

STOP NAGGING!

TEXT: (Proverbs 25:24, MSG)

²⁴ Better to live alone in a tumbledown shack than share a mansion with a nagging spouse.

I. WHY PEOPLE NAG

1. “Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife” (Proverbs 25:24, NIV),
2. “Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife” (Proverbs 21:19, NIV).

A. Passive-Aggressive Behavior

1. “Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it” (Hebrews 11:1, NCV).

B. Fearing, Instead of Faithing

1. “That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, ‘If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?’ And they said to each other, ‘We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt!’” (Numbers 14:1-4, NIV).

C. Nagging Led to Arrested Progress

1. “When the LORD heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore: ‘Not a man of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your forefathers, except Caleb son of Jephunneh!’” (Deuteronomy 1:34-36, NIV).

II. WHY NAGGING DOESN’T WORK

A. Disrespectful

1. “Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor” (I Peter 2:17, NIV).
2. “Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband” (Ephesians 5:33, NIV).
3. “Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers” (I Peter 3:7, NIV).

B. Poor Communication Style

1. “If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love” (Matthew 18:15-17, MSG).

2. "Be alert. If you see your friend going wrong, correct him. If he responds, forgive him. Even if it's personal against you and repeated seven times through the day, and seven times he says, 'I'm sorry, I won't do it again,' forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4, MSG).
3. "The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5, NIV).

III. WAYS TO AVOID BEING A NAG

1. "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27, KJV).

A. Turn to the Lord

1. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault" (James 1:7, NIV).
2. "If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way" (James 1:5-7, MSG).

B. Be Willing to Let Go

1. "'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said'" (Luke 1:38, NIV).
2. "Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too'" (Luke 2:34-35, NIV).

C. Bible Verses That Can Help

1. "All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another" (1 Peter 5:1, NIV).
2. "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10, NIV).
3. "Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything" (Ephesians 5:24, NIV).
4. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25, NIV).
5. "Do not provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to the point of resentment with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by showing favoritism or indifference to any of them], but bring them up [tenderly, with lovingkindness] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, AMP).
6. "Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master" (Ephesians 6:4, MSG).
7. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord [that is, accept their guidance and discipline as His representatives], for this is right [for obedience teaches wisdom and self-discipline]" (Ephesians 6:1, AMP).