

# THE ATTITUDE OF STUBBORNNESS, SPITE, AND MURMURING

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## INTRODUCTION

1. We will start our study with stubbornness, then spite and murmuring.
2. These three attitudes bring much trouble and sorrow to the church, the family, and society.

### I. THE ATTITUDE OF STUBBORNNESS

- a. "STUBBORN" or "STUBBORNNESS" means: Fixed, resolute, or unyielding; obstinate or persistent manner as "stubborn strife"; "difficult to handle" *Webster*.
- b. Stubbornness comes from a refusal to recognize any authority but one's own will.
  - i. Self-willed – Titus 1:7
  - ii. Loves preeminence – 3 John 9
- c. This attitude causes men and women to disobey God; it causes strife in the home and in the church.
- d. Let us look at HOW God looks at stubbornness:
  - i. A stubborn and rebellious son was to be stoned – Deut. 21: 18 – 21.
  - ii. "*stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry*" – I Sam. 15:23 (man becomes his own god).
  - iii. Because of Saul's rebellion and stubbornness, God rejected him from being king – I Sam. 15:23.
    1. A stubborn rebellious person is an unfit leader of God's people.
- e. EXAMPLES of a stubborn, rebellious attitude:
  - i. Israel under the Judges, after they had been delivered, would go back to their "*stubborn way*" – Judges 2:19.
  - ii. Israel's stubbornness and rebellion caused them to want a king – I Sam. 8:19.
  - iii. Israel's stubbornness and rebellion in the days of Zechariah – Zech. 7: 8 – 12.
  - iv. An adulterous wife is stubborn – Prov. 7:11 – "*loud and stubborn*".
- f. EXAMPLES of stubbornness and rebellion TODAY:
  - i. Because of stubbornness, children are rebellious toward parents.
  - ii. Because of Rebellion, children of God go back into the world.
  - iii. Because of rebellion and stubbornness, innovations are introduced into the work and worship of the church.
    1. Missionary society (1849)
    2. Instrumental music ( 1859)
    3. Children's homes or benevolent societies.
    4. Sponsoring church.
    5. Entertainment
  - iv. Because of Stubbornness:
    1. Brethren don't show love to one another – John 13: 34 – 35.
    2. They don't show mercy and compassion to one another – Col. 3: 12 – 14.
    3. They imagine evil against one another.
    4. They are unforgiving to one another – Matt. 6: 14 – 15.
  - v. Because of Stubbornness, problems in the local church cannot be settled.
  - vi. Because of Stubbornness, men and women are unfaithful to their companions.
  - vii. Because of Stubbornness, long-time friendships are broken, never to be again.

- viii. Because of Stubbornness, husbands and wives divorce.
- ix. Because of Stubbornness, many never come to know the Truth – Acts 7:51; Zech. 7: 11 -12.

## II. THE ATTITUDE OF SPITE

- a. David said of God, *“For thou beholdest mischief and spite”* – Psa. 10:14.
- b. SPITE means: “Provoking”; “Ill will with disposition to irritate”; “annoy”.
  - i. Provoking means to arouse.
  - ii. Spite is a mean and evil feeling toward another characterized by the inclination to hurt, humiliate, annoy, and frustrate – Webster’s New World dictionary
- c. Jesus told His disciples He was to be *“spitefully entreated”* – Luke 18:32.
  - i. To treat spitefully is to abuse; to entreat shamefully – Strong
  - ii. To treat insultingly
  - iii. To outrage – Vine
- d. One of the sins of the Gentiles was *“despiteful”* –Rom. 1:30.
  - i. To treat insultingly; to insult.
- e. Jesus said men would *“despitefully use”* us – Matt. 5:44.
- f. How do we show we have an attitude of Spite?
  - i. When we do things on purpose to irritate or annoy another person because we believe that person has mistreated us – then we are using spite.
  - ii. Examples of how we show our Spite:
    - 1. I may not speak to the person, or I may speak but only “half-speak” so that he or she will know something is WRONG.
    - 2. I may insult the person before many people.
    - 3. I may act like I don’t think the person has good sense.
    - 4. I may do the person injury if I can.
      - a. Talk about the person; slander him or her.
      - b. I may be able to keep the person from getting a good job.
      - c. By hurting his reputation any way I can.

## III. THE ATTITUDE OF MURMURING

- a. Paul said, *“do all things without murmuring and disputing”* – Phil. 2:14.
- b. MURMURING is to mutter, grumble, say anything in a low tone, fault-finding, complaining.
- c. The Word of God condemns Murmuring over and over:
  - i. I Cor. 10:10 – *“Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”*
  - ii. John 6:14 – *“Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves”.*
  - iii. John 6:43
  - iv. Phil. 2:14
- d. EXAMPLES of MURMURING:
  - i. The children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, and the Lord in the wilderness:
    - 1. Ex. 16:2 – *“And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness”*

2. Ex. 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 are not against us, but against the Lord.”*
3. Because of murmuring, God did not let the people who came out of Egypt, 20 years old and up, enter the promised land – Num. 14:22 – *“Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against Me.”*
  - ii. The Scribes and Pharisees murmured against His disciples because the Lord ate with publicans and sinners – Matt. 9:10 – 12; Luke 5: 30 – 32.
  - iii. When Jesus said he was bread which came down from heaven, the Jews murmured – John 6:41 – *“the Jews then murmured at Him, because He said I am the bread which came down from heaven”.*
  - iv. The Grecians murmured against the Hebrews in the Jerusalem church – Acts 6: 1.
  - v. When Jesus went home with Zacchaeus some murmured – Luke 19:7.
- e. MURMURING breeds discontent among the people of God:
  - i. Murmuring destroys LOVE among brethren.
  - ii. Murmuring destroys CONFIDENCE in brethren.
  - iii. Murmuring destroys WORK in the local church.
  - iv. Murmuring destroys UNITY among brethren – I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1 – 3.
- f. What do Christians MURMUR about?
  - i. The elders
  - ii. The song leaders
  - iii. The teachers
  - iv. The preacher
  - v. The classes
  - vi. The material used in classes
  - vii. One another
  - viii. Prayers
  - ix. Announcements
  - x. Men who make out the work list
  - xi. Benevolence
  - xii. The preacher’s salary
  - xiii. The work that the church is doing.

## CONCLUSION

**Let us think about what we are doing before we just murmur about everything.**