THE CITADEL TREATISE
CGCC... THE NOW CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2026

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.

HOW TO OPEN A CLOSED SPIRIT

...understanding the key drivers of a happy and enduring marriage

By Pastor 'Tunde Bakare

Honour: The Missing Ingredient in the Home

Every lasting relationship is built on honour. Where honour thrives, trust, unity, and restoration flourish; where it is absent, even genuine love struggles to endure. The failure of many homes lies not in a lack of love but in the erosion of respect and understanding. Lasting relationships are sustained not merely by love but by the honour that gives love its strength and permanence. This message invites us to rediscover a truth often overlooked: enduring relationships are sustained not merely by love but by the honour that gives love its strength and permanence.

The Husband as Husbandman

Many men have never learnt to honour their wives, and their prayers are hindered. God called the man "husband" (**Ephesians 5:25**). The word "husband" comes from "husbandman": he plants, waters, and waits for the harvest. It is what you sow into your wife that you will reap.

God gave the responsibility to love first to the man. As husband, he is to sow the seed of love into his wife and reap love in return. The Bible says, "Love your wife even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it." The husband, like Jesus Christ, is to pay the price first.

To love is the husband's first duty. Young women are encouraged to love their husbands (**Titus 2:4**), but husbands must pay the price by giving honour to their wives and dealing with them according to knowledge (**1 Peter 3:7**). A woman you do not honour can never submit to you.

Three Major Ingredients of True Love

To love someone is to place a high value on that person, and the reflection of true love is honour. True love exalts another above self. Yet many fall in love with characteristics rather than the person. How then do you know if it is true love? Three major ingredients help us discern rightly.

First, love is without fear. If you love your wife, you will not fear that she will do you evil. The Bible says that perfect love casts out all fear. If you fear your spouse, you are not in love; you are in torment (**1 John 4:18**).

Second, true love always wants to give. Lust wants to get; love wants to give (**John 3:16**). If you truly love a person, you will spend your time, energy, and resources with that person and make that person happy.

Third, true love anticipates others' needs. Love anticipates the needs of the other person before a word is spoken. Jesus came to where Zacchaeus was and prescribed a solution to his problem: "Today, salvation has come to this house" (**Luke 19:9**).

The Greatest Danger: Competition and Comparison

If honour keeps a home intact, competition and comparison will seek relentlessly to destroy it. Those who compare themselves with others are like a weathercock blown by the wind (**2 Corinthians 10:12, Galatians 6:4**).

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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

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True joy comes from avoiding the "if only" syndrome, because comparison robs both men and women of joy.

Joy Begins from Within

The true source of joy is not in your surroundings but inside you. Things around you can never make you truly joyful if there is no joy within. To be happy is to feel good about yourself. Do not confuse it with popularity, which is about others feeling good about you. By sowing the seeds of joy within, meditating on the word of God, and doing what God asks you to do, you will discover that your home becomes joyful (**John 15:11**).

The Mystery of a Closed Spirit

God is Spirit, and since man was created in His image and likeness, man is primarily a spirit, with a soul and a body. Many cases of barrenness and stagnation in the household of faith stem from a closed spirit. When spouses view each other as enemies, their spirits remain closed, making true agreement in prayer impossible.

Nine Things That Close a Spirit

#1. Speaking harsh words: Harsh words invite a person to close his or her spirit.

#2. Belittling a person's opinion: When you belittle another's opinion, you close his or her spirit.

#3. Refusing to admit that you are wrong: Being unwilling to admit your wrong closes the spirit of the person you have wronged.

#4. Taking a person for granted: That person will not be free with you or rejoice in your presence.

#5. Making jokes or sarcastic remarks at the other person's expense: This causes a person to close his or her spirit.

#6. Distrust: When you do not trust a person and show it in your comments or attitude, that person will close his or her spirit.

#7. Forcing a person to do something he or she is uncomfortable with: Insults, ridicule, manipulation, or blackmail can close a person's spirit.

#8. Being rude to a person in the presence of others: Rudeness before relatives, friends, children, or the household will close your spouse's spirit against you.

#9. Ignoring a person's genuine needs: Treating another's genuine needs as unimportant closes that person's spirit.

Recognising a Closed Spirit

If dishonour brings about a closed spirit, the only way to open a closed spirit is to bring honour back into the home. First and foremost, you must determine whether the spirit has in fact been closed. There are at least three major red flags.

1. A feeling of tension. If there is tension between the two of you, or if the atmosphere is tense and charged, that is an indication that the spirit is closed.

2. An argumentative attitude. When a person avoids your question, or begins to argue with you, or withdraws and does not talk any more, know that the spirit is closed.

3. Loss of physical intimacy. He or she does not want you to touch his or her body; women use this one more.

How to Open a Closed Spirit

The way to open a closed spirit is to bring **honour** back home. Five steps can help a person feel honoured so that the spirit can open again:

1. Become soft and tender: A soft answer turns away wrath (**Proverbs 15:1**). At the point of reconciliation, be willing to take the initiative.

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.

2. Understand what the other person has gone through: Listen without reacting with negative words. When you do so, you are honouring that person, and the closed spirit will open (**James 1:19–20**).

3. Acknowledge the hurt and apologise: Admit when you are wrong, sincerely apologise, and give the assurance that you are sorry.

4. Touch gently and tenderly: Touch the hurting person gently and tenderly. Let your actions communicate genuine care, not demands.

5. Ask for forgiveness: Verbally ask for forgiveness in a convincing way. When your spirits are relating again, physical intimacy can follow, but not until then (**1 Corinthians 7:1–5**).

Three Truths to Meditate Upon

First, every enduring marriage involves an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person. God has begun a good work in us, and He will continue to do it (**Philippians 1:6**). Stop expecting your spouse to be perfect in every area; the two of you should complement each other.

Second, deep-seated problems do not vanish instantly. Making a marriage a success requires consistent work by the couple, reliance on God's strength, and patient endurance.

Finally, true romance is keeping your courtship alive long after the wedding day. Surprise one another with gifts, thoughtful treats, and time together. He deserves it. She deserves it. You deserve it. Celebrate, and God will heal every heart.

This message was preached on 17 November 1991