**Marriage Specialization Exam | Case Studies**

# Instructions

* Using essay style writing, please respond thoroughly to each of the questions below.
* Compose your answers clearly and precisely
* Each answer should be approximately **1 page to 1½ pages in length**.
* Answers may be written in first or third person.
* Support your answers using Scripture references, but please *do not write out the verses*.
* The use of biblical references in answers should demonstrate the responsible use of hermeneutical principles and show applicable and clear connection to the case study and question.
* **This is a closed book exam. The only resource allowed is an unmarked Bible.**

**John and Shayna**

John, a small group leader at your church, and his wife Shayna are experiencing difficulty as newlyweds. Although their dating and engagement went well, the first three months of marriage have been rough. On their honeymoon, John began to request oral sex from Shayna but she has repeatedly refused these requests. Shayna is more than willing to have sex with John but believes oral sex is sinful. The situation is complicated by the fact that Shayna is a victim of previous sexual abuse.

Things got worse last month when John refused to have sex with Shayna unless oral sex was involved. Shayna feels “tremendous pressure” to go along with John’s wishes but will not do so. The couple was referred to you by a friend.

**1. How would you help John honor the Lord and his wife in this situation? Provide a word-for-word response of what you would say. Be sure to include any relevant Scripture passages in your answer.**

**2. How would you help Shayna honor the Lord and her husband in this situation? Provide a word-for-word response of what you would say. Be sure to include any relevant Scripture passages in your answer.**

**3. Detail the homework assignments you would give each of them, explaining the goal of each assignment.**

**Daniel and Tina**

Daniel and Tina have been married for five years and are on the verge of divorce. According to Tina, Daniel is “utterly untrustworthy” has "no financial self-control." Tina is passionate about budgeting and building a savings while Daniel is relatively unengaged with financial planning. The problem began in small ways: every morning, Tina would tell Daniel to make himself a home lunch. Instead, he would eat out multiple times a week. Things escalated when Daniel began purchasing expensive golf clubs on a monthly basis. This added expense left nothing for Tina to place in their savings. Since Daniel’s last golf club splurge a month ago, Tina began sleeping in the guest bedroom.

Things reached a boiling point this month when Daniel begun withdrawing some large sums of money from ATM’s. He has been telling Tina he needed it for different things but isn’t being specific at all. He has no real explanation for where it all went. Tina has started following him in her car trying to find out where he goes and what he is doing with the money. She suspects he is seeing his former girlfriend who he was engaged to before Tina came into the picture five years ago. Last night, Daniel “blew up” at Tina, calling her a “bossy control-freak.”

Both Tina and Daniel have agreed to attend counseling.

**1. What are follow-up questions you would like to ask the couple? Describe and prioritize the key issues that are involved.**

**2. Provide a word for word statement of the counsel you would give to Daniel. Be sure to include any relevant Scripture passages in your answer.**

**3. Provide a word for word statement of the counsel you would give to Tina. Be sure to include any relevant Scripture passages in your answer.**

**4. Detail the homework assignments would you give each of them, explaining the goal of each assignment.**