

GRACE EQUIP
DISCIPLESHIP COUNSELING—LEVEL TWO
“Marriage and Family”
Spring 2026

Instructors: Grace Community Church Elders

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is focused on the specific areas of marriage and the family. Topics covered include the purpose of marriage, divorce and remarriage, roles of husband and wife, physical intimacy within marriage, communication, and conflict resolution, stewardship of time and priorities, and parenting. Case studies are also discussed.

Please note all the assignments are due February 20. It would be wise to begin some of those immediately so you are not overwhelmed at the end.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. To enrich and improve the student’s personal life and relationship with Jesus Christ.
- B. To prepare **unmarried students** for a God-honoring marriage and family life, if that should be part of the will of God for them.
- C. To help the student view all of life, including problem areas, as part of the worship process that takes place within the heart of man.
- D. To increase the student’s confidence in the sufficiency and superiority of the Scripture for handling all the personal and interpersonal problems of life within marriage and the family.
- E. To help the student understand the place and role of marriage and family counseling within the local church.
- F. To encourage a distinctly biblical way of looking at people and their problems within the context of marriage and family.
- G. To challenge the student to build his/her own counseling/discipleship practices on solid, biblical theology in the area of marriage and family.
- H. To demonstrate the incredible practicality of good theology as it relates to marriage and family.
- I. To confirm and illustrate the fact that many, perhaps most, interpersonal problems usually involve and are reflective of insufficient or bad theology.

- J. To provide an environment where students may bring their questions regarding the relationship or theological convictions to interpersonal problems and situations.
- K. To equip each student to be a more astute theologian and better counselor/discipler in the Church of Jesus Christ.
- L. To help the student begin a more exhaustive search into the Scripture concerning several specific issues related to marriage and family.
- M. To demonstrate to the student just how the change process applies to specific issues within marriage and family.
- N. To encourage the student to take an active role in the sanctification process within their own life, marriage and family.

Summary of Objectives

To effectively disciple in a marriage and family context, your instructor believes that you must:

- (1) have a thorough knowledge of biblical content about marriage and family issues
- (2) understand how that content applies and relates to real life issues in specific ways
- (3) develop skills in knowing how to accurately and appropriately instruct people in that truth, inspire and induce them to implement and integrate that truth into their lives and relationships

Consequently, all assignments and teaching in counseling courses will be aimed not merely at giving biblical content, but also at developing in students the skill to understand and apply Scripture in very practical and specific ways to the issues of life.

COURSE TEXTS

REQUIRED READING:

- 1. *Marriage & Family syllabus*
- 2. *The Elders' Perspective on Divorce and Remarriage*
- 3. *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*, Jay Adams
- 4. *Pre-Engagement: 5 Questions to Ask Yourself*, Powlison & Yenchko
- 5. *Love that Lasts*, Gary and Betsy Ricucci
- (Women Only)**
- 8. *The Excellent Wife*, Martha Peace
- (Men Only)**
- 8. *The Exemplary Husband*, Stuart Scott

RECOMMENDED READING:

- A Help to Domestic Happiness*, John Angell James
- A Token for Children*, James Cotton Mather
- A Song for Lovers*, Craig Glickman

Addresses to Young Men: A Friend and a Guide, John Angell James
Age of Opportunity, Paul Tripp
Attitudes of a Transformed Heart, Martha Peace
Becoming a Titus 2 Woman, Martha Peace
Christian Living in the Home, Jay Adams
Divine Design, John MacArthur
Fidelity, Douglas Wilson
Men and Women—Equal Yet Different, Alexander Strauch
Solving Marriage Problems, Jay Adams
Strengthening Your Marriage, Wayne Mack
Successful Christian Parenting, John MacArthur
Teach Them Diligently, Lou Priolo
Tell Me About God, Susan Harding
The Complete Husband, Lou Priolo
The Crisis of Caring, Jerry Bridges
The Gospel for Children, John B. Leuzarder
The Fulfilled Family, John MacArthur
War of Words, Paul Tripp
Withhold Not Correction, Bruce Ray
Your Family God's Way, Wayne Mack
When Sinners Say "I Do", Dave Harvey
Marry Wisely, Marry Well, Ernie Baker
Being a Dad Who Leads, John MacArthur
What did You Expect, Paul Tripp
Tying the Knot, Rob Green

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. During this course the student will be given reading assignments, which will consist of particular sections of various books and articles. The student needs to read carefully, thinking about how the material applies to his own life. If all the reading is not completed by the end of the course, one's course grade will be affected. Grace Equip students must submit a written statement declaring the amount read. A reading report form will be required from the student on **February 20**

B. For **MARRIED** students: You will need to complete *The Excellent Wife* or *The Exemplary Husband* study guide. This should take approximately one to two hours per week to complete).

For **SINGLE** students: You will need to complete as much as applies to your situation of *The Excellent Wife* or *Exemplary Husband* study guide. Single students should not focus on what they may want in a future spouse, but instead should focus on becoming more like Christ themselves. **February 20** (3–4 pages total).

C. A 5-page, typed project paper is required on a topic relating to marriage and/or family. Define the topic, identify the key elements involved, and address the

appropriate Scriptures, highlighting their meaning and application to the Christian today with special emphasis (1/4 of the paper) upon how it could be used in the counseling of individuals, married couples or families (as appropriate) within the church. Include endnotes and bibliography (separate from the 5-page body). Due **February 20**

- D. A 2 to 3-page, typed summary paper will be due **February 20**. This paper will be an evaluation of how the course material assisted the student in the change process within his own life, marriage and family (if applicable). The professor will also be looking for the importance of these truths for future ministry (2 Cor. 1:1–7; 2 Tim. 2:2).

GRADING

My purpose in utilizing the grading process is to challenge you to put in the time and effort needed to do quality **thinking** and **learning**. Your life and ministry depend upon your growth in God's wisdom. This will be accomplished as you become more and more "bibline" in your thinking and living. You will do well in this course if your goal is to know, handle, and walk God's Truth well (Mt. 28:20; Eph. 4:1; Jas.1:25)

	<u>Percentage of Grade</u>	<u>Due</u>
Project Paper	50%	2/18
Reading	30%	2/18
Summary Paper	20%	2/18

LOGOS EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
DISCIPLESHIP COUNSELING—LEVEL TWO
 “Marriage and Family” Weekly Assignments
 Spring 2026

Date and Topic(s)	Book/Article	Chapters/Pages
Jan. 13: Biblical Basis for Marriage Premarital Counseling	<i>The Excellent Wife</i> or <i>The Exemplary Husband</i> <i>Pre-Engagement: 5 Questions to Ask Yourself</i> <i>Love that Lasts</i>	Ch. 1–5, 7–9 Ch. 1–5, 7–8, 13 Ch. 1
Jan. 20: Divorce & Remarriage	<i>Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage</i>	Ch. 2–16
Jan. 27: Husbands Who Are Like Christ	<i>The Exemplary Husband</i> <i>Love that Lasts</i>	Ch. 6, 9–10, 14 Ch. 2
Feb. 3: Wives Who Are Like the Church	<i>The Excellent Wife</i> or <i>The Exemplary Husband</i> <i>Love that Lasts</i>	Ch. 6, 10, 12–15 Ch. 15 Ch. 3
Feb. 10: Biblical Principles of Communication	<i>The Excellent Wife</i> or <i>The Exemplary Husband</i> <i>Love that Lasts</i>	Ch. 16 Ch. 4–5
Feb. 17: Stewardship: Priorities & Finances	<i>The Exemplary Husband</i>	Ch. 12
Feb. 24: Physical Intimacy	<i>The Excellent Wife</i> or <i>The Exemplary Husband</i> <i>Love that Lasts</i>	Ch. 17 Ch. 6
Mar. 10: Conflict Resolution	<i>The Excellent Wife</i> or <i>The Exemplary Husband</i> <i>Love that Lasts</i>	Ch. 11 Ch. 8
Project paper due		
Summary paper		

READING REPORT ASSIGNMENT

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the assigned pages and write (legibly, please) or type your answers to the following questions **on 2–3 separate sheets of paper**. One report on all assigned reading is due on **February 20**. Please give concise but relevant answers to the questions. It may be helpful to keep an index card handy while reading the material.

REQUIRED FORMAT SAMPLE:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Report

1. Did you read all the assignments? Yes _____ No _____ If no, indicate the percentage read _____ %.
2. What important principles did you see concerning the Christian life? (Summarize them.)
3. Was there anything you disagreed with or had questions about? If so, what?
4. What were the most significant challenges or lessons you learned for your own life from the reading assignments?
5. Was there someone you encouraged with what you have learned? If so, please explain.