

SHEPHERDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MARIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING

Instructor: Carey Hardy

Phone: (336) 722-1844

Fax: (336) 722-1845

Available Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Email: chardy@twincitybaptist.org

I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The family is the first and basic institution of society. The strength of society, and the strength of the church, depends upon the health of the family. Since God is the One who created this institution, the Bible is where Christians must go to find the direction necessary for husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and children to live in such a way that He is honored, and they know His blessing.

This course will help students identify the biblical standard for family relationships. Once that standard is understood and embraced, then believers can help other believers put God's directions for the family into action. In particular, topics will be discussed such as the biblical teaching on manhood and womanhood, the purposes of marriage, the key elements of a successful marriage, the roles of husbands and wives, communication, conflict resolution, physical intimacy, finances, family affection, and parenting.

II. **COURSE GOAL**

To help students better understand the biblical principles related to marriage and the family, and to equip students to help Christian families apply these principles to their lives. The lectures, case studies, reading assignments, and projects required are designed to both enrich the student's personal life and relationship with the Lord, and help make him/her more effective in ministry to others.

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course is designed to help students:

- A. Articulate the biblical perspective on manhood and womanhood.
- B. Defend the biblical basis and purposes for marriage.
- C. Outline the necessary biblical elements for a strong and lasting marriage.

- D. Differentiate the biblical roles of the husband and the wife.
- E. List the biblical principles of communication.
- F. Explain the biblical steps for resolving conflict.
- G. Identify the biblical principles related to physical intimacy in marriage.
- H. Outline biblical financial principles.
- I. Summarize the biblical teaching on parenting.
- J. Prepare unmarried Christians for a God-honoring marriage and family life, if this should be part of the will of God for them.
- K. View all of life, including problem areas, as part of the worship process that takes place within the heart of man.
- L. Increase their confidence in the sufficiency and superiority of the Scripture for handling all the personal and interpersonal problems of life within marriage and the family.
- M. Formulate a distinctly biblical way of looking at people and their problems within the context of marriage and family.
- N. Demonstrate the incredible practicality of good theology as it relates to marriage and family.

IV. COURSE TEXTS

- A. Required Texts
 - God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*, by Andreas Kostenberger
 - The Exemplary Husband*, by Stuart Scott
 - The Excellent Wife*, by Martha Peace
 - Shepherding Your Child's Heart*, by Ted Tripp
 - Sex, Romance, and the Glory of God*, by C.J. MaHaney
 - The Case of the 'Hopeless' Marriage*, by Jay Adams
 - A Homework Manual for Biblical Living, Volume 2*, by Wayne Mack
 (If the student has already read any of these books, please confer with the instructor about substitute reading assignments from the "Recommended Texts" list.)
- B. Recommended Texts
 - Loving Your Wife*, by Larry McCall
 - The Masculine Mandate*, by Richard D. Phillips
 - Love that Lasts*, by Gary & Betsy Ricucci
 - Each for the Other*, by Bryan & Kathy Chapell
 - Christian Living in the Home*, by Jay Adams
 - Strengthening Your Marriage*, by Wayne Mack
 - Your Family, God's Way*, by Wayne Mack

The Complete Husband, by Lou Priolo
Age of Opportunity, by Paul Tripp
Instructing Your Child's Heart, by Ted Tripp
The Heart of Anger, by Lou Priolo
Withhold Not Correction, by Bruce Ray
War of Words, by Paul Tripp
Teach them Diligently, by Lou Priolo
Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible, by Jay Adams
The Book of Romance, by Tommy Nelson
Love that Lasts, by Gary and Betsy Ricucci
When Sinners Say 'I Do', by Dave Harvey
Different By Design, by John MacArthur
Men and Women – Equal Yet Different, by Alexander Strauch
Rediscovering the Lost Treasure of Family Worship, by Jerry Marcellino
Solving Marriage Problems, by Jay Adams
What the Bible Says about Parenting, by John MacArthur
Your Child's Profession of Faith, by Dennis Gundersen
Sex and the Supremacy of Christ, John Piper, Justin Taylor, ed.'s
Divorce and Remarriage, by Wayne House
Intended for Pleasure, by Ed Wheat

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. READING REPORTS

From the books by Kostenberger, Scott, Peace, and Tripp.

Read the portions of required texts which are assigned in the Assignment Schedule. Complete a reading report for each designated chapter (see *Assignment Due* column). Your reports should follow the organization of the Reading Report Form that is provided. Again, turn in one reading report for each book chapter designated. There are a total of twelve Reading Reports required. See further directions on pp. xiii-x.

You should not only read these chapters, but also think carefully about what they say. Reflect on how what you are reading intersects with the realities of human existence and ministry.

The books by Adams, MaHaney, and Mack must be read, but no Reading Reports are required. Students will be asked to submit a statement as to the percentage read of these two books.

B. QUIZZES - Throughout the semester there will be **4 Bible verse quizzes**. I will give you the content of the verses and you will give me the biblical reference of the verses. Verses will be quoted from the New American Standard Version of the Bible. Quizzes will be given in accordance with the Assignment Schedule located at the end of this prologue. A list of the required Bible verses is located later in this prologue.

C. TWO INTERVIEWS - See the Assignment Schedule for the date that these two reports are due. Here's the project:

Prepare several questions for a one-two hour interview with **two** godly couples in your church (or one godly couple and an older godly single). The answers to these questions will need to be summarized in a 3-4 page paper (typed, double-spaced).

Questions could relate to how they made the decision to marry, lessons the individuals have learned, challenges they have faced, regrets they have, things they are thankful for, advice they would give to others, things they would do differently, etc.

Type up the responses in an organized manner. Reference what you learn from these interviews, and what you glean that you can pass on to others in ministry.

D. RESPONSE PAPER - See the Assignment Schedule for the date that this paper is due. This paper is a four to five page typed paper (double-spaced) containing your reflections on and response to the material presented in class. Pick out and discuss one or a few central points that strike you. Briefly summarize the most important points of classroom information to which you have chosen to respond and then move on to interact with the material on a personal level. You may want to simply apply what you choose to your own life. Or you may want to connect something that was discussed to ministry to others, wrestling with how to apply truth to people's lives. I want to see personal or pastoral applications in your papers. Remember, for this course the most important part of your response paper assignment is sharing how the information being studied impacts you, what it means to you in your own life and ministry. Be specific about the ways in which this (those) truths impact you, about insights you've gained, about applications you've made, about ways you should change, about what you will do to change, etc. Specificity is extremely important. Don't merely generalize, be concrete and detailed!

Be pithy rather than verbose. Make your writing crisp. Let your main point(s) control your writing. Avoid "data dump" – randomly writing down

everything you know in the order it pops into your head. Take time to think through what you mean. Get at the core issues. Know what you want to say, and say one thing at a time. Don't meander. Make each of your paragraphs count. Paragraphs need to be numbered and labeled. Example:

1. The Key Elements of Marriage. It became apparent to me as I contemplated the importance of
2. Communication. My heart was convicted as I studied
3. Finances. It seems to me that the course did not . . .

E. CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION - If you must be absent from a class period for some justifiable reason you have the responsibility to:

1. Notify the professor of your upcoming absence at least one week in advance
2. If an absence is necessary, you must turn in all the required work that is due by the day of the missed class. A classmate may turn it in for you on the day it is due. You may also submit required work via fax or email.

Your class participation includes paying attention, attitude toward other class members and questions, etc. For the most part, within the classroom, I intend this class to be a lecture and discussion course. Freely raise your hand to question, comment and discuss. I want this to be a corporate activity where we stimulate and learn from each other - an opportunity to sharpen one other, to encourage one another unto love and good works (Proverbs 17:17; Hebrews 3:13; Hebrews 10:24, 25). Making this class a great learning and growing experience will require a cooperative, prayerful effort on the part of the teacher and students alike. Your quality contributions will be welcomed. Let's look on what each of us does in this course as a stewardship opportunity given to us by our great and gracious God for personal growth and mutual ministry to each other. Don't hesitate to make "obvious" observations or to draw "obvious" connections. What is obvious to you may be a connection others in the room have never made.

VI. GRADING

The sole purpose of grading is to challenge you to put in the time and concentrated effort needed to do your very best quality thinking and work. Your life and ministry depend upon your growing wisdom. Surely one goal of the course is to help you become more "bibline" in your thinking and living. We want to handle truth well; we also want to walk it well.

The grading is not meant to awaken that fear of competition or failure that often lurks within us! Put off the fear of failure and put on striving for greater wisdom from God. The grading is merely a tool by which I may help hold you accountable to those desires and goals which led you to come to STS and enroll in this course in the first place.

Generally speaking, your semester grade will be computed according to the following formula (however, if what you do in any of the areas listed as course requirements is exceptionally good, I reserve the right to give more weight to the particular requirement(s) in which you excel):

Reading & Reading Reports -	30%
4 Bible Quizzes -	20%
2 Interviews -	20%
Response Paper -	20%
Class Attendance and Involvement -	10%

VII. MEMORY VERSES (please note the progression from left to right)

<p>For Quiz #1</p> <p>Genesis 1:28 Genesis 2:18 Genesis 2:24-25 Psalms 86:5 Malachi 2:14 Malachi 2:16 Proverbs 15:1-2 Proverbs 15:23 Proverbs 16:24 Proverbs 19:11 Proverbs 31:11-12 Ephesians 5:22-23 Ephesians 5:25</p>	<p>For Quiz #2</p> <p>All previous verses Proverbs 17:27 Proverbs 21:23 Proverbs 25:11 Mark 10:45 1 Corinthians 11:3 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Ephesians 5:28-29 Ephesians 5:33 Colossians 3:17 1 Peter 2:19-23 1 Peter 3:1-4 1 Peter 3:7</p>
<p>For Quiz #3</p> <p>All previous verses Job 31:1 Proverbs 5:15 Proverbs 5:18-19 Matthew 5:27-28 Matthew 19:5 Galatians 6:9 Ephesians 4:2-3 Ephesians 4:25-26 Ephesians 4:29 Ephesians 4:31-32 Colossians 3:18-19 1 Thessalonians 4:3 James 4:1-3</p>	<p>For Quiz #4</p> <p>All previous verses Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Psalm 127:1 Psalm 127:3-5 Psalm 128:1-4 1 Corinthians 7:3 1 Corinthians 7:5 Ephesians 6:1-2 Ephesians 6:4 Philippians 2:3-4 Colossians 3:12-14 Colossians 3:20-21 Hebrews 13:4</p>

READING REPORT FORM

INSTRUCTION: After reading the chapter(s) assigned for the correct date on your Assignment Schedule, type out in TWO PAGES (double-spaced) your answers to the following questions for each chapter (i.e. do a separate reading report for each chapter assigned). Give concise, insightful, and relevant answers to the following questions. As you type your answers to the following questions, identify by number which question you are answering. Please do your report ACCORDING THE SAMPLE PROVIDED, making sure that you complete each section sufficiently. These reading report assignments for all the assigned chapters are worth a large part of your total grade, so make what you write count. THE GRADE FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL READING REPORT WILL BE AFFECTED IF IT IS LESS THAN TWO FULL PAGES. Going over the required two pages is discouraged.

1. Title of the book, chapter number, and chapter title (e.g...*The Exemplary Husband*, Chapter 1, "A Husband's Understanding of His Present Condition")
2. Did you read the entire chapter? If no, then identify the percentage of the chapter that you read. (e.g...100%...or...85%...)
3. Biblical principles, ideas or concepts:

Pick out biblical principles, ideas, or concepts that challenged your thinking the most. For each one of these, record the page number that this concept is found on and then write out either the quotation from the book or state it in your own words.

- a. Applying this to my personal life: Why is this concept important to you personally?
 - b. Applying this to my ministry: Why is this concept important to your ministry? What relevance does this concept have to your current ministry to your family members, your friends here at STS, and/or your ministry at your local church and/or your future ministries? As a result of understanding this concept, how specifically are you planning on changing your ministry?
4. Agreement/Disagreement: Was there anything presented in this chapter on which you could write a concluding comment of agreement? Was there anything presented in this chapter that you thought was unbiblical? Anything that you questioned? Anything with which you disagreed? If so, what was it and why did you think it was unbiblical or why did you question its truthfulness or why did you disagree? Anything you found hard to understand? (If you don't find anything with which you disagreed, you don't need to invent anything. Just indicate you agreed and then pick out one thing with which you strongly agreed and tell why.)

On the following page is a sample of a Reading Report (this is from a different course on biblical counseling...but the format is the same). It is a 12 font size, double-spaced. Margins are: 1" top, bottom, and left; right margin is 0.7. Note spacing.

READING REPORT

Your Name

1. Introduction to Biblical Counseling
Chapt. 1, "Rediscovering Biblical Counseling"
2. 100% completed
3. Biblical principles, ideas, or concepts
p. 10: Psychological techniques are equally effective for believers and unbelievers.
 - a. Applying this to my personal life. I have long been bothered that the church seems to have lost its understanding that sanctification involves change in the soul of man, and that unbelievers cannot experience it. This confusion shows up in a profound way when it comes to counseling.

There are many issues for which people seek counseling. If these individuals meet with a Christian, shouldn't they be receiving answers which are different from the world? It is true that there is "practical" help which is not necessarily biblical or unbiblical. For example, when it comes to some issues in parenting, an individual may be helped by a practical suggestion, such as how to teach children to say "thank you." Both Christians and non-Christians can apply this practical help equally as well.

But this is not to be equated with sanctification. Sanctification has to do with changing and growing to become more like Christ. Only Christians can experience this, and only the Holy Spirit using the Word of God can bring it about. That is why the world's psychology cannot ultimately help anyone to change. True and lasting change must take place in the heart, and only Scripture can produce heart-change (Heb. 4:12). Anything else is just behavior modification.

I have seen this to be so true in my own life. Any true change that I have ever experienced has taken place only when I have had my mind renewed by Scripture, been convicted of any sin, and when the Holy Spirit has strengthened me to trust and obey the Lord.

b. Applying this to my ministry. I want to be so careful not to confuse truth with human wisdom. This means that, when I am counseling someone, I must be diligent to keep the Bible as my only source of authority. They must know what God says about their problem. I must also be in constant prayer for the individual. In order for them to understand and obey Scripture, the Holy Spirit must illumine their minds and give them the desire and strength to put what they learn into action. Psychology leaves God out of the picture.

It also is necessary that I make very clear to someone the difference between what God says and what is some practical suggestion that is merely my own opinion. I don't want people to think that they are really changing just because they have applied some "quick fix" suggestion to a particular situation. I desire any person I ever counsel to experience true and lasting change in the inner man, not just behavioral change.

4. Agreement/Disagreement. Though there is nothing I really disagree with in the chapter, I do wish the first paragraph on page ten had been worded differently. I think it could cause some confusion in the mind of some who are beginning to understand the dangers of psychology. I am in strong agreement with the last paragraph of the chapter. If the church doesn't recommit itself to the sufficiency of Scripture, it has lost its distinction in the world and has just become another organization.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

NOTICE: DUE TO INSTRUCTOR'S TRAVELING SCHEDULE IN THE FALL OF 2009, THE CLASS WILL NOT MEET ON AND ON .

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class #</u>	<u>Reading Due</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>	<u>Bible Quizzes</u>
8/26/10	1	Kos 1-6	1 Reading Reports (any 1 chapters)	
9/02/10	2	Kos 7-10	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	
9/09/10		NO CLASS	NO CLASS	
9/16/10	3	Kos 11-13 Scott 1, 4-6	2 Reading Reports (1 from Kos and 1 from Scott, any chapter)	Quiz #1
9/23/10	4	Scott 7-10, 13-15	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	
9/30/10	5	Scott 16-21	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	
10/7/10		NO CLASS	NO CLASS	
10/14/10	6	Peace 1, 2, 6, 8,9-10	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	Quiz #2
10/21/10	7	Peace 12-17, 20-21	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	
10/28/10	8	Tripp 1-6	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	
11/4/10	9	Tripp 7-12	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	
11/11/10	10	Tripp 13-19	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	Quiz #3
11/18/10	11	Adams	1 Reading Report (any 1 chapter)	

11/25/10		NO CLASS	NO CLASS	
12/02/10	12	MaHaney/Mack	2 Interviews Due	
12/9/10	13	MaHaney/Mack	Response Paper Due Statement of Percentage Read	Quiz #4