Some time ago, as I lay on the couch, thinking about the prospects of being in a romantic relationship one day, I had a deep internal dialogue. I mean, nice and scary ones. As I cogitated, one distinct thought I had is perfectly captured in this line from the book "Love and Respect" by Emerson Eggerichs:

"Men see through a blue lens while women see through a pink lens."

He made the statement while discussing the differences in interpretations observed in marriages. By the way, you have to read this book. "I'm gonna be seeing through a blue lens? Well, blue is my favourite colour, and I guess I'm gonna love it". So I thought to myself. It then occurred to me that it's not about the colour but rather what I see through the lens. It looked interesting at first, but it got me scared again. As I pondered, I realized that the lens is as vital as the marriage itself. When we talk about the eye lens, we can agree that there is always a person behind the lens and another in front of the lens. The lens determines how far away the person is, and how colorful the person appears. If you've ever used an eyeglass lens, this won't appear difficult to you. If you don't or have never used an eyeglass lens, consider your eye lens, the one that comes with your eyes.

So, marriage should be beautiful, and the two people involved should see the beauty first. External compliments should not be the first place where you become aware of how beautiful your marriage is. Being the first to appreciate oneself makes external compliments more enjoyable. Now, apart from the fact that marriages should be sweet, we should polish them. Polishing marriages should be an action done by the two people involved. If we are to pick the most essential tool employed in polishing a shoe, I won't go with the shoe polish or the shoe brush. I'd go with the eyes. The judgement of the eyes determines how long, and how well they will go to work. The eyes also determine the colour of shoe polish required. In the same vein, the most fundamental and essential tool in polishing a marriage is the eye, equal to the lens.

Polishing a marriage involves an irreplaceable action of polishing your lens. When your lens is faulty or dirty, your marriage might hit the rocks and never recover. Many marriages have suffered big blows because of this, and then there is usually the blame game at the end. You must make every effort to see your partner in the right way. A frequent event in a marriage or in a romantic relationship is the act of "doing stuff" for one's partner. There is no harm in doing stuff for your partner. The danger there is doing it without seeing one's partner, their desires and needs in the right way. How often do we see couples quarrel because they replace attention with gifts? Your marriage is not in "things". Your marriage is your partner. Without your partner, there is no marriage. Hence, in polishing your marriage, polishing your partner is not up for debate.

Polishing your marriage is achievable. Yes! you don't have to buy or borrow different lenses. All you have to do is engage yourself in the business of ensuring your lens is well polished. You need to keep seeing your partner the right way and requires that you keep your lens neat and very clear always. Doing this will prevent bad sights at any time. Bad eyesight can cause you to stumble and fall. I am sure you understand that.

Your partner is your marriage, and you will want to be careful to see such as someone who deserves to be better daily. Many don't have such sight as this, they only see "the flaws" and "the good parts". Such sights are dangerous because they keep records, usually of flaws.

A bad lens gives bad sight, and a bad sight will give you a very perception of your partner. So, making your partner a better person becomes impossible. To polish your marriage, a lens of honour is one of such vital lenses that you must have. A universal truth is that marriage is bigger than doing and buying stuff. When you have a lens of honour, you will value your partner. This lens gives you a perception that transcends "good and bad". It helps you to learn to see your partner as someone who deserves to get better all the time. A lens of honour helps you to see your partner as a person that has what your marriage can enjoy. Having this lens shifts the focus of your thoughts towards ensuring you do your part. That is, giving her the necessary resources and support to bring out that greatness. It is as simple as that.

As I stated earlier, polishing your lens means keeping it clean and shining always. This means the way you see your partner should always remain 100%, no matter the situation. There is also healing in having the right lens and keeping it polished. Taking a cue from how having the right eyeglass lens all the time corrects eye defects.

Polishing your partner is always comprehensive. Remember that polishing your partner is not all about "correcting wrong deeds". It is more about "bringing out the best". These two perceptions can be mistaken for each other. Yet, they are different. The difference between them can be in the choice of words. You know, there is a difference between pointing out the dirt in a shoe and polishing a shoe.

Now, to polish your partner, there is the physical, intellectual, and spiritual aspect. Physical polishing can come in the form of fashion. You don't watch your partner murder fashion. Your partner deserves to be stylish and au courant! You see, money won't stop you from combining the right colours, it won't stop you from pressing your clothes. It also won't stop you from looking smart. As a married person, you should be able to afford some little things. Your partner deserves to go out with clean beards and hairdos that command attention. It doesn't always have to be in the expensive salons.

It does not end there! Today, we see slay queens and kings that don't understand concepts and ideologies. This is even worse and more rampant than fashion troubles. Great fashion kings that have close to zero composure in public. We have people who spend so much money but don't understand the concept of savings and investment. Your partner's creativity, problem-solving skills, good initiative, and communication skills should stand out. These are areas to look into. It's always appalling to see some people who are not proud to go out with their partners after years of marriage. My question always is: so why are you in their lives if you can't polish them over the years? Your partner should not be the one found gossiping and you don't care while you go about your business. Your husband quarrels so much in public but you'd rather complain to friends than try to polish him. All these depend on the kind of lens with which you view your partner.

Two very important questions: what is your role in your partner's spiritual growth? What is your contribution? Marriage is deep! Marriage is deeper than the kisses and hugs and sex! You are going to raise children! Your partner is your marriage, so you polish your partner. How does your partner's conduct align with that of the believer? Do you think this part of your life doesn't matter in your romantic relationship/marriage? When the husband and the wife can't sharpen each other, then there's a problem. Your children should see you and your partner as their first model of two people improving.

If you can't polish your partner, it means you are ready to face wherever your marriage is heading. Outsiders won't polish your partner for you, it's your job. The lens you use matters a lot. Keeping your lens polished also matters If you use a bad lens, you will stumble. If you have the right lens and it is not well polished, you are prone to making mistakes. Such mistakes will cause you to handle your partner the wrong way because you are not seeing well.

The lens of honour is never talked about so much. This is because of the cultural mentality that has eaten into our marriages. Also, the stereotypes that we have created for both the male and female gender are an issue.

you, as the husband should tend to your wife and then you as a wife, you are the one who is there to help him.

So, you see how it goes.