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"Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world..." Philippians 2:14-15

This is a tough verse to obey. Did Paul really mean that we are to do "**ALL**" things without grumbling or disputing? The answer to that is **YES!** So we are called to wake up sick, take criticism, deal with a broken-down car, discipline our children, and deal with a disgruntled boss or employee without grumbling or disputing. This verse smacks me in the face every time I read it!

Grumbling and disputing for the believer displays a characteristic of unbelief and is a temptation we all face regularly. But with all temptations, God gives us a way of escape. Grumbling points to desires that are not in line with God. When we grumble, we typically are grumbling about something on the outside, but the issue is on the inside. Grumbling is a sign that our desires do line up with God.

When Paul wrote these words he was sitting in prison. You would think he would have a reason to grumble. And yet he didn't because his focus was on God rather than his circumstances. That is the key to living a life free of grumbling and disputing. Our focus on God's provision, goodness, blessings, and sovereignty are keys to avoiding our tendency to grumble.

Paul goes on to say that when we do this will "prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world." How different we will look to the world if we can avoid grumbling and disputing.

Facing trials without grumbling or disputing is an act of faith. We can respond to difficult situations and people with prayer. Responding to life situations by grumbling or praying is a choice. God calls us to choose to stay focused on him rather than our circumstances. The good news is when we do this, we will face life difficulties with the right perspective which will lessen the burdens we carry. And maybe we will look so different from the world that we might be used to point someone to Christ!

If you would like to dig deeper into this passage join us this morning (2/26) at 7:00 a.m. for a 15-minute devotion and prayer time. Use the following link to join us: [meet.google.com/vou-wnqn-zpu](https://meet.google.com/vou-wnqn-zpu)

Have a great week serving the Lord!

God bless,

Bob

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"Only one life will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." C. T. Studd