it means that we don’t give others our full self and that we don’t build others up in honesty. Living like that can create a reality where nothing is real. It creates a “peace” that is inauthentic and dishonest—a fake peace. By avoiding the hard truths of life, everything around you is built on something that isn’t real. It can lead to constantly portraying ourselves as someone who we are not. To fully grasp this, we need to wrestle with the answers to these two questions:

**Who are you?
Who do you let others believe that you are?**

- *Is there a disparity between the answers to these two questions?*
- *How do you portray yourself as someone that you are not?*

TRUE PEACE REQUIRES TRUTH AND GRACE

Most people don’t portray their authentic self because they feel like their true self isn’t good enough. We believe that we don’t have value or worth. But that isn’t the way of Jesus. The way of Jesus tells us that our true selves matter. We matter so much to Jesus that he gave everything for us individually—even when we were in sin. Jesus didn’t overlook us.

Jesus wants you just as you are.

- *Why do we feel like we have to “have it all together” to be wanted by Jesus?*

Jesus doesn’t want to leave us where we feel inadequate. He doesn’t want us to feel overlooked or like we are not good enough. Jesus wants us to feel authentically loved by him, and then he wants us to authentically love others.

Jesus wants you to take up your cross and follow him.

- *How does realizing that we are each authentically loved by Jesus change the way that we love other people?*