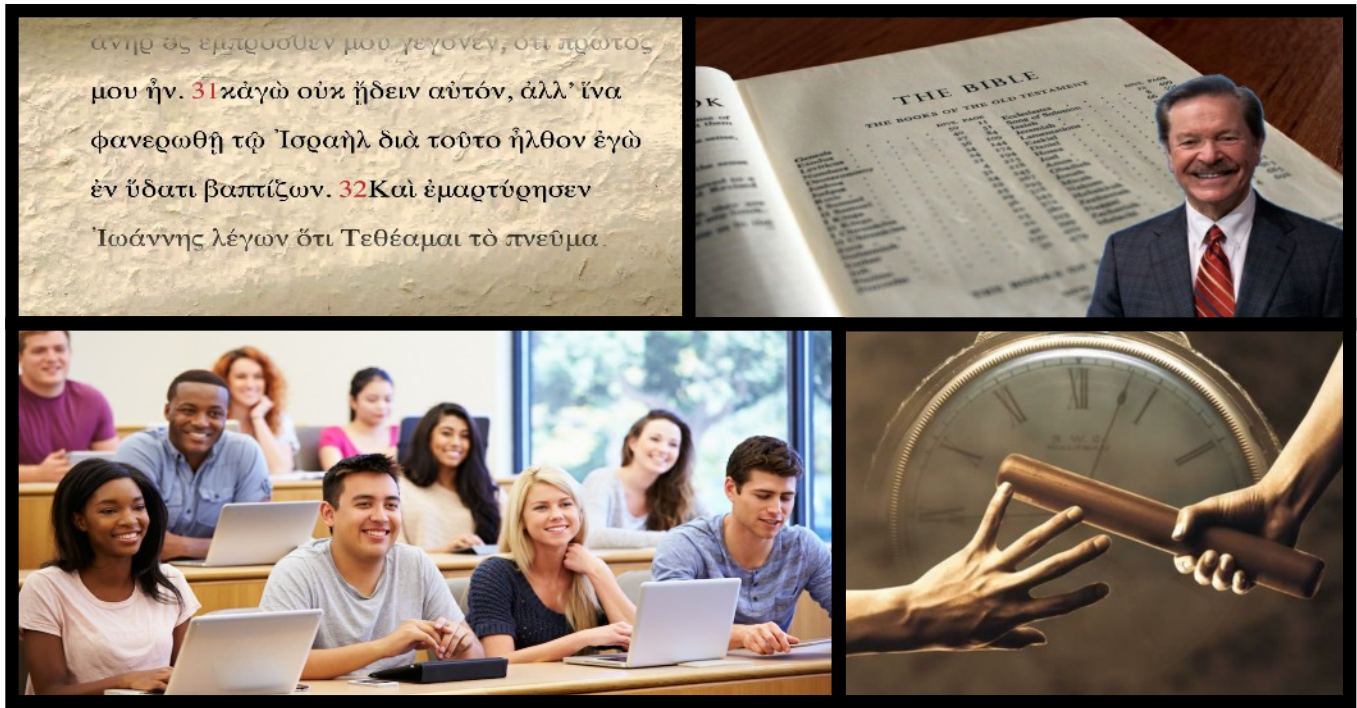


# EMBASSY COLLEGE



## SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE You Can Have a Happy Family CC401

**Dr. Morris Sheats**

# BICC660: YOU CAN HAVE A HAPPY FAMILY

DR. MORRIS SHEATS

Textbook for the Course:  
*You Can Have a Happy Family*  
by Dr. Morris Sheats

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## **Course Orientation and Introduction**

### **I. Course Description**

This course is an application of some basic biblical principles to family issues and relationships. It is meant to stimulate ideas, questions, and discussions about our own experiences with family, and about God's plan for family interaction. We will discuss practical tools we can use to build healthier, happier families.

### **II. Course Objectives**

This course is designed to...

- A. Apply biblical principles to family relationships and to issues facing families today.**
- B. Encourage families to be creative in how they interact.**
- C. Examine the relationship between family and ministry.**
- D. Offer hope to those who desire a happy family.**

### **III. Suggested Tools of Study**

- A. The Holy Bible-King James Version**
- B. One other version of the student's choosing**
- C. This study guide-syllabus**
- D. Textbook**  
Sheats, Morris, *You Can Have a Happy Family*, Dallas: Leadership Institute, 1994.

### **IV. Course Bibliography**

*Children at Risk*, Gary Bauer

*The De-Valuing of America*, William Bennett

*Reclaiming Your Family*, Robert and Debra Bruce

*What Ever Happened to the American Dream*, Larry Burkett

*The Christian Family*, Larry Christenson

*Family Shock*, Gary Collins

*A Life Well Spent*, Russ Crosson

*Finishing Tall*, Steve Farrar

*Point Man*, Steve Farrar

*Standing Tall*, Steve Farrar

*Achieving Success Without Failing Your Family*, Dr. Paul Faulkner

*The War Against the Family*, William Gairdner

*The Act of Marriage*, Tim and Beverly LaHaye

*Why Wait?*, Josh McDowell

*What Is A Family*, Edith Schaeffer

*The Joy of Committed Love*, Gary Smalley

*The Key to Your Child's Heart*, Gary Smalley

*The Strong Family*, Chuck Swindoll

*Mom, You're Incredible*, Linda Weber

*Family Is Still a Great Idea*, H. Norman Wright

*What Really Matters at Home*, John and Susan Yates

## **V. Suggested Study Habits**

- A. Read the textbook prayerfully before the course begins.**
- B. Re-read the sections each night as they are covered in class.**
- C. DO NOT miss a single class session.**
- D. Take many notes.**

## **VI. Course Requirements**

- A. A final examination will be administered by the chancellor or dean. They will inform you as to when this is due.**

## **VII. Classroom Methodology**

- A. Lecture with appropriate class discussion.**



**VIII. Evaluation**

- A. Attendance at Lectures Required**
- B. Final Examination**

## Session One

### FIRST THINGS FIRST

Principle: Building interpersonal relationships in the right order will result in happier relationships.

#### **I. Relationship to God... (Jn. 1 7:9-11, 20-21)**

- A. Jesus spent time with the Father.
- B. Religion vs. Relationship
- C. Our relationship to God is the foundation for all other relationships.

#### **II. Relationship to family... (Jn. 17:9)**

- A. Jesus had a strong relationship with his mother.
- B. Jesus acted as head of his family when Joseph died.
- C. Jesus had another family - the 12 disciples.
- D. Our family relationships should be our basis for ministry.
- E. Husband-wife relationships precede parent-child.

- F. Singles need small group families.

### **III. Relationship to significant others...**

#### **A. Jesus spent time with significant others.**

1. He traveled and lived with the 12 disciples.
2. He was especially close to Peter, James and John.

#### **B. We all need some type of Christian fellowship.**

1. Families can build ties with other families.
2. Singles can become part of a small group.
3. The support of the body of Christ can get us through hard times.

#### **C. Extended families have disappeared.**

### **IV. Relationship to the world... (Jn. 17:17-20, 21-23)**

#### **A. Your relationship to the world is the ministry God gives you to fulfill.**



B. We must be sanctified.

C. God's purpose is that we experience oneness with Him and other believers.

From *My Utmost For His Highest* by Oswald Chambers

Put God First in Trust. "Jesus did not commit himself unto them...for He knew what was in man." John 11:24-25. Our Lord trusted no man; yet He was never suspicious, never bitter, never in despair about any man, because He put God first in trust; He trusted absolutely in what God's grace could do for any man. If I put my trust in human beings first, I will end in despairing of everyone; I will become bitter, because I have insisted on man being what no man ever can be absolutely right. Never trust anything but the grace of God in yourself or in anyone else.

From *The Strong Family* by Chuck Swindoll

For Israel to survive successfully in the land, parents had to be permeated by a love for God.

“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (Deut. 6:1-5)

Parents were to pass down to their children and grandchildren an awesome and healthy fear of God, an attentive ear to His voice, and a life of obedience (vv. 23a). This kind of all-encompassing love for God is authentic. You can’t fake it. And good parents who model this love will forever impact their children for good.