

Do All Things **Philippians 2:14-18**

Read

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 that you may prove yourselves to be blameless & innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked & perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

Paul has been exhorting the church to unity, telling believers in the church to make it their aim to serve one another, regard one another more important than yourself, not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think. Jesus was a servant so we are to be too.

What are the *all things*? Things the world sees you do. Church things, family things, neighborly things, job things, recreational things, school things. It is life lived before the watching world things. I've played sports w/ Christian guys & secular guys & sometimes the secular guys are better sportsman than the Christian guys—Tantrums--Embarrassment--Cheat.

Grumbling--faultfinding *Amp* - secret complaining - murmuring *Grk* pronunciation sounds like what it means in low tones--*goggysmós* A reaction to our responsibility as believers--bond servants--Christ like character.

Lit A secret displeasure in the heart, & a sullen discontent that leads to criticism

3 C's don't criticize, condemn or complain-- A elderly lady walked into a department store & was greeted when a band began to play & manager put flower lei on her & handed her a crisp \$100 bill. She was the store's one millionth customer. Cameras were rolling & reporters began interviewing her. "Tell us what did you come to the store today for?" The lady hesitated for a minute & then sheepishly answered, "I was on my way to the Complaint Department."

Some come to church to complain, to find fault. Mark Twain said Don't complain and talk about all your problems--80 percent of people don't care; the other 20 percent will think you deserve them.

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Disputing—arguing, criticizing, questioning things of God & leadership decisions & plans to reach out, expand, mechanics of ministry....**board mtgs...KLHT...Emperess...Komo mai... Wm Barclay It describes the low, threatening, discontented muttering of a mob who distrust their leaders & are on the verge of an uprising.**

Spurgeon *A heavy wagon was being pulled along a country road by a team of oxen. The axle-trees groaned & creaked terribly, when the oxen turning round, began addressing the wheels:: 'Hey there! Why do you make so much noise? We oxen bear all the labor & we, not you, ought to cry out!' Those who complain first in our churches have the least to do. The gift of grumbling is largely dispensed among those who have no other talents or who keep what they have wrapped up in a napkin.*

Prove yourselves- process of growing, maturing, possession of Godlike attitude. **Blameless**—w/o blame, unable to lay hold of, can't point to sin, no deviation in morals or doctrine. **Innocent**—Quality of being w/o admixture—Metal w/o impurities. **Milk-1800's watered down often w/ unclean water, chalk or other white powders were sometimes added to milk to thicken it.** **Spurgeon** The Greek word might be translated "hornless," as if you were to be creatures that do no harm, & could not do any-
-sheep w/o horns

Archeologists have found on Christian tombs from ancient Thessalonica. When people wanted to identify a deceased friend or loved one as a Christian, they inscribed "**blameless**" on his or her grave.

Crooked – **skolios** English Scoliosis curvature of spine—a deviation from norm – leave, deviate God's path. **Perverse** – **To distort or pervert. Cause to depart from accepted values.** Idea of person straying so far from path now severely twisted, distorted in mind & spirit – Paul applies to sinful world that is morally & spiritually bent or twisted—

Lights in the world – Whining or Shining – Christian character a light in perverse, corrupt world—stars brightest when night darkest.

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The moon is almost 240,000 miles from Earth & is only 1/400th the size of the sun. Having no light or heat of its own, it reflects the light of a greater heavenly body. It appears relatively insignificant. Yet, the moon silently & invisibly moves the oceans of the world by its gravitational pull.

Most of us, like the moon, may not seem all that influential or important. We feel all we can do is be a faithful Christian in our daily routine. Actually people are influenced by the light of Christ they see in our actions & attitudes. Jesus said: *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works & glorify your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:16.*

16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain. 17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. 18 And you too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

Holding fast – forth – not only us held by it but offering gospel to others & when received produces spiritual life & eternal life.

Poured out – wine poured out as libation, a drink offering – Paul’s life a sacrifice for ministry--offering to God—*I feel like I’ve never done enough.*

Proverbs 14:34 could be chiseled on the tombstone of many civilizations: *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”* We think a strong nation is built from GNP or armaments, but God says it’s the character of the people. Ancient China sought security from barbaric hordes that swept down from the north, so they erected the Great Wall of China. The massive wall stretched for 1,500 miles. It was 12 to 40 feet wide & 20 to 50 feet high. The wall was too high for the enemy to scale, too thick to tear down, and too long to go around. Yet during the first 100 years of the wall's existence, China was invaded 3 times. How was impenetrable wall breached? The enemies simply bribed a gatekeeper & then marched easily through a gate. The fatal flaw in China's defense was spending its wealth to build a wall but neglecting to build the character of it’s gatekeepers.

So too our influence as believers contributing to society is being "blameless & harmless, w/o fault in the midst of a crooked & perverse generation"

Paul often refers to the *"day of Christ."* He continually anticipated the Lord’s coming. *If you knew He was coming back tomorrow noon what would you*

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do? Then why not do it today? Paul didn't see his possible martyrdom as a tragedy but a glorious departure. COMMUNION