

N' And Not Ashamed (Part III)

The hidden things, the secrets a man or woman can keep from the spouse can be BIG ... really BIG and REPULSIVE; or SMALL, really SMALL and seemingly HARMLESS. But, regardless, they are pointers, signs or symptoms of same thing – lack of: the openness, transparency (NAKEDNESS) and agreement (ONENESS) that God has ordained as foundations for successful marriages. Without these, a marriage falls short of the standard of God; and indeed of the Glory of God that should attend marriage.

THE BIG & REPULSIVE:

The story of Josef Fritzl, the Austrian man who imprisoned his daughter, Elizabeth, for 24 years, committed incest with her, fathered 7 children with her, and successfully hid it from his wife, Rosemarie! Who didn't read this story or hear the news?

I believe almost every one will agree that this is as big and repulsive as it gets. However, could that be the first thing he hid or kept secret from his wife? There most likely were smaller ones ... and as they say, 'What you SOW, you GROW; and eventually REAP'.

THE 'SMALL' ... deceptively 'SMALL':

- Secret accounts
- Secret investments or business deals
- Secret family history
- Secret affairs, relationships – 'the other man/woman', 'the other child/children...'
- Secret health condition...
- Secret gifts of money or things to relations or even for good causes (church, charity, etc)

Or? Fill in the blanks ... as known to me only; to you only. And of course, to the Holy Spirit, to whom nothing under the sun is hidden; and who will reveal the secrets of our hearts some day! (Josef Fritzl's came to light at the age of 73...).

So, the question is, could there be a Josef Fritzl in me, in you; fully developed or just in seed form presently? What am I hiding, what had I hidden from my spouse, 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?

COUNTDOWN: It's been 1 week since the challenge to prayerfully decide when, in the next 1 month, to begin a marriage relationship of 'naked and not ashamed'; of true 'one flesh' – starting with the men, who are heads of their family; leaders of the home.

May God give us the grace and courage to take up this challenge, that we may be free indeed; that we may become the best that God has purposed to be: oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor; to put His Glory on display.

May the REST of your marriage and life be the BEST, in Jesus' name. Amen

Prophetic word for you, wife, as you see the 'other nakedness' of your husband during this ONENNESS CHALLENGE and thereafter: "I was naked and you clothed me; in prison and sick, and you visited me, you cared for me; a stranger, and you took me in' ... LOOSE him, and let him go!" ... says the Spirit of the Lord.

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