

**LIVING IN A SINFUL WORLD  
THE BELIEVER'S DUTY-PT 1  
PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16**

**INTRODUCTION**

We see each day how that the **WORLD** that we live in is **SINFUL**—It is **CROOKED** and it is **PERVERSE**— Including our own dear **NATION** that we live in and love!

**“CROOKED”**—means **“warped.”** (i.e. **“not straight.”**)

**“PERVERSE”**—means **“morally corrupt.”**

Sadly that **CROOKEDNESS** and **PERVERSIETY** are on constant display in the things that happen on a daily basis! **STANDARDS OF DECENCY** that once were have been lowered or entirely wiped out by those who hate our **GOD** and our **LORD JESUS CHRIST** and hate us who choose to **FOLLOW HIM** closely!

So, how are we, as **BELIEVERS IN CHRIST**, suppose to live in such a **SINFUL WORLD**? In the first two messages on **LIVING IN A SINFUL WORLD** we saw how **CHRIST** is our example! Sadly, many who **PROFESS CHRIST** seem to have little interest in living as they should and are satisfied with being **pressed into the mold of this world** rather than **being transformed by the renewing of their minds that they might prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect WILL OF GOD for their lives!**

What does the **BIBLE** say here in our text about how we should live as **BELIEVERS**? Let's see **THE BELIEVER'S DUTY!**

**I. WE HAVE A DUTY TO WORK OUT WHAT GOD IS WORKING IN US! Vs 12-13**  
**We Need To Recognize GOD'S Working In Our Lives And Yield To HIS Control!**

None of us are finished products yet, but if we are **SAVED**, there ought to be evidence of **GOD** working in our lives!

We are to put into practice in our daily living that **which GOD has worked in us by HIS HOLY SPIRIT!**

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**Verse 13** says, that **GOD WORKS IN US** both **TO WILL** and **TO DO** of **HIS** good pleasure! What is that **WORK**?

**A. We Have Been PREDESTINED To Be CONFORMED To The Image Of CHRIST! (That Is The Goal!)**  
**Romans 8:29**—*“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*

**2 Corinthians 3:18**—*“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

**B. We Have Been COMMANDED To Put Off The Old Man And To Put On The New Man! (That Is The Process!)**  
**Ephesians 4:21-25**—*“If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

**C. We Have Been INSTRUCTED To WORK OUT Our SALVATION With Fear And Trembling! Vs 12-13**  
That is, with a **COMPLETE TRUST IN GOD** and not in ourselves! The only way that we can **WORK OUT** the **SALVATION** that **GOD HAS WORKED IN US** is **THROUGH GOD WHO ENABLES US** to do it! **Vs 13**

Both **DIVINE ENABLEMENT** and **HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY** are involved in getting **GOD'S WORK DONE!** We are **PARTNERS** with **GOD, LABORING TOGETHER WITH HIM!**

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The word “*worketh*” in *verse 13* means “*energizes*” or “*provides enablement.*” GOD makes those who belong to HIM both DESIROUS and WILLING to do HIS WORK!

SO, WE HAVE A DUTY TO WORK OUT WHAT GOD IS WORKING IN US!

II. WE HAVE A DUTY TO WATCH OUR TESTIMONY!

Our lives are on display to a CROOKED and PERVERSE nation! We should not be guilty of things which do not bring HONOR and GLORY to GOD!

A. We Are To Do All Things Without Murmurings! Vs 14a  
Do ALL THINGS ... not some things or certain things ... but do ALL THINGS WITHOUT MURMURINGS AND DISPUTINGS!

How we respond to the situations we find ourselves in says much about who we are and WHO we live for.  
“Do all things without murmuring. . .”

The word “*murmuring*” means “*a grumbling.*”  
(i.e. “*a complaining.*”)

A *grumbling* in one’s soul if not dealt with will spill out to a *murmuring* of the mouth and eventually even to a *murmuring* or *complaining* in an open forum!

1. **Complaining usually stems from bitterness.**  
*Job 7:11– “Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.”*

If we are not careful we will find ourselves critically *complaining* when the tide of life is in or out.

2. **Complaining can quickly become a way of life.**

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*Numbers 14:27– “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.”*

3. **Complaining can seal the direction of life.**

*Numbers 14:36-37– “And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, 37Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.”*

How we respond to people and situations provides us with opportunities of either promoting or diminishing the GOSPEL.

*We Are To Do All Things Without Murmuring!*

B. **We Are To Do All Things Without Disputings!** Vs 14b  
“Do all things without. . .disputings”  
“Disputings” means “*discussion, debate or arguing.*”

How we respond will lead to how we react.

**Complaining** has the tendency to lead to **arguing**.

Between **stimulus** and **response** is the **CHOICE** of how to react (or act).

**Arguing** stems from **PRIDE** and **SELFISHNESS**.  
(i.e. Wanting to prove self right).

Remember what **PAUL** said in *verses 2-8* of this chapter that we looked at previously? It’s not about us!

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*Arguing*, even when we are right, usually proves nothing other than our own selfishness.

*Job 6:25*—“How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?”

As **BELIEVERS** we are to cast down things that lead to arguments.

*2 Corinthians 10:3-5*—“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

Sometimes we just need to **learn to agree to disagree in an agreeable manner.**

*Proverbs 15:1*—“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

Our aim should be to do all things without *complaining* or *arguing* so that we might glorify God!

*1 Corinthians 10:31-33*— “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 32Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”

The greater aim is to **do all things such that others might see JESUS in us so that it might eventually lead to their salvation.**

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This does not mean that we can't clearly state our case on an issue, but we don't need to be drawn into debate and *arguing*—especially among ourselves!

**C. We Are To Be Blameless! Vs 15**

The word means “*irreproachable or above reproach.*” It does not mean sinless perfection.

We are to live in such a way that those without **CHRIST** cannot rightfully point an accusing finger at us!

**D. We Are To Be Harmless! Vs 15**

The word means “*unmixed, that is, innocent*”

It is a word that was used of wine which had not been diluted and of metal which had not been weakened in any way!

In other words, we are not to be **partakers** of the wickedness around us in any way!

*Ephesians 5:11*—“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

*1 Thessalonians 5:22*—“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

*Proverbs 4:14-15*— “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. 15Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.”

**E. We Are To Be The Sons Of God Without Rebuke! Vs 15**

We who are saved **ARE** the **SONS OF GOD** in our **RELATIONSHIP!** Amen for that! (*1 John 3:2*)

But, there is so much more to being a **SON OF GOD** than

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just **RELATIONSHIP!**

As **SONS OF GOD**, we are to **bear the FAMILY resemblance!** That is, we are to bear the **resemblance** of the **FATHER** so others can see that we are the **SONS OF GOD!** The words "*without rebuke*" mean "*unblameable*" We are **not to just be** the **SONS OF GOD**, but we are **to be good sons!** We are to **GLORIFY THE FATHER!**

Every time someone would brag on me in the hearing of my earthly father, do you know what that did to my father?

Every time someone brags on my children in my presence, it makes me just praise the **LORD!** (Yeah, it gives me the big head!)

We should be worthy of someone bragging on us in the presence of our **HEAVENLY FATHER**— even when the ones doing the bragging don't consider it bragging!

**F. We Are To Shine As Lights In The World! Vs 15**  
**That means we have be different from the world!**  
*Matthew 5:14-16— "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

**If we are living in darkness ourselves, we will not shine!**  
*Ephesians 5:8— "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"*

*1 John 1:5-7— "This then is the message which we have heard*

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*of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

**CONCLUSION**

We are going to have to drive a peg right there until next time! We'll come back and see that there is more that **GOD** would have us do in the midst of this **CROOKED** and **PERVERSE** nation!

How are you doing so far?

**WE HAVE A DUTY TO WORK OUT WHAT GOD IS WORKING IN US!** Has **GOD** worked **HIS SALVATION** in your heart? If not, why don't you come this morning and let us show you how **GOD** can do a work in your heart that you'll never regret!

If **GOD** has worked **HIS SALVATION** in your heart, are you working it out?

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