

REASONS NOT TO COMPLAIN

Reference: **Philippians 2:14-16**

Pastor Larry Webb

Each generation seems to be breeding a generation that is more discontent than itself. The bigger problem is that Christians are not immune to discontentment.

verse fourteen (see screen)

The basic difference between the terms “*complaining*” and “*disputing*” is that complaining is _____ in nature and disputing is more _____ in nature.

Definition: To complain means to express _____ either verbal or non-verbal.

Two categories of complaining:

- **Legitimate complaints**

A legitimate acceptable complaint is the same as a _____.

Definition: A grievance is applicable to a circumstance or condition that in the opinion of the one affected, constitutes an _____ or is just grounds for a complaint.

- **Ill-legitimate, unacceptable complaints**

Definition: Ill-legitimate complaining is to express dissatisfaction with something that is not necessarily _____. It is the same as grumbling, griping, moaning, groaning, and murmuring.

References: **James 5:9; 1 Peter 4:9** (see screen)

THREE REASONS TO STOP COMPLAINING:

ONE: Stop complaining for _____.

verse fifteen (see screen)

Christians are to be characterized as “*blameless and harmless*”. The root meaning of the word “*blameless*” is “being without _____.” The word “*harmless*” is sometimes translated as “*innocent*” and it has the basic meaning of being “_____ and unadulterated.”

verse fifteen cont.

Christians are also expected to be “*without fault*”. The phrase “*without fault*” means we are to be without legitimate _____ and are unable of being convicted of doing something wrong.

verse fifteen cont.

As Christians we also find ourselves in the middle of a Godless culture. The word “*generation*” is a broad term used to describe the human population as a _____ throughout all generations. The adjective “*crooked*” is translated from “*skolios*” and refers to something that is bent, curved or _____. The term “*perverse*” is a stronger term which means to be twisted and distorted to a more severe degree.

TWO: Stop complaining for _____ - _____.

verse fifteen cont. and **verse sixteen** (see screen)

The “*word of life*” refers to Scripture and in particular it is a direct reference to the _____ message.

“*Holding fast*” can also be translated as “*holding* _____”.

Two basic elements to credible evangelism:

- _____ is who we **are** and **verse fifteen** states that we are to be spiritual lights.
Reference: **Matthew 5:14-16**
- _____ is what we say and **verse sixteen** states that we are to be talking to people about the word of life (Christian gospel).

THREE: Stop complaining for our _____ **verse sixteen** cont.

The singular solution to complaining is _____!

Reference: **Psalms 100:4-5** (see screen)

STOP COMPLAINING!!!!