



“The Diagnosis and Cure for Grumbling”
Philippians 2:14-18
The Joy of Unity: The Book of Philippians

Introduction:

Exodus 16:8 “This will happen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and bread to the full in the morning; for the LORD hears your grumbings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? Your grumbings are not against us but against the LORD.” Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:5-14

Philippians 2:14-18 “Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.”

I. THE DIAGNOSIS (Philippians 2:14)

Philippians 2:14 “Do all things without grumbling or disputing...”

A. Silent Grumblers (Greek: *gongusmos* = murmuring in secret)

B. Verbal Disputers (Greek: *dialogismos* = people who love to argue

“An optimist sees an opportunity in every calamity; a pessimist sees a calamity in every opportunity.” (Winston Churchill)

II. THE CURE (Philippians 2:14)

Philippians 2:14 “Do all things without grumbling or disputing...”

John 6:43 “Do not grumble among yourselves.”

What are the basic cures for grumbling?

Basic Cure #1 - Repenting

- Admit it • Confess it • Turn from it...today.

Basic Cure #2 - Praising

“Grumbling and gratitude are, for the child of God, in conflict. Be grateful and you won't grumble. Grumble and you won't be grateful.” (Billy Graham)

Romans 8:28 “...we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

“Gratitude is a vaccine, an antitoxin, and an antiseptic.” (John Henry Jowett)

Basic Cure #3 - Filtering

Ephesians 4:29-32 “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Questions to Ask Ourselves Before We Speak

1. Is what I am about to say good for edification? Does it build up or do damage?
2. Is what I am about to say according to the need of the moment? Is it timely? Should it be said at another time?
3. Is what I am about to say a well-packaged “grace-gift” to the hearers?

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

III. THE RESULTS (Philippians 2:15-18)

Philippians 2:15-18 “...so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.”

What happens when we who are whiners become praisers?

A. We will impact unbelievers.

1. We are seen as blameless. (Greek: amemptos = free from defect; cf. Philippians 3:6).
2. We are seen as innocent. (Greek: akeraios; cf. Matthew 10:16 “innocent as doves.”)
3. We are seen as children of God.
4. We are seen as above reproach.
5. We are seen as lights in the world.
6. We are seen as holding fast to the word of life.

1 Timothy 4:16 “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

B. We will impact our fellow believers.

Philippians 2:16-17 “...so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.”

1. Like the apostle Paul, our fellow believers will have reason to glorify God.
2. Like the apostle Paul, our fellow believers will see that their efforts were worth it.
3. Like the apostle Paul, our fellow believers will rejoice.
4. Like the apostle Paul, our fellow believers will share their joy with us and others.

Philippians 2:17 “But even if (since) I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith...”

C. We will impact our own lives.

Philippians 2:18 “You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. About what do you most often grumble?
2. Are you more of a silent grumbler or a verbal disputer?
3. What needs to happen in your life to keep you from grumbling?
4. Who would benefit the most if you became a more positive person?
5. What did you get most out of this message?