



INTRODUCTION

In the world today the line between right and wrong and good and evil has, at the very least, become blurred and that blurred line keeps moving. We should rejoice that we have a Father in heaven Who has set a standard of living for us and doesn't change that standard under any circumstances. Another attribute of God is He enables us to live up to His standards if we choose to do so. When we live as God demands, it benefits us spiritually and mentally, it provides a great witness for believers and non-believers, and glorifies our Father.

Philippians 2:13-16

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

We have to be constantly reminded as Jesus taught us to pray in **Matthew 6:10 (KJV)**

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

We are no longer slaves to our own 'fleshy will' but we are bond servants of the Lord Jesus Christ to have His will and to live according to His will for His good pleasure. Just as we are pleased when our children take our advice, God receives pleasure from the obedience of His Children.

This next verse is a direct command. **14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,** Complaining can become a habit if we let it take root in our church or in our home. It's easy to find fault, but finding solutions are often very difficult. The Christian who always complains is a lazy Christian, because it takes little or no effort to point out deficiencies. It takes a hard working Christian to correct issues or overlook the small stuff. This doesn't mean we won't call out those who aren't committing themselves to the edification of the body. We don't want to become bitter and argumentative about insignificant details. Why is following verse 14 so important? Verse 15 tells us why.

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

There is a bountiful harvest if we sow obedience in the areas noted in verse 13. When we abstain from complaining to God and arguing with other members of the body of Christ four separate things will describe us. We become blameless, harmless, without fault, and shine as lights.



Blameless: Anyone doing anything for the body of Christ will be criticized, but it will be criticism without justification. (A baker who has determined not to bake a cake for a same sex marriage is called a homophobe by the world.)

Harmless: Some translations use the word “pure” or uncompromised or innocent without guile in the place of harmless. The ends are never justified by the means. All things are done as unto the Lord.

Without Fault: This does not describe sinless perfection but describes a people who are not knowingly dishonest in dealings in worldly business or church business and does not pervert the teachings or their understanding of the scriptures for personal gain or notoriety in the execution of the commands contained.

Shine as Lights: When we are found to be blameless, harmless, and without fault in a dark and dangerous world, we will be able to only shine like lights in a dark and dying world. **Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)**

¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Our lifestyle will be a witness that we’re not only hearers of God’s word but doers also. God will take this into account in our lives in this world or our lives in heaven.