

James 5:9
Grumblers Beware

Angsty ...

I. Trouble Rises

- A. Inward Mumbling
- B. Outward Grumbling

II. Know Your Audience

- A. In the Room
- B. At the Door

III. Count the Cost

- A. Assess the Truth
- B. Weigh Your Words
- C. Prepare to Account

... or gracious?

Children, Listen ...

1. Do Christians sometimes get mad at each other?
2. Who should they talk to if they do?
3. Does the Bible show us how to solve problems we have with each other?
4. What things often keep us from solving our problems with others well?
5. God is always near: He knows our hearts and hears our words. Should that make a difference to us? How?

Golden Delicious

If you are a habitual grumbler, chances are people do not lighten up when you enter a room. Unless they are endowed with an extraordinary measure of grace they may even wish you would leave. While that should be a concern to us there is something of greater concern: The Judge is at the door. Not only is the Lord always at hand discerning our hearts and hearing our words, He is coming back to judge. Thankfully there is a way for even the grumpiest grumblers to be forgiven and changed - by the grace of God. If you are a person that constantly has a problem with the people in your life including the church you are in ... the problem may actually be more you than everybody and everything else – and you probably have some repenting to do. Granted people around you are sinners and the church you are in is far from perfect, but negativity, grumbling and complaining will not only make matters worse, you will have to account for all that you say. It is not that we want to gloss over anything, the truth must be told for wrongs to be made right. But being an effective truth-teller requires wisdom, grace and godly motives – otherwise we become little more than annoying gadflies. The believers in James' day were dealing with far greater troublemakers than most of us ever do and many of them lived in situations far more tense and threatening than most of us ever will – yet they are exhorted to resist the temptation to grumble. May the Lord grant us the grace to silence grumbling and speak edifying words from sanctified hearts for the good of others and the glory of God.

Proverbs 25:11-12

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.
Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.