

Larry's Party - Eliminate Negative Talk, Past Wounds and Gripping

Sermon Title: **Larry's Party Eliminate Negative Talk, Past Wounds and Gripping**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: You need to put a picture of your spouse where you can see it on a regular basis.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:24 - 00:00:52)

Female: And now for 5711, Larry's Party - Eliminate Negative Talk, Past Wounds and Gripping.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. And today, again, I have paused the series called The Whole Armor of God. And God says, "It's going to be three sermons in between this series that I want you to speak" and last message was called Number 23. And last Sunday, as I was home right after church, and I called my little lump of sugar on the phone because she had gone with the kids. She was in the van. And I asked my lump of sugar, I said, "Where are you all going?" Because we had some business to handle, and I said, "Where are you all going?" She said, "I told you yesterday where we were going." I said, "Maybe you did tell me yesterday, but where are you all going?" She said, "But I already told you. I told you yesterday where we were going. See, you don't hardly ever listen to me. I told you yesterday where we were going, and if you had been listening to me, you would know exactly where we're going today. I told you where we were going."

I said, "Sweetheart, I understand that you told me yesterday where you all were going. But even though I don't question that you're telling the absolute truth that you that you told me exactly where, but it has slightly slipped my mind where you all are going today." I said, "Could you please tell me where you all are going today, because we got some business to handle. Can you tell me where you all are going?" She said, "If you just listened to me, you would know where we are going." I said, "Sweetheart, I understand that, but just please tell me where you all are going." She said, "We are going to Larry's party, just like I told you yesterday." And I told my lump of sugar, I said, "See, you could have saved all those words. You could have saved all that time. You could have saved all that breath."

She said, "Look here, you better get off that, because if you do, we ain't going to be having no business. You better get off that subject or we ain't going to be handling no business." I said, "Sweetheart, that ain't had none to do with handling business." She said, "You better shut up, or we're going to have no business today." So anyway, I said, "Sweetheart, all you had to do was just say two words, just "Larry's party" and that would have solved all the question and all of the issue."

And as I was speaking, I heard God speak to me. And He said, "That is the message for next Sunday." And this is what He said, and this is the title of today's message. It's a long title, but it's what He spoke exactly. He said, "If people would eliminate negative words, past wounds and griping, it would change relationships." So, for those of you who sometimes have some issues, I want to just have you remember these words. That if -- now for those of you who are listening audio, I have on a party hat that simply has the words on it, "Larry's Party." So, whenever you're going into some discussion and some long stuff, just tell your spouse, "Remember Larry's Party. Remember Larry's Party."

So, that's what happened last week, but a few weeks prior to that, we were at the auto show. And we were looking at cars, and my lump of sugar looked in the car, she said, "Woo, this is nice here." She said, "That's a nice interior here." I looked in and it was sharp. I said, "Yeah, it's nice." But I said, "Sweetheart, that's a light interior. And the problem is, if somebody spills some red juice on that interior, it'd mess it all up." She said, "Now why'd you have to go there? That juice was spilled in your car 12 years ago and I didn't spill it in your car. That was the children who spilled it in the car. I didn't even spill it." I said, "You didn't spill it, but you were driving it while they spilled it, and you let them in there with the juice when they spilled it on the car. I could never get that red juice out the carpet, even when I gave the car away, it still had that red juice in it."

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But anyway, that had nothing to do with it. I wasn't talking about the red juice spill. I just said if somebody were to spill something red in that car, it would mess it up. That had nothing to do with the juice back. And she said, "Yes, it did. That's why you brought

it up, because of that red juice back then, 12 years ago and you shouldn't have brought that up."

So, people, that's why God said, "If we can just, if we can just eliminate negative words, past wounds" and that red juice was a past wound, and some of you all got some past wounds that you need to let go. You got a stain on your heart, a stain on your soul. And my wife was just right as she could be. "You had no business" and I told her, "But at least, sweetheart at least I didn't mention the dent your daddy put in the car." She said, "You did mention. Why did you got to go bring that up?"

So, see, sometimes, people, we don't let this stuff go. And I'm just as guilty of it as everybody else. We don't let this stuff go, and because we don't let this stuff go -- and see, actually what my wife and I, we were actually laughing about all this. So, it really wasn't done in a negative spirit. We joke about it. So, we were actually joking about it, but so many couples, they bring up stuff from the past over and over and over and over, and stuff that should have been dead is still living. And not only is it living, often it's growing. God said, "Simply, if people would eliminate negative words, past wounds and griping, it would change relationships."

Dr. Robert Travis, co-director of American Health Studies at the University of Alabama listed the most common complaints of husbands and wives. The wives have these top complaints. Number one, he doesn't listen to me. That's why my baby didn't want to tell me they were going to Larry's party, because she had already told me they were going to Larry's party. So, she said, "You didn't listen to me, and that's why I'm not telling you where we're going until I send you though some things to make sure you listen next time." So, number one, he doesn't listen to me.

Number two, he takes me for granted. It's like the joke that goes of the man and the wife were bringing his food and put it in front of him every day and year after year after year, she fixed him these fabulous meals, and all he would do is sit there and eat it. And finally, she said, "Sweetheart, you don't ever compliment me on any of the food ahead of you." I'm eating it, ain't I?" So sometimes, we just take stuff and we take people for granted.

And number three, he's not romantic. Men, sometimes you need to romanticize, and you have to be a little romantic about some

things. Now, some people are more romantic than others, but that's the number three complaint, he's not romantic. Number four, he doesn't help much with the children. And that's number four, and you all know about that, so I don't need going into all of that.

The top reasons that husbands give. Number one, she doesn't understand that I need time by myself. Well actually you might not need as much time by yourself if you're getting along super well. Number two, she nags me about little things. Number three, she expects too much emotionally. Number four, she complains that I spend too much time at work.

Now actually, from our experience, these complaints now are no longer categorized into male and female. They're universal. Men are now complaining the women folk is spending too much on work. Men are complaining the women are not romantic. So now, you got men complaining that their wives won't listen to them. So now the stuff has intermeshed and it's no longer just purely male or female. But regardless of how that is, people, we got to learn. If we can just take what God said, "If people would eliminate negative words, past wounds and griping, it would change relationships."

A friend of mine lives in Florida, a few miles from the Space Center. And I asked him and I said, "Man, that must be a lot of fun, you watching the shuttle go up and going out to the beach all the time." "I don't watch the shuttle, and I don't ever go to the beach." I said, "Why not?" And he said, "Man, I've seen them go up so many times, it's no big deal. I live here so I don't hardly ever go to the beach." And see, the thing about it is this. See, when we see the same blessings everyday, we eventually stop noticing them. When we stop noticing, we quit appreciating it. When we quit appreciating, we stop thanking. When we stop thanking, we start complaining. If people would eliminate negative words, past wounds and griping, it would change relationships.

Well, how do you eliminate negative words? That's a good question, because a lot of times, the thing becomes an ingrained pattern. And the negative sometimes so much overwhelms the positive.

So how do you eliminate negative words? All I want you to do, I want you to think. I want you to think about it before you say it. Think about it. And this is an acronym. THINK before you speak. So, if you just remember these words, THINK before you speak. T-H-I-N-K, THINK, before you speak. And before you speak, ask yourself the five questions that are associated with the letters in the word "THINK."

First, T. Before you speak it, ask yourself, is it true? Is it true that red juice was spilled in my Mercedes? Absolutely. Couldn't get it out. Took it to the cleaner, they worked on it, that red stain is still in that car to this day. Is it true? Absolutely. Is it true that I did not remember she told me Larry's party? Absolutely.

People, let me tell you this. Not only did I not remember that, and I think it was emblematic today, everything is so orchestrated by God. I went to the office early this morning, worked on some things out there. I had this hat, had put the labels on it, everything. When I pulled up to the church, I realized I had left the hat at the office. I had left the hat, and I left the bottle of red juice. I said, "Suzanne" I said, "Anybody here with the key to the office?" And Suzanne said, "I will run and get your stuff that you left." "Sweetheart, I forgot my hat."

So, it's no accident that men sometimes just -- any man I know, they just forget stuff. We just forget stuff, and my mind is still pretty sharp. My mind has not yet senile. My mind is still sharp. But I always forgot stuff. And my baby told me, said, "You don't forget something." She said, "You ain't forget people to have business today." I said, "Well, that's different." So, some things we don't forget. But other stuff that's not overly important to us, yeah, we would just completely forget it and it would totally slip our minds. So, is it true? Yes, it's true. Yes, the red stain is on the car. Yes, I forgot that she told me that Larry's party was the next day. Yes, it's absolutely true. So that's the first question you ask yourself. Is what I am about to say true?

The H. The next question that you ask yourself, is it helpful? Now, is what I'm about to say helpful? Is what I'm about to say about telling her about that car, "Yeah, but if you got some red stain on it, it'll mess it up" is that helpful? Is that helpful? Is that helpful at all? No. That's not helpful at all. And I have to give my baby credit, she hadn't spilled anything else in any car since that red juice. And see, sometimes, sweetheart I want to give you

credit, that in the past twelve years since you let that red juice get spilled in my -- it had been another thing messed up by anything of mine. And see, we're focused on something that was done way back then, and not give somebody credit for all the stuff they've been doing right since then. So, the second question you have to ask yourself, is it helpful? And if it's not helpful, don't say it.

The next question, the I. You have to ask yourself, is it inspiring? How will this make the person feel? Will this take them up, or will this take it down? Will this make them feel happy? Will this make them feel sad? Will this thing bring about closeness, or will it bring about distance? Will this inspire them if I say this thing? Think about it; before you say something, THINK about it. T-H-I-N-K. THINK about it.

Next question, N. When you get to the N portion, is it necessary? Is it necessary I bring up that the car could get stained? My baby said nope. Is it necessary that I bring up about that brand-new car could get red juice stain on like my old car did twelve years ago? Is that necessary? Absolutely not. So, if we ask ourselves, is it necessary? And if we don't say things that are not helpful, that are not inspirational, that are not necessary, it would save us so, so much trouble.

And the last one, the K. Is it kind? Is it kind? Is it kind? Is this thing out of gentleness? Is this thing out of love? Is it kind? So, before you say, THINK. T-H-I-N-K. And it'll change our relationships so much.

And researchers and marriage experts, they found that there are basically two statistics which define healthy marriages. And a gentleman named John Gottman, who's one of the major experts, he separates couples into what he calls, masters or disasters. They're either masters or disasters. And he says, there are two primary statistics that separate masters from disasters.

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And the two stats are these, they're the five-to-one and the nine out of ten. The master couples, they will have five compliments or positive statements for every one negative. And I did a sermon on that a while back, called The Magic Ratio. It was a three-part series, and it dealt with the magic ratio. Couples should go and

listen to that sermon, it's free, absolutely at brothersoftheword.com, The Magic Ratio. But five to one, you should have five compliments, five good things, five attaboys or attagirls -- five good things to every one criticism or negative thing. That's what masters have. Disasters have a lopsided on the other way. They've got more negative and more criticism than positive.

The other is the nine out of ten. Healthy couples who respond to their spouse nine out of every ten times when a spouse makes a request for their attention fit into the master category. You want the husband to listen to some, he's watching TV, "Wait a minute, let me let this play finish, and the play never finishes." Masters respond to the need for their spouse's attention nine out of ten times, disasters don't. And those are the two stats that determine whether the ratio is in the master category or the disaster category. Those two ratios, five-to-one -- and you know, if you just even pick a few compliments, thank you is the first one. "Please, I'm sorry, you are welcome, may I help, you look beautiful, I love you, I forgive you, will you forgive me, help me understand what you're thinking." Those are just positive things. Instead of, "You always do this, why didn't you do that? Let me tell you about this, and it's a problem." Five positives, because all problems are kind of viewed as negative.

So, imagine, if every time someone came to you and it was a problem, would you be glad to see them? If every time they came to you it was a problem, you will, "Oh, what now?" But if the majority of times they came to you with something positive, you start brightening up before they even speak. There's something about your countenance that changes before they even open their mouth, because you know it's an 80% probability something good is about to come out of their mouth. It's an 80% probability where, if you know if it's an 80% probability something bad is getting ready to come, you frown up. So that's the difference between a master and a disaster.

And now I want to just get you to do one physical thing that's the number one recommended thing for husbands and wives. You probably hadn't thought of it, you probably haven't heard of it, maybe you have. But this is the number one recommended thing that everybody can do. You need to put a picture of your spouse where you can see it on a regular basis, on your desk, in your

office, wherever it is. Now I want you to roll the video. This is a video that I shot early this morning when I was out of the office.

This is a video of my office. And I'm showing you here just a video of my office, if you notice here on the wall, that's my daily program that God had spoken to me, I keep it posted as I sit here at my desk. And I look to the right, on my right side is God's word directly to me of my daily program that I am to do every day. And as I pan to this portion of the office, immediately to my left, first of all you noticed here, this is my refrigerator, has a clear glass door on it where I can see the food that's left. So, if you look at the food in the refrigerator, what you're going to see is the healthy stuff. And it's a principle that you have a tendency to eat what you see and what's at hand. So, I keep the things at hand that's healthy for you.

Now, right to my left, you'll notice I have two pictures. First, this is a picture of my wife and I, our wedding day. And here is a picture of my lump of sugar. So, my lump of sugar sits on my left side, so at my office and I'm standing here right where I would normally sit here at the desk. To the right side, God's commands and his words for me to do everyday. As I move around to my left, is my lump of sugar with a huge picture, so I can just turn around and look at her all day long.

And this is the other part. I have two offices. This is the other part that's actually my executive portion where I go in if I want to meet someone. But normally I spend about 99% of my time in the work office, in the work side. This is just the meeting side, but this is the side that I spend, and I spend most of my time just working right here. God's word at my right hand, my lump of sugar at my left hand.

And I just didn't go out there and put that picture up. You know, that picture was actually shot at the Ark, right outside. It's been there for years.

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And you can walk in somebody's desk and you can tell whether their spouse is primary or not just by looking to see whether they have a picture of them. It tells a whole lot of difference. Sometimes they got a picture of the kids, but they ain't got no picture of the spouse in that. That tells you volumes. So, it lets

you know. And some of you, if you just -- oh boy, I don't know whether I'm reading somebody's mind or hearing somebody in the spirit. They say, "I don't want to look at them all day long." And right now, there's somebody out here may feel like that. You just don't want to look at them all day long. But this is a principle that helps you to change spirit. You need a picture of them, so that image you see all day long. And you need a picture of them smiling, a picture of them when they're looking good. You need to have a picture of your spouse where you are, and just that will change vibration.

So just from what God spoke last week, sweetheart, I thank you so much for bearing with me with this and I bought you a hat with Larry's Party on it. That hat looks good on you, too. But indeed, relationships and marriage is so valuable. They're not easy, 50% of all senior pastors go through a divorce. So, the pastor divorce rate is no better than anybody else. So just preaching the word doesn't save your relationship if you don't do the right stuff. So, this is why God wanted the simple message of this simple title. If people would eliminate negative words, think before you speak, past wounds, put the red juice in the trash and leave it there -- and that's Kool-Aid, so it's not even healthy for you in any way. Eliminate negative words, past wounds and griping; it would change relationships.

Some of you need to send this message to a friend. You can go to brothersoftheword.com, send it to a friend absolutely free of charge, and it may change their relationship.

Amen, amen. I'm going to ask Pastor James to close us out. Marriage and family and children, they have always been a challenge from the beginning. But it's one of the most beautiful things in the world if you can get it right. If you can get it right, it prolongs your life, it empowers you to do things beyond your dreams. But if you got it wrong, it can drag you through the worst hell in the world. So, if you just follow God's words for today, if people would just eliminate negative words, past hurts and griping, it would change their relationship. He didn't say it was easy, because nothing good and no changes are ever easy. And when you have a situation that's sick, all medicine is bitter. So, it's difficult sometimes for you to make that change, but if you make it, God will step in and change your relationship.

Pastor James: Amen, amen. Wasn't this an awesome word today? Amen. And I can relate to this word, because I actually had the same thing with my wife just this morning. It's funny because it was flipped also this morning. Some of the kids had to be here earlier. So, I told my wife that I'll drive ahead and get the early ones here, and we'll take two vehicles since we had to go somewhere separately after church anyway. And my wife Stephanie said, "Where do we have to go?" I said, "I told you that last night. I'm not going to tell you." I said, "You think about it, think of --" She said, "Where are we?" I said, "Babe, I just told you last night!" And I'm telling the truth?" So, someone, at least you know it works both ways. I was in your shoes and she was in Pastor's. And she still done by 30 seconds. I got to get out of here, I'm just going to go ahead and tell you. I got to get her hat on that.

Now we definitely can relate to it and I think all couples can, and even the pictures. It's very true about having the picture of the wife. I would give my wife credit for her wisdom. She didn't wait on me to put up a picture. She said, "Let me decorate your office." I saw everything straightened out, and I looked up and saw a big picture of her smiling back at me. At home, at work office. So, she put a picture everywhere that I was working. So that was wisdom. Listening to the pastor today, I see exactly what she was doing now, but I thank her for that so I can see her all day long. Amen, amen.

Nathaniel Bronner: Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word.

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