

Philippians 2026 Series -Lesson 17
“The Attitude and Purpose of Implementing the Mind of Christ”
Spheres of Grace Ministries International, Inc.

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Text: Philippians 2:14-15

14 *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

15 *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

Introduction:

In our study of Philippians 2:12-13 we observed that we are to “*...work out our own salvation with fear and trembling...*” We discovered that this phrase literally means we are to use biblical principles to carry out the result of our salvation to its ultimate conclusion, that we are to be proper representatives of God by listening to, accepting, and applying the Word of God to our lives. We further observed that God works in us, providing both the desire and the ability, enabling us to properly represent Him to the degree that we allow the Holy Spirit to control our behavior.

Now, we are going to explore Philippians 2:14-15 further *examining “the Attitude and Purpose of Implementing the Mind of Christ.”* As a Pastor-Teacher it is my responsibility to teach you the Mind of Christ (Doctrine). It is your responsibility to implement that doctrine into practical application. I can teach you the principles and the mechanics and provide the documentation that confirms the reality of them, but you must implement them. It is the development and implementation of the “Mind of Christ” that will produce the inner happiness and joy that most people are seeking in all the wrong places. Your joy and inner happiness will be in direct proportion to you learning, accepting, and applying these principles to your circumstances. When your circumstances go in a direction you do not like, blame God. With His directive, permissive, and over-ruling will He could prevent those circumstances. However, just because He allows it does not mean that He approves it. We need to remember the character of God. He allows, and often manipulates, those circumstances to bring us into a behavioral pattern that will produce the joy we are looking for. Our problem is “We don’t believe that!” That is why we are to develop and implement the mind of Christ (Bible Doctrine).

Let’s Look At It.....

Text: Philippians 2:14-15

14. *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*
15. *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

I. The Attitude of a Proper Representation of God: (2:14)

There are two specific stipulations identified in our text concerning the attitude of the believer in his proper representation of God. These are stated in verse fourteen.

“Do all things without murmurings and disputings:”

However before we examine *murmurings* and *disputings*, we need to look at the word *“do.”*

“Do” (poi-ei-te) **Perform -adopt a way of expressing, by actions, your thoughts and feelings.**

There are seven different words in the Greek New Testament that are translated by our English word, *“do.”* Each Greek word has its own distinct meaning. The primary meaning of this word is *“to perform by adopting a way of expressing your thoughts and feelings – implementing them....”* Now, keeping in mind that our basic instruction in the previous passage indicated that we were to think like Christ, we are instructed here to adopt a way of implementing Christ’s thoughts and feelings as we represent Him in our daily lives. Let’s look at the grammatical implications of this Greek word *“poieite.”*

ποιεῖτε (poi-ei-te) **perform -adopt a way of expressing, by act, your thoughts and feelings.**

Verb- expresses action - our representation of God requires action

Imperative Mood - a command - We are commanded to actively be involved in doing

Present Tense - continuous action – performance is to be consistent

Active Voice - subject produces the action - we are to carry our salvation to its ultimate conclusion

Now, let’s see where this process is to be applied and what it concerns...

“all things” (pan-ta) **totally and in all ways**

This word is a pronominal adjective signifying that which is entire in both concept and application. So, we are...

...to adopt a way of expressing the thoughts and feelings of Christ that we have in our minds, totally and in all ways.

Thus, everything we do is to be done in this way - using the information we have from the Word of God we are to put those concepts into application in every aspect of our lives and actions. This is a command!

Ok! Now we are ready to look at the attitude we are to maintain while turning God's Word into action in our lives.

“without” (cho-ris) apart from

This is a preposition used to help explain the function of the two nouns ***“mummerings”*** and ***“disputings”***. It is in the Ablative Case which is the case of separation. Thus, we are....***to adopt a way of expressing the thoughts and feelings of Christ that we have in our minds, totally and in all ways, apart from....***

“murmurings” (gong-us-mon) reluctant agreement using a negative tone...

This noun addresses the tone more than the thing said. It is used to identify an attitude - not by what is said, but by the tone in which it is said. If you guys don't understand this...just remember the last time your wife asked you to do something at an inconvenient time (I know every time they ask is an inconvenient time - smile). You said, Ok, I will. But the tone in which you said it evoked a further word from her... No! Just forget it...I'll do it myself!!

Now, do you see the picture? God is saying we are ***to adopt a way of expressing the thoughts and feelings of Christ that we have in our minds, totally and in all ways, and not cop an attitude that says we really don't want to do it – but I will.***

In the same way that husbands have this down pat, Christians frequently manifest this negative attitude about the service they render to God - they don't want to but will...

“and” (kai) and...

Don't go away yet, there is another word to examine...

“disputings:” (dia-lo-gis-mohn) questioning deliberations

Ah, this word can perhaps best be described by the saying. ***“...Tis not ours to question why, tis only ours to do or try....”***

in other words we are to ***adopt a way of expressing the thoughts and feelings of Christ that we have in our minds, totally and in all ways, and not cop an attitude that says we really don't want to do it - but will, and not to question or deliberate about it - Just Do It!***

No! We are not to question or deliberate about the implementation of God's Word. We are not to suggest to God an alternative action rather than the action He has assigned us not reluctantly but willingly, not suggestion another

Wow! All that is found in the simple statement... *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings:”*

The Expanded translation of verse 14 says: *You are commanded to adopt a way of expressing the thoughts and feelings of Christ that you have in your mind, totally, and in all ways, and not cop an attitude that says, I really don’t want to do it - but will, and not to question or deliberate about it - Just Do It!*

II. The Purpose for Implementing This Action with This Attitude:

By obeying the command in verse fourteen, we fulfill the purpose described in verse fifteen.

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

“That” (hina) **in order that...**

This is a Subordinating Conjunction introducing a purpose clause.

“ye may be” (ge-naes-the) **you, having the potential, may become something you were not...**

Verb- expresses action

Subjunctive Mood- mood of potentiality

Aorist Tense - in point of time

Middle Voice - you participate in this transformation

What is it that we need to become? *Blameless, harmless, without rebuke as children of God.*

“blameless” (a-memp-toi) **unblamable...**

Adjective – Identifying an individual by characteristic (*blamelessness*)

Nominative Case- case of identification of one’s status

Masculine Gender - initiator of action (With your freewill you make this choice.

Now remember, the means by which we are able to achieve our potential of becoming *blameless...* is to develop the mind of Christ -think like Christ.

“and” (kai) **and...**

This conjunction connects the attribute of being unblameable with the next word...

“harmless,” (a-ke-rai-oi) **without any impurity...**

Adjective - attributing the characteristic of purity to an individual

Nominative Case - case of identification of status

Masculine Gender- initiator of action

This word speaks of a purity that is void of any mixture. It is here we frequently come short by mixing human reasoning and philosophy with Biblical truth. We are not to add human reasoning and philosophy to what we accept as a standard for our behavior- we are to implement the mind of Christ without compromise. However, many of our former conservative seminaries are training preachers to simply tell the biblical story and be able to adjust it to the culture of the people. Our objective at Spheres of Grace Ministries is to influence the culture by teaching biblical truth. We are to remain blameless and without mixture as sons of God.

“the sons” (tekna) **born ones** (the word “the” is not in the original text which emphasizes the characteristics of the born ones of God)

Noun- persons

Nominative Case - case of identification

This noun is used in reference to children with an emphasis on their birth - thus the writer uses it here to emphasize the status children of God by means of spiritual birth.

It is important to note that there is no comma in the Greek text separating the phrase children **of God** from the phrase **without rebuke**. The absence of the comma means that becoming children of God is not achieved by obedience to the command of verse fourteen. **Blameless** (**without blame**) and **harmless** (**without impurity**) are adjectives describing what we as **“children of God”** become experientially when we are obedient to the command given in verse fourteen. At the point of salvation “Positionally” we become **“holy and without blame before God”** (Ephesians 1:4). The reason we are holy and without blame at salvation is because the sinlessness of Christ is credited to our account. This passage in Philippians is speaking of “experientially” as we implement the mind of Christ we “actually” become without blame and without impurity. To the degree we apply the mind of Christ in our behavior we become without blame and impurity.

This is addressed to those who are already **born ones of God** by virtue of a spiritual birth. Positionally as children of God they are without blame and without impurity because their sins are charged to Christ but implementing the mind of Christ enables the believer to actually become without blame and without impurity in their day-to-day life as born ones of God.

“of God,” (Theou) **belonging to God...**

This Noun is in the Genitive Case - genitive of possession and description - we are children that are described as belonging to God.

“without rebuke,” (a-moh-ma) **without blemish (faultless)**

Adjective - attributing a characteristic to those who are children of God

Nominative Case- case of identification

This is an interesting choice of words used here. Paul does not use either of the common Greek words for ***“rebuke.”*** He uses the technical word that referred to a sacrificial lamb having no defect—a lamb without spot (injury or scar) or blemish (birth defect). The emphasis here with the word “a-moh-ma” refers to the absence of a birth defect.

The implication is that as a result of our salvation we are credited with the sinlessness of Christ. He was without spot (no personal sin) and without blemish (no birth defect) because of his virgin birth and sinless life. We are children belonging to God by virtue of our spiritual birth (without blemish). We have been appointed as witnesses in this crooked and perverted generation, To the extent that we implement the mind of Christ we will ***“...shine as lights...”***

“in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,”

This phrase describes where we, as children of God reside and serve. ***...In the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.***

“crooked” (skolias) **crooked or curved way**

This adjective identifies the characteristic of something that does not go straight but curves off to the right or to the left. It is used metaphorically here with reference to those who are not entering in at the straight gate and following the narrow way described in Matthew 7:14 ***“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”***

In addition to not entering in the straight gate these are also described as being perverse.

“perverse” (di-es-tram-me-naes) **having, as a matter of principle been perverted**

Participle - identifies a principle

Perfect Tense - completely perverted in the past with the result continuing through present time

Passive Voice - someone or something has perverted them

Genitive Case - case of description

Feminine Gender- their perversion is the result of their negative response

“nation” (ge-neas) **generation...**

Noun – person, place, or thing (generation of people)

Genitive Case - genitive of description

Feminine Gender- responder - The use of the feminine noun identifies that a crooked and perverted generation is the result of choice.

“among whom ye shine as lights in the world;”

This statement explains that believers, obedient to the command to put on the mind of Christ, implementing His attitude and teachings into their actions, are

able to shed light to a generation that is off track – making bad choices which has resulted in their being perverted. If we would only live up to our potential as “Children of God,” by implementing the Mind of Christ.

The word **“world”** is from the Greek word **“chos-moh”** which refers to the present world system or world order.

II. Shining As Lights in The World:

Some of you have heard my illustrated sermon in which I use an old Oil Lamp to illustrate our role **“shining as lights in the world.”** I won’t rerun that entire sermon this morning, but I will refer you to the things illustrated by the lamp in an attempt to amplify how we shine forth as lights in the world when we follow the instructions found in Philippians 2;14-15. So, Let’s review the basics from that message.

Point 1. Jesus claimed to be the light of the world (John 8:12).

Point 2. Jesus said, “Ye are the light of the world...” (Matthew 5:14.)

Point 3. This seeming contradiction is cleared up by the doctrine of the “Believer’s Position In Christ.” (Titus 2:14; Ephesians 1:1-14).

Point 4. The base of the lamp represents our physical bodies - designed for a purpose - but void until filled by the Holy Spirit.

Point 5. The oil is the fuel for the light - oil is used in Scripture to represent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the fuel for our spiritual witness as lights in the world.

Point 6. The burner is the control on the lamp and is representative of our volition - free will with which we make choices. – that little knob is I John 1:9 and illustrates our freewill through which we make choices- good and bad.

Point 7. The wick saturated by the oil transports fuel to the fire, which is the light. The wick is representative of our being controlled by the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18 we are commanded to be filled by the Holy Spirit. The word **“filled”** is translated from the Greek Word **“plerousthe.”** It means to be saturated to the point of control. In the same way the wick transfers fuel to the light through our volition the Holy Spirit transfers the power of God to our witness.

Point 8. The light itself is Jesus Christ living in the believer. Fire is used in the Bible as a symbol of judgment - Christ was judged on our behalf. He is the Light of the world! Living in us, we become the means by which that light shines in the world.

Point 9. The chimney or globe of the lamp reflects and magnifies the light. The globe is representative of our personal actions through which we are able to magnify Jesus. If the globe gets dirty the light is not reflected properly, in that same way our personal choices can prevent Christ from shining forth in our lives reflected by our behavior.

Point 10. The Lamp is to be placed on the lamp stand. The church is identified as the lamp stand in Revelation 1:20. Thus, you are to be letting your light shine through the structure of the church. It is through the structure of the church you are equipped to *“...let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”* It is through the structure of the church that you receive doctrine and training to use your spiritual gifts.

Point 11. We are commanded in Matthew 5:16 to *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”* You are to implement the mind of Christ in your day-to-day behavior in order to *“...shine as lights in the world.”*

Conclusion:

Let's look at an Expanded Translation of our text here in Philippians:

Verses 14

You are commanded to adopt a way of expressing the thoughts and feelings of Christ that you have in your minds, totally, and in all ways, and not cop an attitude that says, I really don't want to do it – but I will, and not to question or deliberate about it - Just Do It!

Verse 15

In order that you, having the potential, may become something you were not - without blame and without impurity; Children belonging to God as a result of birth, without blemish, in this generation characterized by pursuing a crooked way - having been perverted, among whom you shine as lights.

Now let me ask you five questions:

- 1. Are you carrying your salvation to its ultimate conclusion in faith, with a radical and total dependency upon God?**
- 2. Are you maintaining a life under the control of the Holy Spirit (via I John 1:9) so that God's operational energy provides both the desire and the ability to do His good pleasure?**
- 3. Do you pass the test of verse 14 by constantly *adopting a way of expressing the thoughts and feelings of Christ that you have in your minds, totally, and in all ways, and not cop an attitude that says, I really don't want to do it - but will, and not to***

question or deliberate about it - Just Do It!?

4. Are you without blame and impurity as a Child of God without any stain or blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation?

5. Do you shine forth as lights of the world?

We are to put on the mind of Christ and apply His teachings and attitude to everything we do.

We are to do this without “copping out” with an attitude that says, “...Ok - I don’t want to do it -but will anyway.” And we are not to question or deliberate about it.

When we do this, there will be a transformation in our lives that will enable us to be without blame or impurity, and as children of God we who are children without blemish positionally will become the same experientially

As a result we will be shining lights in a world system to a generation that is perverted and off track!

This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine...

But It All Begins at Salvation

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...

With the heart man believes unto righteousness...

with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!

“And your joy no man taketh from you...”

(Luke 16:22)