

Stop Complaining Philippians 2:14

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ 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.

Introduction:

I am often amazed at how fast we are to call a sin a sickness. Our society does everything it can to remove any hint of God or his Word from our thought.

Its no longer Sin it is Sickness

Its no longer Disobedience it is Disorder

I was reading this last week about the sin of complaining and found that there is a disorder for this

Constant Complaining Personality Disorder or CCPD

There is also one for those of you who love yourself

Narcissistic Personality7 Disorder or NPD

These phycological and scientific approaches may have correctly identified that people can be overly infatuated with themselves and have a great affection for the mirror..... and therefore are narcissistic

They may have also correctly Identified that someone who is seldom satisfied with there possessions or situation and express verbal and physical displeasure about it might have a problem with complaining.

But to say that narcism is a disorder and Complaining is a mental disorder

Does not correctly identify the problem.
It is not a sickness to be treated with medication
It is a Sin to be repented of
It is not a disorder to be receive counsel for
It is disobedience to be confessed

Until we have a proper Biblical view of man and his sinfulness
And until we have a proper view of God and his Sovereignty and
providence
We will never deal with life and what happens to us in the correct
way.
We will be emotional drifters amidst a sea of views that help no
one

Disappointment with God Philip Yancy

A young mother wrote that her joy had turned to bitterness and grief when she delivered a daughter with spina bifida, a birth defect that leaves the spinal cord exposed. In page after page of tiny, spidery script she recounted how medical bills had soaked up the family savings and how her marriage had cracked apart as her husband came to resent all the time she devoted to their sick child. As her life crumbled around her, she was beginning to doubt what she had once believed about a loving God.

A young woman wrote, with some embarrassment, about her ongoing depression. She has no reason to be depressed, she said. She is healthy, earns a good salary, and has a stable family

background. Yet most days when she wakes up she cannot think of a single reason to go on living. She no longer cares about life or God, and when she prays, she wonders if anyone is really listening.

I found that for many people there is a large gap between what they expect from their Christian faith and what they actually experience. From a steady diet of books, sermons, and personal testimonies, all promising triumph and success, they learn to expect dramatic evidence of God working in their lives. If they do not see such evidence, they feel disappointment, betrayal, and often guilt. As one woman said, "I kept hearing the phrase, 'personal relationship with Jesus Christ.' But I found to my dismay that it is unlike any other personal relationship. I never saw God, or heard him, or felt him, or experienced the most basic ingredients of a relationship. Either there's something wrong with what I was told, or there's something wrong with me."

Disappointment occurs when the actual experience of something falls far short of what we anticipate. (Introduction)

I remember the story of one in the Old Testament that went thru
More than I can possibly fathom, You know him...JOB

1. At the hand of Satan and under the Providential Control of God

2. Job lost his sons and daughters
3. Jobs lost his sheep and servants
4. Job lost his camels and servants
- v. 20 said in response He Worshiped

5 Job lost his Health

Job 2:9-10

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job latter becomes very discontent with with his circumstances and thru bad counsel begins to dispute God

Gods Response

Moreover the Lord answered Job, and said:

- ² “Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct *Him*?
He who rebukes God, let him answer it.”

Job’s Response to God

³ Then Job answered the Lord and said:

- ⁴ “Behold, I am vile;
What shall I answer You?
I lay my hand over my mouth.
⁵ Once I have spoken, but I will not answer;
Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.”

God’s Challenge to Job

⁶ Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

⁷ “Now ¹prepare yourself like a man;
I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

⁸ “Would you indeed annul My judgment?
Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?”

Jobs Response

42 Then Job answered the Lord and said:

- ² “I know that You can do everything,
And that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You.
³ *You asked*, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
⁴ Listen, please, and let me speak;
You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’
⁵ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear,
But now my eye sees You.
⁶ Therefore I abhor *myself*,
And repent in dust and ashes.”

A little Biblical History

Complaining has been around a long time, It is so common, that we often do not consider is a sin or at least a serious sin.

It started all the way back in the Garden of Eden.

Adam said

“The woman you gave me”

Cain complained to God about God's work in his life, **Genesis 4:13 and 14**. **Moses complained** to God for not doing what he wanted Him to do when he wanted Him to do it, **Exodus 5:22 and 23**. **Aaron and Miriam complained** to God against Moses, His chosen leader and their own brother in Numbers chapter 12. **Jonah complained** to God because he was mad at God for saving the Ninevites, Jonah chapter 4 verses 9 and 10.

We go back to the number one illustration of grumbling, murmuring belly-aching griping people the world has ever known, namely whom? The Israelites.

Numbers 13 :30

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.”

³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. ³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Numbers 14:36-37

³⁶ Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land, ³⁷ those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the Lord.

This Started Some Time Ago This is not New

Exodus 14:11

¹¹ Then they said to Moses, “Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? ¹² *Is* this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

Exodus 15:22-24, 27

²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴ And the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”

v.27

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there *were* twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Exodus 16:1-3

16 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. ² Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Exodus 17:1-7

17 Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but *there was* no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, “Give us water, that we may drink.”

So Moses said to them, “Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?”

³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, “Why *is* it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!”

⁵ And the Lord said to Moses, “Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will

stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.”

And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Numbers 11:1-6

Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp. ² Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched. ³ So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the Lord had burned among them.

⁴ Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us meat to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶ but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!”

Numbers 14:27-29

“How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. ²⁸ Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ²⁹ The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

Numbers 16:41-50

⁴¹ On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, saying, “You have killed the people of the Lord.” ⁴² Now it happened, when the congregation had gathered against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared. ⁴³ Then Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting.

⁴⁴ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵ “Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.” And they fell on their faces.

⁴⁶ So Moses said to Aaron, “Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense *on it*, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the Lord. The plague has begun.” ⁴⁷ Then Aaron took *it* as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. ⁴⁸ And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped. ⁴⁹ Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident. ⁵⁰ So Aaron returned to Moses at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, for the plague had stopped.

He is the sovereign God who has ordered the circumstances of all of our lives. And to complain against God, to grumble against God is a sin and we must see it as such.

It is a serious sin. It is directed at God who has ordered your circumstances. Complaining...and let me say it to you, and here's the definition I want you to hold on to, complaining is the symptom of a deep seeded spiritual problem. And what is that problem? Failure to trust God and failure to submit to His providential will. Complaining is a deep-seeded spiritual problem, it is not superficial. And at its roots it is a failure to trust God and that is a serious sin because if you believe not God you make Him a liar. And it is also a failure or a rejection of His providential will. It is distrust against God and non-submission to His plan and purpose in your life. It is a serious sin. God hates it and if you want to know how serious it is, He has killed people for it and He says that what He did to them, slaughtering them in the wilderness, is an example to you in the end of the age of how God feels about the sin of complaining.

Lamentations 3:39 (NASB95)

39 Why should *any* living mortal, or *any* man, Offer complaint in view of his sins?

Romans 9:20

²⁰ But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

LESSON

Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Complaining

Grumbings is an onomatopoeic word, that is it sounds like what it means. The word is **gongusmos.....**

meaning—It is an emotional rejection of God's will. It is an emotional rejection of God's providence. It is an emotional rejection of your circumstances that comes through in mumbling, grumbling, griping, verbiage. It is an emotional rejection of the circumstances God has chosen for your life and the requirements He has for your conduct.

Second word, disputings. Dialogismos, dialogue we get from it, it means questionings, criticism. It is now an intellectual debate with God.

The first one is an emotional belly-aching.

The second is an intellectual debate with God.

You want to argue with God about why things are the way they are. Or you want to argue with God about why you have to do what you have to do. Or you want to argue with God about why you're in the circumstance you're in, the marriage, the job, the singleness, the residence, whatever it is. Or even the church, for that matter. Arguing with God out of discontent, debating with God because you've got a better idea

James 5:9

⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!