

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE
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“THANKSGIVING OR COMPLAINING!”

Philippians 2:14-15
Numbers 11:1-3; 14:1-3

On this Thanksgiving weekend, I would like to first of all to say that I am *THANKFUL* that all the important things about life

I learned from TREES:

On the highway leading into Yankton, South Dakota which I have driven; there is a sign that reads: “**Yankton, S.D. The Home of 30,000 friendly people and a few sore-heads.**”

Did you know that complaining is not new? Here’s a trivia question for you. Who was the first complainer?

Adam...Remember what he said when he got caught with his hand in the fruit basket?

Let me give you three reasons why God is displeased with complaining:

I. COMPLAINING DENIES GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY

What do we mean by that word and term? **The SOVEREIGNTY of God is - God’s supreme power and authority.** It means that God is in control, not man and that is why we can walk by faith knowing the supremacy of God in the life of His people and the world we live in.

Who am I to put the Almighty God under cross-examination? Am I in a better position than He to judge what is and is not good for me? Think about Paul, in **Acts 16**, who is in a Philippian jail and you don’t see Paul complaining but rejoicing.

Complaining is unbelief in God’s Word which says “*...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose*” (*Rom. 8:28*).

Secondly:

II. COMPLAINING DISRUPTS CHRISTIAN UNITY

Look at Numbers 13:30-33. They were in effect saying, "We can't do what God has told us to do, it's too hard, the people are too big." Would you say that **verse 33** is an exaggeration? Have you ever done that, exaggerated your problems? Look at **Numbers 14:36**.

I used to think people complained because they had a lot of problems; however, I have come to realize that they have a lot of problems because they complain. Complaining doesn't change anything or make situations better. It amplifies frustration, spreads discontent and discord which God hates according to **Proverbs 6:16-19**.

III. COMPLAINING DISCREDITS MY TESTIMONY

Look at **Philippians 2:14-15** again. Note **V-15** - “**that ye may be.**” In other words, this is the very reason why we are to do all things without complaining. Also remember the admonition in **1 Thess.5:18-19** which says; “*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit.*”

We fall apart in the midst of trials and the world says, “Where’s their God?” Paul and Silas must have been a tremendous testimony in that Philippian jail. What if they would have been murmuring and complaining and griping about their situation?

W. Tozier the great Bible Teacher said, “Among those sins most exquisitely fitted to injure the soul and destroy the testimony, few can equal the sin of complaining.” **Complainers are "missionaries of misery."**

Christians should not be complainers. The Bible is clear that complaining is repulsive to our Heavenly Father and a serious sin. Thanksgiving is a good time to remind ourselves of how serious the sin of complaining is.

The next time you find yourself complaining, think about this:

- ◆ Complaining **denies** God’s Sovereignty.
- ◆ Complaining **disrupts** Christian unity.
- ◆ Complaining **discredits** our Christian testimony.

When thou hast thanked thy God for every blessing sent,
What time will then remain for murmurs or lament!

Remember our Scripture text this morning from **Philippians 2:14-15** and **Number 11:1**