

CORE TEAM TABLE NIGHT: “GUARDING UNITY”

HOW TO ADDRESS THE DIVISIVE ACTIVITY OF MURMURING AND COMPLAINING

BUT ISN'T IT OKAY TO COMPLAIN? **KING DAVID DID IT!**

PSALM 13:1-6 NIV

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.

I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.

GOOD GRIEF:

Grumbling can be palatable, even helpful, **when there is a foundation of trust** based on...

1. **Declared Commitment** to Relationship

2. **Expressions of Gratitude**

HELPING A GRUMBLER...

1. Confidentiality is a tool, but reconciliation is the goal. **Never promise complete confidentiality** because you will limit how you can help. *** this applies to small group leadership as well!!!**
2. Hear them out. **Exercise humility and listen**, past the emotion or attitude, for **any truth** in the pile of complaints.
3. **Get clarity.** When you hear terms like “so many times” or “a lot of people feel this way”, ask more questions. It could be 3 people.
4. Never allow “loyalty” to motivate rash statements or ignore the truth. When someone you love and trust has sinned **you shouldn't cover for them.** Try this: *“If he did that, he was wrong.”*
5. Represent both sides of an issue. When mediating, make sure you're **helping each person trust the heart of the other.** Address things with bold clarity so the conflict is smaller, if at all possible.
6. **Consider the source - and what God is doing in them.** Is this person known for over-dramatizing or “crying wolf”? There are consequences to their behavior! Do what you can to lead them toward expressing gratitude and committing toward deeper relationship.
7. **Guard your own heart.** Refuse to gossip. Refuse to see just one side of the issue. Refuse to believe that either side is completely right or completely wrong. Have any conversation that helps you keep your heart clean.
8. **Bring people together - and tell them, don't ask them, that you will do so.** *“I'll let Nate know we talked about this but he would love to hear it from you.”*

HELP THEM...

1. **ASSUME THE BEST**

1 COR 13 – DON'T BE “A NOISY GONG OR CLANGING CYMBAL”

2. **ASK QUESTIONS**

PROV 9:9 – “TEACH THE WISE AND THEY WILL LEARN STILL MORE”

3. **ADD WHAT THEY HAVE**

ROM 12:3-8 – “...OUR BODIES HAVE MANY PARTS...” PLAY YOUR PART

Unity Brings Blessing, Division Brings Destruction

Unity is not a small matter in Scripture. Division, discord, murmuring, and complaining are not just the result of “bad attitudes” or “limited understanding” - they are demonic sins that are stirred by the enemy. **God hates this discord because it destroys His people. We are called to guard unity because it protects God’s presence and purposes among us.**

1. The Blessing of Unity

- **Unity attracts God’s blessing and life.**

PSALM 133:1, 3

How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity! ...there the Lord bestows **his blessing**...

- **Unity was Jesus’ prayer – and it is proof to the world of His reality.**

JOHN 17:20–21

“...I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **that all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**”

- **Unity is *not* passive — but it is evidence of our cooperation with the Spirit of God.**

EPHESIANS 4:2–3

...**Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

- **Unity demonstrates the Lordship of Christ in the Church.**

COLOSSIANS 3:13–14

...Forgive **as the Lord forgave** you...

2. The Danger of Division

TITUS 3:10–11 NIV

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, **have nothing to do with them**. You may be sure that such people are **warped and sinful; they are self-condemned**.

PROVERBS 6:16–19 NIV

There are six things the LORD hates, **seven that are detestable** to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and **a person who stirs up conflict in the community**.

ROMANS 16:17–18 NKJV

Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses**, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid them**. For those who are such **do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly**...

1 CORINTHIANS 3:3 NIV

You are still worldly. For since there is **jealousy and quarreling** among you...Are you not acting like mere humans?

Division is ungodly, destructive and contagious; it must be dealt with firmly.

Address division quickly and directly; don’t let it fester.

Protect the church by setting boundaries with divisive people.

3. The Warning Against Murmuring and Complaining

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1, 10-12 NLT

I don’t want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about **our ancestors in the wilderness** long ago... **don’t grumble** as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. **These things happened to them as examples for us**.

They were written down **to warn us**... if you think you are standing strong, be **careful** not to fall!

EXODUS 16:2–3

EXODUS 17:2–3

NUMBERS 11:1

NUMBERS 14:2, 29–30

NUMBERS 16:41, 49

Complaining blinded God’s people to His goodness – they longed for Egypt!

Complaining wasn’t the end - **it escalated to quarreling** with Moses.

Complaining angered the Lord – **they resented Him instead of worshipping Him!**

Grumbling cost them the Promised Land – they didn’t enter for another generation!

Murmuring brought plague and death – an outward manifestation of their internal state.

Complaining is not harmless — it shuts the door to blessing and invites judgment.

Choose gratitude, faith, and trust over murmuring.

UPDATES | REMINDERS

Next meeting: **“TEACH NIGHT” | Monday, November 3 | 6:30pm** in the New City Sanctuary | drinks & snacks

Partners: PLEASE read **“Building Churches that Last”** by November 3. You will benefit so much more! If you haven’t heard anything yet, your ministry assignments are coming soon!

Staff Changes: Pastor Lee is going part-time after Thanksgiving.
Jacob Miller: hired full-time for operations, finance administration & teaching.
Nick Schwall: hired part-time for weekend teams / events / facility curation (progressively)

SPECIAL DATES! Core Team Only: **End Times Seminar with Jay Zinn** | Evenings: March 17-19 | **(NO MARCH 2 MTG)**