

NOT COMPLAINING

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PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16 (NIV84) Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life-in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

Four common types of complainers:

I. The "Whiner": DAVID.

"Life is not fair, I don't deserve this."

Psalm 73:13 (LB) (David) Have I been wasting my time Why take all the trouble to be pure? All I get out of it is trouble and woe.

II. The "Martyr": MOSES.

"No one appreciates me"

Numbers 11:11-15 (LB) Moses said to the Lord, `Why pick on me, to give me the burden of a people like this? I can't carry this nation by myself! ... If you're going to treat me like this, please kill me right now -- it will be a kindness! Let me out of this impossible situation!

III. The "Cynic": SOLOMON.

"Nothing will ever change."

Ecclesiastes 1:2-4,9 (GN) (Solomon) Life is useless ... you spend your life working and what do you have to show for it? ... the world stays just the same ... what has been done before will be done again.

IV. The "Perfectionist": MARTHA.

"Is that the best you can do?"

Luke 10:40 (NIV84) But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Four keys to conquering complaining:

I. Admit it is a PROBLEM.

Proverbs 28:13 (LB) A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

A. Recognize it in YOURSELF.

B. Understand complaining is a SIN.

James 5:9a (NIV84) Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged...

Psalm 106:25 (NIV84) They grumbled in their tents and did not obey the LORD."

II. Accept RESPONSIBILITY.

Proverbs 19:3 (GN) Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid mistakes and then blame the Lord.

A. It's easier to complain & BLAME others!

B. Could it be we reap what we SOW?

Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV84) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

III. Attain an attitude of GRATITUDE.

Philippians 2:17-18 (NIV84) But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

A. Be glad IN not FOR difficulties.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV84) Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

B. Gratitude is the ANTIDOTE to complaining.

Philippians 4:11 (NIV84) I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

IV. Ascertain the HEART of the PROBLEM.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV84) The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

A. Heart of problem: Problem of the HEART!

Matthew 12:34b (NIV84) ...For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

Matthew 15:18 (NIV84) The things that come out of your mouth come from your heart.

B. You need a NEW heart.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 (NIV84) I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. 20 Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.