Complaining

**If anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other;**

**just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

**(Colossians 3:13)**

**Man: “You know, Lars, you’re always complaining about being broke, but you never do anything about it. The difference between you and me is, tomorrow, I’m going to get up early, put on a suit, go downtown and buy a lottery ticket.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**A woman dining out summoned her waiter and requested that the air conditioning be turned down. Minutes later, the same woman was fanning herself, and she again summoned the waiter, asking that the air conditioning be turned up. As her complaints continued, a man seated at the next table beckoned the waiter. "She must be driving you crazy," he said, "making you turn the air conditioning up and down like that." "Not at all," the waiter replied, "I'm driving her crazy. We don't have air conditioning." (Alice Wellington, in Reader's Digest)**

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**If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain. *(Maya Angelou)***

**Poet Maya Angelou remembers growing up in rural Arkansas, where her grandmother, Annie Henderson, ran a store. Maya would be called inside any time a known whiner showed up. Grandmother would ask, "How are you?" and the grumbler would complain about the heat or the plowing that needed to be done. Each time, Grandmother would look at Maya and nod, to make sure the girl was listening. Angelou, now a writer, teacher, producer and director, recalls her grandmother's words after the customers left: "Sister, there are people who went to sleep last night, poor and rich and white and black, but they will never wake again. And those dead folks would give anything at all for just five minutes of this weather or ten minutes of plowing. So you watch yourself about complaining. What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it." (Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now)**

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**Department-store automatic answering machine: “If you are calling to order or send money, press 5. If you are calling to register a complaint, press 6459834822955392. Have a good day.” *(Hal Thurow, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Wife to husband, who is complaining about bills: “Cheer up, dear. Birds have bills, and they sing!” (Mrs. Clyde Gault, in Reader’s Digest)**

**It is a general popular error to imagine the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare. (Edmund Burke)**

**A friend of mine has several children who complain constantly that they need bigger allowances. Tired of hearing their grumbling, my friend said to them, “Kids, you don’t know just how good you have it. When I was a boy, I used to get up early to deliver newspapers. I walked to school in the snow and rain, and after school I delivered groceries. Sometimes we didn’t even have enough to eat.” His children listened intently, and my friend thought he had made his point until his youngest piped up, “Hey, Pop! I bet you’re awful glad you live with us now!” *(A. R., in Reader’s Digest)***

**We view a customer who is complaining as a real blessing in disguise. *(Louis Carbone)***

**My father, a gravedigger, was told to prepare for a funeral. But on the day of the service, it was discovered that he had dug up the wrong plot. Luckily for him, the deceased’s daughter was very understanding. “Poor Dad,” she lamented. “He always complained he could never find a parking space.” (Emily Willmot, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Notice posted on door of an apartment manager: "Sorry. Yesterday Was Deadline for All Complaints." (Erie, Pennsylvania, Times)**

**I personally think we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain. (Jane Wagner)**

**Don’t be too quick to condemn complaining employees. A recent study revealed that it is better to have complainers than apathetic people. The researchers found that employees who occasionally complain and express criticism about their jobs tend to be among the highest producers. Apathetic, non-complaining people, on the other hand, were found to be generally low producers. (Bits & Pieces)**

**A man walked into a dry cleaner’s in Brooklyn. “How much would you charge to press this suit?” he inquired. “Four dollars.” “You must be crazy!” exclaimed the man. “In L.A. I can get it done for two bucks.” “Is that so? And how much is the plane fare?” (Leo Rosten’s Giant Book of Laughter)**

**“I hate this dull town!” a teenage boy complains to his parents. “I want action. I want to make real money. I want to meet pretty women. I can’t do any of that here, so I’m leaving!” Before he gets down the street, his father calls out to him. The boy shouts back, “Don’t try to stop me! My mind is made up!” “I’m not trying to stop you!” the man yells. “I want to go with you!” (Ron Dentinger, in Dodgeville, Wis., Chronicle)**

**Though she tried hard to please her husband, the poor woman failed regularly. Most often it was at breakfast. If the eggs were scrambled, he wanted them poached. If they were poached, he wanted them scrambled. One morning, she cleverly poached one and scrambled the other, put the plate in front of him and waited for his approval. Glancing at the plate, her husband snorted, “You scrambled the wrong one.” (The Ohio Motorist)**

**Bumper sticker on an Iowa pickup truck: "If you complain about the farmers, don't talk with your mouth full." (Bill Johnson)**

**During a five-year apprenticeship in a small retail store, Marshall Field quickly developed a reputation as a courteous, eager-to-please man with a smooth sales technique. Several years later in Chicago, Field was walking through his own store and overheard a clerk arguing with a customer. "What are you doing?" Field asked the clerk. "I'm settling a complaint," he replied. "No, you're not," Field corrected. "Give the lady what she wants." This phrase became a company motto and is still used as a slogan today. (Lloyd Wendt and Herman Kogan, in Give the Lady What She Wants!)**

**The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it. *(Lou Holtz, football coach)***

**People who invite trouble always complain when it accepts. (Lane Olinghouse, in Quote magazine)**

**The usual fortune of complaint is to excite contempt more than pity. (Samuel Johnson)**

**Nobody wants to hear a celebrity complain. (Jennifer Lopez, in Esquire)**

**A large department store celebrated its 10th anniversary by awarding a special prize package to its one-millionth customer. When the lucky customer walked through the door, she was showered with confetti and balloons and startled by the flash of cameras and roar of applause. Cameras rolling, the store manager presented the lady with a year's supply of household goods and a basketful of gift certificates. A local TV reporter approached the winner and asked, "Please tell our viewers what department brought you to the store today?" "The complaint department." *(Bea Breslow, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Politicians who complain about the media are like sailors who complain about the sea. *(Enoch Powell)***

**British columnist Bernard Levin, commenting on the taste of two music critics: “If this pair had been present at the miracle of the loaves and fishes, one of them would have complained that there was no lemon to go with the fish, and the other would have demanded more butter for the bread.” *(David Fingleton, in Kiri Te Kanawa)***

**Four hundred thousand immigrants a year enter the United States, happy to share the troubles of which the natives complain. *(Quoted in Chicago Tribune)***

**I personally think we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain. *(Jane Wagner)***

**The next time you feel like complaining, remember that your garbage disposal probably eats better than do 30 percent of the people in this world. *(Robert Orben)***

**United and U.S. Airways recorded 1.36 passenger complaints for every 100,000 customers, the highest rate in the industry. Southwest Airlines, at 0.18 complaint per 100,000 passengers, had the fewest. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 13, 2007)***

**In a Perfect World pro baseball players would complain about teachers being paid contracts worth millions of dollars. *(John Gratton)***

**Potato chips were invented in Saratoga Springs in 1853 by chef George Crum. They were a mocking response to a patron who complained that his french frieswere too thick. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 166)***

**Mother asks her son: “Would you rather complain about trying on shoes or clothes?” *(The Saturday Evening Post cartoon)***

**The reason some people complain about the now sound is that they have then ears. *(Bill Vaughan, in Reader's Digest)***

**Religion-based complaints to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have doubled in the last two years, to about 4,000 a year. Part of the surge comes from immigrants and observant employees – Muslims, Seventh-day Adventists, and others – who were denied requests to not have to work on weekly holy days. Conflicts have also erupted over dress codes and alcohol. *(WSJ.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 8, 2013)***

**One waiter complained to another, “It took me all morning to fill this salt shaker.” “How?” the other waiter asked. “Do you have any idea how hard it is to get the salt through those little holes on top?” *(The Saturday Evening Post)***

**My aunt deals with customer complaints at a retail store. She and my uncle had had an argument, and to make up he waited in her customer-service line. When it was his turn, he whispered in her ear that he’d take her out to dinner that night. Her face lit up, and she gave him a big kiss. The next man in line stepped up and said, “I’m complaining about the same thing he was.” *(Erica Wiest, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A man joined a religious order that allowed him to speak only two words every 10 years. After the first ten years, the man’s superior asked him if he had anything to say. “Lousy food,” the man replied. Ten years later, the man said, “Hard bed.” After 30 years, the man said, “I quit.” “I suspected as much,” the superior said. “You’ve been here for 30 years, and you’ve done nothing but complain. *(Victoria Svete, in Reminisce magazine)***

**I always strive, when I can, to spread sweetness and light. There have been several complaints about it. (*P. G. Wodehouse)***

**A complaint is a statement about expectations that have not been met. *(Janelle Barlow)***

**Ears to You: Thin walls are a complaint in many apartment buildings. One night when I lowered the volume on our living-room television set, I heard a neighbor call out, "Hey, I was listening to that!" *(F. Barrette, in Reader's Digest)***

**Those who make the worst use of their time are the first to complain of its brevity*. (Jean de La Bruyere, philosopher)***

**It's my belief we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain. *(Lily Tomlin)***

Everyone complains about the weather but nobody does anything about it. (*Mark Twain)*

There once was a monastery that was very strict. Following a vow of silence, the monks could speak only two words every 10 years. After his first 10 years at the monastery, one monk went to the head monk. “It has been 10 years,” said the head monk. “What two words would you speak?” “Bed … hard,” said the monk. “I see,” replied the head monk. Ten years later, the monk returned to the head monk’s office. “It has been 10 more years,” said the head monk. “What two words would you like to speak?” “Food … stinks,” said the monk. “I see,” replied the head monk. Another ten years passed and the monk met with the head monk. “You two words?” “I … quit!” said the monk. “I can see why,” said the head monk. “All you do is complain.” *(Rocky Mountain News)*

**Our forefathers did without sugar until the 13th century, without coal fires until the 14th, without buttered bread until the 16th, tea or soap until the 17th, without gas, matches of electricity until the 19th, without cars, canned or frozen foods until the 20th. Now, what was it you were complaining about?” *(Rev. Richard Stephens, vicar of a church in Cheshire, England)***

**Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat. *(Young Miss)***

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**A California woman quit a local gym after other members complained she was too fit. Tiffany Austin said a Planet Fitness employee told her to put on a shirt to cover her muscled arms and midriff because "we've had some complaints you're intimidating people with your toned body." Instead, Austin walked out. *(The Week magazine, April 4, 2014)***

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