

COMPLAINING: THE THIEF OF JOY

Philippians 2.14-18

THE COMPLAINING HEART REVEALS

**Complaining kills contentment,
it robs us of whatever joy could be had,
and robs God from being glorified in your life.**

Numbers 11.1-23

The story of the Israelites in the wilderness gives us great insight into what our complaining reveals about ourselves. Complaining shows us that we have a distorted view of 5 things:

- 1). Distorted view of the past
- 2). Distorted view of the present
- 3). Distorted view of ourselves
- 4). Distorted view of God
- 5). Distorted view of the future

THREE REASONS TO FIGHT COMPLAINING

Philippians 2.14-18

Paul gives us three primary reasons why we should not complain:

- 1). It is an attack on God.** Complaining reveals that we are unsatisfied with the cards that God has dealt us. We want more and believe we deserve more. We are expressing that we are not happy with His plan.

**We should be a proclaiming people,
not a complaining people.**

- 2). It ruins our witness to the lost.** Complaining causes us to blend in with the rest of the world. Paul pits complaining directly in opposition with being a light. When we don't complain, we are being blameless and innocent, acting as children of God, being a light in a crooked world, proclaiming the Good News, and being a blessing to the church and the pastors in your life.
- 3). It burdens the church.** What makes a pastor glad? When his people are rejoicing with and are glad with him. Paul here says that when the people are living fruitful lives, it makes him proud to have been called to lead them. We should aim to be a blessing to those who lead us and care for us.

LIVING AS SHINING LIGHTS

At the end of the day, Paul is calling Christians to be different; to be distinct among a twisted world. But complaining is a roadblock to true humility, and causes us to shine lights on our own kingdoms, rather than God's. The solution for us is to hold on to the Word of life, to be living sacrifices for the One who has



NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at katie@lifemission.tv

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at casey@lifemission.tv.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, is there anyone who can recite the week's memory verse?

Read **Philippians 2:14-18**. What did God show you through His Word and through the sermon on Sunday? _____

What do you find yourself complaining about the most? _____

Read **Luke 6.43-45** and **Mark 7.20-23**. How does Jesus describe our words (and therefore our complaining), and what does He say they are indicative of? _____

Think about what you particularly complain about. What do you think your complaining reveals about what is in your heart? _____

Without cheating and looking at the sermon notes, can you remember the three reasons why Paul says not to complain, and the damage complaining does to each of those reasons? _____

Read **Romans 8:5-8**. When we complain, we are setting our minds on our flesh rather than the Spirit. A mind that is set on the flesh is a direct assault on God and brings nothing but death. How can we fight this fleshly mindset? _____

Read **Ephesians 4.17-22**. Here Paul tells the Ephesians what to "put off," and what to "put on." When you catch yourself complaining, what does Paul here tell you that you can you "put on" and remind yourself of so that you can "put off" the ways of the Gentiles, and rather, walk as light? _____

Spend time as a group confessing the things you often complain about, but even more importantly, where you think those complaints are coming from (discontentment, selfishness, pride, greed, etc.). Pray for each other, and pray for each other to be able to "put on" the mind of Christ.



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Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.



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Philippians 2.14-18 // August 21, 2016

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025