

# THE TOP 10

THINGS I WISH I KNEW  
BEFORE I SAID, "I DO"

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# INTRODUCTION

## MARRIAGE IS AWESOME.

But it requires work, much of which you'll learn "on the job." There are, however, a few ways to give yourself a head start.

You can learn from others who've "been there, done that" and are actually still decently satisfied with their marriage.

## THAT'S WHERE I COME IN.

Along with eight years of practical marital experience, my wife and I have godly mentor couples who have taken the time to invest in our marriage. These older couples have been married longer than my wife and I have been alive, and they still like each other. Their caring investment and input in my marriage has meant the world to my wife and me.

In the process of creating this free resource, I not only tapped into their insights, but I also sent out a survey to over a hundred married couples asking,

**"WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WISH YOU KNEW BEFORE YOU SAID, 'I DO'?"**



Their responses were compiled, analyzed and filtered through the scriptures to present you what you are now reading. I've added plenty of my own personal experience into it to present you the clearest picture possible for what you can expect when you say, "I Do."

## **AS YOU READ ALONG, I'LL SOMETIMES GET REAL PERSONAL.**

I'll sometimes sound preachy. I'll sometimes say stuff just for shock value. Some of it will be profoundly insightful. Some of it will be stuff you already know. Some of it will be very "Shegzy" (stuff that only I would say....cos that's just how I roll!).

I hope you laugh. I hope you cry [preferably from laughing so hard]. I hope you're encouraged. I hope it challenges you into making some healthy adjustments in your relationship choices. I hope it encourages you to grow closer to Jesus Christ. Most of all, I hope it helps you have a happy, healthy, godly relationship that goes the distance!

Here we go!

*Segun "Shegz" Aiyegbusi*



I WISH I KNEW THAT IT WAS OKAY THAT  
WE WOULDN'T ALWAYS "FEEL IN LOVE",  
BUT WOULD STILL "BE IN LOVE" WITH  
ONE ANOTHER.

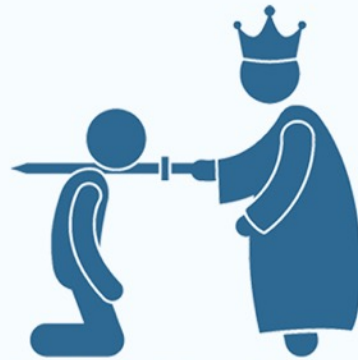
- Couples often get married because they “feel in love” with one another.
- “Feelings” are important, but you must be careful not to base a lifelong marital commitment on romantic attraction or emotionally intoxicating, jubilant feelings.
- Gary Thomas, in his book, “The Sacred Search”, compares the romantic attraction process to an hourglass. Essentially, once you “fall” in love, the glass gets turned over and the sand of time starts to trickle down.
- In other words, that “butterfly in your belly” feeling you have for him/her won’t last forever; so your relationship needs to be built on something much stronger than your “drunk in love” feelings.
- At some point in your relationship, your spouse’s true self will begin to reveal itself and he/she won’t be as hot [emotionally, physically, relationally] as the first moment you laid eyes on them (mostly because they’re human). The one thing you can be certain of in your relationship is that he/she WILL change.
- When they do, you will be presented with an opportunity to demonstrate the substance of true love as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”





It's a passage couples love to read at weddings, but if you step away from the romantic haze of the wedding day and process this passage, boy, you'll discover that love requires work!

- Being patient and kind. when she takes really long to get ready for a date that started an hour and a half ago, requires work! Trusting him and not feeling jealous, when he's genuinely being nice and friendly to attractive women, requires work! Trying to "keep no records" of his/her wrongs requires work! See where I'm going with this?
- Lest someone hears that and thinks, "This is ridiculous. Love shouldn't be hard work. It should be easy, beautiful, and effortless." WRONG! **Love IS hard work.** You wouldn't expect someone who wants to produce an Oscar-winning movie to say, "It shouldn't be hard to write a compelling screenplay that A-list actors will flock easily to", would you? WOULDYA?
- Success, even in relationships, always comes at a great cost and sacrifice of self.
- Though my wife and I don't have butterflies in our belly each time we spot each other walking in the room, we are more in love today than at any other point in our marriage and still very much *like* each other. Our love is built on mutual lifelong purpose. It's the kind of love that says, "I've seen the ugly parts of you, and I'm staying!"



I WISH I KNEW THAT MARRIAGE WOULD BE  
ONE OF GOD'S GREATEST TOOLS TO MAKE ME  
INTO THE PERSON HE DESIGNED ME TO BE.



- I was thinking to myself a while back, “If I knew when I was single all that I know today, about managing finances, leading people in ministry, and growing in my relationship with Jesus Christ, I’d be miles further ahead in ministry and possibly a little more *settled* in certain areas of my life.” (I’d just had a really rough day.)
- A few days later, however, after reflecting on those thoughts, it occurred to me that ALL the knowledge and insights I’ve acquired along the way are **MOSTLY because of my wife’s presence in my life!** The truth of the matter is that I am a better man, a better husband and father, a better pastor, and a better follower of Jesus Christ because of her presence in my life.
- Seriously though, even though I prayed for a wife who would be interested in the things I was interested in, I did not anticipate how vested in my leadership development and spiritual well-being my wife would be.
- By God’s grace, I married a prayer warrior who comes from a family household that prays. There have been many days when I’ve walked in on her and found her on her knees interceding before the Father on my behalf. There have been days when I’ve felt emotionally beat up in ministry, and she made it a point to remind me of God’s prophetic promises in my life. There have been days when she’s had to make adjustments in her busy schedule to allow me to take advantage of an opportunity that she was convinced God had designed specifically for me.



- That may sound romantic, but the truth is, it hasn't always been easy.
- My wife would tell you that over the course of our marriage, she's been married to eight different men, all of them ME! I can tell you for certain that the man who won over her heart eight years ago at a leadership conference in Jos, Nigeria, is not the same guy living with her today in Netcong, New Jersey.
- We've both been through some growing pains. As we've matured, we've learned to speak painful truth to one another *in love*. A key part of why we've been able to do this is because we are heading towards the same end goal in life. We both want the same things and share lots of the same values.
- So if at any point, either of us starts to make decisions or take action that is in opposite direction of our mutual horizon, we can comfortably speak truth in love to one another about the proper course correction.
- I share all of that so I can say this: If you are deeply attracted to a guy or a girl (and considering marriage), but you're both heading in diametrically opposed directions in life, you should seriously reel your affections in!



I WISH I UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF  
SHARING THE SAME CHRISTIAN VALUES AND  
RUNNING AT THE SAME PACE TOWARDS  
JESUS CHRIST.

- The Scriptures don't mince words when it comes to interfaith dating or marriage. 2 Corinthians 6:14 says that under no circumstance are followers of Jesus Christ to be "unequally yoked" with people who don't hold to the same faith in Jesus Christ. In other words, the Bible does not give you permission to date evangelistically.
- One lady's response to the survey I sent out addresses this issue best. She writes: "I wish I knew that getting (my then-boyfriend) to attend church with me was not the same as him having a *personal* relationship with Jesus Christ." This lady found out a little too late that all that glittered on her boyfriend's Bible wasn't gold.
- So here's the deal, when you are dating and seriously starting to consider marriage, don't just settle for someone who claims to be a Christian. Rather, watch to see if they consistently demonstrate character qualities that are in line with Biblical values.
- Do they demonstrate a commitment to grow in their faith apart from time spent with you in church?
- Do they display a learner's spirit and a curiosity in seeking truth through the Scriptures?
- Does their behavior reflect a growing affection for the Lord Jesus Christ?



- I once heard Pastor and teacher, Tommy Nelson illustrate the importance of running at the same pace this way; he said, when you're looking to find the one you'll spend the rest of your life with, run as fast as you can towards Jesus Christ. Commit yourself to Him. Stay devoted to Him in bad times and good times. Be totally sold out to him all the days of your life. Then as you run, look to your left and to your right and see who's running at the same speed, wave and say 'hi' to them. Do that the next few times you see them running. If they stay up with you, invite them over to join you for your daily run [dating], and then run together all the days of your life.



I WISH I KNEW THAT THE WAY MY WIFE EXPRESSES  
HER LOVE WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM  
THE WAY I EXPRESS MINE. I WISH I UNDERSTOOD  
THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING & SPEAKING EACH  
OTHER'S LOVE LANGUAGES.



- I'll start with guys.
- Dudes, when you're ready to step up and ask a girl to spend the rest of her life with you, the first thing you'll need to do is **upgrade** your communication skills.
- **Prepare to do a ton of listening!**
- The survey I mentioned at the beginning was also handed out to some single women. I had an idea what most guys wanted, so I was curious about the female perspective. While there were some humorous mentions about wanting to be with a godly guy who wasn't creepy or "a weirdo", what the ladies were unanimous about was wanting to be with a guy who "takes initiative and can communicate" (which they defined as the ability to listen attentively and respond intelligently).
- Dudes, just so you know, "listening attentively and responding intelligently" sometimes means **not talking**. It means acknowledging the *feelings* she has about a problem without trying to solve it for her.
- You and I have trained ourselves to filter through the clutter of emotions in order to focus on the real issue at hand. This



...means, when faced with a problem, guys immediately want to take it apart and figure out the pieces so we can put it together again. Unfortunately, this method won't always apply to her.

- While your stunningly good intentions might lead you to suggest a quick solution to her expressed problem, she would have you know that she doesn't actually want you to fix the problem, but to simply understand [first] how she's feeling about the problem. Then, and only then do you earn the right to ask her if she'd like you to give her some counsel on how to "fix" her problem.
- So, that means you might someday need to listen quietly as she vents for 17.5 minutes about a frustration, acknowledge her frustration, quietly hold her as she cries for another 5 minutes, and then humbly ask if she'd like you to offer a possible solution! True story bro!
- Ladies, because God has so gifted many of you with the natural gift of communication, I have just one word of counsel for you; "It's not *what* you say to him. It's *how* you say it."
- Proverbs 12:18 says, "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." What he most needs from you is your loving respect, especially in your communication with him.
- I would even dare to say that in the same manner that he "chooses" to demonstrate his love for you even when he doesn't *feel* like it, you should in the same manner choose to be respectful towards him even when he doesn't deserve it.
- The marital relationships that go the distance are the ones where there's a mutual submission/respect for one another.

Dear Romance Tech-Support Services,

Last year, I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 7.0, and I noticed the slow down in overall performance, particularly, in the flower and jewelry application that had operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 7.0 uninstalled many valuable programs such as Romance 9.5, Personal Attention 6.5, and installed other undesirable programs such as NFL 5.0 and NBA 6.0. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House Cleaning 3.5 simply crashes the entire system.

I've tried running Nagging 6.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. Can you offer any help, please?

Signed,

*Mrs. Desperate.*



In response, Romance Tech-Support Services sent this:

“Dear Mrs. Desperate,

First of all, Boyfriend 5.0 is an entertainment package, while Husband 7.0 is an operating system.

Try updating the widget, “I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME?” and download Tears 6.2 to install Guilt 3.0. If all works as designed, then Husband 7.0 should automatically run, I’m Sorry 8.0 and Pretty Flowers 6.5.

But remember, overuse can cause Husband 7.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5.

Whatever you do, do not install Mother-In-Law 1.0 or reinstall another boyfriend program; they are not support applications and will crash Husband 7.0.

We hope your issue is quickly resolved.

Signed,

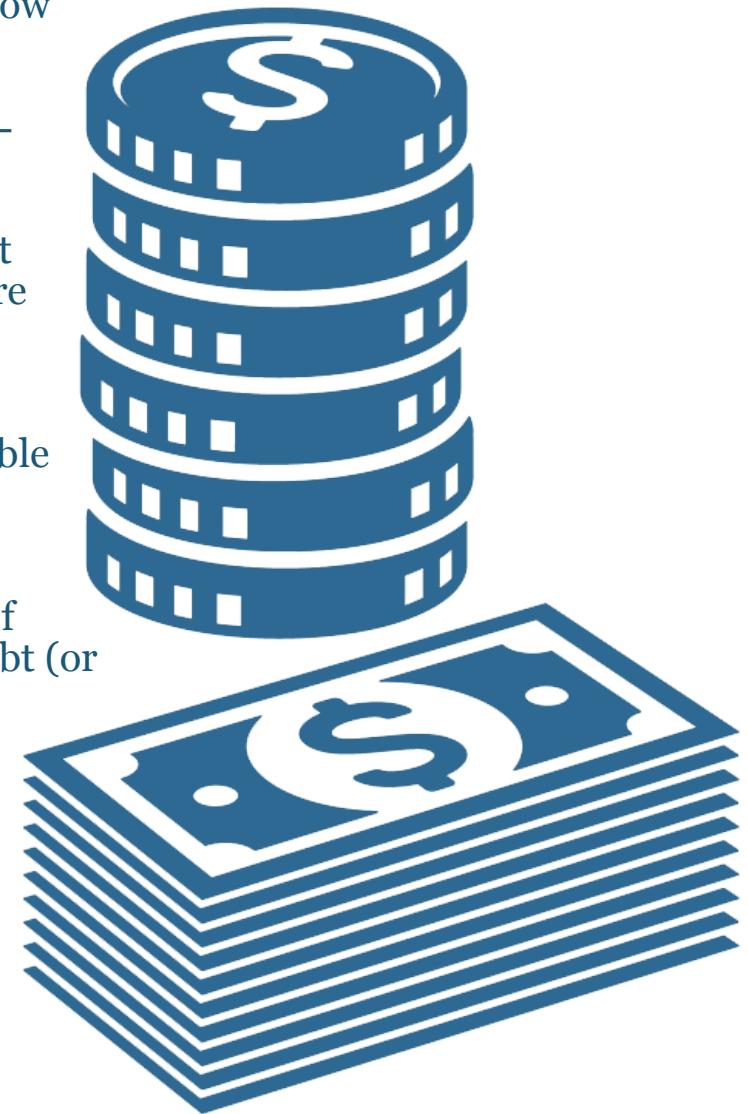
*Romance Tech-Support Services.*





I WISH I KNEW THAT HAVING TWO INCOMES  
DOESN'T MAKE A COUPLE WEALTHY, ESPECIALLY  
IF NEITHER OF THEM HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO  
DEVELOP HEALTHY SPENDING & SAVING HABITS.

- Allow me to state the obvious: Whatever financial liabilities you have prior to getting married *don't* automatically disappear on your honeymoon night. It doesn't matter how great the sex is, that son-of-a-bill will follow you right into your new marriage!
- It's not a comfortable topic to bring up when you're drunk-in-love, but it *must* be addressed.
- I strongly recommend that before you propose to a girl, or get proposed to, both of you should have a serious sit-down where you discuss the kind of debt you're both bringing into the marriage, and how you plan to pay it back. This is absolutely important because when you get married, you are signing a contract that says, "Yeah sure, you can also hold *me* responsible for whatever they owe."
- My point? Start developing financial management skills now and pay off as much debt as you can. **Proverbs 6:4-5** speaks of the intensity with which you should try and rid yourself of debt (or anyone who might lock you down in debt), "**Don't put it off; do it now! Don't rest until you do! Save yourself like a gazelle escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.**"
- A common response to this issue among many bright-eyed young couples is: "Well, if we're both working, we'll be able to afford more and pay off more debt through our combined incomes." That is a big "if!" It also assumes that you're both financially responsible and have zero intention of changing





...your standard of living once you get married (which is rarely the case).

- Most, if not all new couples, want new(er) stuff! Even if you're not big spenders, at a minimum, rent for your new apartment or house will immediately increase your monthly financial output. Genuinely so, couples want to start creating their own marital narrative. To do so, they need their own stuff, which costs more money, which in turn raises your standard of living from when you were single.... see where I'm going with this?
- If you haven't learned to live within your means (expenses lower than income), then making more money will do you no good. All you'll discover is that the more income you bring in, the higher your standard of living becomes. Therefore, you don't necessarily always have more disposable cash with two incomes.
- I don't want to belabor this point. Get your financial house in order today. Your spouse will be grateful.
- The most practical advice I can give you is to seek out a course by Dave Ramsey called, "Financial Peace University." It's a 12-week course that could revolutionize your finances (and attitude towards it).



I WISH I KNEW THAT THOUGH  
SEX CAN BE A TON OF FUN IN MARRIAGE,  
SEXUAL INTIMACY TAKES TIME AND DEVOTION.

- I must confess that prior to getting married, I wasn't even aware that there was a difference between sex and sexual intimacy.
- From what I observed on TV, it looked pretty straightforward. The actors made it look incredibly easy, and hot too. The mood was always just right. They knew exactly what they were doing and how everything on each other's bodies worked. Most importantly, they both *always* appeared satisfied at the end of it.
- As a single guy anticipating marriage, I assumed it would all happen that easily. Chances are, if you're single and are looking forward to *that* day in marriage, you expect it to come easily too.
- So I'll let you in on a little secret: **Rarely does sex play out in the marriage bed as it does on a movie screen.**
- What seems to come so easily and so naturally to actors on screen, (*hint*: actors are gifted with the ability to exaggerate) in reality, requires a lot more effort and intentionality in the marriage bed.
- Someone smart once pointed out that men are like microwaves and women are like crock-pots.
- Men are like microwaves in the sense that it takes very little to turn our sexual drive on. We've got *one* button and we're *always ready* to go! Women, on the other hand, have been designed a little differently. Kind of like crock-pots, they require their husbands to get things warmed up over a period of time before consumption, and then they need their husbands to hang around afterwards until things cool off.



- That's what sexual intimacy is.
- It's not a flash-in-the-pan-romp-in-the-sack. It requires spouses to become students of each other's bodies as they discover how the other person is most sexually satisfied. If that doesn't happen, you'll end up in a frustrating, sexually unsatisfying marriage.
- On a side note, you probably won't figure this all out on your *first* honeymoon night together. If you've both honored God and preserved your bodies for one another, that first night will be a ton of fun, but you might at first find yourselves somewhat clumsy, maybe a little anxious, or even premature. Don't panic and don't worry. Your sex life is not doomed. In fact it's only going to get better as you both take the time to learn about one another's bodies.
- Over the course of your marriage, as you love, serve, respect, and honor one another, you'll become very familiar with each other's bodies, and you'll find sex more satisfying than you ever imagined.



I WISH I UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF  
DRAWING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES BETWEEN  
MY MARRIAGE AND MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY  
PARENTS AND PARENT-IN-LAWS.

- A common complaint that comes up in marital counseling is the interference of parents in the affairs of the couple. I recently spoke to a young man who was frustrated at the amount of time his mother-in-law had been spending at he and his wife's house. Later that same day, I ran into another woman who was concerned that, "his parents weren't actively involved with their family."
- So, let's talk about extended families.
- Though your marriage commitment is first and foremost to your spouse, you should be aware that they weren't born through an immaculate conception. He or she has a dad, a mom, siblings, uncles, aunts, and grandparents, all of whom have their own personal quirks. Kinda like you.
- Someday, they will annoy you. They'll even possibly cause some level of stress in your marriage. So the issue comes down to this; How much influence should your family have in your new marriage, and how does that jive with the Biblical instruction in **Genesis 2:24**, which says, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."? Yes. I just used the 70's word, "jive."
- There are 3 ways you are to "leave" your parents for your own marriage, while still honoring them.



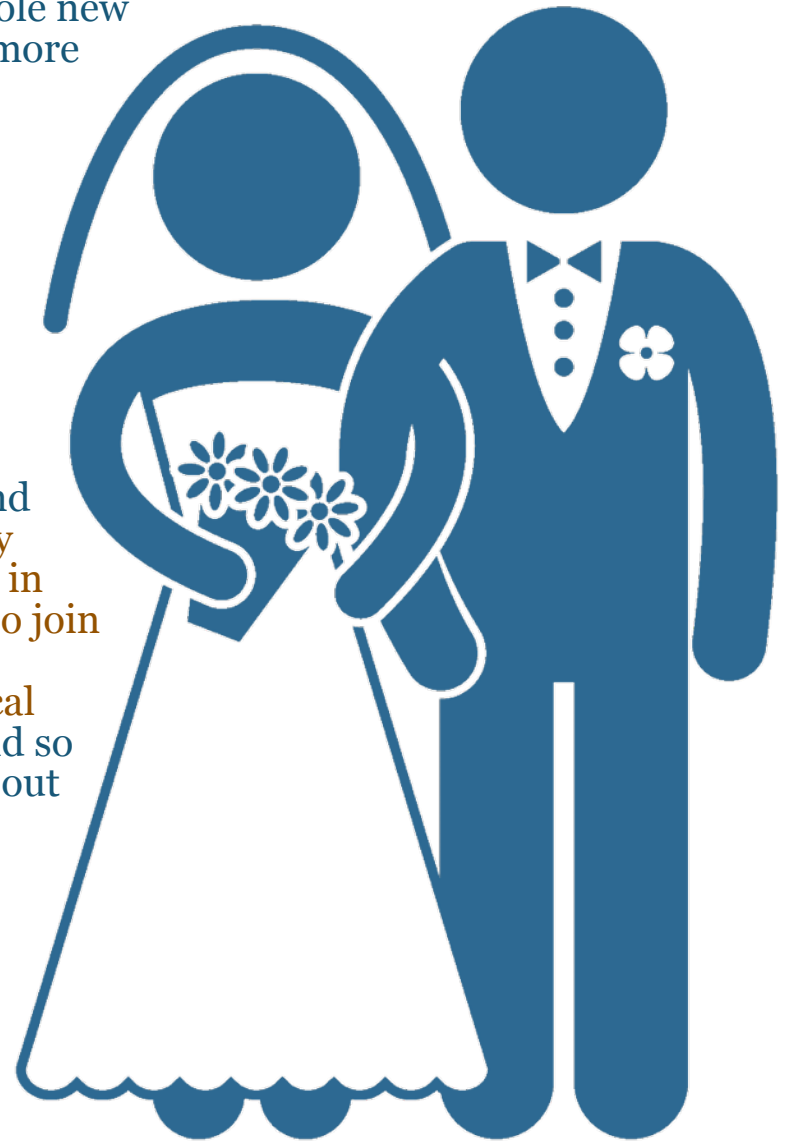


- **“LEAVE” your parents physically:** This means that when you get married, you and your spouse should have separate living arrangements from your parents. It means you should also leave financially, as in, you’re still not mooching off them to pay your bills [especially you, dude].
- **“LEAVE” your parents when in the decision-making process:** When you say, “I do”, you are essentially signing a binding covenant that says, your primary influence and alliance in decision-making has now become your spouse, not mum and not dad. Certainly, **Proverbs 1:8** encourages you to consider their counsel, but (and that’s a big giant “BUT”), consulting your spouse should be your first order of priority on every decision you make. Even more importantly, any final decision you make should reflect what you and your spouse agreed on in private.
- **“LEAVE” your parents when it comes to how you handle conflict:** Simply put, don’t go crying to mom or dad every time something goes wrong with your spouse. As a matter of fact, whatever happens in the privacy of your home between you and your spouse should stay within those four walls.



I WISH I UNDERSTOOD THAT MY WEDDING DAY  
WASN'T JUST ABOUT MY WIFE AND I, BUT ALSO  
ABOUT THE UNION AND CELEBRATION OF  
TWO FAMILIES.

- I'm not quite sure when it happened, but at some point, culture hijacked the sacred union of marriage and created a whole new breed of superwomen called, "Bridezillas" (brides, and more recently in culture, *grooms* whose superpower is the amazing ability to be repulsively selfish).
- If I'm speaking to *you* [you know who *you* are], then hear me on this: When the season arrives and you're about to start making major wedding plans, keep in mind that **your wedding day is first and foremost a holy moment that involves a covenant promise between you, your spouse, and God.**
- It's for this very reason that an ordained pastor will stand before you and your spouse, saying these words: "**Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today in the sight of God, in the presence of family, and in the face of this company to join this man and woman in HOLY matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted by God to signify the mystical union that is between Jesus Christ and the church...**" and so on. As you can already see, this takes your wedding day out of the realm of "me" and places it in the realm of "we".
- God is a God of families. In the scriptures, we find Him working in people's lives for the benefit of whole families, sometimes, even *generations* of families. So, know this: Your wedding day is every bit about God bringing two families together as one, as much as it is about you two!

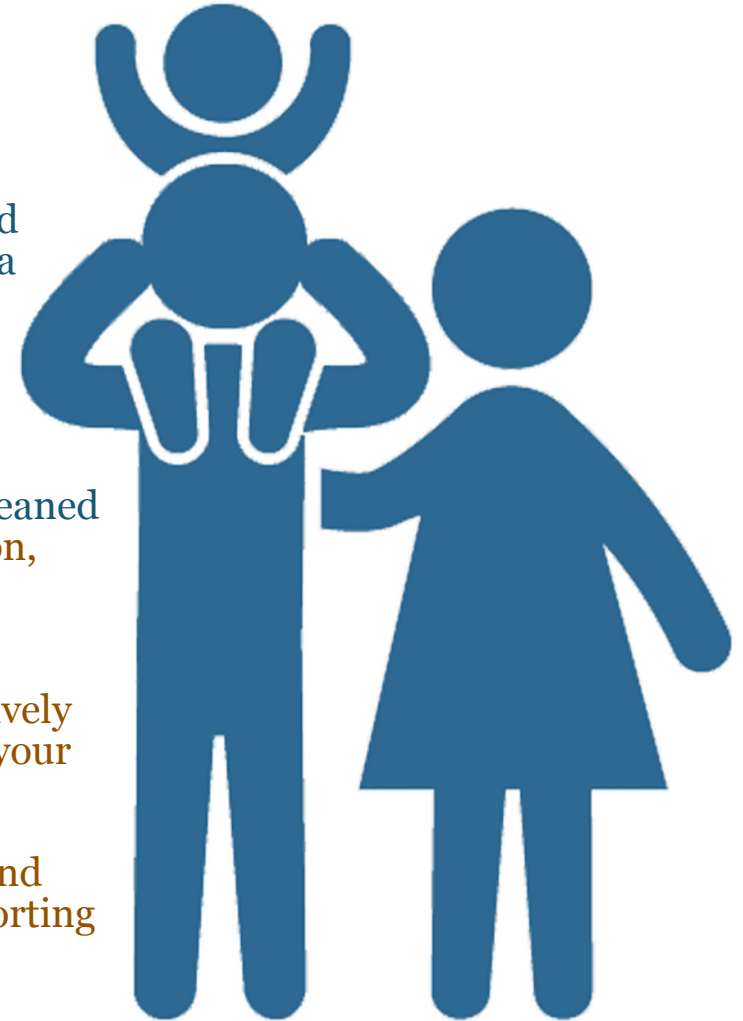


- Beyond that theological observation, there's also a practical aspect to two families coming together on your wedding day that *pays* off great dividends. Literally. In case you still didn't catch that, **I am talking about CASH!** Plenty of which you will need to have the kind of wedding you're envisioning.
- Aside of the obligatory financial support from your parents, family members who love you and are excited for you will be eager to chip in financially towards your big day. When my wife and I got married, by God's grace, family members on both sides were excited for us and showed it through an unbelievable amount of financial support. There were plenty of little luxuries we enjoyed during and after our wedding, all because of those financial gifts from family members.
- I understand that sometimes, certain members of your family will make unrealistic demands of your wedding, and you need to establish clear boundaries. But I think there is a difference between respectfully setting the expectation for your wedding day and acting like Satan's third cousin.
- You'll have to learn negotiation skills during this period because planning your wedding day with input from family members is a game of give-and-take. So maybe you allow your dad to book the band he wants for your wedding, even though you'd rather have a DJ, but there's no way on earth you're going to let your mom's sister do her rendition of Mariah Carey's "Dream Lover" when you walk down the aisle. That's what I mean by give-and-take.



I WISH I KNEW THAT HAVING CHILDREN  
WOULD REQUIRE SOME INTENTIONAL AND  
SELFLESS ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.

- The truth is, having a kid (or kids) is truly a life-enriching experience that can deepen a couple's connection in marriage. To help you get prepared, however, you'll need to have some idea of what to expect before you actually start expecting. Why? Because in the words of the sitcom character, Dr. Huxtable, "My wife and I have grown so much closer together, but it was mostly because we were afraid of the kids!"
- So keep this in mind, whatever relational dynamics exist between you and your spouse before you have kids, will get *magnified* after you have kids! That can be a good thing and can result in raising healthy, balanced children if you have a harmonious marriage. But if you are a devitalized or dysfunctional couple, you stand the risk of raising some very troubled, unbalanced children.
- My wife and I have been parents for a combination of six years, and we're still learning, so I'll defer to the wisdom gleaned from a book titled, "[The Couple Checkup](#)" by [David H. Olson, Ph.D.](#); [Amy Olson-Sigg](#); and [Peter J. Larson, Ph. D.](#)
- In the chapter on parenting, the authors write this: "... parenting is a responsibility like no other.... you are proactively engaged in the single most important thing you can do for your children: (which is to) model the importance of your relationship (with your spouse). Studies have shown that a harmonious marriage relationship promotes competence and maturity in children. Every bit of energy you put into supporting each other lovingly and respectfully will come back to you through children.



**Source:** "The Couple Checkup" David H. Olson, Ph.D.; Amy Olson-Sigg; Peter J. Larson, Ph. D., (191) Thomas Nelson, 2008

....Whether you realize it or not, children are always observing and taking in your relationship with your spouse. Their interpretation of how their parents interact with one another serves as a model for how they interact with others. Of course, they will learn experientially through their own relationships, but the parental dyad is a powerful template for the behaviors that will feel natural to them.”

- Now that I have your attention, here are some questions to work through as you consider what kind of parent you want to be:
  - How were you parented as a child and a teen?
  - Did your mom and dad use the same style of parenting? If you grew up in a single parent home, what parenting value did you admire the most?
  - What are/were your reactions to their style of parenting? Did it feel fair? Was it effective?
  - What style feels most natural to you as a parent?
  - Is this the same style you would like to use when you become a parent?
  - What parenting style would concern you?
  - Which couple’s parenting style would you like to emulate? Why?
- These questions won’t solve all your issues, nor does answering them guarantee that you’ll get parenting right. Like marriage, parenting is one of those tasks that you primarily learn “on the job.” But working through these questions will give you some idea of the kind of parent you someday want to be.





I WISH I PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THOSE  
“RED FLAGS” I SAW IN MY SPOUSE WHEN  
WE WERE DATING.

- **Calm down.** This is not an insight from my marriage but one of the several responses I received in the survey I sent out.
- I think it's safe to say no one who gets married enters into marriage with the intention of being abused by their spouse, yet according to the United States Surgeon General, “Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44, more common than automobile accidents, muggings, and cancer deaths combined.” (Journal of American Medical Association, 1990)
- Many a spouse who has been abused would say that their partner was never “this way” while they were dating, or that the behavior is something recent. But truth be told, abusive behavior starts in an individual long before they enter marriage. It just shows up in more subtle ways during the dating stage.
- Unfortunately, those “red flags” are often overlooked or justified because a couple feels “in love,” or feels it will go away once they tie the knot.
- So, for your benefit, here are some red flags to pay attention to:
  - Do they get excessively jealous or possessive?
  - Do they tell you how to look or dress?
  - Do they respect your personal space and understand when you need to get off the phone or computer?



- Do they treat you so badly that you're embarrassed for your friends or family to see?
  - Do they threaten to leave you or hurt themselves if you don't do certain things?
  - Do they withhold affections from you whenever they don't get what they want?
  - Do they continually put down your ideas, hopes and dreams?
  - Are they really nice sometimes, and really mean at other times? (Almost like they have two different personalities?)
  - This last one might seem obvious, but sometimes people need to be reminded; do they ever push you, shove you, grab you, hit, punch, hold down, or kick you?
- If you are dating someone and answered, "yes" to one or more of those questions, GET OUT OF THAT RELATIONSHIP NOW!
  - Do whatever you must to end that relationship right away because it's going to get worse if you get locked down in a marriage with them. Be smart. Don't begin something you will spend the rest of your life regretting. Some of the loneliest people today are not single people, but individuals who entered into a marriage with a man or woman who abuses them.
  - On a positive note, here are some traits to look for in a relationship. Better yet, here are some "GREEN GO FLAGS" you should look for in someone you want to commit the rest of your life to:
    - Look for someone who accepts you as you are and looks out for your best interest.
    - Look for someone who holds your secret in confidentiality, and doesn't spill every little intimate thought they have all over Facebook.
    - Look for someone who encourages personal growth not only in your life, but also in theirs.

- Look for someone who affirms your talent & ability, and enjoys seeing you excel.
  - Look for someone who easily forgives and communicates openly.
  - Look for someone who takes ownership of their own faults and responsibilities.
  - Look for someone who can disagree with you without judging or condemning.
  - And lastly, but by no means the least, look for someone who is a student of Jesus Christ. (Someone who not only claims to be a Christian, but displays Biblical character qualities that reflect a learner's heart)
- By the way, these are all traits you should be developing in your own life anyway, because it's ultimately what will end up attracting people who possess the same traits.
  - May God keep you and lead you as you seek out a mate to spend the rest of your lives with.





## ABOUT ME:

MY NAME IS SEGUN AIYEBUSI, (PRONOUNCED, "SHEH-GOON" "AI-YAY-BOO-SEE"). MY PEEPS CALL ME "SHEGZ".

THE GREATEST JOY OF MY LIFE IS MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. MEETING MY WIFE, (CHISOM) COMES IN SECOND.

WE MET IN NIGERIA AND I QUICKLY DISCOVERED SHE HAD A HEART OF GOLD. AFTER THE OBLIGATORY, "I'M-HOT. YOU'RE-HOT. WE-BOTH-LOVE-JESUS. LET'S-DATE." CONVERSATION, I ASKED HER TO MARRY ME. SHE SAID YES. WE PARTIED AT OUR WEDDING LIKE IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY. MOVED TO NEW JERSEY AND MADE TWO BUBBLY AWESOME DUDES, NATHANIEL & ETHAN.

NATHANIEL LOVES EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE, AND GIVES HUGS THAT'LL LAST YOU TWO LIFETIMES.

ETHAN PREFERS TO PARTY ....WITH YOUR BLANKET....AND THE CUTEST SMILE EVER!

## STUFF ABOUT ME:

- FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST SAVED BY THE AWESOME GRACE OF GOD.
- BORN IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND RAISED IN NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA.
- ATTENDED BOARDING SCHOOL IN LOYOLA COLLEGE, IBADAN (NIGERIA).
- B.S IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FROM WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY, NJ.
- MASTERS OF DIVINITY FROM NYACK ALLIANCE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, NY.
- TEACHING PASTOR AT GRACE CHURCH ON THE MOUNT, NETCONG, NJ.
- GRAPHIC DESIGN & VIDEOGRAPHY LOVER.
- JESUS FIRST. STEAK SECOND.
- FOOTBALL (SOCCER). VOLLEYBALL.
- LOVER OF BOOKS.
- ZECHARIAH 4:6
- BLOGGER. STORYTELLER.



A silhouette of a man in a polo shirt and shorts walking with two children. The man is on the right, holding the hand of a taller child on the left. A smaller child is walking between them. The background is a gradient from orange at the top to white at the bottom.

**SHEGZ <sup>N</sup> STUFF** **DOT  
COM**

HUSBAND. DAD. PASTOR. NIGERIAN AMERICAN.

→ *Still* REMINDING YOU WEEKLY THAT  
**GOD LIKES YOU.**