



World Christian Fellowship

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Philippians 21

Why you should not Murmur

Philippians 2:14-16, *Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or laboured in vain.*

Apostle Paul gives us three reasons why we should not murmur.

- 1. For our own sake,**
- 2. For sake of unsaved**
- 3. For the sake of your pastor**

That we might be the kind of children that God has saved us to be.

V15, *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

It starts with us.

Why you are to do this?

So that you will be a blameless, harmless, above-reproach child of God. You are called to be all that a child of God should be.

Ephesians 5:1, *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*

If God is your Father, then imitate God, then pattern your life after Him.

If you are a child of God then live the way a child of God should live, manifesting the character of God.

Titus 2 lists us the adorning the doctrine of God in the manner in which you live.

A Titus 2 Woman

- ✓ Is Sober
- ✓ Is Discreet
- ✓ Is Chaste
- ✓ Is Good
- ✓ Is, in Behavior, in Keeping with Holiness
- ✓ Is Not a False Accuser
- ✓ Is Not Given to Much Wine
- ✓ Is a Teacher of Good Things
- ✓ Is a Keeper at Home
- ✓ Loves Her Husband
- ✓ Loves Her Children
- ✓ Is Obedient to Her Own Husband

A Titus 2 Man

- ✓ Is Sober
- ✓ Is Sober Minded
- ✓ Is Temperate
- ✓ Is Sound in Faith
- ✓ Is Sound in Charity
- ✓ Is Sound in Patience
- ✓ Is Sound in Speech
- ✓ Is Uncorrupt, and
- ✓ Sincere in Doctrine

You are to stop complaining, doing all things without grumbling or disputing, in order that you may prove yourselves to be.

You are to be in the process of becoming a blameless innocent above-reproach child of God. So, you are not to complain in order that process may work, that you may be in the process at the end of which you become a harmless, blameless, above-reproach child of God.

Now, those two words, blameless and harmless they both speak of moral purity.

Blameless means a life that can't be criticized. There is nothing for which you can be held responsible by way of sin, evil, wickedness.

The word "harmless/innocent"

Matthew 10:16, *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

Romans 16:19, *For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.*

It has to do with being pure. It has to do with being unmixed, unadulterated, undefiled.

It is used, for example, to refer to unmixed wine and unalloyed metal.

So, two ways to say, a pure life, a life without fault and a life without flaw.

That’s God’s desire for His people, that their character and their conduct should be so pure that they cannot justly be accused, that they are above criticism that is legitimate, there is no foreign element which contaminates their life.

2 Corinthians 11:2, *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

Ephesians 5:25-26, *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*

V 14, “above reproach.”

faultless, flawless, spotless, blemishless.

This word is used in the Greek Old Testament.

Numbers 6:14, *And he shall present his offering to the Lord: one male lamb in its first year without blemish as a burnt offering, one ewe lamb in its first year without blemish as a sin offering, one ram without blemish as a peace offering,*

Numbers 19:2, *“This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord has commanded, saying: ‘Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come.*

It is referring to a sacrifice, without blemish, without spot, the kind of sacrifice to be brought to the Lord.

So, three ways he is saying the same thing: harmless, blameless, flawless, faultless, sinless, pure.

Why?

Because you are children of God.

You are to be becoming the proper kind of child of God.

Since you represent God, that would be believable if you said I belong to God, He is my Father and I am His child. We are to be truly God's children not only by divine decree, but by testimony as well.

- ✓ In the Old Testament the sacrifice is dead animal.
- ✓ In the New Testament the sacrifice we offer ourselves, alive!

Romans 12:1, *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

We are to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God.

So, we are like a sacrifice, to be without spot, without blemish, without stain, undefiled, pure. We are children of God.

2 Peter 3:14, *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;*

- If you know Christ is coming, that ought to clean up your life.
- If you know His coming is imminent, that ought to clean up your life.

You live in the light of the coming of Christ.

No complaining in this context.

Do you know who your Father is?

How can you act like that?"

1. For the sake of unsaved

The reason for obedience, not only for our own sake but for the sake of the unsaved.

V15-16,

How you live has a dramatic impact not only on whether you are consistent as a child of God or not, but how you affect the world in which you appear as lights.

Paul talking about the unsaved to your witness.

This is the heart of the appeal!

The first part just led into this; the last part just leads out of it.

Evangelism is primarily a matter of God's children shining as lights in a dark world.

But doing that effectively comes down to two things:

- 1. Character.**
- 2. Content.**

Personality and Proclamation.

It's not just what you say and it's also what you are.

"In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation,"

Paul uses this phrase from the song of Moses.

Deuteronomy 32:5, *"They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.*

Moses was speaking to apostate Israel and saying you are no more the children of God for you are a crooked and perverse nation.

Paul uses that same phrase, but this time not to define an apostate Israel. Scripture is now defining the society of the world in which the church exists.

We live in a crooked and perverse generation.

As we are looking at the greatest prayer of Jesus in John 17.

John 17:15, *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*

- It is a world of God-rejecters.
- It is a world of Christ-haters.
- It is a tragic world, morally confused, spiritually perverted.
- It rejects God's message as Israel of old did.

Crooked is a Greek word, '*skolios*'.

Have you ever heard of an illness called scoliosis of the spine?

It's a curvature of the spine. It comes from this word because the word means curved, bent out of shape. It describes something that is out of proper alignment, that is off and deviated from the standard.

Proverbs 2:15, *Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths;*

Isaiah 53:6, *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

Even stronger word is the word perverse. This word means to be severely twisted or severely distorted.

So, man has deviated from the path, and in the deviation become severely twisted and severely distorted.

It is an abnormal condition.

"in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you appear as lights in the world."

So, we face a twisted distorted world.

We are to reach this perverse and crooked world in 2 ways.

1. What we are?
2. What we say?

1. What we are?

V14, *“You are children of God, above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”*

“you are shining,” rather, “you must shine.”

You have to shine.

Analogy: As lights,

Whenever this word is used in a specific non-metaphorical sense it always refers to the sun, moon, or stars.

Genesis 1:14 &16, *Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;
¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.*

You live in a dark universe, and you are the stars and the sun and the moon.

You are the only light the world has.

As the sun and the moon and the stars shine in the heavens, and as they illuminate an otherwise dark sky, so you shine in the world, illuminating an otherwise totally dark society.

We demonstrate the light of God.

What is that?

It's the life of God. Light and life are one.

The life of God in us emphasizes the character of that life.

John 1:4, *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

Matthew 5:14, *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

You are a vessel in whom the light of God has been poured with the life of God and now you have life as to its quality and light as to its impact.

It is a shining life.

It is a living light.

We are called to be what Israel failed to be!

2. What we say?

2 Corinthians 4:6, *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 5:8, *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*

If you are a godly, holy, obedient Christian, you will have an almost startling impact on most people. They will feel the light and they may even shy away from the light because it is so obvious that you possess something they don't possess.

They may sense the hunger, the thirst for the unseen and the eternal which they know they don't have.

It's also true that if you're a bad person, you will bring dark vibrations, and your life will touch someone else and it will put out a corresponding current that you have induced.

By the kind of life, you live, you build a platform on which what you say is made believable. If you have no platform because of your life, your message isn't believable.

A murmuring discontent, grumbling, griping, complaining Christian is never going to have a positive influence on others.

You can't be talking about the gospel, forgiveness, joy, peace, gladness, comfort, and be moaning and grumbling and complaining all the time.

V14, *“holding forth the word of life.”*

We are holding out the Word of life.

What is that?

The Word that gives life.

What Word gives life?

The gospel.

The gospel of salvation that gives life, the life of God to the soul, the soul of man.

- So, stop grumbling, stop complaining, stop arguing with God,
- obey God joyfully,
- work out your salvation without complaining.

In the process of shining as lights in the world, hold out the gospel that saves and you will find there will be a ready reception, because a transformed life is the greatest advertisement for the gospel.

3. For the sake of your Pastor

Most interesting point.

V 15, *“So that in the day of Christ I may have cause to rejoice because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”*

If you will obey this command, Paul will be happy in the day of Christ. If not, then Paul will think whatever he did was in vain. Not to make me like my ministry better. No, but to give me a greater joy in eternity.

Why?

The more effective my service has been in this world, the greater my capacity to glorify Him will be in the world to come.

So, don't limit my capacity to glorify Him in the world to come by rendering my labours here in vain because you have not followed through.

Paul had given his life for them. He was the human instrument of their salvation. Acts 16 shows how the Philippian church was born.

Conclusion:

Will you encourage my heart throughout all eternity by being faithful?

Do you ever have that kind of thought?

I want to be a faithful Christian in order that my Pastor Abraham David John might get a full reward?

1 Thessalonians 5:12, You are to esteem them very highly in love sake.

Hebrews 13:17, You are to follow their faith.

3 John 1:4, *“I have no greater joy than to hear of my children walking in love.”*

The greatest joy of any servant of God is the obedience of his flock, that’s the greatest joy.

Then, you are going to get to the day of Christ and know you didn’t run in vain, and you didn’t labour in vain.

Contrast:

Isaiah in chapter 6 he was called to ministry.

Isaiah 49:4, *Then I said, ‘I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward is with the Lord, And my work with my God.’ ”*

Heartbroken prophet.

Paul knew it wouldn't all end bad. So did Isaiah.

There was a reward for Isaiah.

Paul knew that it wouldn't totally be for nothing.

1 Corinthians 15:58, *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*