

Dear beloved Brethren, it is with great joy that I write to you this month, always assured of your prayers and encouragement. May the Lord generously minister to your various needs to the praise of His glorious grace. This month I will focus on two of our most recent church events. I hope this letter encourages you in some way.

### 1] COUPLES' DINNER.



Marriage is a privilege given only to human beings, not angels. Additionally, it is a privilege enjoyed only in this present age (Matthew 22:30). And for this reason, God [specially] created man both male and female and instituted the ordinance of marriage (19:3-6). Marriage, therefore, is not a cultural or a mere religious construct or concept. It is not a manmade institution. Adam did not invent marriage. For Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour, it is God who joins a man and a woman together in marriage (19:6). Marriage is God's idea meant to fulfil His plans and purposes. Ultimately, marriage fulfils God's spiritual and eternal purpose of demonstrating the union of His Son with the Church (Ephesians 5:31-32). In other words, our imperfect earthly marriages are but a shadow whose divine and stupendous reality is found in Christ and His bride, the Church. God has granted us the privilege of displaying the profound mystery of Christ and the Church which is infinitely bigger than ourselves. Isn't this the greatest encouragement and motivation for a struggling marriage? Shouldn't this be our focus on pastoral counselling? Isn't this the way to maintain a high view of marriage, that is, a gospel-shaped view of marriage as Christians?

I had the privilege of preaching these truths to about 50 people last month at our annual dinner event. A good number of our invitees expressed their gratitude to God for recalibrating their minds on such matters.

- Please pray for much fruit, especially of salvation.
- Please continue pleading that the marriages in our congregation will showcase the union of Christ and His Church.

### 2] LADIES' FELLOWSHIP.

Domestic life was neither neglected nor downplayed in the early church. In fact, it was a fundamental consideration in appointing men to the Eldership. Society or culture engages with us relatively more in the ordinary run-of-the-mill things of life. Our interaction with them is more frequent at home and in the marketplace than in a formal church setting. They will invariably see how we relate with our children and spouses, and this is a good thing. They will see how we speak with the teller or cashier as we queue up together. Although we are not of the world, we are in the world. Sadly, it is possible to turn our homes into 'parenting incubators' where children are detached and disconnected from reality. But even us as Christians can inadvertently turn our homes into 'religious greenhouses'. Yet for Paul, domestic life plays a pivotal role in glorying God. Therefore, our major focus and motivation should be that the word of God may not be reviled because of our domestic life

(Titus 2:5). Again, for Paul, we are privileged to participate in things whose purposes are bigger than us. Such appreciation necessitates a vibrant ladies' fellowship where such attitudes and convictions are constantly cultivated and nurtured.

My life had the privilege of helping the ladies to appreciate these truths from Titus 2:3-5 last month. Our beloved sister, Liz Owiti, graciously hosted the fellowship.



- Please for much fruit from her labours.
- Please pray for God to raise up godly wives and mothers in our congregation.

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