



Stop Complaining and Start Shining
Philippians 2:14-18
September 22, 2019

If there were two practical areas that I feel a church needs to be aware of, it would be these two:

1. The average disciple of Jesus Christ complains far too much.
2. In a world that is filled with sin and darkness, we shine our lights for Jesus much too dim.

Light is essential to our existence on earth. Light is needed for the process of photosynthesis for plants. We need light to navigate through our everyday lives. But also, light is important for our emotional makeup. Experts tell us that every year when it gets wintertime a significant base of the population get SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder). That is, when the days become shorter, there is less light; it affects our mood, and we become depressed.

Takeaway:

If we are to win people to Jesus Christ, we must start living out a practical Christianity.

I. How We Behave

A. Without grumbling

Philippians 2:14a Do all things without murmurings.

Takeaway:

If you are a constant complainer, then you are not properly expressing the salvation you possess. We will never attract lost people to Jesus Christ by complaining. There isn't a complaining church in America that is also a soul-winning church.

1 Corinthians 10:6-10 (NKJV) Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ⁷And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." ⁸Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; ⁹Nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰Nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

B. Without debating

Philippians 2:14b without disputing.

Takeaway:

"If we will stop what is under the surface (grumbling), it will never become open discussion and debate on the surface."

II. What We Become

Bill Stafford:

"The Christian is to spend his life endeavoring to become what he became at salvation."

Three words describe my becoming:

1. Blameless

Philippians 2:15a that you may become blameless...

2. Harmless

Philippians 2:15b ...harmless children of God...

3. Faultless

Philippians 2:15c ...without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation...

III. What We Believe

Philippians 2:15d among whom you shine as lights in the world.

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV) You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Takeaway:

There is no such thing as secret discipleship. The discipleship will destroy the secrecy, or the secrecy will destroy the discipleship. So, among whom you shine, the light has to be seen. Light always reveals what the darkness hides.

Two ways to shine as lights:

1. We must practice the right attitude.

Philippians 2:14 (NKJV) Do all things without complaining and disputing.

2. We must practice the right actions.

Philippians 2:16 (NKJV) Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Consider this thought:

At some point in our lives, we need to tell people how we got out of the darkness, came to the light, and how they can, too. We have to share the gospel with our lips and live the gospel with our feet.

Romans 10:14-15 (NKJV) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!