

Marriage: 'N' (totally open, transparent, exposed...) and not ashamed!?

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they (Adam and Eve) were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" – Genesis 2:24-25

Brother David Guznik, a Bible Commentator has said that 'the idea of "nakedness" is far more than mere nudity. It has the sense of being totally open and exposed as a person before God and man. To be naked . . . and not ashamed means you have no sin, nothing to be rightly ashamed of, nothing to hide'.

And I add: it means God has ordained the institution of marriage to be such a safe place that even when I have messed up or I have missed it, I can feel confident to confide in, confess to, share with, my wife, Chiny. Anything, and everything. That it is the safest place to be vulnerable, to be transparent, to be exposed, to be embarrassed...to experience that faithfulness of the 'wounds of a friend' that the Bible talks about (Proverbs 27:6)

Today, June 8, 2008, is the 17th wedding anniversary of Chiny and I. And we have sung, thanked God, read the Bible and shared God's word/bread of life in the area of marriage, fellowshiped, dance ...

And in church today, at Kingdom Life Ministries Calgary, from 1-30-3.30pm, there will be a GATHERING with our friends, family and the people of God to further bless the Lord, rejoice and share the purposes of God for marriages and families....

In the recent years when I shared, thro' writing, the celebration of our Wedding Anniversary with family and friends, I always titled the piece, "On June 8 We Stand". By that I tried to communicate our resolve to live by and up to the vows we made on that blessed, God-day in 1991, at He's (Jesus is) Alive Chapel, Lagos, Nigeria – before our beloved Senior Pastor & wife, Austin & ' Yide Ukachi, our wonderful family, brethren and friends. Those vows include: to make our marriage truly for better, for worse, until death or Jesus' return does us part, to love and cherish each other, to be faithful to each other.....

Today, I feel led of the Holy Spirit to start digging deeper, to explore God's purposes for our marriage (and those vows we made), and the hindrances to their (optimal) fulfillment. In doing this, I desire to be vulnerable to my wife and to you; I desire to dare to be 'naked' like Adam & Even were before sin came to the world – open, transparent, exposed, authentic. And, to not be ashamed!

And as from next week, in the "'N' and Not Ashamed" series, I will invite you and I on a journey to together see if there are 'tumours' in our lives that the devil, through the fear of shame and embarrassment, has caused us to hide (and cover with 'fig leaves' rather than God's 'skin leather') even from our spouse. To a journey of receiving from the Lord wisdom and winning strategies for openness and communication with our spouses and our Accountability/Prayer Partners such that no 'tumours' are allowed to grow to suck God's presence, life and purpose out of me and you; or if any already exists, to present them for surgery, as painful as that may be. A journey to

liberate you and me from the enemy of the hidden things; of secrecy, that we may be free to optimally fulfill God's purposes for our marriages; nay for your life and my life. If I obey and you obey, this series promises to be revolutionary, such that you and I will not be the same, and the REST of our marriage and Christian lives will be the BEST, in Jesus' Name.

Prophetic word: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh 32This mystery is very great, but I speak concerning [the relation of] Christ and the church. 33However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]"- Ephesians 5:31-33...says the Spirit of the Lord

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