

Marriage and Family Final Project

Due January 9, 2011

This will constitute your final exam grade (15% of your course grade).

You must decide on which project you will do by December 7.

1. Read and review a book on marriage and the family. Select a book, get it approved, read it and write a written review. Critique it based on the concepts that we have discussed in class. (Remember, criticism can be either positive or negative). The review should be between four and five pages. If you want to read some sample book reviews, let me know. **I will need to approve the book in advance.** There will also be either a 10-minute class presentation or a 20-minute conference with me to discuss the review.

A good review will state the main theme of the book, discuss the treatment of the theme, and compare it to other books and ideas. A review should also make suggestions for how the application of the message of the book could make a difference in the daily life of the reader. The review should also include a scriptural critique of the author's argument, so be sure to cite Biblical texts in your review. You should also critique the book based on materials we have covered in class. Be sure to cite specific pages from the book. **Please turn in the book along with the review.**

2. Make a *Sacred Marriage* Scrapbook. The scrapbook will act as a collection of your **best thinking** about the subject of marriage and family. You may use the chapter titles in the book as your guide, or you may select a different format. In each "chapter" of your scrapbook include ideas for the *Sacred Marriage* book, quotable quotes, ideas from the *Love and Respect* videos and **most importantly, your own thoughts.** Be sure to include a philosophy of dating and marriage that you currently operate under and show how your philosophy has either been strengthened, or changed as a result of this class. Pictures, drawings, and creative layout should be used to make your project unique and to give it some value as something you will want to hang on to for future reference. Cite specific pages from the book and give page numbers. Be sure to include direct references to Scripture and show how the Bible has formed your thinking.

If you don't want to do a hardcopy scrapbook, feel free to do one electronically. You may use power point, make a webpage, or a film. (However, these must be **heavy** on content... so do not even think of getting a video camera and gathering a few friends and doing some unscripted, unedited disaster where you play house and have fake fights with each other.) **Please see me for approval if you wish to do something other than a scrapbook or a PowerPoint.**

3. The "Flour Baby Project." You may do this assignment alone or with another person. This is not a "marriage project." This is designed to introduce you to some of what is involved in caring for a child, so if you work alone, fine, if you work with someone else, that is fine too—think of it as a group project, not as a pretend marriage (so if two people of the same gender wish to work together, to get all immature and pretend it is a "same sex marriage.")
 - a. Include a personal profile (obviously imaginary), including: your "age," your "age" when married, your occupation and income, and a potential family budget that includes either the cost of health insurance or healthcare costs (the OB and hospital costs must be

considered, since you have a new baby). If you are “working” don’t forget childcare costs. Give sources of your research. Works cited page and proper documentation required. **Better let I or your parents have a look at this before you turn it in.** Most students do not have a clue about the “real” costs.

- b. You must have a daily journal tracking the care of “Junior.” Include feedings, naps, bedtime, playtime, and when the “child” was not directly in your care (eg. with a babysitter). Your journal must begin by December 9 and run until January 8. (Yes, I know this vacation, but parenthood never takes a vacation. However, you are free from responsibility between Dec. 24-28) **One of your parents must affirm that the child is under someone’s care 24/7.** They must be willing to share in the project too, because you just cannot put a real baby on a shelf while you want to do something else.
 - c. Write a three to four-page paper that summarizes all that you learned from the month of caring for “Junior.” How did you feel? What surprised you? What was hard? What was fun? How has your thinking about childrearing changed?
 - d. If you wish to do this project, you and the other member of your group must let me know, **and provide a signed note from your parents stating that states they are willing to help out.**
4. Alternative view of family. The issue of same-sex marriage continues to be a front-burner issue in our society. How ought a Christian to respond to this issue? Do some research on the topic. Clarify why this is a big issue or why it is not. Take a personal position on the issue, and defend it. The position that you take is not important. How you defend the position is everything. Works cited page and proper documentation required. I will be happy to give you some resources to help get you started. Must be four to five pages.
 5. There is much discussion on being “ready” for marriage. Based on all that we have discussed in class, and on your own research, write a paper that goes into detail about “What it Means to Be Ready for Marriage.” This paper should include your philosophy of dating, your views of what a real marriage is, and what constitutes “financial readiness.” Discuss what you feel that you should accomplish before you are married and why you believe it is important. Back up what you say with scripture, materials from the *Sacred Marriage* book, articles and outside sources. **There must be outside sources.** You decided how many are necessary. The paper should be four to five pages long. Works cited page and proper documentation required.

Turn in during class on December 7, 2011.

Name: _____

Project choice: _____

Parent's signature (if doing "flour babies"): _____

Turn in during class on December 7, 2011.

Name: _____

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