

The Best Arguers

The best arguers don't point their fingers. That's according to a study reported in *Psychological Science*.

The study also said the person who says *we* the most during an argument suggests the best solutions.

Those conclusions are contained in the study entitled *Pronouns in Marital Interaction: What Do "You" and "I" Say about Marital Health?"*

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill studied 59 couples. Spouses who used second-person pronouns (you) tended to be negative in interactions. Those using first-person plural pronouns (we) provided positive solutions to problems.

The study concluded, "*We* users may have a sense of shared interest that sparks compromise and other ideas pleasing to both partners. *You* sayers tend to criticize, disagree, justify, and otherwise team with negativity."



These same conclusions apply to team members and directly affect their ability to achieve objectives. And certainly they are true in application to health care and the desired results we seek to achieve for our residents and patients.

Watch for, and practice, the appropriate use of pronouns in team interaction. They do make a difference in attitudes and cooperation.

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another (Romans 12:10 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter