

How to Stop Grumbling and Disputing Philippians 2:14-18

What does it mean to grumble or dispute? (v.14)

Grumbling refers to complaining about something.

Disputing refers to arguing or quarreling about something.

Why is it crucial that we stop grumbling and disputing? (v.15)

It's because when we don't grumble and dispute we will shine like lights in a dark world.

When we don't grumble and dispute, we are like billboards announcing to everyone that through Christ they can know God as their loving and sovereign Father who will free them from any need to grumble or dispute.

How is it possible to stop grumbling and disputing? (v.16a)

It's by holding fast to the word of life. One place where Paul states this word of life is in Philippians 1:21 — "For to me to live is Christ."

You were created to have a life of meaning and purpose, joy and excitement, pleasure and beauty. This life is found only in Christ.

So when we are seeking our life in Christ, then no matter what happens our hearts will be full so we will not need to grumble or dispute.

But, when we do grumble or dispute, that shows that we are not holding to Christ as our life.

So the way to stop grumbling and disputing is to grow in trusting and enjoying Christ as our life.

Why else should we not grumble or dispute? (v.16b-18)

It's because if we hold fast to Christ, and as a result don't grumble or dispute, then when Christ returns those who have poured their lives into us will be filled with the joy of seeing Christ glorified in us.

But we also will be filled with the joy of seeing Christ glorified in their joy in Christ (18).

So the more we hold fast to the word of life now, and as a result are free from grumbling and disputing, the more joy we will have in Christ's glory forever.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Most all of us struggle with grumbling and disputing. Why is grumbling and disputing so easy?

At what times do you find yourself falling into grumbling or disputing?

Do you agree that all grumbling and disputing is caused by something which has taken some "life" from us? Why or why not?

Do you agree that in Christ it's possible for you to be so free from grumbling and disputing that you shine as a light in a dark world? Why or why not?

Does this mean that other people's salvation could depend on us not grumbling and disputing?

Does it make sense that the way to stop grumbling and disputing is by holding fast to the word of life — the word that Jesus Christ is our life?

Think about a time when you recently grumbled or disputed. What were you holding to for your life besides Christ? What difference would it have made if you had been experiencing life in Christ?

What could you do to more consistently experience Christ as your life? Do you have a regular time first thing in the morning when you open God's word and pray Christ's life into your soul? Do you take time during the day to cast all of your cares upon him? Do you fight to trust him when trials and difficulties come?

How does it affect you to think that the way you live your life now can give other believers more joy in seeing Christ glorified in your life forever? Does that motivate you to battle against grumbling and disputing? Why or why not?

What's prayer needs has this discussion raised? Take time to pray for each other.

