

Conquering a Critical Spirit and Complaining Mouth

Do you ever grumble about things? How is your *attitude* about things or people you disagree with?

- ❖ *1 Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.*

I. Scripture References on _____ and Criticizing

- ❖ *1 Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.*
- ❖ *1 Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*
- ❖ *2 Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*
- ❖ *Romans 12:9a, 10, 16-18 Let love be without dissimulation. (i.e. Your love is to be genuine) ¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;... ¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. ...¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*
- ❖ *1 Peter 3:8-12 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: ⁹ Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: ¹¹ Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

- ❖ *2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,*
- ❖ *James 4:11a Speak not evil one of another, brethren.*
- ❖ *James 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.*
- ❖ *2 Corinthians 12:20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:*
- ❖ *Galatians 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*
- ❖ *Ephesians 4:29-31 Let no corrupt [worthless or rotten] communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*
- ❖ *Ephesians 4: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*
- ❖ *Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*
- ❖ *Psalm 101:5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.*
- ❖ *1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity [Love], these three; but the greatest of these is [Love].*

II. Criticizing/Complaining can be a chronic _____ (as it was Israel's)

III. Thoughts on _____ God

- ⇒ The person who doesn't know God well (and doesn't rely on Him), will struggle greatly with many problems
- ⇒ The person who knows God well – and relies on Him – will come through problems victoriously

IV. Triggers that prompt complaining

- ✓ Some action that you see that is wrong, questionable, or unwise (biblically wrong perhaps)
- ✓ Something you don't understand it (it's not clear why someone did something and what was meant).
- ✓ Something you question the motive behind
- ✓ A decision (or action) that negatively impacts you or your family or someone/something that you care about
- ✓ Something is strange/weird/ perplexing in someone else's life

V. Responses that delight the Lord

- A. _____ in the heart
- B. _____ (trust) in the Lord
- C. _____ (peace) in my spirit

VI. Understanding God's Big Picture

- A. You will – in time - get through this _____ in God's will.

- B. God *has* a resolution _____ in mind – whether it is in that person/situation, or in my spirit.

- C. God is _____ you through it all (and even sending along goodness and mercy).

- D. 3 Essentials *must* be in place for God's _____ (Thanksgiving, confidence, peace)

- E. Getting out of alignment with Scripture will only _____ the process or blessing of God.

VI. Victory over a Complaining, Critical Spirit

- A. You cannot continue _____ , exasperated talking.

- B. You must truly get the person or problem to the _____.

- C. You have to confess and repent of any _____ .

- D. You must get to the point of _____ by going to Christ.

E. You must keep a _____ and _____ mindset *consciously*.

⇒ My “job” as a Christian is to keep God _____ in my mind throughout the day.

F. You must surrender to the possibility that the issue doesn’t have to be resolved before you get it to _____.

G. You must get in _____ _____.

H. You may need to confess your _____ responses to others involved.

I. You must refuse to tolerate _____ or the wrong attitude

⇒ “Loose lips...sink _____.”

⇒ “Oh be careful little mouth what you say...”

❖ *Ecclesiastes 10:20 Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.*