

MUMBLE...MUMBLE... GRUMBLE. GOD'S RESPONSE TO A COMPLAINING HEART!

Teacher (I think)...Gerald Cumby, 2026

"It's too hot!" "It's too cold!" The traffic is terrible...the worst I've ever seen!" "The kids today don't know what it means to WORK without complaining!" "Incidentally, do they WORK at all?"

"This used to be a wonderful restaurant to eat...and now the food is terrible, and the prices are sky high!"

Why pay for missions overseas when they need to get kids saved over here!"

Mumble...Grumble...and LIFE goes on.

What Does the Bible Say About Complaining?

As Christians, we need to know what the Bible says about complaining...especially how God feels about it.

Philippians 2:14, "Do all things (everything) without complaining or disputing (grumbling/arguing)." NKJV

Grumbling and complaining are used simultaneously in most conversations. The attitude of "complaining and grumbling" is not a trait a Christian should be in the habit of using to express themselves.

BUT... WE FIND OURSELVES IN THE "AGE OF RAGE" and the "AGE OF GRIPING!"

GRUMBLING, MUMBLING, COMPLAINING, DISPUTING— REBUKE IT AND REFUSE IT!

Philippians 2:14-16, "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain." NIV

Live Without Grumbling or Arguing—Will we do all things without grumbling or arguing?

Do you know of conversations that consist of people talking about how much they hate their job, how little money they have, how terrible the roads and

traffic are, how they had to do what they didn't want to do, about how bad the weather is, about how their neighbors are inconsiderate, and how the other people in their family make life so difficult.

Grumbling, complaining, whining, disputing, and arguing. Paul says that the Christian is not to be like this. He says, “We need to “grow up.”

The Proof is in the Pudding...

- Prove that you are a child of God.
- Prove that you are different from the world.
- Shine your light as a witness of Jesus.
- Hear the Word and hold fast to it.

"Stop complaining. Stop arguing." WHY? Where I (Paul) can know that my preaching, my teaching, my praying, my working...is not in vain.

The Bible is very clear on this subject. Yet the challenge is a hard one to take and absorb into our spirit. The flesh challenges the Spirit within us.

There are many Scriptures concerning the effects of complaining and griping. Let's start in the Old Testament.

They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness ([Exodus 14:11-12](#), ESV).”

And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink... ([Exodus 15:24](#), ESV)?”

*...and in the morning, you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but **against the Lord** ([Exodus 16:7-8](#), ESV).”*

Remember...God has just delivered His people from Egyptian slavery. Moses is leading them through the wilderness **according to God's plan**, but the people are complaining.

Life in Egypt was not good. God's chosen people were quick to forget!

- **In chapter 14, they complain** and wish they were back in Egypt.
- **In chapter 15, they complain**, forgetting about God's miraculous and faithful provision.
- **In chapter 16, they complain** because their hearts are full of unbelief.

What can we digest from this lesson so far?

1. *Complaining is a natural response to difficulty.* It is human (our flesh). Should we just shrug it off and say, “That is just the flesh responding to unacceptable conditions.”
2. *Complaining is a symptom of a larger issue.* We complain when we forget how far we’ve come, when we forget what God has done, when we take our eyes off His character and doubt His plan for our lives.
3. *When we complain, we’re actually grumbling against God.* When we complain about people He’s placed in our lives, we’re complaining about Him. When we complain about our circumstances, we’re complaining about Him. Think about this: Even *when we complain about the weather*, we’re complaining against God!
4. *God is gracious and merciful and forgives us for complaining.* When His people complained yet again, He miraculously provided for them even though they didn’t deserve it.

CONSEQUENCES OF COMPLAINING

*And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, and when the Lord heard it, **his anger was kindled, and** the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp.*

Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat ([Numbers 11:1-4](#), ESV)!”

- **Complaining can have serious consequences. It angers God.**
- *God is gracious and merciful.*
- **People can be slow learners.** Immediately after the people experienced a horrific consequence for their sinful attitudes, they did it again!
- **Think...The Israelites complained about not having a God they could SEE and worship.** Many died because of this gross sin. Miriam was struck with leprosy. Job’s wife turned into a pillar of salt. There are things that happen to Christians today when God’s goodness is forgotten. **Nothing is God’s fault...**We bring on the consequences for our sin of rebellion. When we choose to go out from under “the umbrella of protection” God has graciously supplied for us, we become bait for an unwelcomed visitor!

What Does the New Testament Say About Complaining?

Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves” ([John 6:43](#), ESV).

- Jesus commanded us not to grumble or complain. Therefore, when we complain, we are disobeying Him. That means **complaining is sin in the New Covenant as well as the Old Covenant.**
- **“We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer ([1 Corinthians 10:9-10](#), ESV).**
- **Paul exhorted the Corinthians not to grumble. Why? Because “the Destroyer” destroyed some complainers.**
Who is the Destroyer? Satan.
Aha...complaining can have negative consequences.
- **Complaining leads to destruction.** It gives the enemy of our souls a foothold in our lives.

It's obvious...complaining angers God. It is a sin.

Proverbs 8:13a, “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil...”

Deuteronomy 14:23c, “...learn to fear the Lord your God always.”

2 Kings 17:39, “But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.”

Psalms 89:7a, “God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints...”

Romans 3:18, “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” A SOUND MINDED PERSON IS A SAVED PERSON FROM THE WRATH OF GOD WHICH IS COMING!

A summary of complaining, griping, arguing with each other and God.

1. Complaining is a natural human response to difficulty.
2. Complaining angers God and is a sin.
3. Complaining about anything is complaining against God.
4. Complaining is a symptom of bigger issues...
5. Complaining can have serious consequences and leads to destruction.
6. Complaining is not befitting a follower of Jesus Christ.
7. Even when God is merciful, even when He forgives us, we sometimes still have to face the consequences of our actions...

REPENT AND ASK GOD TO TRANSFORM OUR HEARTS.