

## Theology Exam Revisions:

FORMER Question #5: Explain the doctrine of common grace as it relates to the ability of secular psychologists in understanding true information about the human condition

NEW Question #5: Explain the doctrine of common grace as it relates to the **limitations** of secular psychologists in understanding true information about the human condition. **This change encourages exam takers to consider the limits of secular psychology in light of common grace instead of positives that can be drawn from it.**

FORMER Question #6: Explain the doctrine of the noetic effects of sin as it relates to the ability of secular psychologists in understanding true information about the human condition

NEW Question #6: Explain the doctrine of the noetic effects of sin as it relates to the **limitations** of secular psychologists in understanding true information about the human condition. **This change encourages exam takers to consider the limits of secular psychology in light of noetic effects instead of positives that can be drawn from it.**

FORMER Question #22: Provide your understanding of how the Holy Spirit guides Christians

NEW Question #22: Provide your understanding of how the Holy Spirit guides Christians **in the decisions they make today.** **The previous wording received similar answer to the current question #21. This rewording makes the distinction clearer**

## Counseling Exam Revisions:

REVISED Tim and Emily Case Study: **The only change made is highlighted below. We did away with the bipolar disorder diagnosis and made it generic.**

Tim and Emily come from a church across town, and have asked to meet you because of some help that you offered their friends several months ago. They are coming because of a persistent problem they have had in their marriage. They explain that in their six years of marriage Tim has always had a “short fuse.” He regularly “loses it” when he comes home from work which fills the evenings with tense communication. Their weeks are filled with arguments about everything from dinner being ready on time, to whether they should have kids. Tim thinks Emily is a good wife, admits the problems are his fault, but says he just doesn’t know how to “maintain control.” About a year ago Tim went berserk screaming at Emily, kicking the kitchen table and throwing plates on the floor in response to Emily’s complaint that he came home late without calling. Emily was always uncomfortable with Tim’s previous pattern of outbursts, but this was different. She was truly scared. Tim was too. In tears she told Tim that something had to change.

Tim talked to his pastor who told him that he needed to see a professional therapist. Tim followed the advice and made an appointment with the Christian counselor whom his pastor recommended. Tim met with the therapist for a few sessions, who ultimately recommended he see a psychiatrist for medical

care. When Tim met with the psychiatrist, he was told that he had psychiatric disorder and began to take the medications prescribed by the physician.

Tim was initially discouraged to learn that he had a disease that would likely last his entire life, but he was thankful to have a plan to deal with problem. Emily was also encouraged that there was now at least something they could do.

Their encouragement quickly gave way, however, when after several months on the medication Tim had still not really changed. While his temperament seemed milder in general, the loss of control and screaming were still present. It was at this point that Emily began to regret ever marrying Tim. All the arguments, together with the couple's lack of children, were taking their toll. She realized she was in a marriage that she did not want to be in, but didn't think she had any options.

Then last week Tim "went completely crazy." Emily suggested on a Saturday morning that Tim should cut the grass because he had not done it the week before. Tim did more than scream and throw things this time. As he yelled and became more "worked up" he threw the phone at Emily. He missed her, knocking a hole in the wall, but they both knew he had crossed a line.

Emily said she couldn't take it anymore and wanted out of the marriage. She told him that if something didn't change very quickly she was going to leave. That is when he reached out to his friend who recommended you.

Tim and Emily both profess faith in Christ, and relate their testimonies of conversion in their teen years. Both are also terribly discouraged. Tim doesn't know how to treat Emily better since he is "plagued" by this disease. Emily loves Tim and would like their marriage to work, but she is worn out with the lack of change. She feels badly about wanting to leave because she knows he has an illness, but she is increasingly convinced that God is telling her to divorce Tim.

FORMER Question #17: Describe, as fully as you are able, your strategy to help Tim and Emily think biblically about his diagnosis and their use of bi-polar and illness language.

NEW Question #16: Using biblical categories, what considerations should be made relating to Emily's safety? What practical steps can be taken to ensure Emily's safety? We did away with the current question #17 and replaced it with a question regarding Emily's safety (think counseling triage in crisis situations like domestic violence). It will be moved to slot #16 and be the first question asked under this case study section.

FORMER Question #20: Describe a detailed plan of restoring marital communication that you would pursue with Tim and Emily.

NEW Question #20: Tim believes his recent psychiatric diagnosis is a life-long disease and is to blame for his behavior towards his wife. Write out your word-for-word response to Tim on this matter. In your response, be sure to address the themes of biblical responsibility and self-control. We did away with the current question #20 as it was very similar to the current question #19. Instead, we replaced it with a question that directs ministry to the "abuser" in this scenario.

## REVISED QUESTION ORDER:

16. Using biblical categories, what considerations should be made relating to Emily's safety? What practical steps can be taken to ensure Emily's safety?
17. How will you decide whether to pursue Tim and Emily as believers or unbelievers? What difference will their status as Christians make in your counseling? **Remains the same but moved to slot #17.**
18. Emily is "Convinced that God is telling her to divorce Tim." Write out your word-for-word response to Emily on this matter. In your response, be sure to address the themes of biblical decision-making and permission for divorce and remarriage. **Remains the same.**
19. What strategy would you employ to see repentance, reconciliation, and restoration happen between Tim and Emily? **Remains the same.**
20. Tim believes his recent psychiatric diagnosis is a life-long disease and is to blame for his behavior towards his wife. Write out your word-for-word response to Tim on this matter. In your response, be sure to address the themes of biblical responsibility and self-control.