

## No Complaints

Philippians 2:14-18

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Shepherd's Community Church

### How Grumbling Hurts You (2:14-15a)

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*(1 Corinthians 10:5-10; Proverbs 23:7; Psalm 103; Philippians 4:8)*

### How Grumbling Hinders Evangelism (2:15b-16a)

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*(Deuteronomy 32:5; Proverbs 2:13-15; 6:23; John 17:15; Matthew 5:14; Psalm 119:105)*

### How Grumbling Harms Others (2:16b-18)

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*(1 Corinthians 15:33; 5:6; Hebrews 12:15; Colossians 4:5; Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 17:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

## Guarding Against the Danger of Pride

Be humble. Pretty simple, right? True, it is an easy point to understand conceptually. But it is a difficult one to live out.

Pride is not limited to arrogance or cockiness; it is not just an inflated opinion of oneself. Pride is any way of putting self into the central focus. This distinction is critical because if we understand it, we can identify more subtle, more insidious kinds of pride. In addition to arrogance or conceit, pride might express itself in any of the following ways:

- **Are you overly critical?** Discernment is a good thing (Philippians 1:9-11; Romans 12:1-2). But discerning people sometimes go a step too far in feeling the need to critique everything. Pride is the root problem.
- **Are you insecure?** Insecurity often betrays a person too focused on self.
- **Are you shy?** For instance, are you unwilling to pray in front of others? Why is that? Is it because your central concern is how you will appear?
- **Are you overly sensitive?** People who are too sensitive sometimes imagine criticisms when they have not even been given because they center too much on themselves.
- **Do you tend to presume upon others?** Are you slow to meet with others or to follow through? Do you do poorly at returning phone calls? Any of those may reflect a tendency to elevate self.
- **Are you impatient with the shortcomings of others?** Do you get frustrated and say, "I don't have time for this"? Who does not have time?
- **Do you find yourself easily embarrassed by friends or family?** This may indicate that you are too concerned with how others make you appear.
- **Are you given to worry?** Worry may betray self-reliance (or at least relying on someone other than God).

We all struggle in some way with centering too much on ourselves. C. S. Lewis said, "If you think you are not conceited, then you are very conceited indeed." He also said that "there is no fault which we are more unconscious of than in ourselves." The question is not if you struggle with pride but how.

Once we have identified where pride shows up in our lives, we can determine to put off that sinful behavior, to be made new in the attitude of our minds, and to put on the right behavior (Ephesians 4:22-24).

The only way to grow in humility truly is to take our eyes off ourselves and meditate on the beauty and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Humility is a matter of perspective, of seeing ourselves in right relationship to God. When Isaiah looked at the holiness of God (Isaiah 6:3-5), he did not go in with a goal of becoming more humble. But that was certainly the outcome.

If we begin to get a glimpse of the vast glory of God, we will realize that many of our conflicts are like two ants arguing about which is taller while standing in front of Mount Everest. We quibble over some infinitesimal difference of opinion while the vastness of Almighty God soars into the heavens. We need to stop looking at one another relative to ourselves or, better yet, stop looking in the mirror. And we need to turn our eyes to the loveliness of Christ in his Word.