

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized, dark green leaf outlines on a slightly darker green background. The leaves are elongated and pointed, with simple black outlines.

SCRIPTURE

PHILIPPIANS 2:14 – 18



PHILIPPIANS



1 Timothy 1:15

Romans 3:27



**"We're like shining stars,
blameless, pure, children of
God without defect..."**

Religious:
Impertinent
Self-righteousness



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Irreligious:
Delusional
Self-righteousness

Beware the
penalty for
righteousness



**You were united
with Christ to
shine like stars**

Philippians 2:3

“Do everything without grumbling or disputing, in order that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and twisted generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold to the word of life.”

We're going to
work through the
passage in reverse
order to make the
argument clear.



**Be: without defect among the
crooked and twisted**

**So: pursue blamelessness and
purity**

**By: rejecting grumbling and
disputing**

**1. Be children without defect
among the crooked and twisted**



Philippians 2:3

...that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and twisted generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold to the word of life.”

Deuteronomy 32:1 – 5 **"final song of Moses"**

Listen, O heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!...

Deuteronomy 32:1 – 5

...He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

They have acted corruptly toward him; to their shame they are **no longer his children,** but **a warped and crooked generation.**

"Without Defect"

51 references in 5 books.

See also: Malachi 1



Leviticus 22:20

Do not bring anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf.

No Defect: Sacrificing Priests

Leviticus 21:17 – 24

"Say to Aaron: `For the generations to come none of your descendants who has a **defect** may come near to offer the food of his God. No man who has any **defect** may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed; no man with a crippled foot or hand..."

Leviticus 21:17 – 24 (continued)

"...or who is hunchbacked or dwarfed, or who has any eye **defect**, or who has festering or running sores or damaged testicles. No descendant of Aaron the priest who has **any defect** is to come near to present the offerings made to the LORD by fire. He has a **defect**; he must not come near to offer the food of his God..."

Leviticus 21:17 – 24 (continued)

...He may eat the most holy food of his God, as well as the holy food; yet because of his **defect**, he must not go near the curtain or approach the altar, and so desecrate my sanctuary. I am the LORD, who makes them holy.'" So Moses told this to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites.

Matthew 15:30 – 31

Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Mark 2:16 – 17

When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Hebrews 9:13 – 14

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will **the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!**

2. Pursue blamelessness and purity



Philippians 2:3

“Do everything without grumbling or disputing, in order **that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault** in a crooked and twisted generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold to the word of life.”

Blameless and Pure

Unconsciousness and untouched hands



**Blame
(worthy)**

Defect in power
Opposite of acting justly

Impure

Defect in goodness
Opposite of righteousness

Unattainable?





You'd like to think that, wouldn't you?

Deuteronomy 30:11 – 12

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?"

The background of the slide is a textured, light brown paper. Overlaid on this background is a faint, stylized illustration of two hands. One hand is positioned in the upper right, and the other is in the lower left, with their fingers reaching towards each other as if in a gesture of offering or support. The hands are rendered in a darker shade of the background color.

3. Reject grumbling and complaining

Philippians 2:3

"Do everything without grumbling or disputing, in order that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and twisted generation.

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“Do everything **without grumbling or disputing**, in order that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and twisted generation.

Grumbling:

Complaining that demonstrated discontent, victimization, rejection of responsibility, and impuning of "whoever is in charge"

Opposite of thankfulness, worship, peace

Disputing

Exherting inflexible and argumentative opinions and reasoning.

(Romans 1:21, 14:1; 1 Corinthians 3:20; James 2:4)

1 Timothy 2:8

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or **quarreling**.

Grumbling and Complaining

The choice to blame rather than be blameless. The willingness to act impurely instead of seeking purity in your own soul and heart.

Grumbling and Complaining

1. Is a defect that is blameworthy and impure
2. Harms your mood, mind, and integrity
3. Harms other's moods, minds, & integrity
4. Leads to discord (3rd party effect)
5. Bad decisions and refusing advise
6. Miss early signs of sin

"Jesus came
into the world
to save sinners
of whom I am
the worst."

"Jesus united
with me to make
me blameless and
pure without his
child defect, to
shine like stars in
the universe.."

Hebrews 9:13 – 14

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!



PHILIPPIANS