

N' And Not Ashamed (Part II)

Led the total openness and transparency start with the men, the leaders of the home:

What am I hiding, what had I hidden from my wife, because of shame or embarrassment? What is the hidden thing from my 'one flesh' that the devil may be using to keep me in captivity, in bondage, in limited intimacy, so that I am not truly FREE?

Today, I vow to prayerfully decide when, in the next 1 month, to sit down with my wife look her in the eyes, open up and expose any secret or hidden thing that I had kept from her. In the areas of my family, finances, relationships (particularly with the opposite gender), use of the internet (pornography etc), work, career, ministry, business, educational attainment? And request help to be delivered from the sting of shame, embarrassment or unrighteousness; that I may be truly 'one flesh' with her, naked and not ashamed ... and truly FREE. And be able to declare to her, 'there's nothing I'm hiding from you, and there is nothing I will hide from you, from today and forever'. So help me God. I am free!

I give myself and you up to 1 month, because I know it won't be easy; I know that the devil, your ego/flesh and the world culture will fight it. And we need to prepare, pray and receive grace, boldness, courage and a revelation of the benefits, to do this. It's surgery, and because of how painful, albeit relieving and life-saving it can be after it is done, there needs to be adequate time to prepare psychologically/emotionally, physically and spiritually.

I boasted (in the Lord) that this series promises to be revolutionary; to make the REST of our marriage and lives the BEST ... Yes, because He (Jesus Christ, The Anointed One and Anointer) came to set the captives free, to release the bound, to liberate those in 'prison'. And this includes those among you and I who may be in the bondage of the hidden things; the secret things. Of the 'bad', covered with 'fig leaves', even from our spouse. Set us free, release, liberate us, for what?

"..that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified ... for the display of His splendor ... that He may put His Glory on display" (Ref: Isaiah 61:1-3, John 12:28).

Who wants to be an oak of righteousness? Who wants to be a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor, of the manifestation of His glory? Who wants to be free to "run", free to live for Him, free to fulfill my calling maximally, free to be optimally fruitful; free to be all we can be in Him? I do! And trust that you do too! However, I cannot be, until I have been set free from the hidden things; from secrets; until I am truly naked (totally open, transparent, exposed) and not ashamed, in my marriage. And neither can you, I dare say.

Why the emphasis on openness and transparency in marriage? Because, it is in marriage that God, in His sovereignty and wisdom, has ordained and demands oneness (one flesh) and 'nakedness'. Paul said, "this is a mystery..."....

So, let's kick off on the hard work required in this journey to make the REST of our marriages and lives the BEST, to be oaks of Righteousness and to be displayers of His splendor, by taking up the challenge at the beginning of this piece. The men 1st. Then, the women ... So help us, God!

And, happy Father's Day, all dads-to-be and dads! Today is Fathers' Day in Canada (and perhaps in North America)

I got additional motivation today, to embark on the journey to be naked and not ashamed. This morning I got these cards from:

My delightful daughter, Favour Oluchi {"God's Doing"} Hephzibah: "Dad – people tell me I'm a lot like you. Most of the time, I take it as a compliment! Happy Fathers' Day. Favour O". (Note the "most of the time". Ooouch! Ooops)

My in-whom-I-am-well-pleased-son, Chino' {"Immanuel"} Chidiebube {"God is glorious, awesome!": (With a picture of a big elephant with its trunk at the butt of its young) – "Nobody can give you love and straighten your lazy butt out at the same time like Dad. Thanks Dad for doing it all. Love, Chino"

My darling wife, Chiny' ("God's Gift") Ezinwanyi {"Virtuous woman"} Ukwunyeraku ("Harbinger of wealth"): "To My Prince Charming – Gosh! Here we are happily married and with a family too ... My Darling, I guess dreams DO really come true! Happy Father's Day. With all my love. Your Ezinwanyi".

And I got a call from Big Sister Vera and Little Sister Uju of our Church, Kingdom Life Ministries, wishing me "Happy Father's Day".

I want my daughter to be like me and let it be truly a compliment – not most of the time, but ALL the time. Including in the area of openness and transparency: I want to model that to her as her Dad.

My son compliments me for love and good upbringing: what can I love and manhood will I be modeling to him if I keep secrets and hide things from his mother, whom he believes is ONE with me? I don't want to be hypocritical.

What kind of prince charming can I be to my wife if I have hidden things from her? I don't want her to be a stranger!

What kind of Pastor will I be to church members like Vera and Uju if I am 'false' at home in my marriage?

I am in, for this journey: I shall be naked and not ashamed; I shall be God's kind of husband and dad; I shall be free to display His splendour!

Prophetic word for today: "He came to set captives free, whosoever will! And plant them for the display of His splendour" ... says the Spirit of the Lord.