

RESILIENT



GRUMBLING AND ARGUING

Philippians 2:12 – 16
Pastor Brian Rayburn
July 25/26, 2020

MESSAGE NOTES

Philippians 2 — Our text this morning will begin in verse 14, but I want to setup the context. Paul, still imprisoned tells the church in Philippi in the intro to chapter 2, that if you have been encouraged by the grace of God, if you have been comforted by His love, if you have loved what we share here among each other, then be one in mind and one in spirit with each other.

Paul talks about UNITY more than any other subject and Jesus specifically prayed in His final prayer for it!

What this does not mean is that we must all agree on everything, it means that a greater agenda of LOVE must take precedent over all of our petty differences and problems. The work of God and our shared NEED of Him transcends all the pettiness we may live in. The way we will live with each other is two fold.

Verse 6 – 11 — he will say, you need to have the mind of Christ, servant-hearted, humble and obedient. This will be possible if we have the right MIND as we live with and among each other.

Verse 12 — first your mind must be right but we must also apply diligent effort in areas that would rob us of this one spirit and one mind. **** GET YOUR MIND RIGHT! ****

Verse 14 — do everything — to form or fashion. I love this! Form or fashion your life in such a way that no one would say grumbling or arguing describes you.

The two words we are given are:

GRUMBLING — is an internal displeasure. This is can be internal but can also be vocalized as a complaint to others.

Internal only: It's eating away at you. Its chipping away at your peace.

Vocalized to others: something about complaining gives us a sense of superiority, a sense of "I know something you don't or know more than you do." Often your complaint becomes your cause!

Complaints are an assault on the provision or plan of God and can be the first step towards a hard heart.

DO NOT ARGUE — arguing suggests some kind of disagreement with another believer is in sight. But not any disagreement, a mean-spirited argument. One that seems to be characterized by a lack of love and understanding.

This can take two forms:

First, an open and ongoing disagreement in view of others.

Second form is a disagreement leading to cold interactions of avoidance

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Spiritually mature people recognize that controlling their attitude and tongue are the most observable fruit in the life of the believer. This is about more than biting your tongue, it's about changing your heart, especially towards those we disagree with about important stuff.

Three benefits from NOT complaining or arguing:

PURE AND BLAMELESS — observable conduct with which no one can find fault, not salvation but righteousness. This is directed at the heart; your intentions are pure.

CHILDREN — remember children are supposed to look like their parents. When you refrain from complaining and arguing you look like your heavenly Father.

WITHOUT FAULT IN THIS WARPED GENERATION — you will look distinct from the people around you. They are running around worried about who is going to care for them or provide for them, but not you, you know.

Four questions I am hoping you will ask yourself this week about grumbling or arguing:

1. Ask yourself, "Is my frustration with a problem or a person?"
2. Is the way I am talking about this helping or hurting the situation?
3. Is God calling me to pray, or serve, or both? Make sure you notice what you are grumbling about — it is very likely God calling you to help or pray.
4. Is it time for you to initiate the reconciliation process? Arrogance, not healing, keeps most parties at war.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What were some of your take-aways from this week's message?
- Talk about how you understand the role of unity in the life of the believer and its role in the local church.
- How is unity achieved when everyone has their own, often differing, opinion?
- Brian said grumbling can be internal or vocalized to others. When you are grumbling within yourself about something or someone, how does it affect your inner peace?
- Have you ever had a complaint that became your "cause," something you couldn't let go of and took you to a bad place? Talk about it.
- Brian said complaints are an assault on the provision and plan of God. How might that be true?
- Brian said spiritually mature people recognize controlling their tongue and attitude is some of the most observable fruit. How have you gotten better at these two practices over the years?
- Brian offered *Four Questions* to ask yourself this week about grumbling and arguing. Which of the four is really hitting home with you?