

October 5, 2025 (Pastor Randy Leinen)

Complaining

“The **Evil Enemy** of Contentment and Joy in Christ”

Introduction:

Why is complaining such a big deal?

- Complaining is the _____ of contentment and it _____ discontent
- Complaining is a _____ which indicates how much _____ is inside you?
- Complaining is a _____ of the devil to _____ our joy in life and our _____ in God

Seven Evils of Complaining

1. Complaining is the opposite of _____ and _____
 - 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - Psalm 118:24
 - Psalm 136
 - James 3:8-10
2. Complaining _____ the corruption in our soul and it _____ us
 - Matt 15:18-19
 - James 3:13-4:1
 - Gen 3:12
3. Complaining is the mark (_____!) of an ungodly and rebellious _____
 - Matt 5:45 → to Jude 14-16
 - Exod 3:7-8; Exod 14:10-12; 15:22-27; 17:1-7
 - Psalm 95 (1-7, 8-11)
4. Complaining flies in the face of the entire work of our _____
 - a) Forgets how much we were _____
 - Matt 18:23-27
 - b) Forgets how amazing _____ is
 - Phil 1:21-23 → Rev 22:1-5
 - c) Forgets the commitment we made at our conversion to _____ for Christ
 - 2 Cor 5:15
 - Gal 2:20-21; 6:14
 - d) Forgets that Jesus has become our eternal _____ of joy
 - John 4:13-15
 - John 15:4-5

- e) Expresses _____ that we ever gave our lives to Christ
 - John 6:60-61; 66-69
 - Exod 16:2-3

- 5. Complaining forgets all the _____ we have already received and will receive in the future.
 - 1 Peter 1:3-5 → 6
 - Lamentations 3

- 6. Complaining sets a bad _____
 - Phil 3:17; 4:9

- 7. Complaining makes _____ want to be like you... especially _____
 - Phil 2:14-15
 - 1 Peter 3:15

How to remove the evil of complaining from your life (21 Practical suggestions)

1. You can only succeed at this if you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ (Eph 2:1-3)
2. Stop making excuses for your complaining
 - "I'm not complaining, I'm just venting"
 - "God has abandoned me" (Heb 13:5)
 - "No one knows what I'm going through" (1 Cor 10:13; 1 Peter 5:9; Hebrews 4:15-16)
 - "I didn't expect things to be like this"
 - "I don't deserve this" or "I do deserve this"
 - "I can't help it"
3. It's a learned skill (Eph 6:10; Phil 4:11-13)
4. Live for today, not yesterday or tomorrow
5. Abide in Christ (John 15:4-5)
6. Memorize and recite scripture (John 15:7; Psalm 119:9-11). Try Psalm 139
7. Make a daily devotion time a priority (above food) (John 4:21-34)
8. Read "The Power of Christian Contentment"
9. Ask God to bring contentment to you and to others (1 Pet 5:6-7)
10. Give thanks for all things (Eph 5:20)
11. Make contentment a focus of your family life. Be disgusted at complaining (stand out).
12. Be quiet, slow things down (Psalm 141:3; James 1:19-20)
13. Study the heroes of church history (especially the Puritans)
14. Be involved in World Missions (Giving, Praying, Going)
15. Fast regularly from worldly pleasures (Food/Eating out, Phone, Social Media, Shopping: Amazon, Entertainment: TV/Netflix/Video Games)
16. Get involved in new ministries that will stretch you and serve in areas that are "thankless"
17. Visit the elderly, the sick, the dying, and comfort the grieving
18. Give stuff away (1 Tim 6:6-10; 17-19)
19. Seek accountability and prayer support for contentment
20. Beware of the danger of the internet AND the danger of your cell phone
21. Add to this list...

Two more quotes from "The Power of Christian Contentment"

"Contentment is a force on your soul, pulling you upward toward Christlikeness."

"Complaining is a repulsive state of being, dragging you down into the abyss of despair."

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you like being around someone who is a “serial complainer?” Why or why not? What does it make you think of that person? How does it affect you?
2. What effect do you think your complaining has had on yourself and others?
3. From the list of “Seven Evils of a Complaining,” pick two that really stand out to you, and explain why.
4. As you consider the truths in the two you chose from question #3, does it make you think differently about your own complaining? If so, how? And how do you think you might change?
5. What effect do you think complaining has on contentment? Why do you think the devil would want to tempt people to complain, especially about God?
6. From the list of “How to remove the evil of complaining from your life,” circle a few of them that you would like to incorporate into your life. Explain why and also how you will do this.
7. From the list of excuses people tend to make for complaining, which one do you tend to use? Or is there another excuse not on this list that you use?
8. 1 Peter 5:5-7, in my opinion, describes a principle for how we can bring a legitimate and godly complaint before the Lord. Explain the principle given and how it might be applied.

Recommended Books:

“The Power of Christian Contentment” - Andrew Davis (2019)

“The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment” - Jeremiah Burroughs (1648)