

"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;" **Philippians 2:14-15 KJV



Murmuring is akin to gossip in that it's under the breath or whispered. While gossip is generally hearsay or lies, murmurs are usually complaints and gripes never brought to the surface or source, but are circulated in an undertow of malice. Murmurs are the result of offenses or discontent; perceived or not and, or lack of "brotherly love." Ever heard someone say, "I just hate it when she does that!" or "Did you see what so-and-so did?" If we are quick to point an accusing finger, it is because we don't want to the same scrutiny applied to our own life. Remember, you reap what you sow! If you don't want folks to talk about you behind your back, don't do it to others. While something may be true, it need not be said unless it is kind and necessary. There are ways to speak the Truth without hurt. Instead of commenting truthfully on the negative, comment truthfully on the positive, or say nothing. It's not flattery if it's true. We are all imperfect and fault laden and the sooner we learn to overlook eccentricities and faults in others and quit broadcasting another's sins, the sooner we will find forgiveness for our own. In the Model Prayer (Mt. 6:9-13) we are taught to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Jesus said, "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Love one another as I have Loved you." True Love is always ready to forgive. We cannot totally control other's perception of our life, but we can endeavor to "abstain from all APPEARANCE of evil." In the light of this Command, it may not be wrong to do something, but if it can be perceived as wrong, it is wrong. Don't give anyone grounds to blame you for misconduct. What we do reflects on Christ and His Church. Those that are quick to say, "Judge not," are usually the first to accuse. They want to point the finger at others to keep it from being pointed back at them. "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." If you've been offended, don't murmur about it, because that is tantamount to revenge and "Vengeance is mine," saith the Lord, 'I WILL repay." If someone offends you, be honest and let them know. Speak "the Truth in Love." If you murmur, you are not blameless and certainly not harmless.

Speak the Truth with tender love,
And please our Holy Lord above,
And murmur not another's sin,
But be thou honest with all men. –CGP

Family tends to bring out the worst in us, because we know them better, so treat them with MORE grace and love than others. Don't let any offense fester and infect your soul "lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. [Provide] for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." Be forthright, honest, and act with integrity towards all, including family. "Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity (love manifested), shall cover the multitude of sins." Isn't that what Jesus did for you?

"Put on therefore, as the Elect of God, Holy and Beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on Charity which is the Bond of Perfectness." Colossians 3:12-14 KJV