

Marriage and Family Counseling

WESTERN REFORMED SEMINARY

Rev. Kevin Backus, S.T.M., Ph.D.

(Dr. Backus is a Board Member and Fellow of the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The sufficiency of Scripture in counseling; the importance of the Christian home as understood from a covenantal perspective; courtship vs. dating; pre-marital and marital counseling guidelines; divorce issues and rebuilding a marriage after adultery.

DATES AND TIMES

- Wednesday, January 9, through Tuesday, January 15, 2008
- Weekdays (no classes on Saturday or Sunday)
- 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. with an hour and a half lunch break

COST

- Credit: \$510 for 3 credit hours
- Audit: \$240 for 3 audit hours
- Church Scholarship Plan: call for details

ASSIGNMENTS

There are three text books that need to be read before the course begins. For credit students, an interactive critique of books 1& 2 (two to three typed pages, double spaced) will be **submitted the first day**. Be sure to review the books in the light of biblical theology and your personal experience; summarize each chapter.

The third text is a workbook for pre-marital counseling. Write out a brief paraphrase for each of the Scripture proofs used in the exercises of this workbook by **the first class**. Record these notes in the space provided in the book. You only need to record enough to remind you of what the verse says.

The fourth and fifth and fifth texts simply should be read.

- 1) Jay Adams, *Christian Living in the Home*
- 2) George Scipione, *The Sword and Shovel: A Theology of Family Life*
- 3) Wayne Mack, *Preparing for Marriage God's Way*
- 4) Sharon Backus, *Running the Christian Race*
- 5) Sharon Backus, *Molding the Clay*

EXAM

For students taking the course for credit, there will be final exam one week after the end of the course.

GRADING

Grading will be based upon the following:

- Class participation
- Readings and text reports
- Final Exam