

## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 14-16



### Review

1:27 Only [conduct your citizenship πολιτεύομαι] in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...

Our condition is to be consistent with our position. (by faith, NOT effort!)

Conducting ourselves as citizens of heaven by faith results in “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

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### Review

#### The Essential Character of Christ

Jesus is fundamentally selfless in His character.

The cross proves that Christ is selfless in His character.

Because Jesus willingly submitted to the cross, God the Father has exalted him to the highest point in the universe!

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### Review

It's not the one who exalts himself who is exalted, it's the one who becomes *the least* who God will glorify.

Verses 12 and 13

We must “listen under” what God has done in His grace

Rest in that truth by faith

It's not a *doing* thing. It's a *trusting* thing.

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### Review

“It is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

God's work in me, not my work for Him.

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### **Philippians 2:14-16**

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

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### **v14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;**

#### Grumblings and disputes

“grumblings” is γογγυσμός

“secret displeasure or debate”

muttering-under-your-breath

“disputes” is διαλογισμός

“deliberating or questioning what is true; debating”

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### **v14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;**

Is Paul saying that we should never debate a point of doctrine as believers?

In Rom 1:21, “**they became futile in their speculations** [διαλογισμός]”

In 1Cor 3:20, “**the Lord knows the reasonings** [διαλογισμός] **of the wise, that they are useless.**”

This is not the kind of reasoning we should be employing in the body of Christ.

**There is a “reasoning” that Paul himself employed with people.**

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**v14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;**

In **Acts 19:8-9** we see that Paul was “**reasoning** and persuading” the people of Ephesus.

Acts 17:2-3

And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

The only correct way to handle a difference of opinion in the Church is on the basis of the Word of God alone.

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**v15a So that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach...**

**NASB - “so that you will prove yourselves to be”**

ἵνα and γίνομαι

Γίνομαι – “to be”

**“that you may be blameless and innocent (pure)”.**  
**(KJV, NKJV, NET, RSV, ASV, DBY)**

A life that is devoid of “complaining and arguing” is so rare that those who see such a life will realize that this is a “Child of God.”

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**v15a So that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach...**

Is it really possible to be “blameless, innocent and above reproach” right now?

YES!

“Perfectionism” says that a “real believer” *doesn't* sin. What the Bible says is that the Christian is “free from the *dominion* of sin.”



**v15a So that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach...**

- a) Jesus is perfectly righteous (blameless and innocent)
- b) I am identified with Christ (Rom 6:3), such that I have judicially died to the power of the indwelling sin nature (Rom 6:2), and Jesus is now my very life (Col 3:4)
- c) Therefore, everything is provided for a perfectly righteous life in me.

**“The life I live in the flesh, I live by faith.”**

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**v15a So that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach...**

**The Lord is working out in our experience, what we already are in our position.**

What is God's purpose for having the life of His son reproduced in us here on the earth?

To put His Son on display!

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**v15 so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world**

As the life of Christ is lived out through us, it's like a brilliant light in a dark place.

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**v16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.**

ἐπέχω - “holding forth” rather than “holding fast”

When the life of Christ is being displayed through you, you are a light in the darkness.

As a light, you are actively “holding forth the Word of Life” to a world lost in darkness.

**If** the Philippians are “holding forth the Word of Life as light in the darkness,” then he had not labored over them “in vain.”

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If we do not abide in Him, it is not that we bear less fruit or inferior fruit, but apart from Him we can do nothing. It is either fruit - good, much, and abiding, in which God is greatly glorified and man greatly benefited - or, no fruit at all.

-Hudson Taylor