

GRACE & PEACE TO YOU FROM GOD THE FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



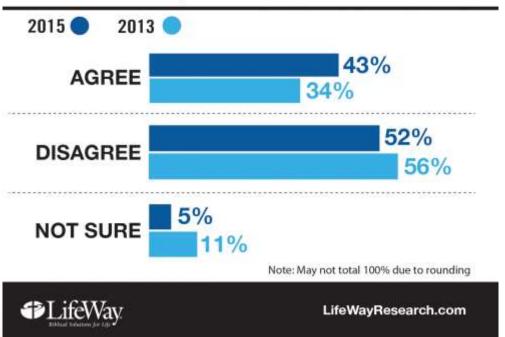






Among Americans:

American Christians complain too much about how they are treated.



Philippians 2:14-15 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

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;



"He who complains of the weather, complains of the **God who ordained** the weather!"

William Law 1686-1761



EXPLAIN

"In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't."

- Blaise Pascal

LAMENTING Vs COMPLAINING

COMPARISON #1

Circumstance: Facing a Difficult Situation at Work

1.Complaining:

Complaint: "This job is unbearable. I can't believe how much I have to deal with every day. It's too much, and I don't see why I have to go through this. My colleagues never do their part, and it's making my life miserable."

2.Lamenting:

Lament: "Lord, I come before you with a heavy heart. The challenges at work weigh on me, and I feel overwhelmed. I bring my concerns to You, seeking Your strength and guidance. Help me navigate through this difficult season and find purpose in the midst of the struggle. I trust in Your sovereignty."

COMPARISON #2

Circumstance: Personal Loss

1.Complaining:

Complaint: "Why did this have to happen to me? It's not fair. I can't believe I have to go through all of this pain. I never did anything to deserve this."

2.Lamenting:

Lament: "God, I am grieving the loss of my loved one. The pain is deep, and I feel the emptiness in my heart. I turn to You in my sorrow, asking for Your comfort. Help me find hope and healing in the midst of this darkness. I trust that You are with me in my mourning."

Numbers 11:1 And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

I'd Like to Withdraw My Complaint, Your Honor Exodus 16:8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.

I'd Like to Withdraw My Complaint, Your Honor Numbers 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

Numbers 14:3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

Numbers 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

I'd Like to Withdraw My Complaint, Your Honor Numbers 14:11-12 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

I'd Like to Withdraw My Complaint, Your Honor Numbers 14:26-27 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 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.



I'd Like to Withdraw My Complaint, Your Honor Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1 Corinthians 10:9-11 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Jude 16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

James 5:9 Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

Philippians 2:14 Do <u>all</u> things without murmurings and disputings;

- Barrier between us and God
- Detrimental to our emotional health
- Detrimental to our physical health
- Damaging to relationships
- Halts God's grace toward us
- Raises The LORD's ire!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I'd Like to Withdraw My Complaint, Your Honor Philippians 4:11-13 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound... I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 2:15 "... 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'd Like to Withdraw My Complaint, Your Honor

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect
gift is from above, and cometh down from the
Father of lights, with whom is no
variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

- Has the power to shift our focus
- Helps keep our hearts in check
- Strengthens our relationship with God
- Impacts our witnessing

- Believe God's Promises. (Hebrews 10:23) Obey God's Will. (Proverbs 3:5-6) God is greater than my circumstances. (1 John 4:4) God will give me peace. (Philippians 4:6-7) God will give me strength. (Isaiah 12:2) Remember God's Goodness, Grace, and Mercy. (Lamentations 3:22-23) **Trust God's Timing.** (Ecclesiastes 3:1) God is able to work this situation for good. (Romans 8:28) Focus on God's Love. (Romans 8:38-39) Remember that God's love never fails. (Psalm 59:17)
 - **Psalm 28:7** The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalm 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

