



TALK THINGS OUT AND NEVER GIVE UP!

Each spouse carries a unique load of emotional baggage into a marriage. All of us, to a greater or lesser extent, bear painful memories and relational scars from our formative years. This baggage can cause communication problems between a husband and wife.

Often, a person will hear a message vastly different from what their spouse intended to convey. “You forgot to put your glass in the dishwasher” can be interpreted as “You’re a lazy slob and a failure.” A safety reminder from a concerned father can sound to his wife like, “You’re a horrible mother! I don’t trust you with our child.”

Sounds like an overreaction, doesn’t it? And of course it is. But these misunderstandings are common and lead to much conflict in marriages.

Choosing words carefully can help you avoid some of them. But misunderstandings are sure to come, and when they do, the best way to deal with them is to keep communicating. When you sense that your mate is upset by something you said, don’t allow the anger to fester for a moment. Clarify your statement and ask questions to ensure you are understood properly. Reassure your partner of your love and respect.

Never give up trying to express your feelings; never give up trying to understand your spouse. Communication can be hard work, but the rewards are worth it.

***Don’t get tired of doing what is good.
Don’t get discouraged and give up,
for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.***

Galatians 6:9