

Philippians 2:14-29

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

1. Exodus 15:22-25
2. Exodus 16:1-3
3. Exodus 17:1-3
4. These people are remembered throughout history, not as God's faith-filled people, but as doubters and complainers.
5. Isn't that sad? Paul said, don't be characterized like this!

15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent,

Genesis 17:1-2 *Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."*

- a. God had already approached Abram in Genesis 12 where he told Abram to follow him
- b. He had approached him in Genesis 15 and in verse 6 declared him righteous
- c. But now, he approaches him again...and commands him to walk blameless
 1. I am already blameless...counted righteous by faith...yes and no
 2. Walk blameless!
- d. This is not unique to Genesis 17
 1. Matthew 5:48 *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*
 2. Ephesians 1:4 *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
 3. Philippians 1:10 *so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,*
 4. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

One way you give evidence that you are blameless and innocent is to avoid grumbling and disputing.

children of God above reproach

Part of proving yourself children of God is functioning without grumbling and disputing.

1. Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*
2. Grumbling and disputing is the opposite of peace and not characteristic of children of God.
3. Stand out as peacemakers...

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

1. Matthew 5:14-16 *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*
2. Refraining from grumbling and disputing is a "good work" that causes us to appear as lights in the world....which is exactly what Jesus commanded us to do.

16 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.

1. Paul had put forth effort...he had worked hard, made sacrifices, and taken great risk to plant the church at Philippi.
2. He ran. He toiled.
3. Now, they were acting like they were floundering because he was not there with them.
4. No! Stop grumbling and complaining and take hold of the word **of life** so that I will not have run in vain or worked in vain
5. It is not I, but the Word that brings life...hold on to it...not me!
6. In other words, press forward so that I will not have wasted my time!!

17 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. 18 You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

1. The church at Philippi was like a sacrificial offering to God.
2. Romans 15:15-17 *But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 17 Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God.*
3. As they are burning before the Lord, Paul is perfectly fine with being a drink offering.
 - a. It is not as though Paul does not love them and long to be used in their lives
 - b. He is more than willing to be poured out over them and sizzle and steam before the presence of the Lord.
4. While Paul is gladly being poured out for them, they do not need to refuse to receive Timothy or Epaphroditus. They are God's men for your good too!

19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. 20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. 23 Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; 24 and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly. 25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; 26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. 29 Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

God brings different men into our lives for different times and seasons of our lives.

1. Paul planted the church there
2. Epaphroditus ministered afterwards to the church...and then to Paul who is sending him back again.
3. Timothy who is scheduled to visit as well.
4. And we see how regardless of who plants and who waters, it is God who gives the increase through the different brothers, workers, and servants he brings into our lives and churches.
5. Embrace that as God's good plan for you.

Home Group Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
 2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group.
 3. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss
 4. How do you plan to apply this to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"
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