

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A CROOKED AND PERVERSE  
NATION—PART 1  
PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16

**INTRODUCTION**

This **world** that we live in is **crooked** and it is **perverse**! The **nation** that we live in is also!

“*Crooked*”—means “*warped.*” (i.e. “*not straight.*”)

“*Perverse*”—means “*morally corrupt.*”

We don’t have to go very far to see that **crookedness** and that **perversity**, do we?

(Talk about specific examples from current events!)

Standards of decency have been lowered to such an extent that there are almost no standards of decency left!

We live in a crooked and perverse society!

So, how are we, as Christians, suppose to live in the midst of a **crooked and perverse nation**?

I’m glad you asked because I’m going to tell you what the Bible says about it.

**I. WE HAVE A DUTY TO WORK OUT WHAT GOD IS WORKING IN US! (Vs 12-13)**  
**We Need To Recognize God’s Working In Our Lives And Yield To His Control!**

None of us are finished products yet, but if we are saved, there ought to be evidence of God working in our lives!

We are to put into practice in our daily living that **which God has worked in us** by His Holy Spirit!

Verse 13 says, that God works in us **both to will and to do** of His good pleasure! What is that work?

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**A. We Have Been Predestined To Be Conformed To The Image Of Christ! (The Goal)**

*Romans 8:29—“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*

*2 Corinthians 3:18—“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

**B. We Have Been Commanded To Put Off The Old Man And To Put On The New Man! (The Process)**

*Ephesians 4:21-25—“If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

**C. We Have Been Instructed To Work Out Our Salvation With Fear And Trembling! (Vs 12-13)**

That is, with a **complete trust in God** and not in ourselves! The only way that we can work out the salvation that God has worked in us is **through God** Who enables us to do it!(Vs 13)

Both Divine enablement and human responsibility are involved in getting God’s work done! We are partners with God, laboring together with Him!

The word “*worketh*” in verse 13 means “*energizes*” or “*provides enablement.*” God makes those who belong to Him **both willing and desirous** to do His work!

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*SO, WE HAVE A DUTY TO WORK OUT WHAT GOD IS WORKING  
IN US!*

II. **WE HAVE A DUTY TO WATCH OUR CHRISTIAN  
TESTIMONY!**

Our lives are on display to a **crooked** and **perverse** nation!  
We should not be guilty of things which do not bring honor and glory  
to God!

A. **We Are To Do All Things Without Murmurings! (14a)**  
Do **all things** ... not some things or certain things ... but do **all  
things** without murmurings and disputings.

How we respond to the situations we find ourselves in says  
much about who we are and who we live for.  
*“Do all things without murmuring. . .”*

The word “*murmuring*” means “*a grumbling.*”  
(i.e. “*a complaining.*”)

A grumbling in the soul will spread to a murmuring of the  
mouth and eventually to a murmuring or complaining in an  
open forum!

1. **Complaining usually stems from bitterness.**  
*Job 7:11—“Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I  
will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain  
in the bitterness of my soul.”*

If we are not careful we will find ourselves critically  
complaining when the tide of life is in or out.

2. **Complaining can quickly become a way of life.**  
*Numbers 14:27—“How long shall I bear with this evil  
congregation, which murmur against me? I have  
heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which  
they murmur against me.”*

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3. **Complaining can seal the direction of life.**  
*Numbers 14:36-37— “And the men, which Moses sent  
to search the land, who returned, and made all the  
congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a  
slander upon the land, 37Even those men that did  
bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the  
plague before the LORD.”*

How we respond to people and situations provides us  
with opportunities of either promoting or diminishing  
the gospel.

*We Are To Do All Things Without Murmuring!*

B. **We Are To Do All Things Without Disputings! (14b)**  
*“Do all things without. . .disputings”*  
*“Disputings” means “discussion, debate or arguing.”*

How we respond will lead to how we react.  
Complaining has the tendency to lead to arguing.

Between **stimulus** and **response** is the **choice** of how to react  
(or act).

Arguing stems from **pride and selfishness** (i.e. wanting to  
prove self right).

Remember what Paul said in verses 2-8 of this chapter that we  
looked at last time? It’s not about us!

Arguing, even when we are right, proves nothing other than  
our selfishness.

*Job 6:25—“How forcible are right words! but what doth your  
arguing reprove?”*

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As Christians we are to cast down things that lead to arguments.

*2 Corinthians 10:3-5—“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”*

Sometimes we just need to learn to agree to disagree in an agreeable manner.

*Proverbs 15:1—“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”*

Our aim should be to do all things without complaining or arguing so that we might glorify God!

*1 Corinthians 10:31-33— “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 32Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”*

The greater aim is to do all things that others might see Jesus in us so that it might eventually lead to their salvation.

This does not mean that we can't clearly state our case on an issue, but we don't need to be drawn into debate and arguing—especially among ourselves!

**C. We Are To Be Blameless! (Vs 15)**

The word means *“irreproachable or above reproach.”*  
It does not mean sinless perfection.

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We are to live in such a way that those outside of Christ cannot rightfully point an accusing finger at us!

**D. We Are To Be Harmless! (Vs 15)**

The word means *“unmixed, that is, innocent”*

It is a word that was used of wine which had not been diluted and of metal which had not been weakened in any way!

In other words, we are not to be **partakers** of the wickedness around us in any way!

*Ephesians 5:11—“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:22—“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”*

*Proverbs 4:14-15— “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. 15Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.”*

**E. We Are To Be The Sons Of God Without Rebuke!**

We who are saved **ARE** the Sons of God in our relationship!  
Amen for that!

But, there is so much more to being a Son of God than just relationship!

As Sons of God, we are to **bear the Family resemblance!**  
That is, we are to bear the resemblance of the Father so others can see that we are the Sons of God!

The words *“without rebuke”* mean *“unblameable”*  
**We are not to just be** the Sons of God, but we are **to be good sons!** We are to glorify the Father!

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Every time someone would brag on me in the hearing of my earthly father, do you know what that did to my father?

Every time someone brags on my son in my presence, it makes me just praise the Lord! (Yeah, it gives me the big head!)

We should be worthy of someone bragging on us in the presence of our Heavenly Father—even when the ones doing the bragging don't consider it bragging!

**F. We Are To Shine As Lights In The World!**

**That means we have got to be different from the world!**

*Matthew 5:14-16— “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

**If we are living in darkness ourselves, we will not shine!**

*Ephesians 5:8— “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”*

*1 John 1:5-7— “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

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**CONCLUSION**

We are going to have to drive a peg right there until tonight! We'll come back and see that there is more that God would have us do in the midst of this crooked and perverse nation!

How are you doing so far?

**WE HAVE A DUTY TO WORK OUT WHAT GOD IS WORKING IN US!**

Has God worked His salvation in your heart? If not, why don't you come this morning and let us show you how God can do a work in your heart that you'll never regret!

If God has worked His salvation in your heart, are you working it out?

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