THE CITADEL TREATISE
CGCC... THE NOW CHURCH
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The Citadel Global Community Church
37 AMAZING YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Welcome to The Citadel Global Community Church where stars are born and great futures are created. Welcome to the home of consummate and conscientious nation builders whose hearts are open to the plans of the Holy Spirit, and in whose lives all things godly are possible because we choose to win by righteousness.

PROBLEMS OF MARRIAGE AND BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR SOLVING THEM

...walking in God's designed love and mutuality for married life

By Pastor 'Tunde Bakare

God's Pattern for Married Love

It is my considered opinion that every married couple with a Bible at home should become experts in the one book of the Bible devoted exclusively to love and marriage. I am referring to the Song of Songs, which is Solomon's. The book gives us the pattern of married love as God intended it **(SOS 1:1-17)**.

The revelation contained in it is full of striking details that still serve as a practical model for our marriages today. It reveals a marriage between King Solomon and a beautiful, unsophisticated country girl whom he met in the northern vineyards of his kingdom. The Bible relates the events experienced by one couple and the words and emotions they expressed that portray for all time the love life in marriage that honours and pleases God.

Please note that this book is about love and sexual fulfilment in marriage. Second, it is about handling the pressure of work, office and position in such a way that will protect the home life. Third, it is about the transition in marriage relationships from subjugation to mutual respect and mutual submission.

From Subjugation to Mutual Submission

I will start with the third one because that is where the major problem is. There are husbands who terrorise their wives and keep them in perpetual subjugation. They are quick to claim that they are the head of the family. But in the context of the Bible, being the head is responsibility in the sense of provision and protection, not subjugation.

In **Genesis 3:16**, a judgement was pronounced on Eve for her blunder in that marriage. Based on the pronouncement, what enables a man to rule over a woman is her desire. However, the cross of Jesus has liberated women forever. But long before Jesus came, the Song of Songs shows a gradual reversal of that misplaced desire **(SOS 2:16)**. At this point in their courtship, what was uppermost to the Shulamite was her desire to possess Solomon. But in **SOS 6:3**, she reversed it from wanting to possess him to wanting him to possess her **(SOS 7:10)**. This is where God, through Solomon and a love life with the Shulamite, reversed the punishment in **Genesis 3:16**. It is now desire for desire.

When Desire Becomes Mutual

If this desire became mutual in the life of the Shulamite and Solomon, how can we, too, get to that level of mutual desire today? First and foremost, note two things: The Song of Songs speaks of a godly marriage between a husband and a wife who loved each other. Second, the book is about the holy

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WHO WE ARE

"We are a people sent to the nations, governments and powers of the earth as the voice of reason, possibilities and hope. We are the instrumentality of catalysing change and centralising God in the governance of nations. Our mandate is to enforce the Kingdom of God over the kingdoms of this world that have become the Kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. We are men and women, boys and girls who love God and love people and who serve God and serve people. We always seek to give hope and to be at the forefront of driving change both spiritually and governmentally. We exist, primarily, as a fully functional church and conceptually as a governmental force for change, good governance and leadership."

THE CGCC CREDO
- Love God, Love People
- Serve God, Serve People
  - By doing the above, we glorify God individually and corporately.

OUR COMMITMENTS
- Wholehearted Worship of God
- Prayer → Ministry of the Word → Evangelism
- Seeing People Grow Deeper (Discipleship)
- Helping People Build Vital Relationships with Other Believers
- Loving God and Loving People
- Serving God and Serving People

OUR CORE LEADERSHIP VALUES
- Compassion
- Intelligence
- Responsibility
- Judgement
- Influence

 (Cont'd from page 1)

OUR 4-DIMENSIONAL OPERATIONAL DYNAMICS
- Church-in-the-House
- Church-in- the-Community
- Church-in-the-City
- Church-in-the-Cloud.

OUR 4-DIMENSIONAL GROWTH DYNAMICS
- To grow up.
- To grow big.
- To grow very rich.
- To grow together.

beauty of a wedded love. Therefore, it does not apply to trial and error, pre-marital sex or compatibility **(SOS 8:8-9)**.

Mutual Appreciation: Antidote to Insecurity

Note, in the Song of Songs, the word translated for love is "Ahavah." It is the same whether between man and God, man and his neighbour, or man and his wife, just as it is used in **Deuteronomy 6:5**, **Leviticus 19:18**, and **SOS 7:6**. This implies that the love between husband and wife is seen as a divine imperative—a fulfilment of the will of God. But because of the Shulamite's dark skin, she felt inferior and unworthy to be Solomon's queen **(SOS 1:6)**. That is the number one problem of marriage—inferiority complex.

Many wives are victims of inferiority complex, looking at what other women possess that they do not have that could make their husbands run after them. But the person to help the woman is the husband. Solomon noted that she was feeling inferior in comparison to the polished girls of the palace, so he began to build up her self-image through praise **(SOS 1:5-10, 15; 2:4-5)**. Every wife needs to be praised for her beauty by her husband, while the wife should also respond proportionately **(SOS 1:16-17; 2:2-3)**. Through words of praise and mutual expression of appreciation for each other, the problem died.

Keeping the Door of Love Open

Furthermore, Solomon, being the king, had many demands of his job. One night, perhaps when he had promised to come home early, he did not arrive until very late. By this time, Shulamite was already offended and became more concerned about her own comfort than about loving her husband, so she would not open her bedroom door to him. That is the second serious problem in many marriages today **(SOS 5:1-6)**.

When you lock your husband out in your heart, you may later wonder why he gives his attention to other people. When he came knocking, you were too proud to open, not knowing that he had been beaten and battered by the demands of his job. Although that is not an excuse for returning home late, a woman should be ready to open her door for her husband. The Shulamite later looked for him but did not find him; she fell into the hands of the watchmen, who gave her a serious beating **(SOS 5:2-8)**.

In all this trouble, Solomon did not say one word of criticism. When Solomon was leaving, he hung a most prized perfume at the door. When she opened it and could not find him, she began to yearn for him. A wife should not just be interested in her husband's pay cheque; she should be interested in his job also. Many husbands are not reckless; it is the demands of their office and position that are weighing on them. So, woman, learn to stand by your husband, and your home will become the days of heaven on earth.

Handling Marital Differences God's Way

The marriage in the Song of Songs had problems and adjustments, as all marriages do. The test of emotional and spiritual maturity is how you work out these problems. Solomon could have lashed back, but he did not. When she came back to him, he kept on appreciating her. This is what will bring about a turnaround in our families and homes: learning to handle adjustments with maturity.

As a wife, the only way to possess your husband is to make him possess you by making his desire come towards you through mutual expressions of praise and appreciation **(SOS 3:1-11)**. Wives, when you become interested in your husbands, a miracle will explode in your homes **(SOS 4:1-16)**. Husbands, when you speak lovely words over your wives, they become spices and frankincense through which the splendour of God's presence and majesty manifests in you and your spouses **(SOS 7:1-13; 8:1-14)**.

Partners in Love and Destiny

In **SOS 8:6**, the Bible says love is as strong as death. When love comes face to face in combat with death, their strength is the same. There are many husbands who would be alive today if they were loved by their wives, and many wives who would be alive today if they were truly loved by their husbands. As a husband, it is not what you give to your wife that matters; it is whether or not you give yourself to her **(Ephesians 5:21-33)**. As a wife, learn to respond in encomiums to your husband for the role he plays in the family, and stand by him. Husband, stand by your wife, and fulfil destiny together as a couple.