

Course: From Friendship to Marriage  
Instructors: James P. Becker and Denise L. Becker  
Credits: .25  
Instructional Level: Grade 12  
Textbooks: None – (The students will receive handouts of Bible Passages and other information.)  
A 3-ring binder is required for handouts.  
Prerequisites: Living Christianity



*“What God has joined together  
let no one separate...”*

Course Purpose: The purpose of this class is to help the student develop God-pleasing relationships now and to further develop the skills and attitudes that will enable them to be a loving marriage partner in the future.

Course Outcomes:

- ⇒ The students will develop a list and explanation of the characteristics that are important for a successful and life-long marriage.
- ⇒ The students will assess themselves regarding characteristics that are important for a successful and life-long marriage.
- ⇒ The students will study the components of effective communication and practice the skills of effective communication.
- ⇒ The students will practice loving the whole person (body, mind and spirit) by what they think, say and do.
- ⇒ The students will incorporate God’s Word into their communicating and loving of others and into the way that they relate to the opposite sex.
- ⇒ The students will clarify the differences between the sexes and how the two sexes compliment one another.

### Course Goals:

- ⇒ The students will develop an understanding and appreciation for the characteristics that are important for a successful and life-long marriage
- ⇒ The students will develop personal goals which will enable them to prepare for a God pleasing marriage.
- ⇒ The students will acquire effective communications skills that will enable them to strengthen existing relationships and will enable them to communicate effectively one day as a husband or a wife.
- ⇒ The students will become better lovers. They will examine and practice the skills and attitudes of good loving (agape love).
- ⇒ The students will appreciate the wisdom of God's creation of the differences of the two sexes and the roles He has assigned them.
- ⇒ The students will explore the spiritual component of loving, communicating and understanding the differences between the sexes.

### School Exit Outcomes Supported:

- # 1. You will see the fruits of faith in Jesus Christ as they learn to serve another person in love by addressing that person's needs.
- # 2. The students will integrate God's word into their relationship with the opposite sex and their views of marriage, communication and love.
- # 3. Approximately two to three weeks will be spent on developing communication skills in their various relationships. In addition, there will be 2 major writing projects.
- # 5. They will examine sex differences and their own individual gifts with the goal of a greater appreciation of how they can serve others.
- # 6. They will develop their verbal skills to enable them to have a successful marriage.

Department Outcomes Supported:

1. **Selfless Lovers** who are motivated by the love of Jesus to express love (an agape love) for friends and family and will express such love to their spouse someday.
6. **Responsible Family Members of the Body of Christ** who see, understand and begin to fulfill their role in their family and who will fulfill their roles as husband/wife and as mother/father

and to a lesser degree the following outcomes are supported:

2. **God-centered Thinkers** who will integrate God's Word into their evaluation of what is important for marriage and into their understanding of what constitutes good communication, good love and a proper understanding of the roles of the sexes.
4. **Maturing Christians** who grow closer to God by studying portions of Scripture that apply to their relationships with friends and spouse.
5. **Christian Stewards** who have identified a number of their God-given characteristics and are working at developing those characteristics as they relate to their dealings with friends and spouse.

Unit: Content/concept/skill	Range of Days	Source(s)	Performance Assessment	School Outcomes	Department Outcomes
<p>Introduction to From Friendship to Marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Supply the rational for this class</li> <li>➤ Identify the peculiarities of this course</li> <li>➤ Survey the course syllabus</li> <li>➤ Make student and teacher introductions</li> <li>➤ Explain and create seating arrangement</li> <li>➤ Explain final project (here or in the first two weeks)</li> </ul>	1-3	<p>Course syllabus – student version</p> <p>Final project instruction sheet</p> <p>Peer review of final project handout</p>	None	3	<p>Goals</p> <p>None</p> <p>Outcomes</p> <p>None</p>

Unit: Content/concept/skill	Range of Days	Source(s)	Performance Assessment	School Outcomes	Department Outcomes
Unit I Characteristics of a Successful Marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Create a list from the students' point of view of the characteristics that are necessary for or important for a successful marriage</li> <li>➤ Define each of the above characteristics</li> <li>➤ Illustrate how each of those characteristics applies to a marriage situation (or possibly a current, real life situation)</li> <li>➤ Create questions for an interview of people with marital experience</li> <li>➤ Interview married (or formerly married) people regarding important characteristics for a successful marriage – Record their responses</li> <li>➤ Take notes on insights from instructors regarding important characteristics.</li> <li>➤ Classify and prioritize the relative importance of each characteristic listed in class by either students or teachers</li> <li>➤ Integrate Bible passages and principles with suggestions that have been made for important characteristics</li> <li>➤ Examine marriage and divorce statistics of the last 100 years</li> <li>➤ Formulate a set of ideal characteristics using information gained from inside and outside the classroom</li> <li>➤ Assess yourself regarding how you match up to your list.</li> <li>➤ Illustrate how the characteristics chosen would show themselves in marriage</li> </ul>	8-11	Bible  Logos Bible software  SmartBoard software  Students' observations  Teachers' accumulated knowledge and files  Adults with marriage experience  <b>Statistical Abstract of the United States</b>  <b>The World Almanac</b>	Discussion  Records from 4 Interviews  Classification Form  Paper on 8 characteristics of a successful marriage	1 2 3 4 5	Goals 1.1,2,4&5 2.1,2 3.1,2 4.2 5.1 6.1  Outcomes 1.2 2.1,2 3.1 4.2 5.1 6.1

Unit: Content/concept/skill	Range of Days	Source(s)	Performance assessment	School Outcomes	Department Outcomes
<p>Unit II – Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Define communication</li> <li>➤ Identify and explain the three basic components of communication</li> <li>➤ Distinguish basic communications differences between men and women</li> <li>➤ Overview the seven aspects of communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Context Setting</li> <li>○ Context Timing</li> <li>○ Context Feeling</li> <li>○ Sender - Clarity</li> <li>○ Sender - Respect and Consideration</li> <li>○ Receiver – Listen</li> <li>○ Receiver - Feedback</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Explain “Context Setting”</li> <li>➤ Integrate God’s Word with the basic concepts of “Context Setting”</li> <li>➤ Illustrate the significance of “Context Setting”</li> <li>➤ Apply “Context Setting” to existing and future relationships</li> <li>➤ Explain “Context Timing”</li> <li>➤ Integrate God’s Word with the basic concepts of “Context Timing”</li> <li>➤ Integrate God’s Word with the basic concepts of “Context Timing”</li> <li>➤ Illustrate the significance of “Context Timing”</li> <li>➤ Apply “Context Timing” to existing and</li> </ul>	10-16	<p>Bible</p> <p>Handout of Bible passages that deal with communication</p> <p>Teachers’ accumulated knowledge and files</p> <p>Video series – <b>Keys to Loving Relationships</b> – sessions 1 &amp; 8</p> <p>Video series – <b>So You’re Getting Married</b> – sessions 8 &amp; 9</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>In class practice sessions / group work (such as: 1) I messages, 2) Listening 3)Feedback)</p> <p>Test</p> <p>(Final Project)</p>	2 3 6	<p>Goals</p> <p>1.2 &amp; 4</p> <p>2.1,2</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>Outcomes</p> <p>2.1,2</p> <p>(3.4)</p>

<p>future relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Explain “Context Feeling”</li> <li>➤ Integrate God’s Word with the basic concepts of “Context Feeling”</li> <li>➤ Integrate God’s Word with the basic concepts of “Context Feeling”</li> <li>➤ Illustrate the significance of “Context Feeling”</li> <li>➤ Apply “Context Feeling” to existing and future relationships</li> <li>➤ Explain the importance of being clear when you give a message</li> <li>➤ Analyze unclear messages</li> <li>➤ Practice clarity by asking a girl on a date and rejecting a guy for a date</li> <li>➤ Assess sarcasm</li> <li>➤ Define gossip and develop a strategy in dealing with a gossip situation</li> <li>➤ Integrate God’s Word with the concept of clarity in a message</li> <li>➤ Identify the benefits in speaking with respect and consideration</li> <li>➤ Explore the concept of personal space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intimate Zone</li> <li>○ Persona Zone</li> <li>○ Social-consultative Zone</li> <li>○ Public Zone</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Examine communication killers (such as “you messages”, sarcasm, loaded phrases, etc.)</li> <li>➤ Relate the 4 steps of an “I message” to real life situations by practicing them.</li> <li>➤ Integrate God’s Word with the concept of</li> </ul>					
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<p>speaking with respect and consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify and define the levels of listening</li> <li>➤ Memorize mental listening techniques</li> <li>➤ Practice nonverbal listening techniques</li> <li>➤ Evaluate “verbal” listening techniques</li> <li>➤ Integrate God’s Word with the concept of listening</li> <li>➤ Explain 3 benefits of feedback</li> <li>➤ Differentiate between active and passive feedback</li> <li>➤ Explore misc. passage that relate to communication and dealing with conflict.</li> <li>➤ Optional: examine a 7 step process for dealing with conflict</li> </ul>					
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Unit: Content/concept/skill	Range of Days	Source(s)	Performance Assessment	School Outcomes	Department Outcomes
<p>Unit III – Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Establish the basic principle “Love one another”</li> <li>➤ Distinguish between sex &amp; love and between eros, phileo &amp; agape</li> <li>➤ Develop the concept of being complete in how you love <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Love by what you think</li> <li>○ Love by what you say</li> <li>○ Love by what you do</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Create a list of specific ways this can be accomplished – illustrate with real life situations</li> <li>➤ Develop the concept of loving the whole person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Love their body (physically)</li> <li>○ Love their mind (intellectually)</li> <li>○ Love their soul (spiritually)</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Create a list of specific ways this can be accomplished – illustrate with real life situations</li> <li>➤ Identify the dangers of an incomplete marriage (leaving God or spiritual matters out of your relationship)</li> <li>➤ Recognize the importance of a love triangle in marriage (Husband, wife &amp; God)</li> <li>➤ Evaluate sex outside of marriage using the “Love the Whole Person” circle</li> <li>➤ Develop the concept of being complete in the tools that you use to love someone</li> </ul>	9-13	<p>Bible</p> <p>Handout of Bible passages relating to love</p> <p>Teachers’ accumulated knowledge and files</p> <p>Video series – <b>Next Time I Fall in Love</b> by Chap Clark</p> <p>Video – <b>Sex, Love or Infatuation</b> by Ray Short</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>8-10 Day Loving Assignment</p> <p>Test</p> <p>Video Study Sheets</p> <p>(Final Project)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Goals</p> <p>1.1,2,3,4,5</p> <p>2.1,2,3</p> <p>3.1,2</p> <p>4.2,5</p> <p>5.1,2</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>Outcomes</p> <p>1.1,2</p> <p>2.1,2</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>5.1,2</p> <p>6.1</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Love them with the use of your time</li> <li>○ Love them with the use of your talents</li> <li>○ Love them with the use of your money</li> <li>➤ Practice for an extended period of time a more complete love for another individual. (This will include what you say, think and do, and by the use of time, ability and money, and by meeting the physical, spiritual and mental needs of another.)</li> <li>➤ Study a select group of passages for laying a good foundation to build loving relationships</li> <li>➤ Study six aspects of a relationship, evaluate each aspect in relationship to the level of commitment in that relationship</li> <li>➤ Distinguish between infatuation and love using specific criteria to analyze a relationship</li> </ul>					
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Unit: Content/concept/skill	Range of Days	Source(s)	Performance Assessment	School Outcomes	Department Outcomes
<p>Unit IV - Differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Demonstrate some (non-reproductive) differences between the sexes</li> <li>➤ State 4 options in dealing with the opposite sex</li> <li>➤ Identify the two basic causes for sex differences</li> <li>➤ Note that some differences are absolute and some are generally true</li> </ul> <p>Physical Differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Explain how hormone differences affect the brain</li> <li>➤ Graph and/or illustrate height, weight and strength differences</li> <li>➤ Explain and illustrate aggression differences</li> <li>➤ Compare life-spans and health issues of males and females</li> <li>➤ Illustrate how differences in spatial perception, hearing, and smell impact married life.</li> <li>➤ Distinguish the impact of alcohol use on males and females</li> <li>➤ Identify some basic sexual response differences between men and women</li> </ul> <p>Mental Difference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Overview hemispheric differences in the brain</li> <li>➤ Distinguish areas of greater aptitude in the sexes</li> </ul> <p>Emotional Differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Explore non-spiritual sources of self-worth</li> </ul>	3-7	<p>Bible</p> <p>Handout of Bible Passages on Differences</p> <p>Teachers' accumulated knowledge and files</p> <p>Video: <b>Am I Strange or Am I from a Different Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus</b> By John Gray</p> <p><b>Why Eve Doesn't Have an Adam's Apple– A Dictionary of Sex Differences</b></p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Test</p> <p>(Final Project)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Goals</p> <p>1.1,3,4,5</p> <p>2.1,2</p> <p>3.2,4,5</p> <p>4.5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>Outcomes</p> <p>1.1,2</p> <p>2.1,2</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>6.1</p>

<p>for each sex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Explain and illustrate the different needs of males and females</li> <li>➤ Analyze the basic communication styles and problem solving approaches of men and women</li> </ul> <p>God's Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Survey Bible passages that apply to the differences between men and women</li> <li>➤ Identify the specific roles given to husbands and wives</li> <li>➤ Recommend how one would apply Bible principles about the roles to various situations.</li> </ul> <p>Optional – Dealing with personal differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Evaluate another person's point of view by answering a series of questions:</li> <li>➤ Integrate knowledge of another's point of view into solving a problem</li> </ul>		<p><b>Statistical Abstract of the United States</b></p> <p><b>The World Almanac</b></p>			
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## INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

- ◆ Lecture - 25%
- ◆ Small group work - 10%
- ◆ Role playing - 5%
- ◆ Class discussion - 50%
- ◆ Visual presentations - 10%

## GRADING:

- ◆ Tests and Paper - 40%
- ◆ Minor Projects/Homework - 30%
- ◆ Culminating Activity - 30%

Final Notes: There is a final project in which the student uses and applies information from class, from outside sources and from portions of two video series [**Keys to Loving Relationships** and **So You're Getting Married**] which they are required to watch. This final project also includes the production of wedding vows.

Recommended Student Resources:

- **Christian Worship** (wedding service)
- **Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus** by John Gray (Call number 646.7 Gra79m)
  - **Illustrated Men are from Mars Women are from Venus**
- **Why Eve Doesn't Have an Adam's Apple – A Dictionary of Sex Differences** (Call number Ref. 612.6Rin47w)
- **Sex, Love or Infatuation** by Ray Short (Call number 306.7 Sho8s)
- **Next Time I Fall in Love** by Chap Clark (Call number 646.7 Cla 54n)
- **His Need, Her Needs** by Willard F Harley, Jr

Appendix A

Religion Department Goals and Outcomes by Unit

Course: From Friendship to Marriage

Instructors: James P. Becker and Denise L. Becker

**Unit I – Characteristics of a Successful Marriage**

	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
	1. Selfless lovers who	
	1.1 Are motivated by Jesus’ love 1.2 Forgive others 1.4 Value people 1.5 Offer themselves in service to others	1.2 Offer themselves in service to others
	2. God-centered thinkers who	
	2.1 Evaluate life situations based on God’s Word 2.2 Make decisions guided by God’s will	2.1 Evaluate life situations based on God’s Word 2.2 Make decisions guided by God’s will
	3. Witnessing Christians who	
	3.1 Speak confidently, boldly and clearly about their Savior 3.2 Act in a way that shows that Jesus is Lord of their life	3.1 Speak confidently, boldly and clearly about their Savior
	4. Maturing Christians who	
	4.2 Pray often	4.2 Pray often
	5. Christian stewards who	
	5.1 Identify spiritual and personal gifts	5.1 Identify spiritual and personal gifts
	6. Responsible members of the body of Christ who	
	6.1 Fulfill their God-given roles in ➤ Family ➤ Church ➤ Community ➤ Work	6.1 Fulfill their God-given roles in ➤ Family ➤ Church ➤ Community ➤ Work

**Unit II – Communication**

	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
	1. Selfless lovers who	

	1.2 Forgive others 1.4 Value people	
2. God-centered thinkers who		
	2.1 Evaluate life situations based on God's Word 2.2 Make decisions guided by God's will	2.1 Evaluate life situations based on God's Word 2.2 Make decisions guided by God's will
3. Witnessing Christians who		
	3.2 Act in a way that shows that Jesus is Lord of their life	(3.4 Evaluate the possibility of serving in the fulltime public ministry)

### Unit III – Love

	Goals	Outcomes
1. Selfless lovers who		
	1.1 Are motivated by Jesus' love 1.2 Forgive others 1.3 Submit themselves in service to our Lord 1.4 Value people 1.5 Offer themselves in service to others	1.1 Submit themselves in service to our Lord 1.2 Offer themselves in service to others
2. God-centered thinkers who		
	2.1 Evaluate life situations based on God's Word 2.2 Make decisions guided by God's will 2.3 Understand that life extends beyond this world	2.1 Evaluate life situations based on God's Word 2.2 Make decisions guided by God's will
3. Witnessing Christians who		
	3.1 Speak confidently, boldly and clearly about their Savior 3.2 Act in a way that shows that Jesus is Lord of their life	3.1 Speak confidently, boldly and clearly about their Savior
4. Maturing Christians who		
	4.2 Pray often 4.5 Lean on God's promises in times of trouble	4.2 Pray often
5. Christian stewards who		
	5.1 Identify spiritual and personal gifts 5.2 Use daily their gifts of abilities, time, and possessions in service to God and others	5.1 Identify spiritual and personal gifts 5.2 Use daily their gifts of abilities, time, and possessions in service to God and others
6. Responsible members of the body of Christ who		
	6.1 Fulfill their God-given roles in	6.1 Fulfill their God-given roles in

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Family</li> <li>➤ Church</li> <li>➤ Community</li> <li>➤ Work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Family</li> <li>➤ Church</li> <li>➤ Community</li> <li>➤ Work</li> </ul>
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### Unit IV - Differences

	Goals	Outcomes
1. Selfless lovers who		
	1.1 Are motivated by Jesus' love 1.3 Submit themselves in service to our Lord 1.4 Value people 1.5 Offer themselves in service to others	1.1 Submit themselves in service to our Lord 1.2 Offer themselves in service to others
2. God-centered thinkers who		
	2.1 Evaluate life situations based on God's Word 2.2 Make decisions guided by God's will	2.1 Evaluate life situations based on God's Word 2.2 Make decisions guided by God's will
3. Witnessing Christians who		
	3.2 Act in a way that shows that Jesus is Lord of their life 3.4 Defend Christian truth and refute false doctrine 3.5 Use Law and Gospel appropriately	
4. Maturing Christians who		
	4.5 Lean on God's promises in times of trouble	
5. Christian stewards who		
	5.1 Identify spiritual and personal gifts	5.1 Identify spiritual and personal gifts
6. Responsible members of the body of Christ who		
	6.1 Fulfill their God-given roles in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Family</li> <li>➤ Church</li> <li>➤ Community</li> <li>➤ Work</li> </ul>	6.1 Fulfill their God-given roles in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Family</li> <li>➤ Church</li> <li>➤ Community</li> <li>➤ Work</li> </ul>